

To the Editor:

Thank you for reminding me that my subscription is running out. Along with my renewal dollar, I am happy to send you congratulations and what I think is a bit of good news about the future.

Many single taxers, I suppose, are too old to remember or too young to have known that I am an old timer who was once elected and for some years served as the general manager of the National Single Tax League. I congratulate you that since my day the George movement has arrived at the distinction and stability of a national headquarters and plant in New York with a school movement which is already established in many cities with an enrollment of fifty thousand students and a publishing center backed by such considerable funds as that of the Schalkenbach Foundation and the generous support of my long time friend, John C. Lincoln, and many others.

The good news about the future is as follows. On a train out of New York a while back, I found myself in a seat beside my old editorial chief, James P. Logan, once the managing editor of the Newark Evening News and for many years head of the State Board of Tax Assessors in New Jersey. My old friend turned to me and said, "Experience has taught me that your man Henry George had all the answers." He added that he had come to believe that a national movement to shift the burden of taxation from production to land values would soon sweep the country.

My own experience through fifty years of newspaper and magazine publishing confirms that prediction. From my acquaintance with the editorial writers and newspaper publishers of America, I am sure that the majority of them are convinced single taxers and have been for a long time. What's more, I am convinced that business—big business in fact—is ripe for our great taxation reform. The big business slogans are all pointing toward the George philosophy: duPont's *Better Things For Better Living Through Chemistry*; the National Association of Manufacturers' *A Better Tomorrow For Everybody*; the United States Chamber of Commerce, *More and Better Things For More People*, are all to my mind significant indications of the spread of the George philosophy.

What impressed me more, however, as I used to say in my little magazine, the *Areo*, is that George's influence on religion and the fundamental attitudes of our Christian civilization are in the direction of what I am now calling the greatest reformation and crusade of historic time.

When I was sixteen years old and working in the flour mill in Poughkeepsie on the Hudson at five dollars a week. I spent my last silver dime one week for a copy of *Progress and Poverty* which I read and understood fully at that time and ever since, I have called it the biggest, the best, and the happiest "Ten Cent Buy" of my life. What impressed me was George's statement that in the course of writing his book and inquiring into the causes of poverty, a faith that was dead revived, and I believed then, and have ever since, that George's philosophy held the elements of revival in the whole field of institutional endeavor.

In other words, the book *Progress and Poverty*, has always seemed to me to hold the potentials of a national and world-wide crusade for the revival of religion, politics, economics,

science, and the whole field of government and cultural endeavor.

Your school movement, especially, strikes me as the most effective work so far done in behalf of the George ideal, and I believe that it points to the great social objectives already stirring and arousing fresh enthusiasts in line with the world leadership now taking visible form at Lake Success and in our greatest American city of New York.

In short, you have so many more tools to work with than we had forty years ago, that I am deeply impressed by, and thankful for the progress you are making.

—ROBERT D. TOWNE
Ambler, Penn.