

Can This Problem Be Solved?

A DRAMATIC exposure of the "secret of history," showing how the great struggles of the Hebrews, Romans and Saxons were related to land ownership more than to anything else, was a notable feature of the March Land & Liberty. The Feudal system introduced another order, but with lawless barons playing the same game as the Roman landlords.

"No wonder," states the author, F. W. G. Foat, "that the thirst for destruction of neighboring peoples and the glory of warfare have been emphasized—anything rather than that the people should know that the one indefeasible title which the English law permits is the title of the whole community to inalienable possession of the land, the soil of Britain."

As history is read back by the next generation or two, if the planet exists that long, the "secret of history" for our present period will remain much the same.

Louis La Coss, editor emeritus of the Globe-Democrat (St. Louis), in a similar historical outline on March 6th, stated that whereas land has been a problem from Biblical days, the present problem, for which we have no solution, is "how best to regulate and distribute the vast crops that right now are in surplus while other peoples of the world are in want."

As a new nation we were infested with land sharks who moved westward, anticipating migration. Bona fide settlers were the victims, they couldn't obtain clear titles in many instances and often after building a house on land found out they didn't own it. This led to small wars which, like older wars of history, were not recognized as being the results of struggles over injustices in land ownership, or the "secret of history".

The Homestead Act signed by President Lincoln in 1862 resulted in clear title to some 2,500,000 acres by qualified settlers, but they too had to be very careful to protect themselves from the sharpies who were numerous on the West Coast.

"A dozen parties were organized," writes Mr. La Coss, "such as the Greenbackers, Socialists, Single Taxers, Knights of Labor, Grangers and Farmers' Alliance. All had the objective of economic reform," and all this represented a groping for security and protection after years of exploitation.

Among all the programs that have been tried, the author states, "one of the most notable was the single tax plan," or "the imposition of a tax equal to the total rental value of the land." This was based on Henry George's premise that "land monopoly has blighted every civilization since ancient days."

Yes, "the land problem—like the poor—has always been with us. Its demise cannot be predicted, despite political claims."



—Alexander, in The Philadelphia Bulletin

HENRY GEORGE NEWS