

Philadelphia Campaigns on LVT

IT was often said by the prominent early single taxers in Pittsburgh who successfully introduced the Graded Tax Plan for that city, that if more students of Henry George's principles would take part in public life these could be brought into the arena of practical reform. They would be gratified to find that this is beginning to happen in isolated instances.

In Philadelphia, Jacob B. Himmelstein, who was a graduating class speaker in a basic economics class early this year, said that LVT was the soundest reform he had come across and it should be politically championed. At age 37, with eight years of service at various government levels, he has become the Democratic candidate for the State Senate from his district and is introducing land value taxation in many local addresses. When the newspapers report his activity this seems to be the feature which draws the most attention and it has therefore been brought into open discussion.

He opposes both income and sales taxes and would abolish all taxes which injure business, promote monopoly of natural resources and create unemployment, poverty and slums.

Mr. Himmelstein stated in a newsletter that "the first step in a program of creative taxation would be equitable assessment of all land whether vacant, partially or fully developed, and a levy of a surtax on all land values. This would provide additional revenue for the reduction in taxes on dwellings and other real estate developments as well as a reduction in other taxes. Increase in local revenue would obviate the need for additional state taxes, more than 70 percent of which is paid out as subsidies to local government. A system based on a higher tax on land than on improvements will bring large amounts of private capital into use for land developments, especially in the slums. This would greatly reduce the amount of tax money needed—money which comes from all of us."

The Free Trader magazine published in London at the headquarters of the Henry George School, featured Ashley Mitchell on the front cover of its May issue, as one of the greatest campaigners for free trade. "He is an ardent follower of Henry George and has expressed the opinion that if only the Liberal leaders today could realize that the liberty of the individual and real social justice are wholly compatible and indivisible, they would turn away from the semi-socialist policies of the state planned economy."

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Mr. Sanin established attractive headquarters in Cali on his return home after studying at HGS headquarters in New York. His classes in basic economics have attracted persons influential in public life and the professions. Expansion of the Spanish program of the school will be described at the annual conference in Miami Beach. This and other conference reports will be condensed for the August HGN.