

How Single Tax in Vancouver Almost Ruined the World

In 1910, the world was in fairly good condition.

Business was booming in the United States, while England, France, Germany, Belgium, Italy and Russia were increasing in population and were large producers of wealth.

But in 1910 Vancouver adopted a very much modified form of the Single Tax.

This resulted at first in a largely increased population and booming times for Vancouver, and it was several years before it had time to affect the rest of the world.

By the end of 1914, however, the effects of the Single Tax were beginning to be felt by the world in general.

For the next four years building stopped, business was much disturbed, municipalities ran into debt and there was not even food enough for the people.

Matters went from bad to worse, until, at the end of 1918, the condition of the world was really shocking.

The United States was over twenty billion dollars in debt.

England, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Russia were in dire straits. They were all nearly insolvent and economic conditions were worse than they had been in many years.

Populations were depleted and nations almost bankrupt.

But in 1918, Vancouver realized that the Single Tax had done all this, and did not wish to see the Canadian Pacific Railroad lose any profits from its thousands of acres of vacant land. In 1918, therefore, Vancouver, by act of a Commissioner and against the wishes of a majority of the people, began to put the tax back on improvements in order to stimulate the growth of the city.

For it is obvious that the best way to make people improve their land is to tax improvements.

As soon as the Single Tax was stopped in 1918, matters began to mend, not only in Vancouver, but all over the globe. As soon as the tax was put back on buildings, buildings began to go up, and the condition of all the countries of the world began to return to normal.

Another year of Single Tax in Vancouver would undoubtedly have wrecked the whole civilized world.

But, owing to the wisdom of God and the Canadian Pacific, the danger was averted and the world is now rapidly recovering from the horrible effects of the Single Tax in Vancouver.

"But wasn't there some kind of a war going on from 1914 to 1918? And if there was, might it not have affected these countries to some slight extent? And if it did, isn't it just barely possible that even Vancouver itself might have felt some faint effect which might perhaps have been partly responsible for the stopping of building and general financial conditions?"

Aw, shut up! You're Always Spoiling the Argument

WILLIAM C. de MILLE

For information about the Single Tax—given freely by those who have nothing to gain by deceiving you—address:

LOS ANGELES SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

628 American Bank Bldg.

Telephone—66082