

philosophy; it is the practical application of Christianity to social affairs. "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none" is the translation of the Golden Rule of the Nazarine to an economic and political formula. Therefore, fulfilled democracy is applied Christianity to governmental affairs.

"Do to others as ye would that they should do to you;" "Equal rights to all and special privileges to none;" the Single Tax: these are synonymous.

Here we have the great Eleventh commandment of the Master of Nazareth—the sum total of all the Law and all the prophets"—we have its Jeffersonian formulation into a politico-social maxim of "Equal rights to all," and its scientific practical application in the Single Tax of Henry George. This is Christianity; this is democracy; this is Georgean philosophy; this is the Single Tax: different expressions of the one Unity.

PLATFORM OF THE LAND VALUE TAX PARTY.

Adopted at the First Convention of the Land Value Tax Party held in New York City, on May 21, 1910.

GENERAL DECLARATION AS TO BASIC PRINCIPLE.

Confronted in the early years of the Twentieth Century by abhorrent conditions, we who join in organizing the LAND VALUE TAX party invite all citizens to unite with us to secure such conditions as will promote prosperity and happiness among the people, and be worthy of the civilization that should be ours. We are glad to know that a goodly proportion of our number are descendants of those who took part in the American Revolution, and anxious as the forefathers to keep burning the fires of liberty.

In this land of abounding sources of wealth many there are who cannot obtain the ordinary necessities of life and who suffer from want and starvation; millions of growing children, who ought to be in school and playground, are forced into mines and factories; although pauperism is widespread, we are compelled to support the idle rich as well as the idle or unfortunate poor who cannot find work in a land where nature furnishes boundless opportunity; a privileged few have immense unearned fortunes while millions are to a like extent deprived of their earnings, thus causing untold and undeserved poverty; unwholesome conditions and deprivations prevent the development of healthy and vigorous manhood and womanhood.

All of this is intolerable in a land having an aggregate wealth of nearly \$1,400 per capita, where all industrious people should be prosperous, or at least free from poverty. These conditions reveal monstrous injustice in our laws and institutions. As no organized party gives us a chance to vote against this injustice, the freeman's right to vote out a great wrong cannot be exercised without the aid of a party organized for that purpose.

As Land Monopoly is the chief source of present conditions, its abolition by the levy of taxes on land values only, exempting buildings and all other property from taxation, will be the controlling purpose of the LAND VALUE TAX party.

While land monopoly is the source of all fortunes derived from ground rents, it is also the foundation of all oppressive trusts which monopolize the coal, iron, oil and other bounties of nature, and of the food and transportation monopolies. No great trust has been built up or can exist without its aid; stated generally, all great fortunes are based, in whole or in part, on the monopoly of land, which is the main producing cause of poverty.

The land and its usable value rightfully belong to all the people of the state, the products of industry to individuals, acting alone or with others; these should be protected in their ownership, and should not be deprived of their earnings for the support of the idlers. Industry should be free from taxation, which is needless as well as burdensome; taxes on land values alone would furnish all the means requisite for carrying on the work of government.

The adoption of this system of taxation in our states and territories would enable every citizen to enjoy the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The chief purpose of the LAND VALUE TAX party being to secure the land for the people and thus destroy special privilege, we cannot be diverted from our purpose by antagonisms concerning best policies in relation to other matters.

Many with whom we hope to cooperate are believers in free trade, while many others have faith in a protective tariff. But actual experience in England under free trade, and in America under protection, has made clear that whatever advantages may accrue to the nation as a whole from either policy are not enjoyed by the common people because of private land monopoly, which provides for and permits the increasing wealth of the nation to be monopolized by the privileged few, and at the same time forces increasing poverty on the masses of the people.

While keeping in view our controlling purpose to rid the country of the accursed private monopoly of land, we are also in favor of ballot reform to encourage independent voting, the direct nomination by voters of candidates for office, the initiative and referendum, the right to recall unfaithful officials, the enfranchisement of women, or any other policy tending to secure good government and the uplift of humanity; all advocates of such measures will find a hospitable welcome in our ranks, but all of these helpful reforms will be regarded in this contest as secondary to the great basic principle on which we invite the support and cooperation of all true Americans.

