

tions of the members of society. Instead of taxing the value of the land on the blocks formed by the streets and roads in the cities and countries, to pay for the street and road services that occasion it, the landed interests have hitherto controlled the law making power—of republics as well as monarchies—so as to put the burden of government principally on buildings and other forms of personal property, to the great profit of the land speculators, and the greater loss of the landless members of society who are forced by this system of taxation to pay exorbitant prices for land and then to bear heavy annual taxes on the values of their improvements and products, which values are absolutely unrelated to any services of government whatsoever. This breeds a line of aristocratic landlords on the one hand and landless laborers on the other; hence the necessity of public charity and public education.

The importance of a clear reading of the rule, *that all public services are properly road or street services, and conversely, that all road or street services are properly governmental services*, is in the fact that it supplies a visible line, known as the building line, between public and private functions, and also points to the value of land as the direct and only product of government services maintained by taxation.

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#### THINGS THAT MAKE FOR PROGRESS.

Perhaps the most distinctive work done by the disciples of Henry George, during the last twenty years, has been that of showing the economic difference between wealth in land and wealth in labor products. So thoroughly has this been done that there is no man to-day of any political influence who is ignorant of this distinction. This truth is so self-evident, that once stated, it easily makes its way to every unprejudiced

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mind, and there tends to color or modify every related thought, such as ideas regarding wages and rent. Does not this tend to prove that the Single Tax, as a land question, is pretty thoroughly understood and appreciated? Would it not be well for Single Taxers to recognize the fact that this first and most important step has been taken, and no longer waste effort endeavoring to prove what is already clear to intelligent people?

The next step in the evolution of the Single Tax would seem to be to spread abroad the logical inference from this sound principle, viz: that the value which attaches to land is, in essence, quite different from that value which attaches to labor products. That one is a value of privilege, because it expresses the degree of advantage which each site gives to labor and capital, combined with its general demand for such site. In brief, that land is a labor saving value; while labor saving product value expresses the amount of labor it has taken to produce each product, combined with the general demand for such product.

Nearly every one understands this distinction, in a general way; but how many fail to realize the importance of its consequences; while with others these consequences stand out so boldly that they shrink from their espousal, because they seem too revolutionary.

Mr. Carnegie has lately been reported as declaring that if society is the cause of the increase in the value of land, then such increasing value belongs to the community, and should be used for the support of its social needs. When a steel protected lover of democracy begins to talk Single Tax, however unconsciously, it is time for those who are disheartened at the progress of our cause to be comforted.

The time has now come in the progress of our reform to emphasize the fact that the land question is a question of taxation. Not to hide our principles, but to hasten their establishment. How often do we quote Cobden's threat against the landlords of England. Yet it is quite clear that he was comparing the burden of the bread tax to the light tax upon land, which had not been revalued for assessment since 1692. Well he knew that could the middle and industrious classes be made to realize how

heavily they were being taxed in consequence of their low valuation of land, and how it had, almost entirely, relieved the land owners from any share in the support of government, that there would be aroused in England such a determined love for justice that the Corn Laws, which the landlords so strenuously opposed, would seem a veritable peace offering between them.

But even Cobden was not aware of the monopolistic nature of land values when privately owned, with all their far reaching and oppressive effects upon both labor and capital. It took a Henry George to discover these, and set them forth with full clearness. When these truths are better understood, they will work such political, commercial and social transformations throughout the world that they will bring

—“in the nobler modes of life

With sweeter manners, purer laws.”

As an illustration of the great changes in thought which the doctrines of Henry George and the constant pressure of monopoly upon industry, are producing study the new constitution of the State of Oklahoma, a constitution that seeks first of all to safeguard the homes; which places the interest of man above the interest of the dollar; which hedges corporations about with many restrictive laws, such as fixing the rate on all railroads for freight and passengers. It establishes initiative and referendum in state, county and municipal government and makes it impossible for corporations to obtain franchises unless sanctioned by the votes of the people.

But the most interesting feature of this attempt to secure freedom from privilege is the law that no alien can own land in the State, and no corporations can engage in land speculation, since they can own only land sufficient for conducting their legitimate business. Does not this prove clearly that the framers of this constitution realized the importance of the land question, and also that there was wrapped up in it the essence of monopoly? What they failed to see was, that, the land question, in modern times, has become a land value question, since no one now cares to own land that has no value, or that will possess no future value. Had these men realized the importance of this distinction, they would have sought to restrict private ownership in land values—in the social product—rather than

attempt to restrict aliens and corporations from possessing legal titles to land.

How easily is understood the sure remedy against corporate greed, when this distinction is once understood! What matters who has a legal title to land, or how many acres he may possess, so long as, by means of the Single Tax, he is prevented from monopolizing land values?

“Proclaim it sound, in all our force”—this truth so potent with blessings for all mankind, that land values and labor values are distinctive in cause and in effect. What simple solution for the many vexed questions now filling the daily press,—railroads rebates, mergers, trusts, watered stock, increase in the cost of living, unearned wealth. All of these, separately or combined, are now being flung in the eyes of the people by candidates for high office, to prevent the people from beholding fundamental principles. These men, while proclaiming a desire to curb monopoly, are preventing the exposure of its savage teeth and claws.

Henry George used to say, “When monopolists begin to argue in defense of privilege, then our cause is won; from henceforth it is only a matter of keeping on.”

ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL.

#### A BRITISH COMRADE TOLD HE OUGHT TO BE SHOT.

The brief notice I sent you of the coming of the cuckoo has brought me an unexpected mass of correspondence, some of a most interesting and pathetic character.

One of the first, however I should judge was from a city man, who sent a bundle of pamphlets upon the taxation of land values, and with this curt unsigned note:

“Is there nothing in your locality to write about but cuckoo? Read and think.”

Sir, I have read and thought, until my hair is gray.

If I knew where they came from I would send the horrid things back again. It may perhaps be of some interest to this gentleman to know that twenty years ago I publicly advocated the views now held by the League for the Taxation of Land Values, and was told one day by a man with a gun in his hand I ought to be shot.—J. WATSON, in London (Eng) *Daily News*.