

The World Chaos—A Way Out

THE people of San Diego should be congratulated in regard to their daily instruction in respect to "land values."

I doubt if the people of any other city are better versed in the cause, development and importance of land values, for, thanks to the full page advertising, it is daily hammered into our minds, that increased population means increased land values; that increased civic enterprise means increased land values; that ninety per cent. of all great fortunes are based in land values.

Our citizens are familiar with the fact that land values are simply ground rents, capitalized: what the Political Economists call the unearned increment, because entirely unearned by the site or landowner. As a well-known illustration, a small corner lot down town was leased about forty years ago, for \$35 per month. At the present time the ground rental runs to \$2,000 per month, with no effort on the part of the owner.

Now, while our citizens are kept well informed, that ground rent is a social product, due to population and civic enterprise; they are not kept so well informed in regard to the fact that our tax system, like that of many other countries, allows about four-fifths of this social revenue to flow into the pockets of private landowners, thus inducing land speculation, necessitating taxation of industry and creating, in the last analysis, that whole train of evils we term in short, the world chaos.

Our tax system nullifies the laws of distribution. Community created value is given to the fortunate few, while the many are robbed to make up the loss. Present tax laws become in effect, a yearly method of transferring a good portion of the earnings of land-users to the pockets of landowners. * * * * *

The transfer of taxes from industry to land values can be accomplished without the slightest friction, as in Sydney, N. S. W., a city of a million inhabitants.

With this system comes the Golden Rule into our economic life; whatsoever the government does to its citizens in creating land values, just so do the citizens render the government an exact money equivalent. The old slogan, "Equal opportunity for all, special privilege to none," becomes a vital living truth instead of a dead aphorism. Justice and equity becomes the cornerstone of our national well-being; and the sneaking, prying governmental espionage into our private affairs, that induces perjury and false swearing will be abolished. Thus shall our nation *again* be entitled to respect, in the maintenance of those ideals of individual liberty and freedom of production, that have been the inspiration of all progressive leaders of the past; thus, shall three of the dreaded Horsemen, Famine, Pestilence and War, be banished from the earth.

—S. S. TABER in San Diego (Calif.), *Labor Leader*.

New Hampshire

REPRESENTATIVE George H. Duncan, of East Jaffrey, H. N., has been elected clerk of the special legislative commission, of which he is a member, to recommend a revision of the tax laws of the State.

The two principal papers of the state used this as a headline: "Governor says Expenses cannot be cut without foregoing undertakings." The state must find funds in "the least burdensome manner."

The Governor's stress not being the usual Coolidge piffle of economy makes these declarations more significant. There will be the usual deluge of proposals for sales taxes, occupation taxes, etc., et al., though a bill before the recent legislature providing for the occupation tax was not even advocated before the committee. On the other hand a bill to exempt manufacturers stock in trade had strong support from the Manufacturers' Association, while the Farmers organizations were insistent that if such concessions were made to manufacturers the farmers should have similar concessions on their live stock, and merchants demanded like treatment on their stock in trade. So it proved too big a proposition, and hence the Recess Commission. There are strong hopes of constructive results.

San Diego Single Taxers Celebrate the Fourth

A PICNIC of Single Taxers of San Diego and vicinity was held on July 4 at Dana Point, a beautiful location on the Pacific Coast, two miles north of Capistrano Beach.

Through the courtesy of Mr. S. H. Woodruff the parking space, playgrounds, tables and chairs were supplied without charge.

The diners listened to Prof. F. W. Roman who spoke on "The Foundations of Freedom." Over 300 attended from Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. We congratulate Mr. Colburn, the Executive Secretary of the San Diego Single Tax Society.

AN absentee land-holder is one who holds land on which he neither lives nor works, (or ever intends to live or work)—and on which he will not permit any one else to live or work without payment of purchase price or rent.

Whether the holder lives in a foreign country or in the same town where the land is matters not, the suppressive effect on industry, trade, agriculture and homes is the same.

Absentee landholding is encouraged and made more widespread by land speculation, and notwithstanding it is sanctioned by law and custom it is the great injustice of civilized society.—ALFRED N. CHANDLER.