

Radio Talk of Mrs. Madelline Swarte of Henry George School Over WOR

THERE are fundamental economic laws affecting human society just as there are fundamental physical laws by which the universe is governed. Newton's apple did not fall by chance, neither does dire poverty exist in the midst of plenty by mere chance.

One fundamental economic law is that gregarious man can exist only by applying his labor to the raw materials of this earth and he can live in society only by the cooperation of others of his kind. He cannot live on what nature provides, like the beasts of the field or the birds of the air. Since the earth is the sole source of the raw materials necessary for man's existence, it follows that to live man must have access to the land. This was true of Robinson Crusoe; it is true of the United States of America. Any human law denying the right in access to the land to any human being perpetrates and perpetuates an injustice against a portion of mankind.

A second fundamental economic law is that there are primarily but two elements in production—land, the source of everything, and human labor, the activating agent. The two basic factors in the production of wealth therefore are land and labor. Capital is that part of wealth that is used for the production of more wealth. But capital is relatively unimportant. So long as there is labor to be applied to land there will always be capital. To confuse capital with land, or to say that land value is capital or that it is sound economics to permit capital to be invested in land values, indicates ignorance of true economic principles.

An individual can, by himself, make a house; but he cannot, by himself, make land valuable. Land values only appear with population; and they rise as the population grows and fall as it diminishes. It follows inexorably then that land values fundamentally and rightfully belong, not to any individuals of a community, but to the whole community by which they are created. The community should therefore collect the full rental value of its land areas year by year and use this revenue to exercise the functions of government.

Students of the problem hold that this sum would be sufficient for all the legitimate expenses of government and there would be no need to tax industry and the products of labor to support the machinery of modern society.

This is the meat of the philosophy of Henry George, outlined over 50 years ago in his world-famous book, "Progress and Poverty." The principles there laid down, more generally understood and properly applied, would be the first and greatest step toward wiping poverty from the face of the earth and equalizing opportunity for all men so that none need want in the midst of the greatest abundance the world has ever known.

AND just as for the mother to withhold the provision that fills her breast with the birth of the child is to endanger physical health, so for society to refuse to take for social uses the provision intended for it is to breed social disease.—THE CONDITION OF LABOR.

IT is related that when Michael Faraday explained the electric current to William E. Gladstone, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, the statesman asked, "What is it good for?" Faraday's reply was, "Well, maybe some day you can tax it."

YOU can kill all the Dillengers you want but it won't control crime.—WARDEN LAWES of Sing Sing.

THE wealthy class is becoming more wealthy; but the poorer class is becoming more dependent. The gulf between the employed and the employer is growing wider; social contrasts are becoming sharper; as liveried carriages appear, so do barefooted children. We are becoming used to talk of the working classes and the propertied classes; beggars are becoming so common that where it was once thought a crime, little short of highway robbery, to refuse food to one who asked for it, the gate is now barred and the bulldog loosed, while laws are passed against vagrants which suggest those of Henry VIII.—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

PLACE one hundred men on an island from which there is no escape, and whether you make one of these men absolute owner of the other ninety-nine, or the absolute owner of the soil of the island, will make no difference either to him or to them.—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

Correspondence

THE CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

California, both from the historical and immediate viewpoint, is one of the natural battle grounds of the world for the fight to institute the tax reform we believe will further the cause of democracy, and make poverty and the fear of poverty a thing of the past.

Our campaign, as you know, and concerning which you will have more information in the future, has had a momentary set back. We are determined to keep up the fight here in California. We wish to further our cause by every means in our power. To do this we propose to maintain offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The California State Federation of Labor in Convention in Sacramento during the middle of September adopted a resolution reiterating its previous stands upon the principles of the Amendment and "Resolved, that we reaffirm our intention to keep the issue before the people of the State at the earliest possible moment."

Two important retail organizations, several months before the termination of the Campaign by the Supreme Court, endorsed the Amendment. During the several meetings held with these groups, both with their directors and in open meetings, the complete measure was gone into. Many of them, for the first time, saw how our measure favored the conduct of business enterprises. Leaders of both organizations have expressed their hope that we will continue our fight. This is a fine entering wedge to interest active business men in the fight to safeguard their business.

ALREADY a questionnaire has been sent to those active in our work so that the construction of another Amendment, best suited to change conditions, can be placed upon the ballot in 1938. The number of replies to a rather exhaustive set of questions indicates the fine spirit in which our set-back was received and the strong determination to carry on.

There is in the situation the spirit of a quotation of a Danish poet incorporated in a letter sent by a sympathizer and well wisher from across the seas to the effect that "All good thoughts can never die before still better thoughts have germed from their seed."

We will require a minimum fund of \$300 per month during the next two years. This will maintain the San Francisco office and the necessary general work over the entire state, offering some assistance to the Los Angeles office as well.

San Francisco, Calif.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.