

I have no illusions as to the possibility of passing such an amendment, which I am going to present at the appropriate time, but I do it to find out how many more people in this House will vote for this proposal than voted for it forty-three years ago. Moreover, I do it because of the sentiment involved. I spoke the last words at the grave of Tom Johnson in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, twenty-six years ago, where we left him sleeping beside his great friend, Henry George. It is a matter of sentiment with me to stand in the well of this House and do what my great friend did forty-three years ago, and offer the same proposal.

In just a couple of minutes I must try to give you a little flash of this truth. The first pioneers come to a community like the District of Columbia. There is no land value when they come, but as the community grows, the growth of population creates the land value. When the first pioneers come there is no need of public revenues, no need of taxes, but as the community increases there is increasing need of public revenue. This is the economic drama which has happened in every city in America. First you have the growth of population, there being now 600,000 people in the District of Columbia, and as a result of this growth of population you have two economic forces. You have land values and taxes. Taxes and land values rise and go up and up together, caused by the same thing, the growth of population. I say the rising land values of a community are just as clearly nature's provision for the increasing needs of revenue of the community as the milk in a mother's breast is nature's provision for the babe in her arms. At the proper time I am going to offer this amendment.

THE New Jersey Legislature admits that the unemployment problem is too deep for its members and adjourns without doing anything. How many of its members were honest enough to tell the voters before election that they were too ignorant to be fit for a legislator's job. Those who did not secured office and salary under false pretenses. Does not New Jersey law penalize fraud? Electing frauds to the legislature is one reason why unemployment exists.

THE Duke styles me a Pessimist. But, however pessimistic I may be as to present social tendencies, I have a firm faith in human nature. I am convinced that the attainment of pure government is merely a matter of conforming social institution to moral law.

HENRY GEORGE, "Property in Land."

THE only way to check and stop the evil (of the White Man) is for all the Red Men to unite, in claiming a common and equal right to the land, as it was at first and should be yet.—*Tecumseh's Speech* to Governor Harrison, at Vincennes, Aug. 12, 1810.

What I Learned in Santiago (Cuba)

ON first arriving, the picturesqueness of Santiago de Cuba, one of the largest cities in Cuba, reminds the visitor of a quaint picture on a post card come to life. Founded early in the sixteenth century, it presents old, crumbling churches and quaint little houses with large window openings guarded by fancy iron grills. The entrances are paved with beautiful, colored tiles. Tiny street cars rumble and rock through narrow streets, twisting their way up and down traffic-locked thoroughfares swarming with people. Untethered goats munch bits of grass along the more modern avenues where small parks and grass bordered walks have been set. Many stray dogs dart about while, very near, overhead, greasy buzzards soar boldly, hinting that although Santiago boasts a Department of Sanitation housed in a beautiful new modern building, much is still required for its proper functioning.

The green steep hills behind Santiago are peppered with small plots of ground, haphazardly cultivated. Small, ramshackle houses or huts, sometimes covered only by colorless dry palm leaves, shelter the tillers of these fertile tiny acres. At each doorway groups of small children, mostly naked, peer shyly around a mother's tattered skirt.

Yet strangely enough, as one approaches the town proper, many vacant plots of more arable and desirable ground, large and small, may be seen—level and fertile land whose appearance of being long unoccupied is accentuated by the sagging, dusty, windowless houses, partly covered by some huge wild vine, or shaded by fruit-laden mango trees, untended. If the villager wishes, he may climb through a rift in the barbed wire or picket fence and pick himself a hatful or stomachful of these abundant fruits that seem to grow and ripen only to rot on the ground.

After insisting strenuously, I was conducted through a typical untenanted parcel of land and was told that although the rental, including a house of four large rooms, was considered quite moderate, the place had been vacant for years. It seemed that the poverty of the would-be buyers, unable to spare even the initial rental, together with the instability of the local government and its inability to guarantee them security, prevented occupancy. Then, too, if rented, how could the place be maintained during the months necessary to recondition this tumbled-down, weed-choked field?

Considering the large amount of idle land, the landowners seem perfectly willing to hold to their high prices and to their land as well. Thus, in limiting the amount of land in use, rents increase as the margin of cultivation and wages are forced lower until it is no longer profitable for the small independent farmer or industrialist to hire laborers and remain in business. Thus, unemployment statistics rise higher.

Meanwhile, increasingly large numbers of idlers and beggars, the latter mostly ragged children, clutter the streets. It is difficult to forget one beggar, very old and ragged, blackened and dried by the sun, who seemed contented to rehearse his "line" time and again in a dreary monotone whether or not there were any passersby to hear. Yet his condition differs from that of others only in degree.

Strangest of all, we noticed several hundred men and women, laborers, streaming through the immigration and customs building. A few of them laughed or smiled cheerfully as they greeted a familiar face but most of them looked sullen and expressionless as they patiently shifted their possessions, tied into cloth bundles, while they waited their turns to enter the immigration office. Then we noticed that those who came out proceeded in groups to the dock where they piled through the side hatches of an old freighter to take their places inside the crowded, stuffy hold. It must have been hot in there for the sun beat down on the ship as though it would blister the paint on its deck and sides.

