

## High Praise For John Cairns

THEN too another surprise to many was the fact that John Cairns, the Single Tax candidate for representative, received such a large vote. Democrats especially were astounded at the exhibition which Mr. Cairns made under the adverse circumstances. With two Democrats and one Republican against him Mr. Cairns' friends stood by him to the number of 897. It must be remembered that Mr. Cairns had no party to support here whatsoever. Persons who voted for him had to do so with deliberation and intent. His name was placed at the bottom of the list on the voting machines. The Single Tax party had no recognition in the State election beyond the limits of the vote for representative in this town. Mr. Cairns was isolated from the rest by a long sweep. It was a vote of which he had every reason to be proud. It was not done simply because it was the easiest way. Those who voted for him did so intelligently and with consideration aforethought.

It is now admitted by leading Democrats, that had the Democratic Party of this town endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Cairns and placed his name on their party list, which was located on the second tier of the voting machines, that Mr. Cairns would now be one of the men elected as representatives from this town. They concede that this would have been the result.

That there were many Democrats who voted the straight party ticket because it was the easiest way need not be doubted. This applies to both the dominant parties. Given the benefit of the windfall votes thus to be garnered, in addition to those who made careful selection of Mr. Cairns as their candidate, there is no doubt whatsoever that he would have been permitted to be the first Single Tax candidate to warm a seat in the Connecticut legislature. This ambition Mr. Cairns held most dear. It was clearly capable of accomplishment but the party wires could not be adjusted so as to bring about this result. Nevertheless, Mr. Cairns has plenty of friends and admirers in this town. Remember that.

*South Manchester (Conn.) News*

## Good Words For The Federal Land Tax

THE Ralston-Nolan Bill (H. R. 12,397), which proposes to relieve protective industry from a large part of its present tax burden by placing a 1 per cent. tax on land held out of use, is attracting increasing attention from the manufacturing interests of the country. The American Bankers' Association refused to approve the bill in the recent convention in Washington. This was to be expected because of the importance of land in the security market. The bankers' action does not eliminate the bill by any means and its consideration by Congress will be forced by a large number of business men and manufacturers who are convinced that business is paying an unjust share of federal

tax while the speculative and idle holdings of land and natural resources are escaping.

The Committee of Manufacturers and Merchants on Federal Taxation, which apparently is backed by some of the most substantial manufacturers in the United States, is lining up the forces favorable to the bill so that they will be ready for action in the next session of Congress.

*American Contractor.*

## London Land Values After the Great Fire

SIR RICHARD FORD...tells me, also, speaking of the new street that is to be made from Guild Hall down to Cheapside, that the ground is already, most of it, bought. And tells me of one particular, of a man that hath a piece of ground lying in the very middle of the street that must be; which, when the street is cut out of it, there will remain ground enough, of each side, to build a house to front the street. He demanded 700 lbs. for the ground, and to be excused paying anything for the melioration of the rest of his ground that he was to keep. The Court consented to give him 700 lbs., only not to abate him the consideration; which the man denied; but told them, and so they agreed, that he would excuse the City the 700 lbs., that he might have the benefit of the melioration without paying anything for it. So much some will get by having the city burned! Ground, by this means, that was not worth 4d. a foot before, will now, when houses are built, be worth 15s. a foot. But he tells me of the common standard now reckoned on between man and man, in places where there is no alteration of circumstances, but only the houses burnt, there the ground, which, with a house on it, did yield 100 lbs. a year, is now reported worth 33 lbs. 6s., 8d.; and that this is the common market-price between one man and another, made upon a good and moderate medium.—Diary of Samuel Pepys, from entry under date of December 1, 1666.

## Take The Economic Rent

THE New York *Tribune* the other day did a great service in reminding its readers editorially, out of Karl Marx, that the labor question, in all its aspects, is fundamentally the question of the control of natural resources. The *Tribune* reminder is particularly useful because so many American disciples and readers of Marx give no evidence of having read his book through to the end, or indeed, much beyond his doctrine of surplus values. Industrial exploitation cannot possibly take place until people are expropriated from the land; and after they are reimpropriated, it cannot possibly continue. The best and simplest mode of reimpropriation is surely by the confiscation of economic rent, one hundred cents in the dollar. If anyone can show a better way this paper will be pleased to hear of it and to advocate it, for we are far from being tied to any particular theory.

*Freeman, Oct. 27.*