

A revolutionary doctrine! Of course it is. What did you suppose it was? Just a doctrine of the shifting of taxation? And did you imagine when you told it in these terms that the man who profits by landlordism would find it more palatable than the same thing undisguised? Then you deceived yourself.

The Single Tax is the Great Evangel. It is the doctrine of land restoration. It is a message of glad tidings to the poor and needy. It is the herald of emancipation for the landless, and for the landlord, too, just as the law that struck the bonds from the slave struck them also from the Southern slaveholder. For as Henry George has told us, it is the nature of injustice that it profits no one. And at the same time he warned us against all compromise that involved any sacrifice of principle. JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

A Land Value Tax Held Sound by Students

The trouble is not that the farmer who owns a farm is suffering. The trouble is, first, that he can sell his farm, invest the money in mortgages and make more without working, in many instances, than he can make by farming his land. Second, he can often rent his land to someone else more profitably than he can work it himself. Third, if he has several sons, the ones that do not inherit the farm cannot afford to buy one in this country. They either go into other lines of work or else go to some other country.

The result is a country in which more and more of the land passes into the hands of men who hold it idle for speculative purposes, or rent it, and in which a man who wants to invest his money in land and to farm it, cannot do so profitably. Inevitably it is also a land which in food prices rise steadily.

What is the remedy? Two have been proposed. First, for the nation or the States to buy and reclaim land and sell it to farmers at a price based on what it will produce and on long time credit. This was the essence of Secretary Lane's scheme of land for soldiers, which so mysteriously disappeared. It is the basis of the California land and colonization plan, which has worked well, and it has been put into practice in some form by several other States.

The second method is a form of taxation on unimproved land which would make it unprofitable to hold such land for speculative purposes. Such a tax has always been held sound by students. A bill providing for such tax was introduced in the last congress by Representative Nolan and reintroduced in this congress by Representative Keller.

It has attracted as much attention as a pin falling into the Atlantic ocean. FREDERICK J. HASKIN, in *San Diego Union*.

PRESIDENT HARDING says there is no "legislative palliative" for housing shortage. True; but there are legislative obstacles to building.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.

NEWS—DOMESTIC California

PETITIONS are now being circulated in this State for the Slocumb Amendment to the Constitution. It will be necessary to secure about 60,000 signers to the petition to insure this measure a place on the ballot, and petitions must be filed on or before August 1st. Workers are now active in securing the necessary number of signers, and the campaign for the Amendment will at once begin.

Despite the falling away of a few of the old time leaders, the feeling is one of great hopefulness for a vigorous and successful campaign.

The text of the proposed amendment follows:

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

The following shall be known as Article XIII, and shall be substituted for all of Article XII of the Constitution of the State of California and shall take effect January 1st, 1924.

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. It is hereby proclaimed that private property rights attach only to products of labor and not to land; that the holding of land in private monopoly by virtue of a franchise or title deed is a special privilege; that the full rent of such privileges belongs to the people collectively; that paying such rent to the whole people is, in principle, not a tax, but a moral obligation for value received on the part of the holders of such privileges; and that to secure to all fully and equally their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness it is the duty of the State to collect such rent in full and not violate the rights of private property by any tax on improvements, business, labor, or capital.

Sec. 2. Franchises are hereby defined to be special privileges granted by government permitting the use or monopoly of land. Titles to land and all special privileges to use land for any certain defined purposes are franchises.

Sec. 3. All franchises shall be assessed annually with their full rental value.

Sec. 4. This rental assessment as made each year shall be paid in full each year by all franchise holders; in one payment or in installments as shall be provided by law; provided that where franchise rights to land are leased at a rental that is less than the assessment the difference shall be paid by the lessee, or forfeit lease; and, that that part of all contracts and leases requiring lessees to pay all taxes in addition to a certain fixed rental, is hereby declared null and void and against public policy; and no other tax or taxes whatsoever shall be levied, collected or paid, nor shall any fee or charge be made, collected or paid for any license or permit.

Sec. 5. This rental assessment shall exactly measure the advantage of the inequality of franchise rights and privileges, and is hereby defined to be an amount of money just sufficient to make the purchase price or selling price of the franchise, independent of improvements on the land held thereby, approximate zero, or only enough to wholly prevent the capitalization of the franchise.

Sec. 6. This assessment, if not paid by the time and in the manner required by law shall work absolute forfeiture of the franchise, and if there are improvements upon land held by the franchise so forfeited, shall constitute a lien

upon same for the amount, and said improvements, if saleable and of more than nominal value, shall be sold at public sale to the highest bidder, who shall thereby acquire possession of the franchise rights.

