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# The Great Adventure

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Luke North, editor; Lona Ingham Robinson, Herman Kuehn, associate editors

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## The World Is Awake, Are You?

**H**UGE things are happening, huger things are mooted. These are wonderful days. The world is awake as never before—because the races and nations are closer knit. Primal passions are stirring—Only for death and destruction? Only for slavery, pain, degradation?

No, no! The time is as ripe for love as for hate, for life as for death. The call is for heroes. It is the time for the fruition of dreams!—the hour for men unafraid!

The ideal is a world without paupers, billionaires, prisons, or prostitutes.

A few captains think it cannot be attained quickly. Let them stand aside.

We who believe that the Golden Rule can be actually practised Now—right away—tomorrow almost—let us conspire, fearlessly, openly. Secret counsel avails nothing. "Slates" and "star chambers" never fed a starving child. And that is our business, to feed starving children—a million of them in these United States glutted with wealth and plenty—starving in body and soul! If we cannot feed them we are not men—we are lower, meaner, than jackals and coyotes.

That sounds extravagant—to respectability—but these are extravagant days. Twenty million men are murdering each other in Europe, and in America—a thousand women riot for bread in New York, and a thousand prostitutes clamor for "justice" in San Francisco.

In America, with a billion acres of idle, fertile land, bread and potatoes are dear, gasoline is twenty cents with most of the oil wells untouched, and congress is to vote \$400,000 to investigate the high cost of provisions!!!

Women and children starve in the streets!—and congress votes money, for food? No, for an investigation!!! Four hundred thousand dollars would feed a good many hungry mothers and babes—but congress is to spend it—for food?—No! for an investigation!!! Starving women of New York clamor at the Mayor's door. Does he offer them food? No—he offers them—an investigation!! Easily a million human beings are suffering for food and clothes, and Congress votes fifty million dollars—for life giving food? No, for death machinery!

The Mayor of course has no money for food—but he has money for an investigation! There is no fund available for feeding the hungry women and children of New York—but there is plenty money for jailing them, even for shooting them down, if need be!

And men who call themselves radicals, liberals, singletaxers, socialists, lovers of their own species, spend their time and their energies—in trying to feed the children? No, in trying to hinder those who would feed them, at any cost, immediately!

This is no local or sectional accusation. It is a world-wide circumstance. It is the naked truth, obvious to anyone who cares to look. Wherever in radicalism one tries to Practise his preaching there arise his own comrades who cry, "Not yet—not so fast—patience—we must educate another generation or so before action!"

For the Intelligent Minority of America it is that time of time when the nuptials

of Head and Heart should be consummated, and there should issue from the union—Intelligent Action.

In christendom my sister and your brother must beg or steal or whore for daily bread—millions, millions of them—human beings! Can we disown them? Are they no relation of ours? Well, they are humans; they are made like us, and of about the same material—and we let them beg, steal, whore, or starve—for food, shelter, and clothing—in a land whose natural opportunities to produce all that human beings need or desire are inexhaustible and almost untouched!—in cities whose warehouses are glutted with food and clothing—men, women, and children freeze and starve—Human creatures! If they were cats and dogs every woman's club would see the with rebellion till they were fed and housed, every legislative body in the land would be appropriating money—for investigations?—No, for milk and dog biscuit! Every newspaper would be collecting funds for kennels and cat hospitals! If they were canaries or poodles we'd either feed them quickly or smother them kindly. Our tender sensibilities couldn't stand their suffering.

A number of us believe that human beings could be fed as quickly as cats and dogs could be. A number of us have sensibilities, for human beings, and are determined to halt the degradation and starvation of them—Immediately!—at whatever cost!—even at the scorn and contumely of the smugly respectable!

How many of us are there—who are not to be cajoled or scared or confused from this man-size job of feeding hungry children Now? It is time to stand and be counted. How many of us are ready to do the unusual, the "impossible," the thing that has never been done before!—carry the Golden Rule to the base of life!—open the earth and its richness to all on equal terms Immediately?—reorganize society on a basis of Fair Play—and do it at once, for the people now living—How many?

We are going to find out pretty soon, for the real Armageddon—the world battle between Love and Hate—has begun. On this coast we have had the first real skirmish, in Oregon and in California, and have discovered to the christian world more than three hundred thousand men and women unafraid to Practise the Golden Rule, at the base of life, Immediately!

