

Single Tax movement has for twenty-five years, since I have been familiar with it, been terribly handicapped by being largely in control of self-styled radicals, who with great egotism have condemned everybody and everything, but who know little of liberty from the basis of principle.

I have looked for the day when the Single Tax would really start in its purity and grow and fill the whole earth.
Chicago, Ill.

ROBERT C. BRYANT

A NOVEL PROPOSITION

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

An acquaintance of mine insists on her young daughter living in Berkeley, California, instead of San Francisco, across the bay, because of the prevalence of crime in the latter city. The voters of Berkeley had placed in office an efficient chief of police, and so the land values of the city were increased about \$1,000 by the presence of this lady.

In the center of Oakland is a large tract of land for sale. On it is a sign reading: "A \$60,000 technical high school two blocks from here." Is it not primarily because the voters of Oakland have elected a progressive school board that a fund has arisen and is locally available in land values for high school purposes?

When the Fickert recall election took place in San Francisco the argument used in favor of his re-election—so I am credibly informed—was that property interests in San Francisco would suffer if Mooney should be acquitted, for the people would then conclude that union labor again dominated San Francisco. Reactionaries see the connection between voting and land values. How can Single Taxers ignore it?

Why not pay voters—say \$20 a year—the fund for this purpose to be raised by a tax on land owners?

Gerrit Johnson is right in saying that display of martyrdom does not help. "No one is interested in a movement that spells trouble. But in trying to make the Single Tax popular let us make it attractive to those on whom its adoption depends, and at a time when it counts—at the beginning of Winter.

Let us then begin by taxing land values to pay to all voters for services rendered.

Wadena, Minn.

WALTER B. LOWENSTEIN

REPLY

We assume that Mr. Lowenstein is serious in advancing this proposition. It is by no means so absurd as it will seem at first blush. If land values are in excess of needed public improvements some such disposition of this common fund might indeed be considered. But it is not possible to conceive of a time when needed public improvements will not continue to absorb all increase in land values. The right of the people to dispose of their common fund in any way that seems best to them is not to be denied, but this proposition ignores the need of returning this revenue to the land in public improvements so that land values may be constantly replenished at their source.—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

SOME INSIDE HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO SINGLE TAX CLUB

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

In all probability you recall that the writer was Secretary and Treasurer of the Chicago Single Tax Club for about ten years. During that time he had the opportunity to observe the correctness of your comment regarding Single Tax Clubs. It was during this time that dissensions arose over the possibility of injecting Single Tax into politics. In the many years that I have been acquainted with the movement, especially with the Chicago Single Tax Club, I believe that I am in a position to talk authoritatively.

The Chicago Single Tax Club was the largest economic club of its kind in the world, having not only the greatest number enrolled as members, but among them what are known as the stars and great lights of the movement. The club ceased to grow or to arouse any great interest to a degree that would lead one to believe that the course

pursued was not the best one. Many members became tired of hearing the proposition discussed between themselves. The greater portion of the time was spent in splitting hairs, defining terms and speculating upon future possibilities. When the above was no longer interesting the checker board was resorted to.

A different atmosphere, however, developed as soon as the majority of the members of the club decided to go into political action. The so-called leaders refused to lead, they actually did everything that was possible to hinder the movement, but those that had faith proceeded and immediately there came into our halls a new and large following of strange faces that never would have entered the hall had we continued in the old method. As long as we only talked no one was interested except the casual few that came in to replace those that had become acquainted with the proposition and dropped by the wayside.

Without means and small support we attracted a great amount of attention and publicity, and sold large quantities of literature. And while our vote was not large the tendency was after about three years to double at each election. Had the club had with it men of sufficient caliber and means to give it stable backing in all probability Chicago and the State of Illinois would have been on the map as a beacon light to the balance of the country.

Make no mistake, unless the Single Tax proposition comes into politics it will be a million years before it receives any recognition or is placed in operation to any great extent. Looking over the field at the present time you will note that countries supposedly less intelligent than ours have adopted the Single Tax method in localities, but here in the United States where the idea was given its birth and the greatest impetus we have as yet to point to a single locality, regardless of its size, that has been sufficiently educated to give it a trial. I am not speaking about localities that we have had to buy up in order to put the idea into practice. And I might add here that even these have not assumed a proportion large enough and of sufficient prominence to fill a thimble in comparison with the amount of money, time, energy, and expense put forth.

If the experience of the past is a guide for those either for or against political action then all the letter writing and books on the subject are of no value. The sooner this movement gets into political action the sooner will follow its adoption. In other parts of the world where it has taken this course it has received not only attention but measures have been gradually passed in its direction.
Cleveland, Ohio.

G. J. FOYER.

PARTY ACTION THE HOPE OF THE SINGLE TAX

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The most enthusiastic Single Taxer, whether a "party man" or believer in unorganized propaganda, who does not live in a cloister but takes a walk or ride occasionally through the crowded "poorer districts" of a large city, generally experiences a deep feeling of gloom as he contemplates the numbers that must be enlightened before any hope can be entertained for the future of our cause.

To my mind, there is *no way* to dispel this gloom from the mind of the non-believer in political organization. He knows these great masses of men are not only non-thinkers and densely ignorant of economic truth, but will, like the swine, turn again and rend anyone, not of their own class, who would cast before their understanding our pearl of great truth—which offers only justice with no immediate or unmoral gain.

To the party Single Taxer, however, the gloom becomes dissipated when his reading of history proves that the great masses of men have always been non-thinkers and ignorant, and yet more or less morality and justice have advanced. He feels he has something to offer them, something not entirely new, and by which they have been accustomed to get the small amount of liberty they now enjoy. He feels that perhaps the larger amount of liberty involved in the Single Tax may some day appeal to them.

The heart of the party man is cheered by daily coming in contact with "brands plucked from the burning," in other words, men who have risen from the ranks of the non-thinkers out of the depths of ignorance