

harsh tyranny acted as a suggestion as well as a spur to our brave forefathers, but the decisive factor was the human equation brought into play.

But unaided facts and events will not shape themselves into social progress. In India, today, there is sufficient excuse for revolt, but human effort there is not organized sufficiently to rise to the opportunity.

The lesson for Single Taxers is that the time is ripe for the acceptance of Henry George's philosophy. The serious world-wide industrial depressions, and the universal unrest which now prevails, afford the right psychological state of mind for selling the Single Tax idea. But we must not forget that the time is also ripe for communism, fascism, or even a lapse into slavery, accordingly as human effort colors the opportunity. But Single Taxers should make this their motto: Now is the accepted time.

This brings us up to the second point. Regardless of how opportunistic the facts and events may be, if there is not sufficient effort to manipulate these phenomena they will cease to be an opportunity.

Single Taxers must make the supreme effort to put across Henry George's philosophy. The convention should determine upon some plan of concerted action, so that all the world may know how we stand. I personally should prefer a plan which would have for its purpose the immediate governmental collection of the annual economic rent. But whatever plan is adopted, we should make a determined effort to carry it into execution.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

JOHN C. RHODES.

MR. TIDEMAN REPLIES TO OUR REVIEWER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the March-April number of your paper Mr. B. W. B. has a kind review of my "Radicalia," but wants to know how I can include four factors in the production and distribution of wealth, and even can assert that Government's power of taxation has something to do with it? His challenge is a direct call for answer.

Well, if Finance takes one part of the proceeds of production, along with Land Monopoly, Capital and Labor, does that make it a factor in the equation? If not, what term or word should be used? Of course, the money monopoly should be terminated; so should the land monopoly, but they are anything but that now. As for the Government's power of taxation, that certainly has something to do with the people's economy when it takes about \$100 a year per head from the wealth producers (\$500 per family) in order to secure more than twice the total of that for a small group of non-producers. I think Single Taxers and some other people can and do understand that part.

The critic appears to have misunderstood the book and placed it in the wrong category. It is not philosophy, nor an attempt to demonstrate a three-cornered theory. Not as academic as that. It is just some lessons in the technic of political economy as that performs and works out in the system of our day, and also as it may be made to work by a simplification of its machinery.

To me, a mechanical engineer, the economic system appears as a vast living machine in which individuals and groups are working, all in co-operation, producing and distributing the various kinds of wealth and service that civilized life requires. In "Radicalia" I have endeavored to show how the wheels go round and the levers move, and the how and why the machinery, every now and then, becomes clogged up with wealth it can not distribute and deliver to those whose labor entitles them to it, until the motion all but stops and the producers stand helpless and poverty stricken among abundance of wealth that their labor has produced for them, and production capital, that their labor and skill have created, stands idle and themselves separated from it. Worst of all, the land with its limitless resources, is preempted and held at prices that do not admit of profitable use except with massed capital that is beyond their reach or control. It is also shown how, by slight alteration and simplification, the present machinery may be made to work smoothly, efficiently and uninterruptedly to everybody's comfort and satisfaction. I believe that is

the way the subject must be taught if it is to become intelligible and interesting to the mass of workers and voters, whose minds are trained to think on the concrete and feel in the abstract. Others may do it better, if they will prepare themselves adequately.

Single Tax should not be treated as a dogma. A dogma is a petrified concept that bars further research and progress. Political economy is a living science. No branch of science is yet finished or shows any promise of ever becoming so. To this rule political economy is no exception. The whole world is in process of evolution. That means life. Of the living things on this earth man is the unfinished species. So are his institutions. Evolutionary progress consists largely of elimination.

Fisk, Mo.

S. TIDEMAN.

VANCE COOKE REPLIES TO CLEVELAND PRESS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

A recent editorial in the *Cleveland Press* suggests that we need a Joseph to regulate our productions and distributions. I wonder. Joseph took advantage of a famine to relieve the people first of their money, then of their live stock, then of their lands. He then "removed them . . . from one end of the border of Egypt even unto the other end thereof," proclaiming arrogantly, "I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh." A fine solution that for the people!

True, in what may have been "benevolent despotism," he let them work the land for the very modest rent of 20 per cent, but like all benevolent despotisms, it did not last, for "there arose a new king over Egypt who knew not Joseph."

Doesn't it seem as if Moses might be a better deliverer than Joseph, for Moses (translating Jehovah as was his wont) proclaimed, "And the land shall not be sold in perpetuity."

It had taken Moses forty years to get the children of Israel out of the wilderness—a very small wilderness—but it had not been time wasted, for he had learned that it order to establish a nation, the land, the source of all wealth, must be safeguarded against monopoly.

More than forty years ago there arose among us a later Moses, who bore the name of Henry George. If we had followed him we would not now be in our present wilderness. The *Press* says "no solution is now in sight." If the *Press* means no sudden solution, quite right. But we do not have to go back to Joseph for the solution, but only to Moses—only to our modern Moses, Henry George. It may be another forty years' wandering, but we may just as well start now out of the wilderness by following Henry George.

Cleveland, O.

EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

A RECENT inquirer in *Queries and Answers* in the *New York Times* asked for the poem of Ernest Howard Crosby, "Life and Death." He was answered by a number of readers. Some of our readers are familiar with the poem, the first stanza of which reads:

"So he died for his faith. That is fine—
More than most of us do.
But say, can you add to that line
That he lived for it, too."

AT A special meeting of the Manhattan Single Tax Club it was resolved that the club, in view of the enlarged scope of its operations, call itself the Single Tax Society of America. Fuller details will follow.

THE *Diario Socialista Independiente* of Buenos Aires reprints the recent address of Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia, on Henry George.

THERE is no more active letter writer in the Single Tax movement than Harold Sudell, whose communications to the *Philadelphia Record*, *Philadelphia Inquirer* and other newspapers meet the eye repeatedly. He has addressed a letter to Governor Pinchot of Pennsylv