In Texas the issue of a Free Earth is raging hopefully.

In Pennsylvania crowds are rallying to a wonderfully awake band of social disturbers who preach a Free Earth Now and show how it can be accomplished.

Missouri will soon be ringing with the cry.

Other states will quickly fall in line. The Great Adventure—the greatest adventure in the history of the world—is on!

It must be led. The human mass does not act of its own accord. It is led, this way or that, by ignorance or intelligence, hate or love, by chicanery or heroism—to its own confusion debasement or unfoldment. How many of us are there to lead it to a Free Earth—Now?

Huge things are happening. The world is awake as never before. Huger things are coming—for Good as well as for ill. Armageddon is here. We are its heroes.

It is the time for the fruition of dreams—the fulfilment of prophesies.



**I**N THE GREAT ADVENTURE to open the Hearts of Men and inspire them to lay the Golden Rule at the base of life—

The campaign is on. Its immediate need is a Printing Fund. You can pledge something—no sum is too small or too large. You can secure pledges from others—and every one can help in the distribution of Henry George's "Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," and "The Crime of Poverty." Send for blanks—send a dime or a dollar or a hundred (your first payment).

The fault will be Ours (including You) if by this time next year there is a person left in California who will ask: "What is this Single Tax?" He is our first "foe." Him we must conquer—with Information! Golden Press, 232 Douglas Bldg., Los Angeles.

If your heart is in this thing, Help it.  
You can at least send a year's or a six months' subscription.  
Two subscriptions for the price of one.

**S**ONGS OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE and Other Verses, by Luke North. Just off the Press! In the Everyman easy-to-read antique type, with ample margins, well printed on good paper, characteristically bound; 160 pages; in stiff boards 50 cents; in cloth \$1.00. Every book you buy is a contribution to the California campaign fund.

We propose to abolish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it.—Henry George.

## For the General Election, November, 1918

To secure to every adult the power to own his own home and direct his own life and work; to abolish land monopoly, wage slavery, disemployment and pauperism, by applying the Golden Rule at the base of life—

*The People of the state of California do enact as follows:*

Article XIII of the Constitution is hereby amended by the following section:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon.

The intent of this amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**I**N the sense that no legislative action is needed to carry into effect the taxing demands of this People's Bill, it is what is called "self-enacting." No legislative body would have anything to do with it except to obey its clear, specific terms and cease raising revenue from any other source than the land values tax.

This land values tax is already in existence. It works smoothly and well wherever honestly administered. This bill will increase this tax and wipe out all other taxes. It will not add another cog to the government machinery, but will enormously simplify the whole taxation muddle; it will take the community created land values for public purposes, and make land speculation unprofitable.

Of course no law is "self-enacting." Only human beings can put a law into practise. And no law can be framed in the United States, unfortunately, that cannot by some legal hocus pocus, be brought before some court or other for "interpretation." Laws are commonly written so that no one can really understand them, or so that they can be understood in several ways. This is done purposely, to provide work for lawyers and judges or to hoodwink the people, or carelessly by men who are not practised in expressing exactly what they mean in written phrases.

This Single Tax bill is unmistakable. It means exactly what it says and no one who can read at all can fail to understand it—"One tax, on land values; no other tax!" Any court obtuse to that will have to be recalled or abolished.

People can haggle over the Golden Rule if they want to—and they can understand it if they care to. When this bill has applied it to the base of human supplies, we will all be free to practise it without fear of the poor house.

Not the least confusion could possible ensue from the passage of this, or any Single Tax bill, to any part of the government machinery of California. Single Tax imposes no new tax, merely lops off the oppressive ones. A number of clerks, assessors, and collectors would lose their jobs, that is positively all. Single Tax is a labor saving device. It disemploys quite a large clerical force—but it opens the land and its resources to them, and to all; opens innumerable chances for self employment; makes employers compete for workers, stops workers bidding against each other; provides an immediate revenue for social welfare measures, enables all the counties, cities, and the state itself to acquire all the public utilities and operate them without charge for the benefit of the whole people.

