

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE MATTER OF A NAME.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

I have read with interest the various opinions, "pro and con," offered by readers of the REVIEW, regarding the suggested change in the denomination of followers of Henry George from "Single Taxers" to "Georgians," and the philosophy to "Georgism." I may be mistaken, but am inclined to believe that no one would have opposed such a proposition more firmly than our departed leader himself.

The great advantage of the name "Single Tax" is that it indicates in itself the means to the reform we advocate. This desideratum should not lightly be discarded. Perhaps one point of weakness in the almost universally adopted appellation of Single Tax is that in some respects it is scarcely comprehensive enough. It has probably been the experience of most Single Taxers to be often met with the contention, especially from our Socialist friends, that the Single Tax would not be enough in itself to establish economic justice, but that, to some extent at any rate, Socialism or public ownership is necessary, as in the case of railroads, street-car lines, gas and water supplies, telegraph and telephone monopolies, etc. The responsive statement that the Single Taxer almost invariably stands for the public ownership of such franchises, is hastily and gladly argued into a virtual admission of the inadequacy of the Single Tax, and the need for Socialism.

It has occurred to me that the necessity thereby incurred of differentiating the limited socialism of the discriminative Single Taxer from the unlimited socialism of the non-discriminative Socialist might be to some extent avoided if our denomination indicated more clearly our position with regard to not only land monopoly but *all* natural monopolies, and that the more comprehensive title of "Anti-privilegists" (to coin a word) would, perhaps, adequately meet the deficiency. The Single Taxer usually stands for more than the Single Tax. As "Anti-privilegists" the denomination itself would express this and declare for the abolition of *all* privilege. Whether it would be expedient to sacrifice the title of Single Taxers which indicates the main method, for the more comprehensive appellation of Anti-privilegists, which would indicate the basic principle of the reform advocated, may or may not be a question worthy of consideration and discussion. But, in any case, I would suggest that the present name, which describes the method, be not discarded, unless it be for one clearly indicating the principle of the reform.

As the truth must finally prevail, the name of our honored leader can never be forgotten, and I am convinced it would

have been his wish that it should be commemorated spontaneously by the advancement of his teaching and its practical results, rather than by any pre-concerted linking of it with the denomination of the movement. As Mr. Morton so ably argues in your Winter number, all causes are strengthened by a name which indicates a principle rather than a personality.

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CHANGE OF NAME.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

Whilst sailing across Mobile Bay to Fairhope I met a young Italian on the steamer who wondered at my wearing a button with the initials S. T. I explained that I was a Single Taxer. "Why," he asked, "are you taxed because you are single?" (No, I could have said, but I am single because I am taxed.)

This is one of the misunderstandings to which the name Single Tax gives rise. I think this name is the most unfortunate we could adopt. There is nothing in the Single Tax philosophy which I dislike except this unhappy name. It is utterly meaningless. What do we care for the Single Tax? If there were some other means of securing equal opportunities, not a farthing.

To me it has always been a puzzle why we adopted so unfortunate a name, whilst another, which expresses clearly, plainly and forcibly what our cause means, is so near at hand. "Free soil," that is the only name that will suit our cause. It expresses perfectly what it means. It is intelligible to everybody. It will link our movement better than anything else to its great forerunner, Free Trade.

I do not think that it would be well to name our movement after Henry George. Of course I give all due credit to our great teacher for the work he has done. But I fear it would give our movement a flavor of sectarianism like Marxism and other isms, if we were to name our movement after its advocate. Can we imagine the free trade movement known as Cobdenism or Smithism? It would sound like mockery.

In Switzerland our movement was started as the Free Soil Movement, and this name is still in use, though in late years the name "land reform," adopted by the German land reformers, has come into vogue. But land reform suggests to many people here a new kind of procedure of fertilizing the soil. It is inadequate unless supplemented in mind by the word tenure. Land tenure reform was the original name in Germany. But even the Germans, who are fond of long words and never use three where a dozen will do, have found it necessary to drop some syllables. To those who know, land reform means nationalizing the land. But we are not going to nationalize the