

The simple solution of the whole problem, as seen by Henry George, the speaker concluded, was that those who occupy valuable sites should pay a tax in proportion to that value; that such taxes should be used for public purposes, and that all the present multitude of taxes on persons and improvements and industry should be abolished.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. *Courier-News*.

Australia Tries Single Tax

PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT AT NEW CAPITAL OF THE THEORIES OF THE FAMED "PROPHET OF CALIFORNIA"

NEXT month the government of Australia moves to its new capital, Canberra, specially designed by an American architect and landscape gardener for the official home of the Australian Commonwealth. By all accounts, Canberra is beautiful, even in its raw beginnings; but there is one thing even more interesting than its beauty.

Canberra is trying out the land doctrines of Henry George. It is abolishing the land speculator. The entire Federal District of more than 900 square miles belongs to the nation. Most of it was "Crown land," or, as we should call it, "public domain," taken over free of charge. The rest was bought from private owners at its value for the purposes for which they were using it. The highest price paid was \$15 per acre.

Not a foot of this land will be sold. It is leased on the basis of 5 per cent of its value. Auctions have been held disposing of a few blocks by leasehold. In some of the business streets, bids were made of \$400 per front foot; which means that the bidder bound himself to pay a 5 per cent rental on this amount, or \$20 per front foot. Corner lots of a sixth of an acre went at \$18,000; that is, at a rental of \$900 per year.

Information is not at hand as to the exact provisions for revaluing the land periodically, but such provisions are made.

In this way, all profit from increase of land values comes to the nation, instead of to the speculator. It is expected that within a relatively short time, the government will have an income of several million dollars per year, and that the entire cost of government buildings and of other improvements will be returned in this fashion.

Also, by keeping control of the land, the nation is enabled to make the growth of the city symmetrical; thus profiting from the experience of Washington, which had a superb plan at the start, but which has been almost ruined by land sharks.

This practical experiment in the Single Tax will be watched with world-wide interest. Australians have no doubt whatever of its success.

Labor, Washington, D. C. *Florida home.*—New York *Tribune*.

How to Get World Peace

THE *Irish News* of Belfast in its issue of May 3rd quotes at length from the Memorandum of the International Union, and comments editorially as follows:

The International Union makes out a stronger case for all-round Free Trade than mere assertion. They point out that in order that the organization of production should be carried on with the maximum of efficiency and economy, it is necessary that the raw materials should be grown or extracted in those places where it is relatively easiest to do so, and that they should be transported with the minimum of expense and interference to those places where it is cheapest to manufacture them and to those places where they are required for consumption

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If the whole world constituted one State, no intelligent person would advocate tariffs between its administrative units. There is an evident inconsistency in supporting a League of Nations pledged to world peace, while at the same time advocating the maintenance of national tariffs on the theory that the producers in different nations are (in the economic field) enemies. In fact, the whole tenor of Protectionist literature is that tariffs are a means of making one nation rich at the expense of another. There go Tariffs! Now we turn to the Land Laws of countries; they "fail to prevent the speculative holding of land out of use." And—"What we are concerned to show is that Land Value Taxation supplies an essential link in the solution of most economic problems."

We are only drawing public attention to the views of an important and interesting group of thinkers who have devoted earnest attention to the subject. They advocate peace, justice, security, and the progress of an ordered civilization which require that the inter-related problems of international commerce and of the economic betterment of the common man in every country should be solved; they suggest that "the levy of taxes upon the economic value of all land apart from improvements would, on the one hand, immensely stimulate industry by forcing land into use, and, on the other hand, would provide a constantly growing source of public revenue, leading ultimately to the abrogation of the taxes and imposts of various kinds that in every country so grievously oppress and hamper the free employment of capital and labor." We do not accept their proposition whole-heartedly, because we know that there are obstacles in the way; but we believe they are right in the main, and their cause will find more and more believers in its practicability as time passes by.

AN alligator has been caught in New Jersey. He was probably headed for New York to find the speculator who located a real estate development on the site of his