Sec. 7. On each separate and distinct piece of land held under a title deed franchise there shall be maintained by the assessor in a conspicuous place, a notice, that can be easily read, stating the names of those who hold the franchise to the land, the area or dimensions and assessment for the current year; also, after an assessment is due, if not paid, an additional notice stating that the franchise is forfeited, and if there are salable improvements, of more than nominal value, upon the land, announcing the date and the place of public sale of same, the conditions and specifications for these notices—also penalties for neglect or interfering with same shall be fixed by law.

Sec. 8. A franchise to unimproved land that has been forfeited for the non-payment of the assessment, may be acquired by anyone who offers the highest rent by sealed bid, conditions of which to be fixed by law. Unimproved land is that without saleable improvements of more than nominal value.

Sec. 9. The money derived from this single tax shall be apportioned by law between the State and all the subdivisions of the State and out of such apportionments shall all the expenses of the Government be paid. Any surplus money or any other money that may be acquired shall be used to pay indebtedness or to make improvements, or distributed or used for any purpose that the State or any subdivision thereof having such money shall by majority vote decide.

LATER: A telegram has just arrived from San Francisco apprising us that an organization, to be known as The California Single Tax Committee, has been formed which has endorsed the Slocumb Amendment and will immediately start to place it on the ballot. This Committee consists of W. Hoffman, J. E. Webb, Dr. Wahle, Dr. Dessau, Z. E. Hoffman, Nellie Wahle, A. H. Sanborn, E. Backus, John Hennessy, Dr. Ethel Lynn and others in hearty accord with the policy that is determined that there shall be no turning back in the fight that has begun for the abolition of privilege in the great State of California.

Mr. James A. Robinson, who has just arrived on the ground, has been appointed Campaign Manager. Others will be added to the Committee as the movement for organization proceeds. This is great news and gives assurance that the cause is again alive in California.

Death of John Cairns

JOHN CAIRNS is dead at Oakland! He will be remembered for his work in South Manchester, Conn., and his splendid co-operation in Chicago where the first National Convention of the Single Tax Party took place, and where a great moral victory was secured by the members of that party over the heterogeneous elements composing the Committee of 48. Since taking up his home in Oakland he has been active in work for the amendment, and its abandonment by the faint-hearted saddened his last hours. His unconquerable spirit will an inspiration to those who must do the work in which he can no longer help.

Colorado

MR. BARNEY HAUGHEY, of Denver, is busy circulating petitions for an amendment to the Constitution providing for an old age pension, and reading as follows:

Section 1. There is hereby established a system of old age pensions for all resident citizens of the State of Colorado, more than sixty years of age, except the following:

(a) Persons who have not been legal residents of the State of Colorado for ten continuous years after January 1, 1913.

(b) Persons under conviction of crime.

(c) Inmates of public institutions of the State of Colorado or of the United States.

Sec. 2. The old age pensions provided for in this article shall be sufficient to insure each eligible person an income from all sources of not less than thirty dollars per month, except in the case of married couples each person shall receive four-fifths of the amount payable to an unmarried person of the same circumstances.

Sec. 3. Personal property and improvements on land shall be exempt from taxation for old age pensions and all revenue for such pensions shall be raised regardless of any limitation on the tax rates by a special tax levy on the assessed value of land and on the assessed value of franchises in public roads, streets and alleys, said assessed values shall be exempt from said special tax levy to the extent of ten thousand dollars to each taxpayer, and the total proceeds of said levy shall be paid into a separate fund and used exclusively for the payment of old age pensions and all expenses incident thereto.

Petitions are being circulated in all parts of the State. Appeals have been made to the United Mine Workers of Colorado to aid in this work.

New York

THE Saturday night lectures under the auspices of the Single Tax Forum, at Single Tax Party headquarters, this city, have been well attended and of extreme interest.

Among those who have spoken before the Forum was Miss Melinda Alexander, who spoke on "Representative Government," on April 8; Wm. J. Wallace, on April 15, who took for his subject, "The Need for Political Action," speaking with his usual earnestness; Mayer C. Goldman, who has won fame as an advocate of the Public Defender in criminal cases, on April 22. On this night John Z. White also favored the Forum with a short address.

Other speakers were Joseph Cameron, James O'Neill, and Bolton Hall. Prof. Melvin Lee spoke on the alleged control of the press by the advertising and financial interests. This was a very interesting evening, and took the form of a running debate between Prof. Lee and Whidden Graham, who rallied the professor good naturedly on some of his statements.

On the night of April 29, Charles LeBaron Goeller related his struggles to advance the cause in the Town of Union, N. Y. An enthusiastic welcome was given