

THE WHOLE TRUTH VS. LVT

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There are basically two methods of presenting Henry George's ideas: One starts with the problem and proceeds to the remedy, its justice and then the application. The other starts and ends with the application of the remedy - land value taxation and the "Single Tax."

The Land Value Tax approach is really a renunciation of the total argument which George never abandoned. LVT is George's mind minus his heart and soul, which are in his discussion of justice. LVT excludes any real discussion of justice, but George's remedy demands such a discussion. George's remedy is a simple truth. How many could grasp it easily if it were only pointed out to them.

Many Georgists tend to be afraid of George's "make land common property." But we will never be successful until we come to grips with the fact that the Georgist philosophy = land is common property = justice.

A Chicago city planner named Burhham said, "Make no little plans for they have no magic to stir men's blood." There can be no greater magic than the total George. By itself, LVT has no magic and cannot regenerate itself.

Political expediency? Within our lifetime over half the globe has turned to Communism. What could we have done with the truth had we used it!

The reason George accepted the title "Single Tax" was to avoid the question "How do you divide the land?" This illustrates that in his day people were more familiar with his remedy than they were with his application. But once the title "Single Tax" was adopted, it was no longer necessary to explain the total George philosophy, only the application. When speaking of LVT, to most it seems advantageous to avoid any mention of the remedy or its justice. But George, even when speaking or writing about "Single Tax", never left out his remedy and its justice. However, after he was gone, the "Single Tax" and Land Value Taxation were put forth and the remedy and its justice were abandoned.

We should be selling the idea that the land belongs to all the people, not merely that it is wiser to take a tax off buildings and put it on land. Some will say this can't be done. But George did it and I honestly don't think it has really been tried since. We should point out the truth and if one audience doesn't accept it, take it to another. Even the Bible recommends that!