

To the Editor:

I noted with interest Alexander Goldfinger's contribution "The Problem of the Remedy," [April] wherein he cautioned us to keep in mind the broad philosophy of Henry George and not just harp on the single tax.

A few weeks ago I spoke to the combined economics classes of the Cooper Union engineering school—about 75 third-year college men—on "The Philosophy of Henry George."

After setting a bit of background on his life and times, I emphasized the following features: George built on the foundation of classical political economy, and brought it to a culmination. He believed economics was not for specialists but for citizens, and he addressed himself to the latter. He felt that with intelligent observation of everyday facts, the average man could ascertain economic truths. He believed in natural law, and in the sufficiency of the scientific method to solve economic problems. He accepted a private enterprise economy, with a free market and a fair competitive system, with government in a Jeffersonian role, and he sought only to remove monopoly and privilege. He had faith in freedom and was convinced that with a more fully free society, civilization would rise to new heights.

After this exposition I added, "No doubt you have heard of Henry George in connection with the single tax." And I stated what it was, but added "this must always be understood in relation to the broader aspects of his philosophy."

As soon as I concluded with a summation, a dozen hands shot up in the air. And what do you suppose all the questions were about? "Why single out land values for taxation?" "How would you determine the tax rate?" "What would you do about mortgages?" "What about other unearned incomes?" Etc., etc.

Can it be that when we play the harp as an encore it's better received?

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