

LAND & LIBERTY

[Incorporating LAND VALUES]

FREE LAND

FREE TRADE

FREE PEOPLE

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MANIFESTO

Adopted unanimously at the International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values which met at Oxford, England, 13th to 20th August, 1923.

To Rulers in All Lands—GREETING.

We, disciples of Henry George from fourteen nations, in International Conference at Oxford, England, at the call of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, send this message and challenge to all rulers responsible for the government of nations.

The war to end war has ended in a peace that has ended peace. There must be a new statecraft whose purpose is the liberty of the people and whose method is Justice, and such we here offer, challenging a denial of its claims, whether from the standpoint of politics, business, economics or righteousness.

We hold this truth to be self-evident, that the system of land tenure in every country is the greatest factor in the life of its people.

Plainly the unjust inequalities of wealth, the ever-recurring business and industrial depressions and the persistence of poverty with the vice, crime and misery it compels are results of private monopoly of land, the private confiscation of land rent, and the denial of the right of the common people to the land of their country.

Plainly the closer this land monopoly the lower the wages of all labour and the returns from business, industry and thrift, and the poorer the economic, social and spiritual condition of the people.

Plainly this is a world-wide, not a local or national issue. What matter to German or Frenchman, be he labourer or business man, whether the monopolists who consume at his expense the enormous economic rent of the Ruhr mines live in France or in Germany?

Plainly these evils, which make unceasing civil strife within the nations and result in wars between nations for more land or more monopoly of land values, can be ended only by abolishing private monopoly of land and the unjust taxation now levied because the people have been robbed of their communal rights in their Fatherland.

To effect this we urge that the equal rights of all to the land be asserted by collecting as public revenue the economic rent of land by the direct Taxation of Land Values, and abolishing all other taxes, replacing the commerce-destroying and war-breeding international Tariffs by that absolute Freedom of Trade which is the natural right of all men.

We warn you that this must be done and done quickly to end ever-growing discontent and to prevent bloody revolution, the breakdown of civilization and the overthrow of rulers too ignorant or too cowardly to act before it is too late; for the hearts of the people of all nations are full of bitterness because of their sufferings, of their over-burden of taxation and of the shutting out of themselves and their children from the land which is their birthright.

[The Conference Declaration of Principle and Policy, as published in our issue of last month, was adopted on the 16th August. The above Manifesto was adopted as a supplementary pronouncement on the 17th August.]