

private individuals in the form of ground rent is as futile as trying to lift ones self by pulling on one's own boot straps.

In San Francisco today land values, after deducting all improvements, total \$600,000,000. Figured at 10 per cent., this means \$60,000,000 being paid to a few individuals for the privilege of living in and doing business in San Francisco, equivalent to \$100.00 a year for each man, woman and child in San Francisco, or \$500.00 per family. This means, figured out at 10 per cent., that there is being taken from the producers and given to privilege \$300,000 annually as tribute for the privilege of doing business on one acre in San Francisco.

Consider for a moment, the factors of production—

LAND

LABOR

IMPLEMENTS (Called also Capital)

Land—Created by the Almighty,

Labor—Individual effort,

Implements—Labor of yesterday.

We thus see that the passive factor is *land* and the *active* factors are labor of today and labor of yesterday. The division of the things produced manifestly should go to the active factors—the labor of yesterday and the labor of today. In other words, the products of labor should divide in two parts, one in payment of the labor of today (wages) and the other in payment of the labor of yesterday (interest). Instead, we permit it to be divided into *three* parts, the third, ever increasing in amount, going, not to labor, but to *privilege* in the form of ground rent.

How puerile and hopeless the attempt to increase the amount received in the form of wages unless something be done to reduce the other two (rent and interest).

The way to reduce interest is to stop wars. In times of peace the interest rate steadily declines.

The way to reduce rent (rent always means in economics, *ground rent*) is to place it in a common fund, then use this fund to meet the common expenses of society, such as schools, old age pensions, liability insurance, etc.

Only thus can privilege be curbed and equality of opportunity be restored. Only thus can labor, be it of hand or brain, receive what it produces.

Thus we see that the law governing rent, properly applied, will free labor by equalizing opportunity, and, it may be added, by opening up additional opportunities for labor to apply itself—the result being more jobs than men. Concurrently it will reduce the cost of living by taking off all taxes which pass on to the consumer.

The land value tax cannot be passed on to anyone, because, to tax land heavily forces it into use, makes more land available, and reduces its selling price.

A tax which increases the available supply and reduces the selling price of a thing is quite different from a tax which makes the article scarce and increases its selling price.

The Single Tax Amendment now before the voters of California proposes to relieve all labor and labor products from taxation. By increasing the tax on land values, it will force land, especially land in the cities, into use. All

business will be benefited. The building trades will be especially benefited.

Only the business of holding valuable land out of use will be deterred.

Permit me to close these remarks with a quotation from "Progress and Poverty," a work first published by Henry George in San Francisco in 1879:

"The reason why, in spite of the increase of productive power, wages constantly tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living, is that, with increase in productive power, rent tends to even greater increase, thus producing a constant tendency to the forcing down of wages."

"What I therefore propose as a simple yet sovereign remedy, which will raise wages, increase the earning of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human powers, lessen crime, elevate morals, and taste, and intelligence, purify government and carry civilization to yet nobler heights, is—to appropriate rent by taxation."

H. J. Chase Killed By Motor Car

IT is our sad duty to chronicle the death by accident of Henry J. Chase, of Providence, R. I., a veteran Single Taxer whose distinguished services to the cause will be long remembered. He was run down by an automobile, and was carried three blocks to the home of a physician where he died.

Mr. Chase was nearly seventy years old. He was a graduate of Trinity College, New Haven. Long a familiar figure in Providence, he was widely known as an advocate of the Single Tax.

Later his favorable consideration had been aroused by the Single Tax Party idea and he was preparing for use by the National organization a list of those who might help to carry the issue into the politics of Rhode Island.

For years Mr. Chase had been a loyal lieutenant of ex-Governor Garvin. A letter just received from Mr. Garvin says: "Rhode Island has lost its most faithful and persistent worker. For years he has given his whole time to the work. As Secretary of the Business Men's Organization of which Mr. James A. Doran is President, he interviewed hundreds of influential persons in the State, convincing them of the justice and expediency of applying the Single Tax here. Those who survive him will need to work the harder."

"COME with me," said Richard Cobden to John Bright, as John Bright turned heart-stricken from a new-made grave. "There are in England women and children dying with hunger—with hunger made by the laws. Come with me, and we will not rest until we repeal those laws."

THE taxation of land values is a just principle which is becoming universally established.—LORD ROSEBERRY.