

California

THE Anti-Single Taxers of California have beaten the friends of the movement in the campaign for publicity, for while the latter were engaged in printing and broadcasting petitions for the amendment the enemies of the measure were in the field labelling the proposal as "dangerous."

The *Standard*, the little paper published by the friends of the Great Adventure, in a recent issue addresses "Out of State Single Taxers," and says: "An increased vote in California next Fall would be a gain to Single Tax strength all over the country. Your contributions for so many years show that you feel that this is your campaign."

The Amendment will be Number One on the ballot this year, and that will be a great advantage.

Argentine

PLATFORM OF THE GEORGIST LIBERAL PARTY

WHILE aspiring to the constitutional reforms of the abolition of private property in land and other natural resources, maintaining as inviolable the right of private property in things produced by men; absolute free trade; the suppression of public debts; the separation of the Church and State; and the direct election of the President of the Republic and governors—the Georgist Liberal Party proposes to develop meanwhile the following parliamentary action:

(1) Equal and proportionate (*not progressive*) tax throughout the country on all land privately owned, increasing it gradually to *six per cent of its value*, but exempting improvements. (Arts. 4, 15 and 67 sec. 2 of the National Constitution). The product of said tax shall be distributed proportionately between the Nation, provinces, territories and municipalities.

(2) Gradual reduction of Customs Duties and of all other present taxes (all partially confiscatory of legitimate property) *until they are totally abolished*; also, entire abstention of the State from all private economic activities which are not monopolistic in their nature.

(3) Complete liberty of willing estates. Suppression of the present tax on inheritances, replacing same by a special tax on landed properties or mortgage titles thereupon, with the object of hastening the redemption of the land as a common patrimony for all the people, and the destruction of its value.

IMMEDIATE APPLICATION, as far as possible, of the DEFINITE LAND SYSTEM.

(4) Realization of the Rivadavian leasing system, by leasing existing public lands to the highest bidders, under a life contract, rescindable at will by the leaseholder, improvements to be purchased by the State, the heirs having preference in the occupation on decease of the leaseholders.

This platform was adopted by the National Committee of the Party in Convention January 7, 1924.

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In its issue of April last, the *El Liberal Georgista*, official organ of the Georgist Liberal Party of the Argentine, contains the following:

"In harmony with the advanced tendencies of Georgism which we have initiated in this country, the 'Commonwealth Land Party' has been organized in Great Britain and, very recently, another of the same name in the United States, thus showing the frankly international character assumed by the political struggle on behalf of Georgist radicalism."

"The old 'Single Tax Review' is henceforth to be called 'Land and Freedom.'"

"Mr. William J. Wallace has been nominated president of the new party."

A Bugle Call

HAVE you seen the vision? Can you say, like St. Paul, "I have not been unmindful of that vision"? Has the vision been to you an obsession? Have you felt the urge to proclaim the great truth to a tax burdened world? Was it so clear to you that you were sure, if you told it to a needy and tax cursed world, it would be accepted? Have you felt the sting of disappointment suffered by the reformer when his message falls on listless and indifferent ears?

In the face of disappointment have you said in despair, "It's no use, the world can't be saved"? If so, then you are not worthy of a great cause. We follow a leader who gave his life to this issue. Henry George fell in the conflict with his face to the foe.

If you want a big job, if you want a man's job, if you want a job that will try your moral courage to the utmost limit, then put on the armor and go forth to fight that age-long enemy of civilization—TAXATION.

Our Pilgrim Fathers fought for the principle, "No taxation without representation." We fight for LAND—VALUE Rental and NO taxation. They strove for the ballot. We strive for the God given heritage, COMMUNITY—MADE VALUES, now appropriated by private interests. Theirs was a war for political liberty; ours, a war to free the world from industrial slavery.

The conflict will be fierce and full of discouragements. It calls for courage and sacrifice, but the issues are great and the goal to be reached justifies the cost. Our foe is an ancient system, more firmly entrenched than any king or potentate of past ages.