Cheered by the progress of our cause in Great Britain and in other lands, deploring the conditions in our own land which make this party organization necessary, realizing the integrity of our purpose and rejoicing that we have within easy grasp a practical remedy for the chief evils which afflict our nation, with a strong faith in the people when awakened, we submit these declarations to the considerate judgment of mankind, with an assured belief that the adoption

of this platform by the various states and territories will at once promote the welfare and happiness of all our people; that it will solve problems which existing parties have neither the wisdom nor the courage to confront.

SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF FACTS AND CONDITIONS.

EVILS AND INJUSTICE OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY
UNDER WHICH WE NOW LIVE.

The object for which this American Government was established was, in the language of the Constitution, "to provide for the general welfare," and, as indicated by the language of the Declaration of Independence, to secure to us Americans freedom from tryanny; to preserve equality of opportunity; and to protect our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness from the wicked assaults of the owners of privilege, power, and unnatural accumulations of property.

It has become plain to everyone that these objects have not been attained, and that our government, by failing from the beginning to conserve for the people all our natural resources, has made their attainment impossible until basic conditions be changed. The general welfare of the people and their freedom, equality, lives, liberty, and means of happiness are not protected by our laws nor by the social system under which we live. On the contrary, our government and social system, by favoring the few owners of special privilege who use the government to oppress the people, have inflicted upon the people the dreadful evils of which we give a partial list, as follows:

1. DEATHS; CONSUMPTION AND OTHER UNNECESSARY SICKNESSES.—It has been stated without contradiction, upon the floor of the United States Senate, that 600,000 citizens, men, women, and children, die every year from preventable illness, through lack of fresh air, sunlight, proper food and housing, and through the horrors of uncertain existence.

2. CHILD LABOR.—It has been reported to Congress, and without dispute, that over 2,000,000 children are at work, instead of being in school or at play.

3. OFFICIAL STATISTICS show that there has been an increase of forty per cent. in suicides in New York City within the last six years, 890 persons killing themselves here in 1909; that charity burials have increased twenty-eight per cent. in seven years; that pauper burials have increased forty per cent. in six years, being now one sixth of all who die in old New York; that the number of husbands unable to support their wives, and who were imprisoned for this disability, doubled in four years; tens of thousands of men seek free lodgings and stand in the bread lines until, through lack of nutrition, they become too weak to do the work that they have so long sought, and become a charge upon the community for their lives.

4. STATISTICS also show that in this city, as well as in other cities, and in the country at large, crime and other delinquency, insanity and other

deficiency, pauperism and other forms of dependence, are increasing much faster than the rate of population; that the number of deaths of infants among people living on small wages is more than double the number of deaths of infants born among those better situated.

5. **CHEAP HUMAN LIFE.**—Statistics show that dangerous trades are laying low and even murdering our citizens by the wholesale; that 500,000 workers are injured annually by accidents due to their employment, or to the risks of necessary travel and the like; that 20,000 yearly are killed in the same way.

6. **RENTS.**—That seventy-five per cent. of the people pay rent; and that most of the homes, said to be "owned" by their occupants, are loaded with mortgage debt.

7. **EVIL RESULTS.**—That the dread of losing work or business is demoralizing, intimidating, and devitalizing a large number of people.

8. **FEUDALISM REVIVING.**—Feudal towns of workers are constantly being established in which the trusts own the stores, the homes, and in every way control the lives of the workers, who are neither permitted free speech nor to organize or obtain any knowledge of their politico-economic rights. This we regard as of very serious import to humanity, revealing a tendency which must be stopped if the nation's life is to be saved.

9. **CONCEALMENT OF FACTS.**—Instead of making widely known by oft-repeated publication all the horrors of a so-called civilization, so as to shock the people into action, the System takes care that the government shall, for the guilty concealment of the mental and moral state of the much-sinned-against paupers, criminals, and defectives, enact mendicancy and tramp laws, so to herd the social victims out of sight or apart as an accusing spectacle, under pretence that they are of a different class from those of us who have escaped their moral illness solely through our better environment.

