

severe burden, as we would regard it, but it is the principle threatening continual broadening until the eventual absorption by the state of the full land value increment that excites English landholders. This entering wedge is not the only feature of the budget that alarms the landholding class. There is a further provision that land not used to the best advantage shall pay one-fifth of 1 per cent. of its actual worth. . . . Heretofore idle land has been untaxed, but hereafter if the budget should carry, the privilege of holding land out of use is to be taxed.

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Moody's Magazine (financial), May.—The remarkable change in public sentiment on the question of fiscal reform which manifested itself in the tremendous overthrow of the Unionist party four years ago has a peculiar interest to Americans. . . . The modern problems in all civilized countries are essentially alike—they are all based on economic grounds. The development of the material civilization of the last hundred years is bringing into the forefront in every civilized land in the world today, issues of world-wide interest, the far-reaching importance and significance of which causes the petty questions of princely power and the narrow religious issues, over the solution of which millions of human beings lost their lives in the last three hundred years, to pale into insignificance. The economic problem of the time, that which it is destined that the twentieth century shall grapple with, and, if possible, solve, is the thing which causes men in America to watch closely the overturn of parties in England, the ebb and flow of the Socialist movement in Germany, and the rise of the Radicals in France. . . . The poverty of the English masses is the keynote to the reforms proposed by Bannerman, by Asquith and by Lloyd-George, and the similar poverty of a large and not lessening mass of people in this country of far greater opportunity is the only keynote to the programs of reform proposed in many quarters here. . . . The poverty of Manchester, of Glasgow and of London has not been alleviated appreciably by municipal ownership, by public works, or by semi-socialistic proposals. The Liberal party has, it is true, advocated these things, but the key to its position at the present time and to the bitter antagonism it is receiving from the Opposition, and particularly from the House of Lords, seems to consist in its definite advocacy of a heavier tax on the vast landed estates of the country. . . . The proposals of Lloyd-George in his report a few days ago were based largely on this plan. While other plans for the raising of revenue were also proposed and some of them were of a new and radical nature, this feature of his program is the one which is raising the chief storm of protest from the Opposition and from the nobility. How far the Lords will acquiesce in a program of this kind is an unknown quantity; but certainly determined opposition will be met from that quarter. Having for centuries enjoyed possession of these vast estates, with little or no burden of taxation, the upper house will fight this opening wedge of fundamental reform to the last ditch. The fight will be of intense interest to a large portion of the American people.

Henry Georgism and the Fels Promotion.

The Des Moines Register and Leader (Rep.), May 20.—If issues have a ten years' periodicity with panics and sun spots, the revival of the Henry George single tax should have been looked for at about this time. It is to Mr. Fels that the finger of fate has pointed, and he has responded—a respectable citizen of staid old Philadelphia, who seems to have considerable sagacity in the matter of stirring up agitation. Mr. Fels has recently outlined his plans in a London interview. . . . There is something about this plan that suggests a compatriot of the canny Andrew Carnegie. For Mr. Fels has made the Carnegie discovery that there is nothing like getting people to spend their own money if real interest in the enterprise is to be developed. If the United States, Canada, England and the long list of others can be persuaded—and the prospect of getting Mr. Fels' money is a tempting bait—if they can be persuaded to invest in a revival of Henry Georgeism, it goes without saying that within the coming twelve-month the debate will be on in all its original vigor.

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The Washington (D. C.) Times (ind. Rep.).—There is no propaganda in progressive economies which has commanded such devoted and unswerving loyalty of so intellectual a force of supporters as the single tax. Year by year, in season and out, the followers of Henry George have preached and worked and pressed their case. They have made it distinctly an intellectual cult. In contradistinction to the socialistic movement, it has aimed to start at the top and pull the masses of people up to its ideal, rather than to start at the bottom and raise them from underneath. It has captured first the intellectuals; and to-day it has them, in startling numbers, in every country. Japan is full of them; Australia and New Zealand are ruled by them. Great Britain's government has adopted the first step in their program by voting to impose a heavy tax on the unearned increment in real estate; and the German government is moving in the same direction, as a result of the success of the experiment in many cities of the Empire. The single tax, in short, has passed out of the realm of intellectual speculation and into the domain of politics and administration. It is getting its test. If Henry George had not been called from his work at the moment he was, he might have been elected mayor of New York; he certainly would have been made, even in defeat, a powerful force in that city's thought and life and politics. Had he lived, the single tax would not be so far behind in this country. But it is gaining ground once more. It is announced that a millionaire Philadelphia manufacturer who has been devoted to the cause for many years, has offered \$500,000 for the conduct of a great educational campaign in this country and Great Britain, on condition of the single-taxers raising a like amount; the total fund to be divided equally between the two countries. This means a vigorous effort to popularize the movement; to carry it down to the people. It will command attention, if such a campaign shall be made, such as has never before been given it in this country. Conservatives who have a vague and entirely mistaken notion of what it's all about will do well to inform themselves,

