

## A NEW PAMPHLET BY JOHN HARRINGTON

We have received from Mr. John Harrington, of the State Tax Commission at Madison, Wisconsin, a pamphlet entitled "The Single Tax for Wisconsin." We quote the opening paragraphs as an example of the style of the work:

"It is probable that no one understands the real philosophy of the Single Tax until he sees clearly the soundness and truth of a single economic proposition, as follows:

The land owner makes no return to society in goods or services or otherwise for the net ground rent which he receives as compensation for the use of land, but is a parasite upon society to the extent of the value of such net ground rent.

It is possible that this proposition can be stated better, more clearly, or more simply. To some it may seem more simple to say: The land owner is a burden or pensioner upon society to the extent of the net-ground rent which he receives.

The proposition may be stated in numerous other ways. But the formula of words is less important than the truth of the proposition which they seek to express."

Mr. Harrington points out the inadequacy of the name Single Tax and concludes his valuable pamphlet as follows:

"And he who once sees that ground rent is tribute exploited from the earnings of the people for which no return is made by those who take it, can never again look on poverty nor suffering with the same eyes."

## CORRESPONDENCE

## A PLEASANT COMMENDATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I always find your magazine most interesting and able, but I am perfectly delighted with your synopsis of the progress which the Single Tax theory has made in your July-August number. The questions that it answers are often put to me, and I have to dodge by murmuring incoherent nothings about what Pittsburg tried, or Australia and New Zealand, or certain German cities did before the war, etc. But never before have I found in succinct form this information, which is of such immense value, because most people are like the man from Missouri.

New York City.

EMILY E. F. SKEEL.

## EXPLAINING THE INERTIA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In a recent issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, Whidden Graham asks: "Why is it that the sound and self-evident proposition (land value taxation) makes such slow progress toward general acceptance?"

I am sure that I can explain this inertia in part. I was born in a slum district of Chicago and ran a saloon for 25 years. Ninety-five per cent. of my customers were wage earners. Whenever the chance offered I would talk Single Tax. After explaining it as best I could, nine out of ten would conclude that it was a favor to the rich. The more intelligent would ask me this question: "Why, John, you would exempt the Marshall Field estate from taxes on their five million dollar building and five million dollar stock." When I said that Single Tax would do that, they would tell me that they did not think that was right. That it was granting to the well-to-do an opportunity to keep money in their pockets that should go into the public treasury.

Some of the men I argued with were intelligent enough to hold positions of prominence in their labor organizations. It was not a venal reason that made them differ with me, but an honest and sincere one. I therefore came to the conclusion long ago that while the wisdom of the Single Tax is self-evident, as Whidden Graham declares it to be, it is beyond the comprehension of many sincere and altruistic men whose votes are in a tremendous majority. My conclusion was that this intelligence was like the latent power of a fast horse, that it needed to be trained and moved along until it could reach the ulti-

mate goal. For a long time I have confined my arguments to the plea for the exemption of savings accounts, workers' tools, personal property in workers homes, etc., to the value of \$5,000.

With those to whom I have made this plea I have been one hundred per cent. successful. It is an entering wedge upon which the real foundation may later be built. Let some of your members make a test among groups of workmen in large cities and they can easily verify the truth of my statements. In order to attain his ends the grafter resorts to the lowest and most shameful and cunning strategy. Who will deny to the altruistic doctrinaire the privilege of an honorable diplomacy to attain a just end?

Chicago, Ill.

JOHN W. MASKELL.

## FROM A WALLACE SUPPORTER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am one of those who voted for Mr. Wallace at the last election and am proud of it. Have been a Single Taxer since 1889. Have read all arguments against Single Tax that I could get hold of with an unprejudiced mind and could find no argument that could break down our contentions. I cannot understand why honest business men do not favor it more than they do. I am only a leather splitter working in a tannery.

Yours for the Single Tax.

Newark, N. J.

S. S. SCHNEIDER.

## FROM A REAL FIGHTER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Well, the campaign is over and the *Arizona Single Taxer* is out again after a Summer rest—1000 copies mailed over this County. The best I can do—tied up here with a bunch of milch cows, picture show, small ranch and water route supply the camp with drinking water.

When nearly 75% of the necessary signers required to put the party name on the ballot had been obtained, I found the party deserted by co-workers when too late to repair the damage, but got the party name on the County ballot and my candidacy beat the democratic candidate for State Senator. Beaten? of course I was, but for the first time politicians took notice of it, made a hot fight on my candidacy and cut down my vote of two years ago, but the cause gained enormously, for it ended in a newspaper controversy which was worth even more than the Commonwealth Party name on 10,000 ballots and hundreds of sample ballots, and that is going some.

Until the Commonwealth Party organizations, we had been mendicants and time-servers in other parties and deserve the contempt which, at times, was ill-concealed. Time-service in the big parties got us nowhere. We were contemptuously given berths in the hay mow and then cussed for carrying Single Tax matches if the barn accidentally and often through their own folly caught fire. We got nowhere except that an occasional Single Taxer was elected to office and promptly shut up on fundamental questions. Newspapers said: "Oh, that is the Single Tax, nobody cares about that now" and times without number, people asked me: "What's become of the Single Tax, I never hear about it any more?" That is over in Yavapai County and it would have been over in the State of Arizona if Single Taxers were not afraid of belonging to the "contemptibles." And those who followed the Socialist-controlled La Follettes tell us that a Single Tax party will only go to show the contemptible few in number in the U. S. This certainly does not come in good grace from them for they help materially to bring about this condition themselves.

There is something greater than numbers. It is the posture and address of those representing a cause, that unexplainable something in a man or cause that earns respect even when defeated, the fighting edge that calls on every last ounce of reserve force, that refuses to count the cost. Single Tax will never win without heroism, for not one out of twenty will ever understand it, but even those who will not understand will cheer the fighter. The prize ring demonstrates it every day, and that is the cost of keeping the people awake to the Single Tax.