

of iron, and copper and lead and phosphate; how much agricultural land; how many city lots? Never mind the figures. There is enough of all these within easy reach untouched by the hand of man, enough to provide employment for ten times the present population. We are so rich in unused natural resources that it staggers the imagination to conceive of them.

Here lie the resources for the hand of Labor. They are held out of use. To bring them together—these idle lands and idle hands—is to solve permanently the problem of unemployment—the “normal,” the “cyclical” and the “seasonal”—whatever those mean. It can be accomplished by the taxing power—by the Single Tax, in which, Mr. Gompers, you have declared your belief.

Now a word of caution. The forces of the American Federation of Labor are held together by the power of a single personality—yourself. The socialistic, communist forces are held in abeyance by your superb generalship; your patriotic stand in the war, has further increased your power. Against the forces of which I have spoken you have been the one conservative, restraining influence.

But your death, or defeat at the hands of the organization, will mean the lowering of the dykes and the coming inundation. The conservative props that support the Federation will be thrown to the control of the radical forces in the ranks of labor—some of whom will stop at nothing. Your death or deposition will be the signal of revolt against all conservatism in the Federation—the rational and irrational alike.

Then you are getting old. Only a few more years remain to you, in the very nature of things. Why not die raising the standard of human rights and justice in opposition to that mad radicalism which is certain to follow the first visible signs of your declining power?

Your position in the labor movement is unique. Powerfully, Sovereign, Mitchell, wielded no such power as yours. It is doubtful if the word of any man anywhere is quite so potent. Why not say the word that will make for the peaceful revolution, for Labor's emancipation (and that of capital as well) from the crushing imposts of monopoly, from the system that shuts out both Labor and Capital from the natural resources of this continent?

You will make enemies—very powerful ones. But you will make a friend of Truth, who is more powerful than legions of foes, than all the snarling, vicious journalists who will then bark at your heels. And you will have broken the silence maintained since 1913, when you said, “I am a Single Taxer,” and you will have proclaimed your loyalty to the memory of that friendship with Henry George which you announced with a sentiment of pride.

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

“A TAX on rents falls wholly on the landlord. There are no means by which he can shift the burden upon any one else.”—JOHN STUART MILL, “Principles of Political Economy,” Book V, Chap. III, Sec. 2.

## A Passage From a Forgotten Author

SUCH is the outline of the British aristocracy, and if we come to examine the anomalous influence over an active and practical kingdom, we shall find these resolved into two—their social monopoly and their monopoly of land. As a country, particularly a small country like England, grows richer and more densely peopled, the high circles of society become less accessible.

Riches seek recognition; cramped people want land. And going still one degree further in our inquiry, the land monopoly is the parent of social monopoly. A beggared and landless aristocracy has no chance for perpetuation, as the history of the Venetian and French nobility proves. The British nobles, seizing all the land, first from the Saxons, then from the Catholic Church, adopted the laws of primogeniture and entail by which their great estates were transmitted unbroken. Perhaps this is not the least of the causes which have driven millions of British subjects to America and Polynesia—a longing to own land monopolized by the few at home. The land is the best riches. It is most grudgingly held in England. The millions pay rent, the hundreds receive it. The better the skill and the enterprise of the millions, the dearer grows the rent of land under their feet. The aristocracy thus endowed is not the shadow of an ancient lineage merely. It is a powerful circle which, despite the democratic tendencies of the age, keeps its ranks unbroken and commands homage. Yet, despite its social graces, and the appeal it makes to our love of pomp and luxury, its virtues touch our imagination alone; for by the light of this century it is baneful and unjust as the worst relic of barbarism which has perished. The first step to take in its overthrow is to do justice. Remove the burdens of extravagant government from the poor and the landless, and lay them upon the ground. Thus taxed, acre by acre, the vast estates and parks will become expensive luxuries, and must, though reluctantly, be broken up. With land available, the commons will feel a new independence and industry and patience will rear a rival court; wealth, virtue and intellect will compose a new aristocracy. GEORGE ALFRED TOWNSEND, 1872.\*

\*This extract is from “The New World—Compared with the Old,” by George Alfred Townsend, who wrote under the pen name of “Gath.” He was correspondent for the *Philadelphia Ledger*. His description of a masquerade ball of the New York's Four Hundred, in which he said that “Vanderbilt appeared in a perfect disguise—that of a gentleman,” is a sample of his vitriolic style. Vanderbilt had assumed the character of one of “The Two Gentlemen of Verona.”—EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

“WHAT Will the Irish Do With Ireland?” some one asks. We don't know, but probably a few will continue to charge the many for the privilege of staying in Ireland.—H. M. H.

LAND is the only thing whose use is stimulated by taxing it.—H. M. H., in *Cleveland Citizen*.