for they will have some very hard propositions to answer, and will need to start with a pretty intelligent notion of what they are going to talk about.

RELATED THINGS

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DESPOILED.

For The Public.

If I could read my title clear, among the wolves that yelp,
To just the fullness of my day, without a statesman's help,
I'd gladly pay what taxes a simple state might need,
Its honors well to shelter, its comfort well to feed.

Nor would I for my portion a vast domain demand,
Of either sky or water, or wide, unpeopled land.
A cottage on a hillside, a garden and a spring,
With many birds of welcome words, would be about the thing.

But all my days are deeded to men of many fees,
Who, of my loving labor, build their unlovely ease.
And all my nights are mortgaged in dark, unhappy ways,
To those who drive my drudging thro all my deeded days.

They taught me in the little school, whose memories are dear,
To love the institutions I've lately come to fear,
For, said the teacher, guilelessly, "Our native land is free,
And all our duty is to serve its progress loyally."

But service is a stupid thing if service shall but gain
From sore and shameful servitude but courage to complain.

And if our famed "equality" one pocket fatly fills,
And leaves a million empty, a nation's honor spills.

They give us law for logic, made up of bonds and bribes,
The kind some sleek attorney as "right divine" describes.

But when our hunger happens its prior right to claim,

They measure out, for trimmings, a year of ironed shame.

There isn't much to trouble an opportunist now.
They've got the land allotted, and won't an inch allow,

But if you want a mortgage—to exercise your wit,
And busy you, at cent-per-cent,—they'll gladly part with it.

If I could read my title, in all the din and dust,
I wouldn't want their millions, with human blood arust;

Nor palaces, nor plunder, nor perquisites of pride,

With all the things of manhood abandoned and denied.

But what I seek forever, is, where the truth is kept,

For all its holy guardians at lying are adept.

It isn't legislated in any halls of state,

And as for honest voting—who pays the highest freight?

If I could read my title—[—]what is a title, pray?

Why, Fellow, they are holding it, and you're the stuff they weigh.

A vineyard on the hillside, a sungleam in the spring—

Well, if you're not tight-muzzled, they're just a song to sing.

GEORGE E. BOWEN.

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RICH MEN AND CHRISTIAN JUSTICE.

From a Lecture on "The Problem of the Unemployed,"
Delivered Recently at Waco, Texas, Under the
Auspices of the Carnegie Library Association
of That Place, by Henry F.
Ring, of Houston, Texas.

I recollect reading in the newspapers twenty years ago of a great boom in the vicinity of Birmingham, Alabama. We were exultingly told that the lands containing the coal beds and mineral deposits in northern Alabama had gone up in value from \$1,000,000 to \$50,000,000 in the space of six years. What did that signify? It meant that when capital and labor should attempt to utilize these coal beds and mineral deposits, when capital and labor should unite together, the one to furnish the tools, the other the labor with which to produce wealth from this raw material, then would a set of landlords step forward and block the enterprise with a demand of \$50,000,000 for the mere right of access to these free gifts of nature, or in lieu of it the payment of \$3,000,000 a year as tribute money, that being the interest of \$50,000,000 at six per cent. There lay the coal beds and mineral deposits untouched by man, fresh from the hands of the Creator, intended by Him, if He be the just and benevolent being whom we are taught to worship, for the equal use and enjoyment of all His children, and yet our laws say that capital and labor must pay a few forestallers \$3,000,000 a year for the privilege of applying to this land the hand of industry.

Labor's Scant Share.

And after such tribute money has been paid, how much will there be left for the wages of labor? The answer is: Just as little as labor can subsist upon, except as it is able to sustain wages by labor union combinations. Why? Because this monopolization of unused gifts of nature going on not only in northern Alabama but everywhere else, enables capital to drive a hard bargain with