

THE SPECULATORS AND THE PROFESSORS

By C. F. Hunt, Los Angeles

Community causes Land Value, but to claim it for the community is "Bolshevism and anarchy."

A Real Estate advertisement in the *Los Angeles Examiner* says:—

I have seen values double, triple, quadruple, and rightly so, because increased population and increased production must increase the value of land. Have you profited by the growth of this Wonder City? Why not let Los Angeles work for you? Why not use this great city with its pay-rolls, with its nearly a million people and sure growth, to increase your individual prosperity? How? Dead easy. If you own land in Los Angeles, Los Angeles cannot grow without making your land more valuable.

L. H. Slawson in the *EXAMINER* of 4th December, 1921, writes:

There is an inevitable enhancement in value as the years pass. This enhancement is a gift from the city's population working day and night to make property more valuable.

The *Los Angeles Times* (a frenzied and untruthful opponent of the Single Tax), 31st October, 1921, declares: "Henry George was right when he expressed the idea that population creates land value."

The monopolists hold that they may rightly claim unearned incomes. Prof. Carl C. Plehn, of University of California, is one of their spokesmen. In a pamphlet: "For and Against Single Tax," he says, p. 16:—

Single Taxers are much impressed by the notion that land values are "unearned" wealth. By this is meant that the owner of the land gets rich without any labour or sacrifice to deserve it. Of course, this assumes the fallacious premise that the only just basis of property is to be found in the "natural right" to the fruits of one's own labour. If we refuse assent to this premise the question as to whether it is earned or not ceases to be of any importance.

Note the arrogance of University professors. If We (professors) refuse assent to such a "basis of property" as the right of production, then the modern claim of labour, socialist, or Single Taxer "ceases to be of any importance." The justice of possession must be left to the exploiting class and their henchmen, the professors. This has been, and may be the fashion, but somehow their bald claim to unearned plunder grates the ear when compared with the words of Henry George: "All that the labourer produces should be held as his natural wages."

"The real basis of property . . . is the natural law which gives the product to the producer."—*POL. EC.*, p. 461.

If Prof. Plehn is right, then slavery is right.

An Edinburgh correspondent and member of the English League (Mr. T. Miller) writes urging a strenuous effort to extend the sale of *LAND & LIBERTY*. "I am more and more impressed," he states, "with the value of the paper, and if you could only get up a circulation of a million copies a month, I would look for hope for early legislation on the land question."

Will the friend in Tranas, Sweden, who has subscribed £1 to our Sustention Fund, kindly send us his name and address? The Money Order requires identification.

SHALL WE TAX LONDON'S COAL?

Mr. Robert G. Webster writes to the Editor of *LAND & LIBERTY* from the Carlton Club, under date 7th March:—

The article you send me respecting a letter I wrote to the *Times* on 22nd February is too full of false premises and deductions to be worth replying to. The best answer to inaccurate statements was made by the London L.C.C. electorate on 2nd March.

This is apparently all that Mr. Webster has to say. His letter would have been more informing if he had pointed out some of the "false premises and deductions" and "inaccurate statements" of which a short article, mainly composed of quotations from two Chancellors of the Exchequer, was "full." The voting for the L.C.C. on 2nd March has no relation whatever to any proposal to revive the discredited Coal Dues: the question was in no wise before the electors. And even the *Times*, which supported Mr. Webster's party, thought so little of his proposal that it refused to insert any further correspondence on it.

F. V.

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