

acres of land uncultivated and unused in the midst of productive areas. This land is being held for no other reason than the gaining of a huge price by speculators. As a consequence people of moderate means, looking for home sites and farms, are forced farther and farther from the heart of the community.

The Single Tax by appropriating the economic rent, will make it unprofitable for land to be held without being used. All the land now being wasted will be cultivated and used. All the land thus utilized, there would be necessarily increased production. Increased production leads to lower prices and therefore to increased consumption. Greater wealth and greater happiness will result from increased consumption, for we measure wealth by the commodities we can consume.

The Single Tax is just for it is based on the benefits received from the government by an individual. The old principle underlying the existing scheme of taxation is that each citizen should support the government according to his "ability to pay." The community has no more right to make men pay for community benefits according to their ability than tradesmen have to make them pay for goods according to their ability. It is not impossible to ascertain what benefits an individual receives from living in a certain community. He cannot live in a community except on the land and the price he pays for the land represents the advantages which that community provides for that location. The community has the right to tax that man in proportion to the value of the land he owns.

The Single Tax will lower the cost of living. By deflecting taxes from the products of industry to the value of land, the consumer will secure lower prices. The ultimate payer of all taxes, now, is the consumer. Under the excess profits tax, the government received over two billion dollars in revenue. It is estimated that the consumers paid from five billion to ten billion dollars to the producers in higher prices, to cover this tax. When all taxes on the products of industry are eliminated, the average family will gain from two hundred to five hundred dollars a year in lower prices.

The true wages of labor will be raised by the Single Tax. The price of labor, as of all other prices, is determined by the law of supply and demand. Under the Single Tax the demand for labor will increase, because of the greater purchasing power of the people, which is due to lower prices, lower rent and no taxes. As the demand for labor grows the price will rise.

The preceding arguments are economic results of the Single Tax system. The social factors are no less important. Under the present method of taxation there is unequal distribution of wealth and poverty which leads to crimes such as burglarly, larceny, murder and suicide. The origin of these crimes will be destroyed by the Single Tax which equalizes wealth through the diminishing of

taxes, the destruction of monopolies and the consequent lowering of prices.

A higher standard of living will ensue with more equal distribution of wealth. As a result there will be more marriages, fewer deaths, less disease, fewer epidemics and greater progress in the universal education of the masses.

As a conclusive proof of the merit of the Single Tax, experiments made in cities of Australia, have proved so successful, that reverting to the old method of taxation is not thought of. It has also been tried to some extent in Canada, Germany, Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay with gratifying results. Comparatively few people, in the United States, realize the inherent worth of the Single Tax. These individuals can bring about a change in taxation by overcoming prejudice, corruption and ignorance.

There are those who are carrying lighted torches with them. These are lit by a belief in humanity and by a conviction that present wrongs will not exist in the future. They are small torches, yet they serve to kindle great bonfires, which in turn must set fire to the whole earth, leaving it a better, happier place to live in. Let us do our share that the ideals and bravery of the pioneer, Henry George, may not have been given to mankind in vain.

A Tory Who Became A Free Trader

RECALLING Parliamentary history of more than 80 years ago it is interesting to note that Sir Robert Peel, a one-time Tory who had been against the Great Reform Bill, and who had favored the worst of the Corn Laws, suddenly executed an *about face*, and championed the repeal of "protective" duties. He put country above party and thereby subjected himself to an attack from Benjamin Disraeli, who called Peel a traitor and compared him to a Turkish Admiral who had lately delivered up a fleet to the enemy.

It is interesting to recall Peel's speech in reply:

He said that improved intercourse with foreign countries would constitute a new bond of peace. The continuance of peace would expose us to more extensive and more formidable competition with foreign countries with respect to manufactures. "During the war we commanded the supply of nations. Peace has introduced not only new consumers, but also formidable manufacturing interests. . . . I firmly believe that abundance and cheapness of provisions is one of the constituents by which the continuance of manufacturing and commercial pre-eminence may be maintained. . . . abundance of provision and security (which is the main thing) for abundance of provisions, not only contributes to the accumulation of wealth, but is directly conducive to the alleviation of public burdens, by increasing the revenue; to the alleviation of local burdens, by diminishing crimes; but above all, that it is conducive to the spread of morality, by diminishing those temptations to crime which arise from distress and poverty."