

A revolutionary doctrine! Of course it is. What did you suppose it was? Just a doctrine of the shifting of taxation? And did you imagine when you told it in these terms that the man who profits by landlordism would find it more palatable than the same thing undisguised? Then you deceived yourself.

The Single Tax is the Great Evangel. It is the doctrine of land restoration. It is a message of glad tidings to the poor and needy. It is the herald of emancipation for the landless, and for the landlord, too, just as the law that struck the bonds from the slave struck them also from the Southern slaveholder. For as Henry George has told us, it is the nature of injustice that it profits no one. And at the same time he warned us against all compromise that involved any sacrifice of principle. JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

A Land Value Tax Held Sound by Students

The trouble is not that the farmer who owns a farm is suffering. The trouble is, first, that he can sell his farm, invest the money in mortgages and make more without working, in many instances, than he can make by farming his land. Second, he can often rent his land to someone else more profitably than he can work it himself. Third, if he has several sons, the ones that do not inherit the farm cannot afford to buy one in this country. They either go into other lines of work or else go to some other country.

The result is a country in which more and more of the land passes into the hands of men who hold it idle for speculative purposes, or rent it, and in which a man who wants to invest his money in land and to farm it, cannot do so profitably. Inevitably it is also a land which in food prices rise steadily.

What is the remedy? Two have been proposed. First, for the nation or the States to buy and reclaim land and sell it to farmers at a price based on what it will produce and on long time credit. This was the essence of Secretary Lane's scheme of land for soldiers, which so mysteriously disappeared. It is the basis of the California land and colonization plan, which has worked well, and it has been put into practice in some form by several other States.

The second method is a form of taxation on unimproved land which would make it unprofitable to hold such land for speculative purposes. Such a tax has always been held sound by students. A bill providing for such tax was introduced in the last congress by Representative Nolan and reintroduced in this congress by Representative Keller.

It has attracted as much attention as a pin falling into the Atlantic ocean. FREDERICK J. HASKIN, in *San Diego Union*.

PRESIDENT HARDING says there is no "legislative palliative" for housing shortage. True; but there are legislative obstacles to building.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.

NEWS—DOMESTIC California

PETITIONS are now being circulated in this State for the Slocumb Amendment to the Constitution. It will be necessary to secure about 60,000 signers to the petition to insure this measure a place on the ballot, and petitions must be filed on or before August 1st. Workers are now active in securing the necessary number of signers, and the campaign for the Amendment will at once begin.

Despite the falling away of a few of the old time leaders, the feeling is one of great hopefulness for a vigorous and successful campaign.

The text of the proposed amendment follows:

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

The following shall be known as Article XIII, and shall be substituted for all of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of California and shall take effect January 1st, 1924.

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. It is hereby proclaimed that private property rights attach only to products of labor and not to land; that the holding of land in private monopoly by virtue of a franchise or title deed is a special privilege; that the full rent of such privileges belongs to the people collectively; that paying such rent to the whole people is, in principle, not a tax, but a moral obligation for value received on the part of the holders of such privileges; and that to secure to all fully and equally their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness it is the duty of the State to collect such rent in full and not violate the rights of private property by any tax on improvements, business, labor, or capital.

Sec. 2. Franchises are hereby defined to be special privileges granted by government permitting the use or monopoly of land. Titles to land and all special privileges to use land for any certain defined purposes are franchises.

Sec. 3. All franchises shall be assessed annually with their full rental value.

Sec. 4. This rental assessment as made each year shall be paid in full each year by all franchise holders; in one payment or in installments as shall be provided by law; provided that where franchise rights to land are leased at a rental that is less than the assessment the difference shall be paid by the lessee, or forfeit lease; and, that that part of all contracts and leases requiring lessees to pay all taxes in addition to a certain fixed rental, is hereby declared null and void and against public policy; and no other tax or taxes whatsoever shall be levied, collected or paid, nor shall any fee or charge be made, collected or paid for any license or permit.

Sec. 5. This rental assessment shall exactly measure the advantage of the inequality of franchise rights and privileges, and is hereby defined to be an amount of money just sufficient to make the purchase price or selling price of the franchise, independent of improvements on the land held thereby, approximate zero, or only enough to wholly prevent the capitalization of the franchise.

Sec. 6. This assessment, if not paid by the time and in the manner required by law shall work absolute forfeiture of the franchise, and if there are improvements upon land held by the franchise so forfeited, shall constitute a lien