

# The Georgist Journal

Number 16

Summer 1977

---

## COMMENT

The Fairhope Single Tax Corporation had its life threatened recently and narrowly avoided extinction.

The single tax colony administered by the Corporation, on Mobile Bay, Alabama, has been in existence since 1895 and has had a durable success. A large tract of land was acquired by the Corporation and residents of the colony are tenants who sign a lease for their land and pay rent to the Corporation. This rent is used for community services and for paying real estate taxes imposed by higher levels of government. The City of Fairhope has grown up both inside and outside colony land.

All went well until a few years ago when the Corporation undertook to make more realistic assessments of the land based on rising values. Some of the lessees protested violently and did more than protest - they took the matter to court. They were mostly farmers whose land had become more valuable as residential land due to growth and development. Twice the courts turned down the protestors and found that the Corporation was within its rights.

But the dissidents did not stop. They were after a freehold - owning the land outright, free to rent or sell. (One wonders if they would then find the present level of rent too high.) They went to the Alabama State legislature and hounded it until they actually got a law passed in the House of Representatives that would dissolve the Single Tax Corporation. This bill would then have to pass the Senate and be signed by Governor George Wallace - and lo, the deed would be done!

The members of the Corporation had to act with alacrity. Besides direct action in Montgomery, the State capital, they quickly alerted Georgists all over the country, and letters and telegrams poured into Montgomery. Whatever accomplished it, the immediate threat was averted. The bill was quashed in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

But the danger is by no means over. The dissident lessees have formed a "Fairhope Single Tax Lessees Association, Inc." with the avowed aim of overturning the single tax system of the colony. Fortunately, the majority of the colony's 1500 lessees support the Corporation's position and policies.

Our efforts to establish a single tax system never seem to be "home free" in the applications that have been made. Even with good results, our partial applications are attacked in Australia, Denmark and now Fairhope. "Let us not disguise it," says Henry George. "Over and over again has the standard of Truth and Justice been raised in this world. Over and over again has it been trampled down." Let us be ever alert and vigilant.

R.C.

---

Contents of this issue  
1977 Joint Georgist Conference .... 2-6

Restoration of Henry George grave,  
Henry George Institute, etc. .... 7-10

---

THE GEORGIST JOURNAL, Rm. 462-A, 55 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036, USA.  
Robert Clancy, Editor. Readers are invited to submit suitable articles, letters, news, etc., for publication.