They tell us we are weak, but when shall we be stronger? Will it be when the wealth of the world is concentrated in the hands of a few selfish tyrants, and the great mass of humanity are industrial slaves? Will it be when the winged war chariots are dropping destructive bombs from

the clouds upon a long suffering populace driven through desperation to revolution by intolerable economic injustices? But we are not weak if we will make use of those weapons which the laws of our country and the God of nature has given us. We still have some of the blessings for which our forefathers fought and died. We still have FREE SPEECH, a FREE PRESS, and the ballot. We have the TRUTH which is mighty and will prevail. On the other hand, there is the high cost of living, the housing problem, the irrepressible conflict between labor and capital and intolerable conditions, coupled with Teapot Dome and numerous other scandals in high places, all of which are opening the eyes and ears of the voters and preparing the way for our message. Oh Fellow Worker, look with spiritual eyes as did one of old, and behold the chariots of the Lord all around, ready, at your service. Never before has there been such a fund of arguments, and such a receptive audience as are provided us for the coming campaign. The fields are ripe for the harvest; we have but to go forth and reap.

No great moral question is settled until it is settled right. In a democratic government no question is settled until it is settled in the minds and hearts of the voters, enacted into law and ratified at the ballot. This means agitation and education. The campaign will cost money, but the need is great. The opportunity is here.

Strike for needs great and pressing.

Strike now for the time is at hand.

Strike for the world's greatest blessing—

The FREEDOM of the Land.

ALBERT J. OREM.

Why Indeed?

WHY should a man be punished for being thrifty and industrious? The income tax is based on a false and immoral principle from the beginning. If one man has a larger income than another, it is for one of two reasons: either he has earned it by the exercise of superior ability or greater industry; or he has acquired it by virtue of some special privilege which has given him more opportunity than his fellow. In the first instance, he should be encouraged, and not penalized by an increase in his taxes, since he is a distinct asset to the community. In the latter instance, his privilege, not his income, should be taxed to the full extent of its value, that he may be made to start on an equal basis with his fellows, so far as social privileges are concerned. This is simply the application of elementary morality to the question of public revenue.

JAMES F. MORTON, JR.

A TAX on land values would be logical and equitable. It would make those people pay toward the upkeep of society who have been most profited by the benefit of society.—DR. FRANK CRANE.

After All It Is Taking A Chance

THE *Real Estate Magazine* of New York City, for May, 1924 contains an article by Arthur William Barber, under the title "Buyers of Realty Take Fewest Chances in the Long Run." The only chance taken by land speculators is that the people will at some time wake up. The only risk is that some day taxes will be shifted. The author does not indicate this possibility. Otherwise, he shows a real understanding of the question, and we wonder how many who read it will ask whether it is just that a growing population should continue to lay "an ever larger share of its earnings" at the feet of the owner of the land.

And they may ask whether what is properly called "tribute" should continue to be paid. All these questions, implied if not suggested in this article, may occur to the thoughtful reader.

Mr. Barber says in part:

There is one commodity that is a fundamental necessity of life—land. As the conditions of life change, its necessities also change. What is luxury to one generation becomes a necessary to the next. What is a necessary to this generation, may be discarded by our children for something better. But the need for land can never vary, except in degree, for it furnishes the raw materials from which all life is sustained.

The quantity of land in the world is fixed. It cannot, like other forms of wealth, be increased. Improvements in transportation render it more available for human use and industrial progress vastly increases its power to support life. Nevertheless, the limits of supply exist and make themselves, felt in some degree, in every settled country. Of course, with the increase in the world's supply of money, the price of land is certain to increase, although abundant money will not in itself increase the value of land. However, as population increases and the wants of man become greater, the need for the land, from which all must live, becomes more insistent and by this need its value is enhanced. Thus, with the advance of civilization, the value of land tends steadily upward.

Money wisely invested in land is subject to the minimum of risk. It does encounter a risk of change in the locality, which sometimes depreciates values for long periods, or even permanently. Taking the aggregate of wealth so invested, however, the increase in value is certain and inevitable. The risk is the risk of local changes, and land investment, like any other business undertaking, becomes a matter of good judgment. Except to the extent of the fixed charges upon it, fluctuations in the supply of money cannot affect the value of land.

The value of an equity in real estate is beyond the reach of money plenty or money scarcity. Its price may vary, but its value, measured not in money, but in the purchasing power of money will remain unchanged by any merely monetary condition.

If science tomorrow were to solve the riddle of the alchemist, by turning some baser material into gold, the owner of land would alone rest secure, in a world whose