

Forth from the radiant wooing of my lord
 Drove me, the trembling love of sovereign Zeus,
 Drove me with threats to wander forth alone,
 In misery to turn I knew not where.
 Ah me, how mighty was her will and power,
 Like to the savage wind-storm! On and on
 Alone and wretched I have dragg'd me on
 From place to place as best I could, when lo,
 I came to flowery Delos, where anon
 These lovely offspring of our love were born—
 Who came like to a message from my lord
 To tell me I again should welcom'd be
 And be forgiven for my fault of love,
 What time the Queen of Heaven were satisfied.
 To me myself I care not what may come—
 To dangers I am used. But an immortal light
 Enfolds my beauteous babes and Heaven itself
 Smiles down in wonder as they sleep—
 They come to light the world!
 (A murmur of admiration rises from the children and Myra.)

I needs must hope
 That soon the palace-gates of their great Father
 Will ope with proud rejoicing to receive them.
 Now from so poor and ignorant a woman
 As 'een I am hear words of joyful import.
 What you have seen today will be a tale
 That ever poets will delight to tell—
 The tale of how Latona haply brought
 A fundamental lesson to mankind,
 A lesson reason'd by the primal Powers:
 That your fair Earth must not sequester'd be
 By cozening louts and wolves and greedy tricksters,
 To the undoing of all others, but that they
 Who this bright jewel of the universe
 By providence of th' immortal Gods inhabit
 Shall equal right and privilege have to use
 The natural gifts of bounteous Earth and Heaven,
 The fertile soil, the air, the sunlight warm,
 The water, wind and fire, that with these aids
 Secure the sons of men may lay their heads,
 And without let or hindrance live their lives,
 And without killing labor live their lives!
 And I would have this precious story live
 Through all the ages to the bounds of time.
 Oh happy chance, dear friends, that it is we
 Of whom this wondrous legend will be told!
 So are the Oracle's pious words fulfilled.
 And now my tasks accomplished, I dare hope
 Heaven's crystal threshold once again awaits me.
 Farewell, sweet maid. Dear Shepherd boy, I pray thee
 Direct me once again the proper road,
 This time down toward the sea. I turn from Lycia
 And homeward thro the Grecian Islands sail,

Past Delos, to the purple Attic shore,
 Whence on to bright Olympus and my Lord!
 (Latona takes her two children from the arms of the nurse
 and turns to go. The Shepherd boy leads the way. Myra
 and the children remain on their knees, with arms still
 extended toward her.)

The Curtain falls.

END OF ACT II

The Play to be concluded with an Epilogue

Laziness, Indifference or Cowardice?

WHY is it that the sound and self-evident proposition,
 that the values given to land by growth of popula-
 tion and increase of public services should be taken by taxa-
 tion for the benefit of those whose activities create them,
 makes such slow progress toward general acceptance?
 Are the people in general unable to understand this proposi-
 tion? Does the selfish interest of a comparatively few
 persons who hope to make a profit by speculating in land
 outweigh the manifest advantages of abolishing taxes on
 industry, and deriving public revenues from values created
 by the community as a whole? That the principle of tax-
 ing land value is sound economics and in accord with the
 fundamentals of true ethics, as establishing a just basis
 for organized society, cannot successfully be controverted.
 Then why is it that it is not universally recognized?

The answer to these questions is chiefly to be found in
 the indifference of the great mass of mankind toward new
 ideas, but there is also the deplorable fact that of those
 who see the truth of the doctrine so clearly enunciated by
 Henry George a large percentage do nothing toward
 securing its general adoption. Yes, they are Single Taxers,
 possibly they have been for a long time, but—they have
 grown tired in trying to convert their stupid acquaintances
 and think it a useless waste of effort to talk about the land
 as related to all important social problems. Speaking
 from my own experience, I must frankly admit that the
 hopeless stupidity of so many of those whom I had re-
 garded as favorable prospects for conversion to the truth
 of "the land for the people" has at times depressed and
 discouraged me, and I have been inclined to fall back on
 the old query: "What's the use?" Then, again, there
 is the recognition of the futility of effort that comes from
 finding many of those who seemed to have grasped a clear
 understanding of the land question, with its central truth
 of freedom as the goal of human endeavor, going off in
 support of anti-libertarian notions of paternalism, social-
 ism, governmentalism, impertinent meddling with the
 affairs of foreign peoples, and all sorts of fads and isms,
 wholly incompatible with the philosophy of free land and
 free men. This, however, is no excuse for evading the duty
 of trying to make plain to others the truths clearly per-
 ceived. I do not offer this explanation as an excuse, but

merely as one of the reasons why land reformers have lost their zeal for the cause in which they believed. And, again speaking from my own experience, I am inclined to think that it is largely pure laziness that keeps so many of those who see the great basic truth from making an active effort to secure its recognition and adoption.

