

A PROGRESS AND POVERTY SOCIETY FOR CHICAGO

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

During my twenty years' connection with the Single Tax Club of Chicago I have found that the name Single Tax seems to have the effect of closing people's minds to further consideration. We have therefore called our new organization the American Progress and Poverty Society. Progress and Poverty is a suggestive name and for this reason was selected, and the prefix American has been chosen because the Single Tax is really a patriotic reform, strictly an American product, the result of the experience and study of a great American.

There are three others out getting names and addressees, and when we have two hundred we will call a meeting for organization. In three weeks I have succeeded in getting 32 names of persons who will actively support a live Single Tax society. All but six of these were non-Single Taxers, so you will see that there is a great field. I believe the first year will result in a membership of over one thousand.

The American Progress and Poverty Society will have for its object the making of Single Tax sentiment, nothing else. We want to hold live, human interest meetings, at least once a month, and will make visits from house to house and have heart-to-heart talks with the families about Single Tax. This makes converts, where the old style debating club only results in people dropping away one by one.

Chicago, Ill.

S. WEILER.

A WILD-GOOSE TAX LAW

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

"A Bill to Tax Wild Geese and other Migratory Birds," is the proper title for the State income tax measure pending at Columbus.

Mr. Robert E. Brinsmade, writing on the Wisconsin income tax law says:

"However it strives, the State will never collect toll from the plumage of the best feathered birds, as they will fly away and roost elsewhere."

Senator Agnew can testify from personal experience as to the accuracy of this statement. Readers may remember that Mr. Agnew and Hon. John D. Fackler, as tax commissioners of Cuyahoga County, tried a few years ago to put Sheridan's ride in the shade by a wild automobile charge on Mr. Rockefeller's domain to appraise his personal property for taxation. They discovered later this gentlemen claimed residence in New York state. We have not learned that the assessment was made in that State.

A State income tax will be but one more yearly fine levied on business men who stay in Ohio to produce staple articles or perform some service for their fellow citizens, *i.e.*, it will tax earned incomes. The birds who produce no article, who give no service, but collect ground rents of \$120,000 a day in Cleveland alone, may continue to bleed legitimate business and be free from the income tax not intended to tax unearned incomes.

Cleveland, Ohio.

GEORGE CARTWRIGHT.

SINGLE TAXERS OF AUBURN FOR A POLITICAL PARTY

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I want to say that I am in favor of a National Single Tax Party, and so are all Single Taxers here. I believe our strength is greater than some of us think, and that we will discover this, and that it will be worth quite a lot to us if we do nothing more.

Auburn, Maine.

W. E. JACKSON.

ENDORSEMENT OF POLITICAL PARTY ACTION FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I very much like the militant attitude of the REVIEW, and think your decision for a Single Tax political party is correct. There has been too much "pussyfooting" with the old political parties.

Adelaide, So. Australia.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Sec'y of the
South Australian Land Values League.

PRAGMATIC ECONOMICS

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

"The Abolition of Inheritances," by Harlan Eugene Read, was shown to be unsound in a review by A. Mackendrick in the *Public*, Dec 28, 1918. However, Mr. Read lectured in Chicago, March 28, 1919, and seemed to enlist a number of unenlightened Single Taxers for his National Society for Limiting Inheritances. The *Public* review contained the following:

"The greater part of the book is irrelevant alike to economics and ethics. Despite his appeal to logic, one suspects that Mr. Read is deficient in the logical faculty. How else can we explain his arguing from the obvious fact that our race lives from hand to mouth, to the conclusion that he who lives on his father's earnings is exploiting and enslaving his contemporaries?"

Mr. Read "has failed to catch the full meaning" of Henry George. "The Single Tax is the scientific method of separating earned and unearned wealth, drawing into the public purse . . . site values, and leaving to individuals as income only the payment that society willingly makes for services. Had Mr. Read fully understood this, it is incredible that he should propose so unscientific a method as that of allowing individuals to continue the appropriation of society's rightful income along with their own earnings, and then to sweep up both at death."

"It would be mockery of the liberty democracy stands for to say that a man is not free to give or bequeath his wealth The freedom to give implies the freedom to receive."

Mr. Read holds other absurdities: Though the father was not an exploiter the son becomes such by inheriting the father's wealth. (See page 40).

Page 50: "I deny the right of a man to give where the gift works injury on the community." That is, an exploiting power resides in capital. Henry George wrote, "Protection or Free Trade," page 275: "It is not in the power of capital to compel men who can obtain free access to nature, to sell their labor for starvation wages."

Although "a just title can be vested only in the producer," Mr. Read's plan would not restore wealth to its producers, but to the public, which cannot by any process be shown to be the producer.

Confiscating inheritances would relieve vacant land holders of taxes, permitting them to capitalize such saving of taxes into increased selling price; for selling price of land is the market value of the income from it. For every dollar of taxes saved, \$20. would be added to the selling price of land.

Mr. Read is socialistic; if the shops of Henry Ford, for example, are confiscated, the State must own and manage; or sell to other private owners, in which case exploitation would not be checked.

Mr. Read's plan would permit a wealthy man to exploit labor; cause all the poverty, misery and degradation now evident, for his whole life time; Single Tax will check ALL exploitation at once.

Inheritances consisting of land incomes would be taken one by one on Mr. Read's plan. Single Tax takes all site rents of living land monopolists.

Chicago, Ill.

C. F. HUNT.

APPALLED BY CONDITIONS IN EUROPE

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Congratulations on your aggressive, red-blooded attitude in regard to gingering up and focussing of political action on the paramount problem of the 20th century—the ending of landlord and mortgage slavery.

The taking of all the land value for the community will finally free both factors of wealth-production and establish a *datum plane*, as it were, by which the value of everyone's service to his or her fellows will be equitably related and privilege rooted out.

The more I see of the appalling conditions in the old land the stronger grows my conviction that land value monopoly is the keystone of privilege, and the greater becomes my admiration for the profound genius of Henry George which enabled him to rise to the height of great argument, and "justify the ways of God to man."

London, England.

SERGT. J. R. DICKSON.