

The

Fairhope

Courier

Devoted to the Single Tax and its practical application by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation.
See Last Page for Condensed Statement Regarding Fairhope Single Tax Colony.

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FAIRHOPE, ALA., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1907.

\$1.00 A YEAR.

FAIRHOPE SINGLE TAX COLONY

Fairhope, to outward appearance, as other towns, save for evidences of exceptional prosperity usually noted by the most casual observer, is yet unique among the towns of this or any land.

It is a town "with a purpose." That purpose is to make a practical application of the teachings of Henry George upon the land question—as fully as possible under existing laws.

Henry George, as is well known, asserted the proposition that "all men are equally entitled to the use of the earth," and proposed to secure that right to all by requiring each who desired the exclusive use of any portion of the earth, to pay for the benefit of all, the value which the common estimation attached to such portion. He proposed to take this as a tax for public purposes, in lieu of all other taxes—hence the name "Single Tax."

Those who founded Fairhope had advocated, and yet do, this as a reform in taxation; but realizing that its essential feature is the taking of land values for public use, and that the right to collect land values attaches to LAND OWNERSHIP under our present laws, hit upon the clever plan of securing by purchase, the right to collect land values, not as a tax but as rent, and administering these values not for their benefit as OWNERS in the usual way, but for the benefit of ALL who might by locating upon such lands contribute to their value.

Under this plan the title to the land of Fairhope is held by the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation, a corporation chartered under an Alabama statute, having a perpetual existence, and conducted by its members under the said statute and its constitution and by-laws.

Lands are leased to individuals in quantities to suit, on ninety-nine year leases, subject to an annually appraised rental, collected and disbursed for the public benefit.

To make this really a "Single Tax," and to free its lessees from the blighting injustice of taxes upon improvements and personal property, the Corporation pays out of the rent not only the taxes upon the land, but upon the improvements and personal property of lessees.

All the rent fund remaining is expended locally for the public benefit in roads, schools, library, telephones, parks, bath-houses, etc., etc.

Absolutely no portion of this rent goes as interest, dividends, or profits, to the founders or members of the Colony, or any other persons.

The constitution forbids the granting of franchises to individuals or corporations for performing any public service, but requires that the Corporation shall, as fast as may be, provide the same and operate them in the common interest.

The Corporation thus owned and operated the wharf, at which land the steamers, by means of which communication is maintained with the outside world, and which yielded annually a very substantial addition to the public revenue, until the same was practically destroyed by the great storm of September 27, 1906. It has been rebuilt by a company of citizens under contract by which they will manage it until the obligations incurred by them in the rebuilding are satisfied, when it will be turned back to the Corporation.

It owns a water-works system, (the only one in Baldwin county) with steam pumping plant and mains supplying the principal part of the town with water for domestic use and fire protection; and a local telephone system, with long distance connection.

The Fairhope policy eliminates the land speculator entirely, and for those who WANT LAND FOR USE, whether for residence, business, manufacturing or farming, it can be readily demonstrated to be far better and cheaper than owning.

Fairhope is delightfully located on the shore of Mobile bay, has excellent hotels, restaurants, stores, schools, blacksmith and butcher shops, doctors, churches, fine bathing and fishing, and exceptionally intelligent and sociable people.

Beautiful lots in the town, and farm lands adjacent to it, are open for settlers without purchase price on the Colony's favorable terms.

For fuller particulars, copy of constitution, lease, etc., address

E. B. GASTON, Secretary.