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September 21st, 1918.

Dear Sir:-

On March 9th, 1918, I wrote to a number of single taxers asking if it was not time to bring the single tax into practical politics.

I received favorable answers from nearly everyone; one or two misunderstood my letter and thought when I spoke of political action that I meant party action. The enclosed bill shows what I had in mind.

In my four years successful fight before the legislature to amend the Torrens Title Registration law of this state, some of our opponents thinking to discredit my judgment on Torrens matters, accused me of being a single taxer.

Of course I pleaded guilty but said that that was irrelevant to the question then before us. The accusation, however, made others curious about the single tax and I was requested, if I ever formulated a single tax measure to give copies to the inquirers.

This made me think that the time was ripe for practical, legislative work on the single tax but not as a party matter. I think the subject (a tax matter on which no party is committed either for or against) should be treated as a non-partisan matter, at any rate for the present.

Often too when a telling single tax lecture has been delivered some of the audience will be so impressed that they will ask if there is not something they can do to help the cause. Here again was an opening that should be taken advantage of practically, legislatively.

The fact that such immense sums of money are being raised by the National, State and City administrations makes the time opportune to bring the single tax into the arena.

I have therefore had drafted a Home Rule in Taxation Bill which will give each taxing community in the state an opportunity to raise its own share of taxes in the manner it deems best.

Mr. Leubuscher drew the bill for me after consultation with others but before I have it printed I would be exceedingly obliged to you if you would read the bill carefully and make, at your earliest convenience, suggestions in the way of improvements.

The intention of the bill is, of course, to get the different communities to tax land values to the greatest extent possible by the gradual lessening of the rate on improvements and the increasing of the rate on land values.

In drafting the bill we had of course to bear in mind not to run against the principle of equal assessment and not to produce a situation which would embarrass localities now subject to the ten percent limitation as to their borrowing capacity.

While this bill may not go the limit that our state constitution will allow it is a practical measure and the change is made gradually so as to avoid a violent change followed by a re-action against our principle and gradually also to allow readjustment of present conditions without any great business disturbance.

Henry George said: "the full scheme I propose can only" "be obtained gradually".

Heretofore localities have been somewhat free to spend their money as they wish; I think now with the Nation raising annually twenty-four billions, the State eighty-two millions and New York City two hundred and thirty millions, it is time some attention was given to the method of raising these high sums as well as the method of spending them.

Of course our work is still largely educational but it is hoped that a bill such as this bringing the single tax within the realms of the present will quicken interest in the matter.

At your earliest convenience will you kindly give this matter your attention.

In the preparation of this bill there has been no expense and the small cost of printing has been taken care of, so no contributions are needed. Your opinion, however, is earnestly desired.

Yours for the Fourth Liberty Loan,



Chairman, Legislative Committee,
Burlington Single Tax Club.