

fictitious capital, labor and true capital would be rid of a constantly increasing tribute demanded by the owners of land.

In thus denouncing the system of appropriation of ground rent by private individuals in this country, we also denounce the efforts of any citizens of the United States to exploit the peoples of other nations by securing possession of their lands without paying to them the full ground rental, and we demand that no support be given by our government to our citizens practising such exploitation.

#### GOVERNMENT AND THE SINGLE TAX

A Single Tax on land values would dispense with a multiplicity of taxes and a horde of tax gatherers, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost.

It would do away with the fraud, corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present methods of taxation, which allow the rich to escape while they grind the poor. Land cannot be hid or carried off, and its value can be ascertained with ease and certainty.

Finally, it would utilize the governmental machinery and methods of assessment and of taxing land already in operation, and require none of the hazardous changes in our traditional republican institutions which a wise conservatism deprecates.

#### SOCIALISM

We oppose Socialism as defined in the platforms of the Socialist Party and its various branches, and as expounded by its votaries.

Socialism proposes artificial laws for governmental regulation in the control of all the means of production and distribution. We charge both the Democratic and Republican parties with participation in this un-American tendency.

We realize that the drastic measures employed by our government for the successful prosecution of the war are in no sense an endorsement of socialistic philosophy, but are an avowed temporary suspension of our liberties, applying the ancient maxim, when armies enter laws are silent.

In proposing the restoration of the natural order of production and distribution, leaving to labor and capital their just earnings, we challenge this tendency so foreign to the American tradition of industrial self-reliance. We further assert that the apparent justification for these socialistic measures exists solely because labor and capital are at the mercy of land speculators, many of whom are not even citizens of this country, who exact a continuing and ever increasing tribute from labor and industry merely for permitting them the use of the earth.

#### THE PRESENT CRISIS.

We pledge the candidates of this party when elected to support the National Government by every means in their power in the prosecution of the just and necessary war which we are waging against the Imperial German Government and its allies. But we deem it necessary and we should be recreant to truest patriotism if we failed at this time of national stress to point out to the National Government and to the people the peculiar merit of our principle in making our country powerful in times of war and prosperous in times of peace.

A Single Tax on land values would strengthen the government by stimulating the production of foodstuffs and raw materials, would lessen the cost of living and of conducting the war, and render unnecessary the multitude of vexatious taxes now being imposed upon the products of labor by providing the nation and the State with ample revenues for the expenses of the government and the conduct of the war.

Finally, the Single Tax would greatly simplify the grave social and economic problems of the coming period of reconstruction.

It would furnish ample revenues for the redemption of the debts of the nation.

It would open to the employment of the millions of soldiers and sailors when they return from the front the 400,000,000 acres of arable farm land now unused and in the hands of speculators, of which 14,000,000 acres alone are situated near to the great Eastern markets in this State. Thus it would avoid the otherwise inevitable period of unemployment, low wages and hard times which will follow the demobilization of our armies and the changing of the status of those most precious citizens into armies of unemployed men.

#### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT ALBANY CONVENTION

**RESOLVED:** That we call upon the national government to take immediate measures to provide us with a Federal Land Valuation, showing the value of all lands, urban, agricultural and mineral, exclusive of all improvements, so that the people may know the value of their natural resources.

**WHEREAS:** Secretary of the Interior Lane has recently suggested rewarding our soldiers and sailors upon their return from abroad by allotting them plots of land in the arid desert of the West; and

**WHEREAS:** Such land being below the margin of cultivation, only a scanty living can be eked out thereon,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That we, the delegates of the Single Tax Party in assembly convention at Albany, July 20, 1918, call the Secretary's attention to the fact that in all of the States, fertile arable and mineral lands are held out of use for speculation and that the application of the Single Tax to these lands would force them into use and would open great and valuable resources to the boys when they return from the front, thus enabling them to settle in their own States among friends and relatives, and in an environment to which they are accustomed, also saving the people of the country the tremendous expense of making usable the desert land of the West;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be sent to Secretary Lane for his information.

## Congressional Hearing on a Federal Land Tax

**M**EMBERS of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives listened to strong pleas for a Federal Land Tax from ex-Congressman Kent and Messrs. Willock, Ralston, Marsh and John Z. White, late in June.

Mr. Kent pointed out the two functions of taxation as he considered them, one from the revenue standpoint and the other as a remedial measure to secure enlarged production. He said that one of the greatest problems growing out of the war would be the adoption of a Federal Land policy.

Judge Jackson H. Ralston was outspoken, and he deserves credit for his reported words, which were as follows:

"I am an extreme Single Taxer, and if it came to the matter of land holding as a matter of abstract right I would say that no man has an indefensible right to even a foot of land."

Benjamin C. Marsh, who appears to be adopting more and more of the Socialist doctrine as distinguished from the Single Tax principle, advocated the "taking over" of all natural resources. If he is correctly reported he said that by this he did not mean a Single Tax but a triple tax.

It is hard to place our friend Marsh. He is now Executive Secretary of the Farmers' National Committee on War Finance. The programme of the Committee is the taxation of all incomes in excess of one hundred thousand dollars and heavy taxation of excess and war profits. Mr. Marsh has been active for a number of years in furthering measures in the direction of the Single Tax and has received the aid of Single Taxers in his work. Mr. Marsh has, let it be said in his own justification, always denied being a Single Taxer, and his present programme must be taken in proof of that declaration.