10. **ENEMIES OF THE REPUBLIC.**—On the other hand, the possessors of privilege are flourishing exceedingly by their power to tax the people for ground rent. They flaunt their tyranny, extravagance, arrogance, and profligacy in the faces of the people; many of their leaders affiliate themselves with the decayed nobility of Europe and openly advocate absolute government, deride and plot against the people's institutions, the right to nominate, to vote, to speak freely on political matters; they do not believe in any republican form of government whatever.

11. **WEALTH.**—The gulf between those in want, or under the fear of want, and those enjoying an excess is constantly widening; the bulk of the wealth of the United States is owned by a small number of people; the special privilege in land values and franchises amounts to seventy-six billions; upon this amount the people pay tribute instead of enjoying it themselves.

12. **TRUST RULE.**—The important commercial business of this country has been practically combined and consolidated into some five hundred trusts, which largely control prices of all the necessaries of life. An understanding between the owners of railroad, banking, and industrial monopolies has been arrived at, and recent interchange of directors among these concerns shows

that we now have a complete community of interests among these owners. This community of interests, known as the System, thus strong, reduces prices and wages when buying material or labor, and raises the prices of food, clothing, and rent, charging all that the diabolical System believes it can get out of the people, or that the people will stand, and using the small business man as a mere underpaid distributor, while it secretly but steadily supplants him by buying up small concerns and "trustifying" them; this is plain in regard to restaurants, cigar stores, confectionery stores, and the like.

13. **IN POLITICS.**—The System owns or controls Presidents, Governors, law-makers, and political mechanics and bosses; is represented by its creatures and railroad lobbyists, tariff lobbyists, land lobbyists, trust lobbyists, many of them being Senators or Congressmen. But the politicians who remain silent on vital matters, while making a loud out cry about economy in government and petty reforms, are even more dangerous; sometimes these are men of great repute and highly respected, but never favoring the rights of the people; they are less openly, but just as surely, willing slaves of the System.

14. **CONTROL OF TEN.**—It has been stated in the U. S. Senate without dispute that only about 100 men own or control practically all this community of interests, this hundred including the joint combination among the owners of railroads, industrial trusts, great landlords, and financiers; that among this hundred 10 men rule the other 90, and these ten really control the government and people of this country, producing panics at will to squeeze out the small capitalists and to increase want, unemployment, and starvation, so as to get workers (manual, clerical, and professional) cheaper, and to make them more submissive. These ten men are controlled by land monopoly.

15. **RULE OF OLIGARCHY.**—Thus we have a secret oligarchy or camorra which governs the government, and which by a merger and combination of monopolies has practically destroyed competition and consequently all standards of exchange values, making the cost of living, as measured by wages, whatever they please or think the people will stand for; their tyranny discourages production and thus further strengthens their monopoly, raises prices, and lowers wages. This tyranny must be destroyed.

16. **REIGN OF TERROR.**—The dangerous oligarchs who thus rule without responsibility, have taken the government from the people by a silent revolution; these same revolutionists have also been guilty of continuous confiscation of the earnings of the workers and small business men, and of so many attacks on property, especially on the property that a man has in the full product of his labor, and have been further guilty of such attacks on the sacred institution of the family and upon the very lives of the American people, that they have not only created unstable social conditions such as generally precede uprisings of the people, but, to the plain perception of an increasing number, the System is in effect engaged in a cruel warfare against the people of these United States.

17. **PARTY MUZZLING.**—The party machines being both controlled by the lords of privilege, it is absurd to expect from them the drastic remedies

required for such an acute situation. The Democratic party, controlled by railroad thieves and disfranchisers of black and white laborers, forced their "peerless leader's" silence on government ownership of railroads. The Republican party has openly asserted through many of its leading men that monopoly has come to stay; the Republican monopolists generally try to buy a little personal or posthumous reputation from a servile press or by works of philanthropy, well knowing that it is justice only and restitution of their unearned wealth to those who earned it, rather than the return to the despoiled of only a little part of their earnings, that will save society from ruin. Of such type are the Astors, Rockefellers, Morgans, Carnegies, and men of that ilk.

