

Land and Freedom

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Looking With Envious Eyes

REALTORS and former boomers of Los Angeles are greatly perturbed over the land speculation caused in other places in anticipation of the Boulder Dam construction. Land speculation is a very bad thing, according to the *Los Angeles Times* and the realtors of that city, when carried on elsewhere. It is condemned in unmeasured terms. Prospective buyers are called "suckers." It is suggested by the *Times* that Commander Byrd will make a great mistake if he does not plant a beach frontage on the Bay of Whales and employ "a couple of rosy realtors with dream books."

It is suggested that the Bay of Whales must have a lot of stuff better than the Colorado River exposure. Las Vegas, Nevada, is a special irritation to these suddenly aroused Californians. This town, of whom few have ever heard until this day, is a perfect Mecca for the land speculator, owing to Boulder Dam. Los Angeles boomers decry the drift of investment money to Las Vegas. Like hungry tigers who see their prey disappearing, they emit ferocious cries. Nothing is too severe to say of the realtors of Las Vegas and other places, and no term too contemptuous to apply to these buyers of (worthless?) real estate. "Suckers" is the term they use. Does it occur to them to point out what is fundamental in the problem? It does not. What do they care for fundamentals? Somebody else is "swiping" their plunder. That is all that interests them.

Henry Ford Did Not Write it

AN article bearing the name of Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, as the author has appeared from time to time in the Australian Single Tax papers, in the *Los Angeles Forum*, *Fairhope Courier*, the *Square Deal*, the *Commonweal* of London, and elsewhere.

It was a bold declaration of the Henry George philosophy couched in the most radical terms. It was all in all an admirable statement of the writer's belief that the rent of land belongs to the state and should be taken by the state, and it indicated the beneficent results that would follow from this great social change.

We suspected at the time that the article did not emanate from the Detroit manufacturer. The internal evidence

was all against it. It was not in Henry Ford's style; it did not contain, as most of the articles purporting to be written by him almost always do, the evidence of loose thinking. We decided at once that there was some mistake.

But that we might have the evidence before us we addressed a letter to Mr. Ford—we had written a number of articles for the *Dearborn Independent* before that paper joined the Great Majority, and so had every reason to believe that our name was not unfamiliar in the Detroit office—and we asked Mr. Ford in this letter to acknowledge or disavow the authorship of this article. A letter from his secretary in reply bore this cryptic statement: "Mr. Ford begs to thank you for your communication," and nothing more! No answer to the question as to whether he had written it or not.

And now the secret is out, and we know the article was written by Henry S. Ford of Camden, N. J., a life long Single Taxer. He wrote it with no intention to deceive, and he always signs his middle initial to whatever he writes. The article was originally printed in the *Groundhog* many years ago. Its publication in the Australian Single Tax papers was a perfectly innocent misunderstanding. But to those in this country familiar with the alleged articles of Henry Ford on economic and political questions the accredited authorship of this article should have aroused suspicion.

This is written in answer to several correspondents, one of whom asked rather irritably if we thought such a declaration by Henry Ford was not important enough to be quoted in LAND AND FREEDOM. We would indeed regard it as very important, and we promise to print anything Mr. Ford says about the Single Tax when he says it!

Higher Wages, Lower Labor Cost

THE Manchester *Guardian-Commercial* sees the bugaboo of lower Japanese labor costs in the cotton industry laid at last. Some time ago a report on the Japanese cotton industry by an English expert had raised doubts as to Japan's advantage, an address to the Manchester Statistical Society increased these doubts, and now the *Guardian's* own special correspondent in Japan sends