There is yet another factor that operates to chill the ardor of the land reformers—their dislike to be regarded as pestilential agitators, or advocates of notions dangerous to society. Finding that men and women of education and business ability, presumably intelligent, look upon any discussion of the land question as savoring of Socialism, Communism, Bolshevism, and all sorts of dangerous doctrines, they shrink from antagonizing those with whom they are brought in contact, and prefer to go on their way in quietness, without being forced to defend themselves against the suspicions that they are enemies of orderly society. Privilege, of which the greatest manifestation is the private acquirement of publicly-created land values, is entrenched with the successful and powerful few, on whom depends the success, and often the very livelihood, of the many. Why make enemies of those whose special privileges give them all the comforts and luxuries derivable from wealth? Is it not better to hide what are regarded as radical opinions, and thus avoid the suspicion of eccentricity or dangerous radicalism?

These are questions that each reader must ask him, or herself. They are questions that go down to the root of the reasons why mankind labor in ignorance, poverty and suffering because of an unwise and unjust system of land ownership. I judge no one except myself, and myself I judge harshly because I have not done all that I might have done to advance the truth that forty years ago I first perceived.

WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

Single Tax

EIGHTY-FIVE years ago today was born Henry George, the inventor of Single Tax, and though it may seem at first blush that little has been accomplished in the interim in the direction of the reforms he so ably advocated, a survey of conditions on this continent, and indeed throughout the world, will serve to show that the ideas he conceived and elaborated have gained acceptance and proved their worth in many important instances. New ideas are always received with caution and inevitably meet with opposition from those who have strong personal reasons for feeling satisfied with things as they are; but if those ideas, however radical or revolutionary they may seem, have merit as well as novelty, it is only a matter of time before they get themselves adopted by progressive peoples. With regard to single tax, there is an interminable argument over its claims to recognition. The proposal to abolish a system of taxation which has served

the purposes of the governments and the municipal administration for so long a time, is one which, naturally, causes consternation to those who have been trained in the old methods and especially those whose duty it is to secure the revenues necessary for the carrying on of public business. It is not easy for them to reconcile themselves to a system which would cut off the sources of taxation which at present yield the greatest returns. Yet, if it can be proved that the change, while working to the advantage of individual citizens, operates also to the economic advantage of the community as a whole, no public spirited person could allow his personal doubts and misgivings to stand in the way of so desirable a reform.

The crux of the whole matter is, of course, can such satisfactory proofs be furnished? Single Taxers claim that they can, and in plenty; while opponents point to cases where the doctrine has been put to the practical test and failed as evidence that the theory does not come up to promise in actual practice. To this it is countered that the failure is more apparent than real, and that in places where the experiment has been tried, under normal conditions, there has been enthusiastic commendation. The most conspicuous examples are furnished by Australia and New Zealand, the chief cities of which countries raise taxes almost exclusively from land values. The results are reported to be most gratifying, unproductive land being forced into use, and the exemption of improvements from taxation having the effect of increasing building construction and beautifying the character of the buildings themselves. In Pittsburg, there is a graded tax law, by which taxes on buildings are reduced by 10 per cent. each third year until the rate on buildings is 50 per cent. of that charged on land. The measure went into effect ten years ago and at present 40 per cent. of building values is exempt. In Western Canada the collapse of the building boom led to inevitable difficulties; but it is pointed out that in the large western cities Single Tax is still in vogue to a great extent, while the rural municipalities are all raising their taxes from land values and exempting improvements. It is contended that the gradual change from the present system to that of Single Tax would be beneficial to all interests in the long run, except those which thrive on deliberate speculation in land. Those who contend that the case made out by the Single Taxers is not proven must at least admit that the latter are able to produce some very logical and persuasive arguments in its support.

Hamilton (Canada) *Spectator*.

It is pitiable that at this time of day Mr. Cox should compare the fees of physicians and lawyers and the wages of railway servants with the ever increasing value of land, which goes into the pockets of the landowners. In the case of fees of physicians and lawyers and the wages of railway servants, they are the reward for services rendered. May one ask Mr. Cox what services the landowner as landowner renders?

—F. SKIRROW in *Yorkshire Post*.