

Mary Rawson's Faith

It was a delightful surprise to find the identity of Mary Rawson, Canadian executive committee member of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, revealed in "Faith of a Town Planner," in the October Land & Liberty published in London.

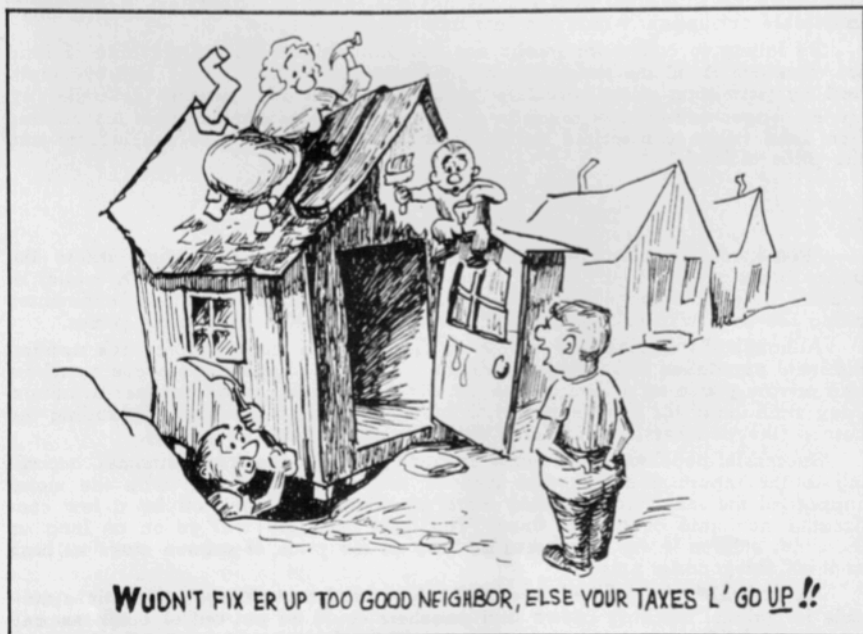
Yes, as we all suspected, she read *Progress and Poverty*. When in college she bought it in an old book shop for 50 cents, because one of her professors "put in a good word for it." Her father, whom she regarded as "an old Tory" concurred that "Henry George was right about the land tax," but she writes that "the full beauty and usefulness of the land tax as the best means to the end did not strike me at once."

"A book like *Progress and Poverty* opens up the mind," she states. "To have one conception of the world disturbed and changed makes you wonder how many other undisturbed misconceptions, or pre-judgments, are still lying in your mind precasting your opinions. *Progress and Poverty* is a book that fires the imagination, that awakens and frees the mind. I suppose this is what makes it a great book."

While farm values are measured by the acre, it is in urban areas, where it is measured by the square foot, that tremendous values accrue, yet scarcely a trickle of this goes into the public treasury. She records ironically that in Canada income derived from land sale and speculation is "often classified as a 'windfall' which is altogether free of tax."

Insofar as the urban problem is a land problem, Miss Rawson says that "no single tool is so little appreciated yet so full of import as the taxation of land values." She feels she can do no more valuable work than to speak for this reform.

It is significant that the forthright convictions of this modest writer have already been published, quoted and lauded on two continents. Her success will undoubtedly open the way for others, hitherto reluctant, to speak out for the same reform. Thus we rediscover the validity of Henry George's well-known statement about truth.



—Cartoon by Bill Gwin, from *The Taxpayer's Digest*, Portland, Oregon