

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

RICHARD F. GEORGE.

Died September 28. Buried beside his father, Henry George, the author of "Progress and Poverty," in Greenwood, September 30, 1912.

For The Public.

The merry jest, the kindly mood,
The modest soul that dwelt apart
From all save us who understood
The greatness of his mind and heart,

Is silent now. How strange it seems
That he should lie where green trees nod.
Is this the end of all his dreams—
A little dust, a patch of sod?

Yet to have sought to wrest the soul
Of Beauty from the passive clay,
And dwell with her, were worth the whole
Of Life that merely lives its day.

Dust unto dust—yet nothing dies,
For here where Life its tents has furled,
Like him his mighty father lies
Whose thought now shakes a world!

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.



THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX.

For The Public.

The sphinx was a fabulous animal with the body of a lion, the wings of a bird and the breasts and head of a woman.

It was sent by the goddess Hera, to punish the people of Thebes, and like many a modern promoter of distress, its method of punishment was to propose a riddle.

Anyone who undertook to answer the riddle and failed was immediately devoured; and it was no picnic for anybody but the Sphinx. She ate 'em alive.

The riddle of the Sphinx was this: What is it that walks on four legs in the morning, two at noon and three in the evening?

A gentleman named Oedipus finally answered the question. The answer was "Man," for man in the morning of life goes on all fours, at noon erect on two legs, and in the evening of life hobbles along on a cane.

Her riddle being answered, the Sphinx, like all other monsters and superstitions, destroyed herself, and troubled man no more.

There is a Sphinx, or more properly, a dozen of them, for every man and every nation in the world, propounding riddles which we must answer or be destroyed.

There was a Sphinx in the time of Christopher Columbus, when Europe was being overcrowded with people and enthralled by religious bigotry and persecution. Its riddle was. "What is it that makes men free from persecution?" The answer, like the reply of Oedipus, and the reply to every really great question, was perfectly simple. It was, "Plenty of land for men to go to when somebody is after them with a club." And when Columbus answered the riddle in his simple way, the Sphinx destroyed herself.

Today we are facing a riddle of the same kind. The question is not religious, but industrial. It is: "What must workers secure to be free from oppression?" Millions have been devoured because they have failed to answer this riddle, and millions of working men and their innocent wives and babes are being slowly ground to pieces in the jaws of this cruel monster because they cannot think and act in unison when the reply is demanded. Yet the reply to this question today is simple, like the answer to all great questions. It is: "The right of each man to the use of what land there is."

This answer to the oppressor, given by a hundred million voters at once, will destroy forever the incubus of poverty and prove the fallacy of the evil doctrine that progress can only come through the suffering of the masses.

HARLAN EUGENE READ.



LAND VALUES IN CHINA.

Dr. W. E. Macklin, of Nanking, in the China Daily Republican (Shanghai) of August 13.

China is a country peculiarly adapted to the initiation of the Singletax method. As described by Mencius, Ju Fu Ty and others, it was the ancient system of China. There was a tax of one-ninth of the crop of farmers in the "well" method. In the towns, according to Ju Fu Ty, there was a site tax and no tax on personal property and none on houses. At the barriers on the borders there was an examination but no customs tariff. If this old system were adopted the educated classes would support it and urge it on the people as a restoration of the ancient order.

As China's mines are hardly touched yet, it would be simple to use the land value tax on all mining land. As these mines are opened up an enormous revenue could be secured. Lloyd George, the celebrated Chancellor of the Exchequer of England, stated that the rents or royalties of the mines of England were worth £8,000,000 or say \$40,000,000. England is as large as one province of China. China's mines should as they are opened up be worth more than twenty times as much, or about \$800,000,000 a year rent. China should not be obliged to kowtow in order to borrow a few millions with such assets.