

business of the city, home owners, store keepers, etc., who must be heavily taxed to pay the needed revenues?

We are sure that Mr. Coles will get his thinking cap on straight when his brain begins to work on "all four cylinders."

Recent Signs of Progress

A NUMBER of comments, editorial and otherwise, concerning the Single Tax and President Butler's recent very definite allusions to Henry George, have appeared. Among those which should be noted are articles in the *Brooklyn Eagle* and *Johnstown Democrat*. The *Boston Globe* published a three column article on "Great Estates in England" and stresses the influence of Henry George on British opinion. The *Labor Magazine* of London has a splendid article entitled "A New Doomsday Book," and reviews the forerunners of Henry George and the evolution of the land question. A stupid article of two columns appears in the *Boston Transcript* of June 28 by Mark Mason, upon which it would be needless to comment. Dr. Marion Mills Miller appears with an article in *Letters*, a quarterly magazine published by the University of Kentucky, Lexington. Its title is "Henry George, Philosopher of the Natural Order." Nine pages are occupied by this contribution, which is a thoughtful and well considered study of Henry George, and like all that Doctor Miller writes is worth while. *Farm and Dairy*, of Peterboro, Ontario, has an editorial in which it declares: "The taxation of land values, especially in urban centers, would be the most important step that could be taken." This is one of the influential farm journals of Canada.

Unemployment

SOLON made a democratic constitution for Athens, giving the franchise for voting to all the four grades of society, but limiting office holding to the higher grades. He forgave debts where the person and liberty of the debtor were responsible. He did very little toward restoring the land to the people, merely restoring hill lands back to the hill dwellers. He established manufacture, trade and many crafts. He was desirous of more and greater reforms, but alas! the conservatives were too strong.

In Rome the Gracii, two of the noblest Romans and world emancipators struggled to colonize the poor on idle public lands, but the landlords overcame and killed them. In China Confucius and Mencius tried to restore the ancient land system which used land rents for taxes, but the monopolists prevented. Joseph in Egypt took advantage of the great famine and secured government ownership of the land. He rented the land to the people for one-fifth of the crop (20 per cent). Rawlinson says that the landlords of Egypt were very oppressive. Chinese landlords charge often one-half the crop as rent (50 per cent). To enable the people to pay 20 per cent instead of 50 per cent was a great reform. Joseph was one of the

great emancipators of the world. The rental would be used for taxes and still further help the farmers.

In this time of unemployment it is well to study Nehemiah, Chapter 5. The people were so oppressed that they were obliged to sell their children as slaves, giving as a reason: "Other men have our lands and our vineyards." Nehemiah ordered them to disgorge. "Restore ye now this day their lands and their vineyards." They responded: "We will restore them and require nothing of them"—that is, NO COMPENSATION. This was a real reformation far superior to that of Solon.

In the last analysis all employment is on land.

Our 5,000,000 of unemployed can blame the landlord. Other men have our lands and our opportunities. They corner the business sites, manufacturing sites, mines, forests, water power sites; they monopolize gas, electric and other franchises. Our environment is owned by other men who levy tribute on us. Oh, for a Joseph or a Nehemiah to save us. Many daughters of the landless are sold into the vilest slavery to gratify the brutal desires of the meanest of men. Unemployed men have more troubles than slaves. Slaves are fed and cared for, as they are valuable property. An unemployed wage slave has no right to land and opportunity as have the "birds of the air" and the lilies of the field in the "kingdom of God."

Land values or land rent are made by all of the community, and really should belong to all. A tax of 5 per cent or 6 per cent should be levied on all land. Take part of this community value to care for the unemployed till they can get work. This is better than the English dole. It is not CHARITY but restoring to the worker a part of his wages kept back from him. Workmen naturally hate the word charity. It smells of superiority and benevolence. No one can be really benevolent but God.

Such a tax on land values would make it impossible to hold land idle or for speculation. It would produce a condition like the opening of a new country, as, for instance, the opening of Oklahoma. All who could not get a box to employ them could get a few acres and employ themselves. Manufacture, trade and industry would flourish with burdensome taxes removed and placed on unearned wealth—that is, on the "unearned increment" of land value.

The land value of New York is about ten billions. This with a 5 per cent. tax would produce one-half billion dollars—plenty for all taxes and for all the benefits that the socialists desire. Los Angeles has possibly \$200,000,000 of ground rent. Why should there be any need of charity? It is the money of the public and can be used for public purposes.—W. E. MACKIN.

Just Flew Away We Suppose

HENRY GEORGE'S Single Tax idea was much more practicable fifty years ago than it is today. Since then, much wealth has escaped from the land.

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