**A** WOMAN FREE AND OTHER POEMS, by Ruth Le Prade. These are also songs of The Great Adventure. Ruth is the new and wonderfully sweet singer of the Immediate Revolution—its Joan of Arc. The "Voices" and the "Flaming Sword" are in her lines. Foreword by Edwin Markham. The Great Adventure edition, 50 cts.

# The Great Adventure

TO RESTORE THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES TO THE PEOPLE—QUICKLY

To stop the confiscation of public values by private persons and corporations—  
To abolish privilege and speculation in the people's means of subsistence—  
To unseat plutocracy and found a new order of society based on the golden rule.

332 Douglas Bldg.

STATE HEADQUARTERS LOS ANGELES

Sunset Main 4286

## Loan Sharks and Land Sharks

There is a strong feeling in this state against the loan sharks. A bill fixing the legal rate of interest too low for them to operate under profitably would easily pass the legislature—provided the opposition were open and above board, so that the issue could be clearly drawn and the legislators be permitted to vote on this question:

Shall the loan sharks be allowed to continue their nefarious trade that impoverishes thousands every year and drives many of their victims to insanity, suicide, prostitution, or pauperism—or shall usury be abolished in California by the enactment of a legal rate of interest?

There is no question as to how the legislature would vote on such an issue. Public sentiment is overwhelmingly against usury, even so plutocratic a newspaper as the San Francisco Chronicle having exposed numerous instances where people who have borrowed say a hundred dollars and being unable to pay the principle promptly have subsequently paid in usury two or three times the amount borrowed and still find themselves indebted for the full loan. Many tragedies, wrecked homes, suicides caused by the rapacity of the loan sharks have been bared in the public press. The people are anxious to have them suppressed.

It has been known for some time that at this session of the legislature there would be offered a bill to put the loan sharks out of business, and they know it will be passed and made effective, if the issue is allowed to go to the legislature on its merits—Continued Usury or a Legal Rate of Interest?

To save their power to rob the people the loan sharks saw they must prevent the issue being squarely put to the legislature.

They organized the Loan Brokers' Association—"to protect the borrowing public"!

They went to the more conservative loan shark abolitionists and induced them to prepare a bill making it illegal to charge for a loan more than 3 per cent a month! And this bill is to be introduced in the legislature—not by an agent of the Loan Brokers' Association, but by an honest tho timid abolitionist who will argue that a reduction of usury to 36 per cent a year is a great step toward the ideal of a decent legal rate of interest—without "disturbing existing conditions"!

There is a strong feeling in this state against the land sharks. A Single tax bill making it unprofitable to hold land out of use could easily be enacted as an initiative measure—provided the opposition were open and above board, so that the issue could be clearly drawn and the people be permitted to vote on this question:

Shall the land sharks be allowed to continue their nefarious trade that impoverishes thousands every year and drives many of their victims to insanity, suicide, prostitution, or pauperism—or shall monopoly be abolished in California by the enactment of a Single Tax amendment?

There is no question as to how the people would vote on such an issue. Public sentiment is overwhelmingly against land monopoly, even so plutocratic a newspaper as the San Francisco Examiner having but recently exposed its terrible evils. The annals of the state are crowded with records of broken lives and lost homes, disemployed thousands, crime and prostitution all directly due to land speculation. A recent pure Single Tax campaign, carried on almost without money, against the combined forces of plutocracy furiously hurled, gained over a quarter million votes and proved that the people will respond to a bold, frank Ideal.

It is known that The Great Adventure campaign for a Free Earth is to be continued with unabated frankness and zeal—and the land speculators fear nothing so much as that it will carry at the 1918 election, if the issue is allowed to go to the public on its merits—Land Monopoly or a Free Earth?

To save their power to rob people the land sharks saw they must prevent the issue being squarely put to the electors.

They organized the Anti Single Tax League—"to protect the farmer and home owner"!

Then those who had negatively or aggressively opposed The Great Adventure ideal of a free earth urged a tax exemption bill which retains the worst and most insidious of taxes, those on corporations and on the gross earnings of public utilities—and a general income tax. And this bill is to be put forward—not by the Anti Single Tax League, but by reformers who argue that it is a great step toward the ideal of a free earth—without "disturbing existing conditions"!

**The Great Adventure Mass Meetings! Blanchard Hall every Wednesday evening. Best speakers in the Big Human Cause, the Land for the People—Immediately!**