

world that the only true policy of conserving the natural resources of a country is by making these resources contribute equally to all the people of the country in providing the revenue necessary to maintain the government in all its necessary and useful functions. The resources of this Province are ample to maintain in comfort ten millions of people, and I predict that she will follow the lead of Vancouver—and that at no distant day—in the abolition of all taxes on industry, enterprise and thrift, and transfer the burdens of government to the natural resources of the Province, thus making her citizens equal heirs to the Creator's free gift to all the children of men”.

---

HON. HENRY GEORGE, JR., IN VANCOUVER.

---

Henry George, Jr., while in Vancouver was interviewed by the *News-Advertiser* of that city. The interview is thus reported:

In regard to Single Tax, Mr. George stated that it carried with it the consideration of the tariff question, and of all matters of taxation and production. It meant one tax in lieu of many taxes wanted for revenue purposes, and fell upon land values, irrespective of improvements; that was, it meant the appropriation into the public treasury of the site value of the ground, which was entirely apart from any value given to the land by the laborer or the owner. The Single Tax was a means to transfer it to the public treasury and thereby in effect make society the common owner of the land.

Of course, said Mr. George, no transfer of actual titles or change of present tenancy was involved except such as followed the application of the tax upon the value of the holdings, less the value of any improvements whatsoever. As a matter of truth, the tax now existed, and was applied to ground values. What was required in the case of Vancouver was that the full market value of the land should be made, for as taxation now existed it applied to seventy-five per cent. of the true value. This assessment should be increased

practically to one hundred per cent. and then that one hundred per cent. should be taxed so as to absorb into the public coffers practically the whole of the annual potential rent. This took the kernel of the nut.

If that were done, not only would all the present needs for revenue be supplied, but a great surplus revenue would be furnished. In addition to this revenue result, land speculation would be destroyed for no man would hold valuable land vacant for a rise in value if that value was to be taxed out of his hands into the public treasury. On the contrary, he would be penalised into using his land to its highest capacity and then re-leasing it to whoever would so use it. Much valuable land now left out of use through speculation would be thrown upon the market, and down would go the general value, to the very great benefit of the community generally, for it would mean opening natural opportunities now held closed.

What business sought was a minimum of tax burdens. Vancouver had already removed all taxation from improvements on land, and should now increase taxation upon ground values with the end of obtaining revenue for common purposes, and the squeezing out of land speculative values. British Columbia might justly claim to be, in the advance she has made along these lines, one of the most progressive countries in the world. He saluted her, and begged her to advance and lead further along the road of progress.

“It may interest you to know?” stated Mr. George, “that I was elected last November as a Single Tax free trade Democrat in the Seventeenth New York State district, receiving more than 2,200 majority over the gentleman who, in the preceding election, defeated the Democratic candidate by more than 8,000. My opponent was Mr. William S. Bennett, a Republican who opposed reciprocity with Canada, and the day following introduced the resolution for annexation. He was overwhelmingly repudiated, the resolution being immediately referred to one of the standing committees, and was next day reported out of committee and indignantly and utterly discarded by a vote of ten to one.”