18. TWIN PARTIES.—The Democratic errand boys of the System, prominent Senators and Congressmen and the Democratic leaders generally, try to make the people believe that criminal prosecutions will stop the secret crimes of industrial monopoly, well knowing that only in one per cent. of these crimes can any evidence be found as a basis for prosecution, and in only one per cent. of the instances where evidence can be found, can convictions be obtained. The same so-called Democrats who rule the machine urge that a lower tariff or government regulation of railroad rates will curb monopoly, although the industrial trust owners, mad with success, have openly jeered at the effect of such trifling measures even if permitted by the System. The Steel Trust boasts that it can hold the market and control prices, and also wages, even if the tariff and railroad favoritism be entirely abolished. The two parties act like loving twin children of monopoly. The Democratic bosses in private agree with the Republican bosses, to the effect that industrial monopoly is inevitable and has come to stay, while Democratic Senators vote as the Republican leader dictates when their votes are needed on the tariff and other measures.

SEPARATE RESOLUTION.

Before adjourning the convention adopted the following resolution:

We extend our greetings and good wishes to the insurgents, independents, and New Idea members of the Democratic and Republican parties (many of the same being Land Value Taxers), knowing that party conditions will drive them together into the formation of a new, Anti-Privilege party. We appreciate the work for the Land Value Tax done by politically unorganized and unorganizable Land Value Tax authors and orators, reminding them that Henry George *twice*—when party machines were bankrupt of ideas and principles—headed independent movements to force the old parties into Land Value Tax lines; and we agree with them that when, if ever, one of the old parties espouses the cause of Land Reform, its leaders proclaiming, like David Lloyd George, that they are enlisted for the utter destruction eventually of Land Monopoly—then, and then only, will we combine our forces with the forces of that party.

We stand against the mere aggregation together of radicals of opposite opinions, like Socialists and Land Value Taxers; "mongrelism in politics bastardizes politics." It is in the interest of truth that a sharp antithesis

and a lively debate be created between the collectivist and the individualist schools of thought. The mere passing silently from industrial freedom to industrial feudalism is against the interests of all schools of earnest social reformers.

WHAT IS THE SINGLE TAX?

(For the Review.)

By ALEX W. JOHNSTON, M. A.

1. The Single Tax is not a tax: in it there is nothing of the nature of a tax: it does not produce the effects of a tax: it makes all taxes unnecessary: it is more fitly described as "The State Appropriation of *Economic Rent*."

2. A tax is a charge levied on private persons or private property for the purpose (1) of raising revenue; (2) of providing an artificial profit for "protected" industries; and (3) of prohibiting or restricting certain imports.

3. A tax takes from private persons a portion of their private property to be expended nominally for the public benefit, but mainly for the benefit of the party in power and the pensioners.

4. No tax has yet been discovered which cannot be evaded, passed on, or increased, so that unscrupulous persons may avoid paying it, may pay less than it demands of them, or compel others to pay more.

5. Taxes impoverish the taxpayers by depriving them of their private property, and need but to be heavy enough to destroy the wealthiest and most powerful empire in the world.

6. Every tax, because it takes private property from the rightful owners, violates the Moral Law which forbids theft.

7. Every tax is therefore unequal, unjust, destructive and immoral, and is in every way injurious to the people who are taxed.

8. Economic Rent is the annual rental value of land only, and does not include the rent of houses or other products of labor.

9. If the present site value of a certain block of land is \$100. a year, and the rental value of the buildings or other improvements upon it is \$1,000. a year, the latter is not included in economic rent, but only the former. If the land is unimproved, its annual rental value is the economic rent.

10. Economic rent arises from the presence, needs, and activities of the whole community, and every unit of the population contributes to it.

11. If the population is 80,000,000, one eighty-millionth part of the economic rent of each separate block of land arises from the presence of each separate unit of the population.

12. But no person can have any right of private property in even the eighty-millionth part of the economic rent of even one block of land, (1) because economic rent is not earned by any man's labor; (2), because it is