

root of the problem necessarily arrive. It is so self-evident that it would be waste of time and space to labor it any further. The only question, as Mr. Walker very rightly tells us, is how to translate this principle into practical terms.

THE ONLY SCIENTIFIC WAY.

The difficulty is seemingly so great that it was long regarded as insuperable, but it is insuperable no longer. It is now generally recognized that, while the land itself cannot be cut up and divided so that every child coming into the world shall have an equal share, the site value attaching to land can be so divided, and in N. S. W. and in Queensland at any rate a beginning has been made in the municipal sphere. That is to say, all landowners in Local Government areas in those two States have to hand over to the municipal authorities a certain proportional share of the land value, from which source alone all municipal expenditures are met. The reform has been in operation for a sufficient number of years to enable us to judge, and public opinion is practically unanimous as to the justice and manifold advantages of the method as compared with the penalising of industry and enterprise under the old system.

Extend this reform from the municipal to State and Federal spheres, abolishing all the exemptions and graduations by which the present method of levying the Federal land tax is marred, do away at the same time with the Customs House and income taxation which harasses industry and enterprises and makes living so dear, and you would go far to solve the social problem and to make Christian citizenship a fact of vital significance instead of an unmeaning phrase.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

PERCY R. MEGGY.

From a Popular Novelist

“IN the early days he had homesteaded and sought enough land to make him rich. Now he had only to rent it out to good farmers who liked to work—he didn’t and of this he made no secret.”

“He knew that his father was sometimes called a ‘land-hog’ by the country people, and he himself had begun to feel that it was not right that they should own so much land—to farm, or to rent, or to leave idle as they chose. It was strange that in all the centuries the world had been going, the question of property had not been better adjusted. The people who had it were slaves to it and the people who did not have it were slaves to them.”

—ONE OF OURS, BY WILLA CATHER.

BOOK reviewer roasts Carolyn Wells’ latest detective story because she capitalizes the words “real estate.” But that’s the correct thing in the best circles.

W. J. Wallace Appeals to Friends of the Cause

WHEN the Commonwealth Land Party adopted their platform they certainly intended to make a candid presentation of their beliefs. Some will say that they were more candid than wise in thus taking the public fully into their confidence and running the risk of losing the votes of those who do not desire more than a partial application of our principles.

But the appeal of the party is more especially intended for the great mass of the people, who now have only a vague idea of its purpose, as, until the present campaign, its principles have been disguised under the name “Single Tax.”

This unintentional concealment has not attracted any recruits from the financial world. They realize the peril to their interests involved in our ideas and are, now and forever, unalterably opposed to them.

It is with regret we see that legitimate business enterprises, usefully engaged in the production and distribution of labor products, do not appear to recognize that they should have a position in public respect much superior to interests that merely appropriate to themselves the land that God created and the value of land that is made by the community.

We must consider, however, that useful business, not supported by a monopoly of nature, is essentially competitive and its owners are more dependent on the good will of their customers and others than the owners of city lots, mines, ranches, oil deposits or water power sites. Although useful they are subservient; and a subservient class finds it prudent to conform to the opinions of those who have the power to injure them.

Many useful businesses are partially supported by the ownership of land, and this gives their owners quite an advantage in the present struggle for success. How natural to approve of it without further thought! Yet it intensifies the struggle of all those who are not supported by the advantage and strongly tends to prevent their success.

Social rank, public position, easy tolerance of things as they are, all retard an acceptance of our beliefs.

It is difficult to awake a proper appreciation of their own standing among those who are supporting human society by their enterprise and work. They defer to the loafers and drones, and, seeing their easy life, their eminence and power, merely desire to become one of them.

From the top down financial interests are opposed to us. Big business, which craves any monopoly that will increase its control, is opposed to us. Small business, so dependent on patronage and good will, and with its mind possessed with the thought of obtaining security through privilege, is not, as yet, our friend.

