



Commemorative postage stamps are issued for a centennial or a 150th anniversary. It takes time to paint and letter stamp subject matter for deliberation of the judges. An unsuccessful attempt was made to interest the postmaster in a Henry George centennial stamp in 1939. If we begin now we may fare better in 1969, '71 or '79. After that we would have to wait ten years, until the 150th anniversary of George's birth, to propose it again.

I suggested at the Henry George Woman's Club picnic in August that all who could draw or paint should submit 8½"x11" stamp designs to the secretary of the Chicago extension. There must be many readers of HGN who would like to consider this. New Yorkers especially would be interested in the 50th anniversary of Henry George's arrival in New York in 1869. In 1871 he published *Our Land and Land Policy*, and 1879 is considered the publication year for *Progress and Poverty*.

ROBERT A. KING
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Benjamin Smith's article on "The Varieties of Social Rent" (May HGN) discusses the special value of mineral lands, and suggests a process for allocating the resultant economic rent amongst various sections of the community. "Economic rent" is a theoretic term expressive of the share of production that is attributable to "land." As such it can be neither assessed nor collected. It can only be talked about in the academic sense.

However the example shows that by adding a nought to each assessment the whole economic rent of this continent could be collected. Of course,

were this done, the price of land would fall to zero, and the legislation would need amendment so that the annual value of land would be the basis for the assessment.

In Australia, therefore, the practical Georgist is fortunate in having these clear-cut objectives:

1, legislative amendment to base the municipal revenue directly upon the annual value of land.

2, increase of the assessment to 100 percent of this annual value.

3, state and federal budgets to be met by levies against the municipal collections.

4, present state and federal taxes against goods and earnings then to be abolished.

My view, and it is supported by the recent spate of mineral discoveries here, is that, with the Georgist reform "unlocking the land," minerals that now are seemingly scarce would be so freely abundant that the sole determinant in the price of metals would be the cost of mining, refining and transportation.

A "copper pit" would then have no more value than Mr. Smith's gravel pit, for the unmined ore would have none of the value that arises from today's artificial scarcity. The rental for such a copper pit would relate merely to the relative economy of effort inherent in the location or richness of the mine "rent" of the anti-social variety arising from obligations imposed under today's artificial scarcity being eliminated.

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Australia

Rutgers University (New Jersey) is broadcasting a television program on "Urban Issues." I wrote to the speaker to say that I had not heard him mention taxation as a means for mitigating slum conditions. He replied in part:

"For years I have been interested in the work of Henry George and can only say that I agree with you regarding your views concerning tax on land."

In talking with one of the engineers of the Weston Instrument Company recently I was surprised to find that he is a convinced single-taxer. Doubtless there are many other "hidden believers."

J. B. GIBBS
Sharon, Pennsylvania

What's in a name? A great deal! United States Rubber Company has changed its name to Uniroyal. Cities Service is now Citco. A correspondent in the June HGN is eager to see the phrase "single tax" disappear, and it is true that the phrase is neither accurate nor appealing.

One dictionary describes it as a "tax on a single object, particularly land." "Land value taxation" is better, but "ground rent" is preferable though it does not identify the recipient of the rent. It could go to any landlord. One might use "community ground rent"

but the word "community" is somewhat suggestive of a medium sized or small sized group.

What about *royal rent*?

Royal rent is historically accurate in describing a payment to the government for the use of real estate. Originally all land was unimproved, so that basically, real estate *is* land. It has been well said that "in England in the days of bad King John and Magna Carta, every acre belonged to the king, which was the medieval way of saying that all land belonged to the public domain. It was public or "royal" property. That's why we call it "real estate"—the old spelling of regal or royal, — and that's why land can never be your "personal property." (House and Home Magazine, Aug. 1960, p. 129).

Royal is a word suggesting importance and excellence. Note its use in Royal baking powder, Royal cleaners, etc. Royal rent is alliterative and mellifluous—familiar enough to be easily remembered, strange enough to be thought-provoking.

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A special program will be given at the Henry George Birthplace, 413 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, on Sunday, October 29th at 3 P.M., to be followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. This will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the acquisition of the birthplace by the Henry George School. It is also the 70th anniversary of Henry George's death.