

in "Progress and Poverty," this was not due to the vast wealth produced by the placer mines. Rich as these were California produces greater wealth today, though the gold output has fallen off and it is no longer possible for individual miners to obtain gold by their unaided labor. The increase in wages in those comparatively far-off days is to be found in the gold fields regulations contrived by the miners themselves, and later enacted as legislation, and copied in Australia and in this country. Those regulations limited the area of "claims" in proportion to their richness and provided that, failing development, any "claim" would be pegged off—"jumped" was the word—by another, and so it was impossible for a few rich men to blockade the gold-bearing land. As the gold production decreased wages fell, and the unemployed evil appeared. Demagogues of the Kearney type blamed Chinese immigration, but George, though he disapproved of the influx of Chinese, pointed out that the real cause was land monopoly, in consequence whereof the advent of the trans-continental railway had enriched the land monopolists, but had done nothing for the landless, save, by making land dearer, to make it harder for them to secure employment. Such is the position in California today, but assuredly when the cause shall have triumphed, with which the name of Henry George is indelibly associated, the work of such men as Luke North and Jackson H. Ralston will be appraised as having hastened the victory.

It was a saying of Gladstone, that "the main thing is to be right," and his own life affords a striking illustration of the fact. In 1886 he introduced his Bill conceding Home Rule to Ireland, and the constituencies were convulsed as they had never been since the days of the Reform Bill of 1832. The House of Commons was packed for the fateful division on the second reading of the measure, and when the tellers announced its failure by a majority of thirty votes, members crowded round Chamberlain to congratulate the man who was preeminently responsible for the result, while Gladstone surveyed the scene pale, calm, and confident that his time would come. Mark what followed: Thirty-five years later Chamberlain's son stood before an excited House of Commons pleading for the adoption of a Home Rule measure, going far beyond that which his father had wrecked! This time the measure passed, and was eagerly passed, despite protests that it was a concession to lawlessness. Thus Gladstone was vindicated years after he had passed hence. So will it be with our cause—the greatest on this side of the grave—but victory would never come if some men were not prepared to face failure.

So far I have not seen the result of the official count in California, but I understand that though we failed by five to one, 360,000 votes were cast for the change in taxation. Surely that is no mean result in face of the adverse circumstances under which the contest was waged. Further, it was no mean achievement to have secured the cooperation of organized labor. Having committed itself to the principle of land value taxation, it is reasonable to suppose that organized labor will give increased attention to the cause underlying low wages and unemployment. It is certain also that the agitation must have had educational advantages. The use of Henry George's name and the denunciation of his principles by the enemy can not be without its advantages in this connection. Accordingly I hope that our friends in California will refuse to accept defeat and that they will keep the agitation going, with a view to further effort in due time. Wellington, New Zealand.

P. J. O'REGAN.

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

I was very sorry to read recently of the passing of Joseph Dana Miller who was a close friend of my late father, the Hon. Sir George Fowlds. We had been subscribers to the magazine for over twenty-five years and always enjoyed the news of the movement published therein as well as the splendid writings of Mr. Miller. On two occasions I called on him when passing through America. First in 1898 when I was taken for a trip around the world by my father when I was a boy of twelve and again in 1911. The other evening

a few of us, at a gathering with the Hon. Justice O'Regan, were speaking in high terms of the splendid service and fine writing of Mr. Miller.

With best wishes to you who are going to carry on LAND AND FREEDOM.

Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand.

GEORGE A. FOWLDS.

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

Permit me to express my appreciation of the high standard you have maintained in LAND AND FREEDOM set by its late publisher, Joseph Dana Miller. He was a very able exponent of a world needed fundamental economic reform and those who knew him will ever cherish his memory.

Chicago, Ill.

GEO. C. OLCOTT.

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

Sometimes I develop a fit of the blues when observing our White House, Congress and "Ham and Eggs" enraptured by Marx mythology. Then I turn to my "bible" ("Progress and Poverty") and read the Law of Human Progress again; always to dwell on this paragraph: "Only in broken gleams and partial light has the sun of liberty yet beamed among men, but all progress hath she called forth."

