

"EDUCATED FOOLS"

This paper-covered volume of a hundred and odd pages is by Clement L. Coleman with a sub title, "A Narrative of Sociologic Adventure." It is by a resident of Fairhope, one of the oldest members of the Fairhope Corporation. There is no reference in the work to Fairhope, nor to the Single Tax, though the opportunity to preach an economic lesson must have been tempting.

The characters and incidents, however, are amusing. The work is published by the author and is sold for one dollar.

CORRESPONDENCE

OPEN LETTER ANSWER
TO PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I regret to differ with you on the advice given in your "Open Letter to Single Taxers." I recognize that your name adds much weight to what I consider a pernicious and proved fallacy. I assume that you are just as earnest as I am to advance our principle and therefore make no excuse for calling your attention to certain pertinent facts in the history of our movement.

In 1886 we were young men, our hearts throbbled and warm blood coursed through our veins, and with the slogan of "Free Land and Free Men" we filled Opera Houses from pit to dome; we wanted to regain our heritage in the land. Yet, on the advice of our Apostle, we adopted the "current" issue—the tariff—and were led into the Democratic camp. Today the tariff is higher than ever and the army of active Single Taxers were greatly reduced.

In the 90's, again under the advice of Henry George, we supported Bryan; not because we were free silverites, but because under his banner were marshalled the "Have Nots" against the "House of Have." It was a motley throng, but on the enormous output of gold in the Rand the scales between creditors and debtors evened and the issue died a natural death. What became of the Single Taxers? They dwindled.

Then came the Initiative and Referendum. Again we adopted the "current" issue. Eggleston writes Barry, editor of the *Star*, "keep your columns free from Single Tax matter so as not to prejudice the Referendum." Where are the friends and adherents we made then? I cannot see them.

Were we to adopt your "current" issue and oppose the efforts of landlords which "gain them a special privilege income," it would appear casually that where they made no such effort we should let them enjoy their tribute in peace. Pretty weak, that!

In 1914 I wrote an article, printed in the *The Single Tax Review*, and later issued as a tract, in which I made "An earnest plea to drop all fiscal differences and side issues and organize for the restoration of the land to the people." This policy was adopted by a group of Single Taxers which organized for its political advancement and is called today The Commonwealth Land Party. The members of this party believe the land question is broad enough, deep enough and just enough to appeal to all men; they see that to obtain the appropriation of rent by the State legislation for that purpose is necessary; consequently the issue must be brought into the political field.

Further, they see that extraneous issues only cloud our principle and attenuate it; consequently they logically use a one plank platform calling for the immediate appropriation of rent to the State. Having one plank only they have no differences and are held together for concerted action. Their one mistake is that they try to cover the whole political field, from President to Pound Keeper; whereas the taxation and tenure of land pertains solely to the State legislature, and Assemblymen and State Senators are the only officials who have the power to change or amend the laws relative thereto. Sound policy, in my opinion, should dictate the nomination of candidates for these offices only

Were Josiah Wedgwood to arise in the House of Commons and introduce a bill appropriating rent to the Crown, Single Taxers throughout the world would be thrilled. For that body of men has the power. In this country we have 48 separate Parliaments having that power. What are we doing about it? Nothing.

In closing may I call attention to the fact that your advice is for fiscal argument only? You do not urge that anyone who is landless should be informed he is disinherited from his birthright. Yet that is the essence of George's doctrine.

Secretary of Labor James J. Davis says 86% of Americans are poor. Shall we adopt your "current" issue and tell the 86% that we will actively oppose the efforts of landlords to dodge the present rates on land, and that we shall leave to future and more virile exponents the duty of proving that landlordism means slavery of the masses? Must we appeal only to a smaller and more select audience, and remain really respectable ourselves?

"Current" issues are political herrings across the trail; they are phantoms which wax and wane; their followers are idolators; the God of Justice is above their comprehension; their piety is futile; they shall be destroyed without progeny.

I advise the nomination by petition of candidates for the State Legislature who shall stand for "Free Land and Free Men" and who shall in their argument before the electorate go to the root of the land question. In the July-August issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM* I submitted "A new method of Propaganda;" I would appreciate it were you to read that plan and give me your opinion on it.

Regards and best wishes to you personally.
Taco Taco, Cuba.

ANTONIO BASTIDA.

WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE SOCIALISTS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

On my return recently from a six year sojourn in Australia and New Zealand, I had the pleasurable sensation of visioning a real "happy time coming." What with the Henry George Foundation Congress to be held in our fair city a certainty, and the advent of a Blucher for the next campaign in prospect, there does seem substance to the vision. Your suggestion that we Georgists consider and discuss the advisability of joining forces with the Socialists, has been a dream and hope of mine for a great many years. I congratulate you for the initiative in bringing it to the attention of our people, and hope they will give it serious thought, for it seems to me we cannot get together too soon. The time to cooperate is when the other party is in the mood. Norman Thomas seems to have made the advance by giving prominence to our objective, thus evincing a desire to cooperate with us.

He must be a timid soul that will shy at the term Socialist. That has been shot at me a hundred times when it had more potency to ruffle one, and the editorial that made me a disciple of Henry George, called him worse names, with that included, the virulence of which filled me with the desire to know the man and his message. Although it may not be generally known I can say from personal knowledge that in our several campaigns in California, we had the whole hearted assistance of quite a number of Socialists. We can afford to be considerate of their stressing details we think of minor importance, especially in view of the reforms so called, which have been of little value, and that we aided in the past.

Most of your readers know that each of the three most populous states in Australia has a widely circulated Single Tax paper, one of them practically self-supporting. A few days ago I received a letter from its editor telling me that, on the first lap of a tour being made by their lecturer, he sent in one hundred and twenty-eight new subscriptions. In Victoria I knew of a Single Tax Croasdaler—or Hirschite, as they would probably call him, that from a small country town sent in over one hundred new subscriptions to their paper, and was still going strong. That is how they do it in woolly Australia.
San Francisco, Calif.

BERNARD HARTLEY.