

for labor, we must call on the Great Reserve—the women . . .
 “It is hard for us to measure woman as an economic factor, but the war has taught us that she is a most important one. We have long recognized her worth and honor as a wife and mother, but now we must ask ourselves: What is the average American woman worth as a worker?”

—Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Pictorial Review*, Feb., 1919

Under a rational economic order, would not Lord Leverhulme and the two women writers be right? And what is wrong in our economic order, to bring about the undeniable and deplorable condition denounced by responsible men like Holland and Morrison? Will Democracy meet the issue fair and true and thus justify herself? Of what use a League of Nations, if it is to be a herd of fear-tormented peoples? Why is the truth of our economic condition a lie, in the face of economic and moral law?

Hearkening Backward

CONNECTICUT SINGLE TAXERS OF 1677

HERE is a petition found in the Connecticut Archives (Towns and Lands) I 169, Colonial Records II 309. It makes interesting reading. We reproduce it with its antique spelling:

“To the Honoured Generall Assembly now sitting in Hartford—

Honoured Fathers:—

Wee whose names are underwritten, the present inhabitants of Simsbury, haveing bin formerly burthened by the inequality of levying of rates (as the case is circumstanced with us) and now through the late effective dispensations of God's providence, haveing bin greater sufferers than other plantations in this Collony, and thereby allsoe in some measure at the present incapacitated to rayse rates in the common way that is stated in the committerey law, in this our infant state do humbly request and desire of this Honoured Assembly that they would be pleased to graunt us at the present that privilege (which we understand hath been formerly and of late granted to other plantations in their beginning) viz—that all rates shall be raysed for the defraying of publicke charges may be levved only upon lands; the farther grounds and reasons of this our request wee have desired Samuel Wilcockson and Benajah Holecombe to represent to your Honours as our agents in this case; who are your very humble servants—
 May 14th, 1677.

(To this document the following names are appended which will be of interest to their descendants.)

John Drake	Samuel Stone
John Griffin	Thomas Barbar
Michall Humphrey	John Petybone
John Humphrey	Joseph Phelps
Josiah Clark	Peeter Buell

The General Court, May Sessions, 1677, sitting at Hartford, granted the Simsbury petitioners the power asked for in the following language:

“This Court upon the motion of the inhabitants of Sims-

bury, doe grant that the people of Simsbury shall have the liberty to rayse their rates for the ministry and towne charges only upon lands for the next three years ensueing this date, and law to the contrary notwithstanding. And in regard of the great loss that that towne hath received in the late wars, the Court have seen cause to remitt to the inhabitants of Simsbury that make their constant abode (there), their country rates for the three next years ensueing both for persons, land and cattell.”

Some Pertinent Epigrams.

MR. JAMES R. BROWN, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, has addressed a letter to the members of the New York Legislature, telling some truths about taxation. In it are some weighty epigrams which it would be well for our Solons to ponder over. After calling attention to the fact that over eighty million dollars must be raised for State purposes this year, Mr. Brown says:

“Taxation is the key that opens or closes the door of opportunity.”

“Every tax roll in the State is a collection of guesses.”

“To tax a man on the value of his house as payment for public services is just like charging a man for a suit of clothes by the value of his auto.”

“The value of public services is only measured by what is commonly known as land value—but which is not the value of land but the value of government—that is, public services.”

“The selling price of land is an embargo on capital and labor, and is, combined with taxes upon improvements, the reason why capital invested in real estate pays such poor returns.”

Upton Sinclair for All Sorts of Taxes.

WE HAVE been permitted to see a letter addressed to Mr. George Lloyd, a Single Taxer, of Brooklyn, from Upton Sinclair. We quote: “I have tried to explain that I am for a land tax, but I do not see what harm other taxes do in the meantime. I am for them also.”

Mr. Sinclair has the reputation of being a radical, yet he does not seem to know what even the conservative economists know. They, many of them at least, see the harm that is done by most kinds of taxes. Mr. Sinclair does not see the difference between a tax that would open up the earth and free industry, and the taxes that hamper industry and keep the natural wealth of the earth closed to labor. With a careless wave of the hand he says, “I am for them also.”

Even if he refers to taxes which he may imagine are socially remedial, like income and inheritance taxes, he is a poor leader of the classes he professes to champion if he fails to recognize that neither of these taxes creates one single job, or makes one single spot of idle earth productive.