Just now the outlook is gloomy enough, but when I read Judge Samuel Seabury's address before the 100th anniversary meeting, it made me feel Henry George's soul goes marching on, and there will some day be a glorious dawn. So here is to the good health of LAND AND FREEDOM, and may it live long and prosper.

Seattle, Wash.

OLIVER T. ERICKSON.

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

"No taxation at all" on railroads or other transportation facility now or ever, is my idea. And step by step I would usher in "no taxation at all" for each and every type of industry, trade and business. Sure, "the Single Tax is in the future" but it can be achieved little by little, one kind of enterprise at a time, shift taxes to where they won't hurt. The taxes on the carriers hurt all of us *most*, farmers especially because they pay twice, to and from farms. And "here and now we have a public service that must continue to exist and is *abnormally* taxed." If you are in doubt about where taxes *hurt most* ask any dealer in consumer goods, or services, which item of overhead costs him *most*. Answer?—*Freight*.

Transportation facilities are now taxed by many taxing bodies other than the federal government. I would, therefore, require the Congress to repeal *all* federal levies thereon, and *underwrite all* other taxes now imposed on the carriers, and finance that undertaking by an adequate tax on *economic rent*.

The ground *used* under railroads, or any other *public service*, is *used* by the public *the same* as all public highways. Hence, all ground *in use* by the carriers should be purchased by the federal government and paid for by assuming their funded debts, equivalent to the original cost of the ground. All public service corporations should be required to liquidate *all* their ground holdings to the State. They ought *not* be allowed to speculate in *land values*.

There are three outstanding and glaringly obvious sore spots in our politico-economic set up that should receive the immediate and undivided attention of every member of Congress: The railroads, agriculture and the coal industry.

The railroads come first because everybody pays freight and farmers are a very important part of everybody. They pay both ways, in and out. Agriculture is a close second to the railroad problem and intimately concerned with it as every farmer must pay a lot of freight charges to and from his farm. The high cost of farm machinery, and, low price for wheat and other produce are chiefly due to high freight rates. The coal problem is also very important to everybody, including the farmers and railroads, for the simple

eason that the price of coal to the consumer means using it or getting along without coal.

All three problems were wished on us by legislators, federal and state, and aggravated by subsequent legislation. But, as they now obtain, Congress is the only legislative body that is in any commanding position to remove the cause, and effect a cure of these three sore spots.

The *proper* adjustment of these three problems need not impose involuntary cooperation on anyone, especially farmers. It would remove most of the brakes that now impede industry and business; abolish involuntary unemployment and make it possible for the "least fortunate" third of our people to buy adequate food and shelter and clothing.

I will continue to urge upon the U. S. Congress, and industrialists, the imperative necessity for the inauguration of *two* potent remedies for our *under-distribution disease*, to wit: Less, *much less* government service and its bureaucratic snoopers, and, *reclamation* of the public's *earnings—rent*.

The pursuit of happiness, like health, is a process of *production, distribution and consumption*. And anything that *interferes* with that process must be, and is, *anti-social* and *un-constitutional*.

Aberdeen, South Dakota.

CHARLES J. LAVERY, M. D.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF GEORGIAN AFFAIRS

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

There has been founded in Australia, an institute for the international exchange of information regarding the progress of the practical application of the principles of the famous American economist, Henry George. The founder of the institute is Mr. L. Thomson, who is internationally known as an author and a collaborator with "Literatura Mondo" of Budapest, an esperantist of twenty-six years standing, and a follower of Henry George since childhood. Believers in the principles of Henry George in every country and in every town or city, are requested to form international groups among themselves, possibly with the help of an expert esperantist, with the special aim of cooperating with the Australian organization in the following manner:

(1) Report every important advance made in your country or province or city or town concerning Single Tax, or the tax on land values, and the abolishment of taxes of other varieties.