No doubt there are in all of them some independent souls, who are exceptional men and who recognize truth and publicly endorse it. Wherever they are they are worthy of honor.

To whom then does political expediency direct us to turn? Plainly, to the common people. To the great mass of mankind who are without social distinction or financial power. To those who are dependent on their work for a living and who give work for their living.

We must come to them with a plain and clear statement of our principles, show them how unjust it is that men should own the earth to the exclusion of their fellow men. How this private ownership of land enslaves men and is but a continuation, under a different form, of the slavery of the past; how the common ownership of ground rent will give us all an equal interest in the profit of the earth and make every man a freeman; how it will raise wages and encourage small businesses; how it will distribute population away from congested centres and make business follow the population instead of making population follow business; how it will establish our country in justice and remove the jealousy and hatred of people against their neighbors; and how it will bring peace on earth.

We have a wonderful story to tell which is needed now by a distracted world.

Great reforms come from below and are not handed down from above. Too often those who have climbed to influence and power are the last persons from whom any recognition of our principle can be expected. Our movement does not depend on the arrival of a great leader. The leader will arrive when the people are ready to support him. Until then he could not be successfully great. Do not wait for a great leader. Prepare the way for him by your faithfulness and loyalty now.

All Commonwealth Landers should be active politically in the Commonwealth Land Party. The only argument against it is that excuse of laziness, "what's the use."

The party is demonstrating yearly that it is very useful.

We who are familiarizing the people with the idea of voting for the common ownership of land rent, are bringing it more forcibly to their attention this year by the change of name. By voting for the candidates of this party they are, to the best of their ability, demanding their rights instead of frittering away their votes to gratify their prejudices or to indulge their spite.

There may be excuse for others, who do not know how economic problems can be solved, to become excited over the merits of rival Republicans or Democrats, or of the "What is it," party that flourishes in the Northwest, but for those who have a true understanding of the land question other issues seem so unimportant that they become ridiculous.

We do not yet know with what new toy the politicians will amuse us this fall but one suitable to create a condition of intense public excitement will undoubtedly appear.

Attempts to decide our political attachment by our ability to foretell the future should be restricted to mediums and fortune tellers and their credulous dupes. The rest of us will have to depend for political guidance on our conception of what is right.

Who knows, if we stand firm, that the people will not rally round the standard when the hour of their decision comes?

Come with us, all those of you who believe in these principles, and wish to help the people to understand and accept them.

—WILLIAM J. WALLACE
Presidential Candidate
Commonwealth Land Party.

Freedom the Golden Rule

HUMANITY is a social organism having certain well defined functions which must be performed, as a whole, so that each social or individual unit can get all he produces as well as participate in those values that result from his presence and efforts combined with the presence and efforts of thousands and millions of other people who live on the earth.

All persons are interested, primarily, in being well fed, well clothed and well housed, hence, they are naturally interested in the production and distribution of the products of their labor. First, to freely produce they must have free access to land; second, their products must have absolute free entry to any market of the world, so that free markets will be the complement of free land.

Land values are capitalized ground rents. By taxing land values you acquire a portion of the ground rent for public revenue. By gradually increasing the tax on land values you would eventually absorb all of the ground rent. By taxing land values; i. e. capitalized ground rents, heavily, you would destroy the profit of speculative land monopoly, which would tend to force land into actual use and occupation or compel its abandonment by the speculator.

By so doing you would loosen the grip of land monopoly, putting the industrial toiler where he would have free access to the earth.

By so doing you would place him where his chances for self-employment were unlimited, thus making the worker competent to be a free agent in contract.

To be a free contracting agent, the industrial worker must possess abundant chances for self-employment so he can meet the employer contracting agent on equal terms. The employer being forced to meet employee on equal terms, would be compelled to bid against every other buyer of labor, which would result in giving the highest wage to the toiler.

As self-employment is the prime factor in industrial freedom and economic independence, then the opportunity to be his own employer must be so abundant that the