

188

No. 87-December 31, 1934. p.p. 345-348

Stockton has one paper that knows the answer; but its "thumbs down" on its editor. Toms, Dicks and Harry's from everywhere are admitted to local pulpits and given time at luncheon clubs to talk on everything under the sun; but the editor of this paper begs in vain for a hearing.

He has been nearly two years asking a hearing before the Chamber of Commerce and seems no nearer admittance than at first.

So far no orthodox church pulpit has been opened to him; and, generally speaking, the luncheon clubs are closed to him.

Editor Gaston Explains His Position

In his issue of October 19, Editor Gaston of *The Fair-Courier* explains why he endorsed Upton Sinclair's candidacy in California.

He says:

The *Courier* gave editorial approval to the Democratic platform and Upton Sinclair's candidacy for the governor of California as being the most advanced political movement **having any possibility of success at the present time.** (Emphasis by this paper.)

There is no need to charge Editor Gaston with being an opportunist. He admits it. That is his own, voluntary confession. That settles the question whether or not Gaston is either a teacher or a leader. He admits that he is neither—and that those interested in the success of the Georgist movement must look elsewhere for its teachers and its leadership.

Gaston claims nothing more for Sinclair's program than the doubtful merit of being "the most advanced movement having any possibility" of catching the votes of an untaught, unthinking electorate!

That is political leadership!

That is the kind of leadership that the Georgists have had ever since Henry George deserted the MS of "Principles of Political Science" to pull political chestnuts for the Labor Unionists of New York City.

Gaston's explanation shows that Gaston is aware that Sinclair's program is the result of a compromise with Ignorance, Superstition and Reaction!

Gaston does not even say that he would wish for more nor indicate that there is anything more to be wished "at the present time".

Gaston points to no standard by which his readers may know in what respects, or in what degree, the Sinclair program falls short of his ideals. His *Courier* is probably the oldest Henry George publication in this country, certainly the oldest in point of continuous publication under one ownership, and it has been for years pointed to as one of our leading exponents.

It is easy to understand, in the light of this incident, why the Cause has been losing ground.

Sinclair's program consists of twelve planks. Of these, to quote A. G. Chapman, of Nebraska, "all are sound but eleven, the one sound plank being that calling for the repeal of the sales tax!"

These were carefully analyzed and evaluated in *The Forum*, page 3065 and No Taxes 249. The program is anti-Labor, anti-Capital, pro-landlord, anti-American and anti-social, European rather than American. **Even in its land planks, it is anti-Georgist!**

The editor of *The Forum* and No Taxes regrets the necessity of publishing comment like this regarding a fellow editor in the Movement; but he feels that he owes

more to the Movement than to any man; that the blood that flowed on Flanders Field and the sufferings of our unemployed today call upon us all to do what we can to **lead the world out of the mess that it is in, rather than to take counsel with the mob and cast for votes as one might angle for trout.**

We need leaders, not politicians!

21

14. The lower the selling price of land, the easier it is for new men and new capital to get into the city and the more money can these newcomers can put into **BUILDINGS, MACHINERY and PAYROLLS.**

21

Fish and Bees

A man is fishing from the shore—catches one fish in an hour—along comes his friend Joe, rowing a boat, saying: "Here, Bill, take my boat and row out there ten rods. He accepts, thanks him, and rows out, coming back in an hour with ten fish. He gives Joe three for the use of the boat—interest of course; but did not Bill also receive interest through the advantage (the time saved) in catching the additional fish? And as to your bee increase, I am thinking that if there is not **much** intelligent work and care put in with the keeping of the bees, soon there would be no bees left. to care for.—ALABAMA.

Bill, who borrows the boat, then had extra work to do; for he had to row the boat in addition to fishing.

Accordingly a portion of the extra catch resulting from his change of position is wages on that labor.

There is no rule by which he must divide the nine extra fish into wages on that extra labor and interest on the extra capital (the boat). He can suit himself about that, and take one fish for wages and eight for interest; or vice versa, or divide the additional catch any way he likes, because it is all his in any event.

But, when he gets ashore and comes to a settlement with Joe, there is a standard which will at least serve to guide him, although, in the absence of an agreement, he cannot be held strictly to it. That standard is the market rate of interest.

This is determined by the market, not by the laws of economics. The natural laws of economics determine only that the return on capital shall go to the owner of the capital; but the laws of economics do not determine in any given case what the return shall be. All the laws of economics do in this direction is to determine that what, after the payment of rent, is left of the total return from all the opportunities open to us in all the many lines of activity is distributed between Labor and Capital in what will, in the long run, prove to be equal parts.

In a given case the interest may be anything from minus to several hundred percent; and, likewise, the wages may be anything from minus to a prince's ransom.

As for the labor involved in the keeping of bees, this is like the labor expended by Bill in rowing Joe's boat. To the extent that much labor is invested in the care of the bees, then to that extent, much of the returns from the bees will be wages.

But, while it is possible to get honey with almost no labor, so that the return from the bees may be almost entirely interest, it is not possible to get honey with no bees (capital); so the return cannot possibly be all wages. All the labor in the world, if concentrated upon that single task, could not gather the honey from one lone clover field and store it in honey comb. ♦