

Conservatoire rises and in the midst of a cathedral silence announces:

"Competition in tragedy: Mlle. F—, the jury decrees to you a first prize."

Applause, frantic, palpitating, cut by enthusiastic cries. Pale, her breathing interrupted, the laureate carries her hand to her heart to restrain the emotion which overpowers her. This is the gesture of tradition.

"Second prize: Mlle. R—," continues the director. There is a shriek. Mlle. R—, who counted on a first, totters and becomes faint—also according to custom. Indeed, this is so expected that a comrade is always at hand to receive into his arms the unfortunate girl and transport her behind the scenes to her weeping mother. For on this day the mother has a privileged position and shows a disconcerting boldness in crying fraud, inciting the audience, and assailing the judges with importuning protests. Seldom does a competition of the Conservatoire end without some disturbance, protestation, or incident, from that unfortunate time when M. Dubois mixed up the awards, giving a first to the young girl who deserved only a second and vice-versa. A new distribution was necessary, and, needless to say, on that day there were two attacks of hysterics instead of one.

SINGLE TAX MOVEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: As one who participated in the recent conference of Single Taxers, and as a twenty-year devotee to the single tax cause, I wish to express my appreciation of the spirit of fairness which is shown throughout your editorial article on the subject in your issue of the 19th inst. Not only is the article evidently intended to be fair, but it shows a comprehension of what Single Taxers stand for which is rather rare among those who undertake to comment upon it.

A Single Taxer, however, would be apt to contend that our practical unanimity as to what we want and how to get it is not due solely, but only partly, to "the genius of Henry George." It seems to me that it is due chiefly to the fact that Henry George did not create, nor attempt to create, a scheme of social regeneration; he only discovered and disclosed certain economic truths, making them so plain that no intelligent person reading his exposition of them and really desiring to understand them can fail to do so.

The great reason for the strength of the single tax movement—the reason why, as I believe, it will eventually prevail, is that, being based upon fundamental economic truths, any small steps taken in accordance with it will not only be steps in the right direction, but will be steps which by themselves will be productive of manifestly good results: even without regard to what steps may or may not be subsequently taken.

Thus, every advance in the direction of relieving capital and labor—all productive enterprise—of taxation; removing taxes from personal property and concentrating them upon the value of land exclusive of improvements, is not only an advance along single tax lines, but its effect, taken by itself, will be, and always is, so manifestly beneficial to all useful industry and commerce that there is direct encouragement for the taking of other and similar steps. And though it is in a sense true, as you say, that "these half-way reforms are rarely effected through the agency of outright Single Taxers," the fact remains that the educational work leading to these advancing steps has been done mainly, and I think almost entirely, by Single Taxers, who, by the way, always welcome the cooperative efforts of those who, though they be not Single Taxers, have yet been led to see the truth of some small part of the Single Tax philosophy and are willing to take a step in accordance with it. A multiplicity of such steps, each in itself beneficial, will ultimately bring the single tax into full use. Our principal source of strength is that the steps necessary to be taken will commend themselves to the most studious, thoughtful, and unblinded people, and to "practical people" everywhere, whether they be Single Taxers or not, or even if by reason of misapprehension of it they think they are opposed to the single tax, as many of them do.

FRED J. MILLER.

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