(2) Report the name of every candidate for public office who if himself a Single Taxer, or who supports Single Tax in relation to the city council or the provincial or federal parliament; also report the result of such candidature—gain or loss, and the number of votes for and against. Report how much space given by the newspapers to reporting the candidate, or in any other way indicate the attitude of the press in regard to the Single Tax proposition. Indicate the importance of the newspapers referred to, whether daily or weekly, etc., and, if known, the circulation.

(3) Report each time an important statesman or government minister acknowledges the justice of the principle of the land values tax, or in any way shows himself favorable to it. Transmit only reliable statements and add accurate details, not hearsay. But act, do something, refuse to be outdated.

(4) Report concerning every election carried on under the proportional representation system.

(5) Report outstanding anomalies which result from the disproportionate election of parties, with details.

Membership in the institute is as follows:

Simple membership for one year, one international reply coupon (costing 12 cents at the post office), for which you will receive at least one reply. You may correspond as often as you wish, and will certainly receive a reply from the institute if you enclose a reply coupon.

Full membership, 4 shillings, or one dollar a year. Full members

receive each number of "The Letter"—which is a bulletin of information in esperanto which the central institute will compile from all parts of the world. The letter will be issued as often as possible during the year, and will contain the information received from various countries. The letter will be used by esperanto groups not only as reading matter, but as a source of information to be translated into the national language and printed in the local Single Tax magazine, or to be presented by word of mouth at Single Tax meetings, for the benefit of those who do not understand esperanto.

It is to be hoped that there will also be reported the names of local Single Taxers, with information as to their activities for Georgian affairs, in social circles, debates, etc. It is necessary that Single Taxers should feel themselves members of a large family circle, for their movement is essentially international. It is not necessary (however desirable it may be) that every Single Taxer should immediately become an esperantist; if only a dozen of the new members, with a few of the more mature youthful ones, become such, they will be able to use the international languages for the benefit of the Single Tax movement. All reformers must feel themselves encouraged to receive reports from other countries concerning the advances of Georgian principles, which must progress if we are to wipe out the crime of poverty.

So, "get busy." Any Single Taxer esperantist is eligible to join the institute, whose address is:

The Secretary, Internacia Instituto de Georgaj Aferoj,

Henry George Club, George's Lane, Melbourne, C 1, Australia.

REVENUE FROM LAND

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

While a tax on land values (Single Tax) must be paid from the proceeds of labor—for it is only in the products of labor that taxes can be paid—yet it does not take from labor or capital. It only takes that part of the product which they cannot retain and which, if not taken in taxes, will go to the land owners, not for anything they do, but because they are the possessors of superior wealth-producing land which cannot be utilized by labor or capital without the payment of land rent. This rent the Single Tax would collect. The Single Tax therefore puts no burden whatever on the production of wealth.

Philadelphia, Pa.

HAROLD SUDELL.

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

As a Single Taxer since 1904, and an admirer of Henry George from every standpoint, I would like to say a word about Albert Jay Nock's "Henry George." The reviews of that book all fail to reach the vital point, which is, that Nock does not understand "Americanism." He is as ignorant of the meaning of that term as taught by our fathers, Jefferson, Washington, etc., as a school kid. Yes, ignorant is the word—only that and nothing more, and there are multi-millions like him in that respect—sorry to say. You will remember that a few years back, Nock had an article in *Scribners* under the title, "Henry George, Unorthodox American." Now the title of that article shows Nock to be ignorant.

An orthodox American is one who believes in Americanism as per the Declaration of Independence, the Declaration of Human Rights, these—"We hold these truths to be self-evident, etc." Now any person who reads Henry George cannot but see that this Declaration of Human Rights, runs through his books like the warp in a web of cloth! So he must be an orthodox American—not unorthodox at all—as Nock stated in the heading of the article in *Scribners*. That is, Nock has yet to learn the meaning of true Americanism as per the Declaration. And being ignorant on that very point, he could not truly represent Henry George in any important particular. All the other reviewers of Nock's book have ignored this all important point.