

SYNOPSIS

of
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In my talk I shall deal with the immediate application in »Georgeist Enclaves« of the Single Tax principle, by voluntary action of non-political groups; securing possession of land by purchase, in the usual way and thereafter collecting the rental value and applying it to payment of all direct taxes upon the land and the users thereof.

This is not at all proposed as a solution of the problem of getting the land back to the people, but an example of »propaganda by demonstration«, based on faith that the Single Tax idea was so sound that its application on however small a scale, would show results which would recommend it to the as yet unconverted; in other words, that »good theories would work« having reference to the oft heard statement: »the theory looks good, but will it work?« If good, of course it will work.

The Single Tax Theory being good, it has »worked« at Fairhope and other Single Tax Enclaves, as I shall come prepared to show — by word and picture.

It will be shown how, at Fairhope, a few poor men, with faith in their ideal and willingness to personally put from them hope of profit from the system they condemned, founded with their small contributions, later added to by others with more, a community which has grown out of the wilderness to be noted not only locally but abroad, for its material prosperity, the high average of intelligence and the unusual degree of happiness and con-

tentment among its people; the spirit of freedom and tolerance; the generous support of beneficent public institutions; and other results which commend its fundamental principle.

It will be shown how abundantly they have demonstrated in practice, many of the claims made for the Single Tax by its advocates.

That *ownership* of land is not necessary to encourage improvement of it, but that *security of possession* is sufficient.

That the rental value of land is sufficient to more than meet present direct taxation.

That taking the rental value will stop speculation in land, prevent its withholding from use and lead to its being put to best use.

That equality of opportunity and equal participation in the growth of community values, make for a contented and happy people and a democratic spirit.

That progress will be steady and healthful, free from »booms« and alternate depressions.

That absence of land monopoly makes easier the acquiring of homes and self-employment on the land.

It will be shown how Singletaxing Enclaves not only hold together believers in the Single Tax for consistent efforts over many years to further it — a great achievement in itself — but that they make non-believers and even hostiles help to demonstrate its virtues.

And further: that contributions to this form of propaganda are not only permanent investments for the purpose, but that they constantly grow in effectiveness as the land thereby freed for administration on the Single Tax principle, increases with increasing population.

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