

A Great Irish Land Reformer

THE entire soil of a country belongs by right to the entire people of that country. and is the rightful property not of any one class, but of the nation at large, in full and effective possession to let to whom they will, on whatever tenure, terms, rents, services and conditions they will, one condition being, however, unavoidable and essential, the condition that the tenant shall bear full, true and undivided fealty and allegiance to the nation and the laws of the nation, whose land he holds, and owes no allegiance whatever to any other prince, power, or people, or any obligation of obedience or respect to their will, orders or laws. I hold further, and firmly believe, that the enjoyment of the people of this right of first ownership in the soil is essential to the vigour and vitality of all other rights to their vitality, efficiency, and value; to their secure possession and safe exercise. For let no people deceive themselves or be deceived by the words and colors and phrases and forms of a mock freedom, by constitutions and charters, and articles and franchises. These things are paper and parchment, waste and worthless. Let laws and institutions say what they will, this fact will be stronger than all laws, and prevail against them—the fact that those who own your lands will make your laws and command your liberties and your lives.

—JAMES FINTON LALOR, in "*An Irish Commonwealth*."

A Tax That Does Not Discourage Production

THE land value tax does not discourage those who properly use their land; it only discourages those who do not properly use their land. It does not, like the income tax, penalize industry, but rewards it; and it does not, like the income tax, reward speculation, but penalizes it. Under it the monopolists of vacant land will be induced not to keep their land off the market but to put it on the market. Those who want to develop vacant ground, therefore, will be able to get it, not at excessive prices but at reasonable prices.

Cong. OSCAR E. KELLER.

WE regret to learn from *Land and Liberty*, of London, of the death of James Busby, of Glasgow, on March 28, at the age of 65. He was secretary of the Scottish League from 1907 to 1924. He was an earnest propagandist of the teachings of Henry George and understood the land question as did few men of his time.

"THE first thing a student has to do is to get rid of the idea of absolute ownership (of land). Such an idea is quite unknown to English law. No man is in law the absolute owner of lands."

—WILLIAMS' LAW OF REAL PROPERTY.

CORRESPONDENCE

HENRY GEORGE'S FIGHT IN 1872

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I was associated with Henry George in that memorable Anti-Railroad Campaign in California in 1872 when we elected an overwhelming legislature and Newton Booth Governor. Later Mr. Booth became U. S. Senator, the first real reformer, I think, ever sent to that body.

That legislature enacted some very wholesome reform laws, notably the Australian Ballot. Stanford, Crocker and Co. bought the next legislature, and started to undo much of the good work done. I have often thought I would write up this campaign, and some day shall do so.
Houston, Texas. F. J. TRAPP.

BEYOND ALL DISCOVERIES AND INVENTIONS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The March-April number of *LAND AND FREEDOM* just received. The name could not be improved. Your reviews and criticism from the Freedom standpoint have a "sweet reasonableness" without malice, passion or partisanship. The confirmation of such minds as that of Prof. John Dewey shows that arguments from conditions as they are have little ground in reason or logic. Though the conservatives oppose the out-and-out Socialists they outdo the party socialists in their appeals to government for assistance, the difference being that the help is asked for a class and not for the whole people, as the party socialists demand.

How can we ever hope to get rid of a strong Socialist government when people are appealed to in this fashion?

Beyond all discoveries and inventions is the discovery of Henry George. In all the literature I have read there is little to be added. The arguments addressed to a man already convinced may be little needed. But there are different angles constantly revealed which need thought and art in developing and expressing. Only by practice can this be secured. This is the value of the work you are doing. When I read your periodical I rejoice at the voicing of my dreams you so eloquently express.

For purposes of education I am willing to cooperate with the party. I do not share the opinion that we must be workers "under cover."
Chicago, Ill. MORRIS LYCHENHEIM.

THE CHANGE OF NAME

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It was indeed time you dropped the old name, Single Tax, having proved its inadequacy.

Henry George discovered the solution of the problems which, unsolved, would lead the world on the path to despair. But Single Tax is not an attractive label.

"Rent" is understood by all—indeed it is of compelling importance.
Sydney, N. S. Wales. ERNEST J. HAYES.

A FRIENDLY CRITIC.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have very carefully read through the platform, and with one exception consider it as being the clearest, most concise and most accurate enunciation of the philosophy of land-value taxation that has ever appeared.

It is signally unfortunate, in my opinion, that the expression "private ownership of land" is a number of times used. I of course understand, and every other well posted land-value taxationist understands, that the expression "private ownership of land" *actually* means private collection and retention of the *public*-produced values inherent in land