Upon inquiring into the causes of this wholesale exodus, we were casually informed that they were being deported to the places whence they originated, Haiti, Jamaica and other points of the West Indies. But why? With little attempt to hide his impatience with such silly questions, our informant snapped "that since there was scarcely work to be given our own native-born, how could we possibly find employment in these times for outsiders." Many of them had made their homes in Cuba for years but because of some little loophole, excuse had been found to deport them. Strange indeed that so many whose mouths have to be fed, and bodies clothed and housed, with able hands that are capable of creating tremendous wealth for Cuba itself are unable to find the means whereby they may produce and exchange the necessities they must consume in living! And so these human cattle were being shipped to other lands. Let's hope they found better "grazing."

Thus we scratched through the patina that covers Santiago to see the wretchedness seemingly ignored by its more prosperous citizens. We viewed the rank poverty of such dusty little villages as Caney on its outskirts, nestled below the historic ruins of El Viso fort.

When we look into the causes of the decay and misery that spread to our older neighbors, almost matched by the slums of our own large cities, it would seem that we too are on the same road. Only those with closed eyes can ignore these evils that arise from denying in one way or another free access to man's natural heritage, land, the basic means from which he derives his subsistence.

An attempt to alleviate this situation is to be made by Colonel Fulgencio Batista, Chief of Staff of the Cuban Army, who recently announced a three-year plan to bring about the economic and social reconstruction of Cuba. In a twenty-point legislative programme, which will regimentate almost every phase of national life, he proposes to include regulation of rentals, wages, and payments to planters for cane, reforms in the tax system, a tightening of labor legislation under which no foreigner can obtain employment, strict regulation of the tobacco industry and agriculture in general, and the distribution of State lands.

Though complete details are still lacking, opposition is growing among business men and merchants who feel their interests at stake. Financing this vast plan, in the face of huge deficits mounting yearly, will naturally mean a tremendous increase in taxation to industry and the public in general.

Somehow, this all sounds very familiar as though we'd heard it before and brings to mind the man who tried to lift himself out of a deep ditch by his bootstraps.—EARL D. JONES.

Postal Card Suggestion

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN "FOLLOWING-UP"

FOLLOWERS of Henry George are failing to reasonably advance his Cause; and it is due primarily to failure to responsibly follow-up the basically demonstrated *science* on which it rests, and to adopt *persuasive methods* of dealing with common "sense-of-justice" views on which acceptance of it inevitably depends.

For although all sciences rest solely on natural-law facts—not on authoritative statements by anyone or on moral-law views—*acceptance of Social Science* laws which apply to human beings instead of senseless things, must practically depend upon this human "sense-of-justice." And any arrogant antagonizing of it in natural converts drives them from the simple appropriation of Rent as Enough, into the confusions of Socialism.

Such antagonizing of natural and essential converts is mainly due to *authoritative predicting* of Single Tax results which are repulsive to them; this predicting being largely substituted for the *Scientific-Fact* teachings (1) That natural law results are inevitably fixed regardless of *beliefs* about them; and (2) That the elimination, by Single Tax, of present Rent income to mere ownership of land, will

also eliminate this income from present interest yield to mere ownership of wealth (capital).

Conscientious Single Taxers must teach these inherent truths or be practically false to the Cause. And to avoid contempt for their intelligence and fairness they must recognize obvious natural facts notwithstanding authoritative disregard of them. They *must know* as ordinary humans do, that all unlimitedly producible goods, including pigs and calves and wheat and cotton, do naturally sell below average-wage yield whenever over-produced; and that superior *using* of capital by human beings earns correspondingly high wages without senseless capital in itself earning anything. *Then* they can effectively show to common sense workers that the great Remedy is Enough—that further Socializing is *not* needed.

The specialized learning of school-men economists notoriously does insure above average using of common sense, which is about all that Single Tax truths essentially call for; and even students of Henry George need to use and to respect such independent thinking in responsibly following-up his great work. For *without this*, persuasive appeal for common sense support of the Cause sinks to authoritative teaching, which is obnoxious to independent thinkers. These are simply hindsight views of an oldster in the Cause.

WALTER G. STEWART.

Hon. Charles R. Eckert in the House of Representatives

MR. SPEAKER, the National Labor Relations Act is being acclaimed by labor as one of its greatest achievements in the long and weary struggle for its rights. The weeks and months that its life was hanging in the balance labor was filled with anxiety and despair. The actions of the courts were awaited with bated breath, and when at last, on the 12th day of April, 1937, the Supreme Court of the United States pronounced the act a living thing there was great rejoicing in the ranks of the workers. And this not without reason, for the principles for which labor fought and struggled throughout the years were at last sanctified as the law of the land. The right of self-organization and collective bargaining have been regarded by the champions of labor among their most important and effective weapons.

That labor should be unduly enthusiastic about the outcome of the legal battle over the Wagner Act and anticipate greater benefits than can possibly be realized must be expected. For the rank and file of labor have not only been schooled in the efficacy of self-organization and collective bargaining by their leaders but the Supreme Court entertains and declares the same view. In the light of the teachings of the leaders of labor and the decisions of the Supreme Court, it is but natural that practically everybody is entertaining the thought that, with the Wagner Act and related legislation securely on the statute books, labor is about to enjoy its just rewards.

Without minimizing in the slightest degree the importance and value of the legislation embodied in the National Labor Relations Act, it may be well to remind ourselves that, notwithstanding the legal recognition