

other words, the new system appears to be designed to reach that class of citizens who turn a lot in to the assessor at, say, \$5,000 for taxes, while they hold that same lot for sale at \$20,000 to \$25,000. Whether the Pittsburgh way is the right way or not, there can be no question that there ought to be a method of taxing the "un-earned increment" of valuable vacant lots. This Pittsburgh experiment is worth watching.—Manchester (N. H.) *Leader*.

CORRESPONDENCE

A SUGGESTION FOR PROPAGANDA

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The writer has submitted a plan of propaganda to the Spokane Single Tax Club which it is believed will prove, when put into action, a powerful factor in the establishing of equality of opportunity, which is the ultimate of Single Tax. During the last twelve months I have had occasion to personally interview probably one thousand men and women in this city. All the usual sects, political parties and nationalities, were represented. I found much poverty in its various stages, and with it the varieties of prejudice usually met with in the average population. But no matter how strong the political ties or religious superstitions, when I advanced the proposition that Society, which is *all of us*, owed to *each of us* the Equality of Opportunity to make a living, every person enthusiastically acquiesced, and when asked if he would join a league to be called "The Opportunity to Make a Living League," the object of which would be to secure the enactment of a constitutional amendment providing this opportunity by making possible the use of lands now unused, the response was in every instance favorable. So I do not entertain the slightest doubt of the success of such a movement. The mass understands what is meant by "the opportunity to make a living." It is the ambition of every man to get a steady job. The mere thought of steady employment brings to him and his wife a picture

of peace and plenty free from anxiety about food, clothing and shelter for the morrow. So why should not this promise of surcease from want command his hearty support? This arousing of the mass which sooner or later must be brought into the movement, is just as feasible now as it ever will be. The fundamental thought in Single Tax is now complete and is just as sure a panacea now as it can ever be. Bring it, therefore, into the field of actuality. Gather the mass to its support *now*. While at present it seems to be the policy to appeal to the intellectual I would reinforce this work by approaching the millions on a basis understandable by them. A weekly publication devoted exclusively to this organization, and its work, will be the most important feature. The school district should be the unit which could be subdivided for personal house to house work, that would be irresistible. The subscription price of the paper should be high enough to meet all expenses of the organization. Perhaps one of the papers now in circulation could be utilized, but the ablest writers should be arranged for in any event.—DONALD BRADFORD, Spokane, Washington.

THE CROWNING DISCOVERY OF HENRY GEORGE

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Mr. C. B. Fillebrown, in a booklet recently published states that Henry George's chief contribution to the movement (Single Tax) was to give it "the breath of life." His contention is that since Ricardo developed the law of rent, and Mill advocated the taxation of ground rents, that therefore Henry George added nothing new to the sum of human knowledge.

This statement coming from a deep student of the works of Henry George and one of the strongest and most practical protagonists of his doctrines, should not go unchallenged. But it deserves more; it deserves a clear, comprehensive statement of what was the chief contri-

bution of Henry George to the scientific knowledge of the 19th century.

I have long held that it was his discovery of the law of wages, and showing the relation between it and the law of rent.

The discovery of a scientific truth is not the discovery of something new, but the discovery of a relation as old as nature herself, though this relation was never before known; hence Henry George defined truth as a relation. When Copernicus discovered the true relation of the earth to the sun, he discovered a truth that had always existed, always would exist, yet a law of nature until then unknown to mankind. The same was true when Newton discovered the relation of size and distance to force.

Before Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty" it had been taken for granted that nature's law related only to the kingdoms below man. The world was astounded, most scholars are still incredulous when told that nature's laws hold as firm and true in the economic and industrial world as in the physical.

This discovery changed, or will yet change the philosophic and religious thinking of mankind, "making" (as Henry George so beautifully said) "that faith which trusts, but cannot see a living thing," proving that the Author of their higher laws is a God of benevolence and justice,

Moreover, the possibilities which the discovery of this law of nature holds for the uplifting of mankind out of poverty, crime, selfishness, disease and war is beyond the wildest imagination to conceive.

Henry George's discovery of the law of wages and its true relation to the law of rent overthrew the superstitions of the schools regarding "the law of wages" and also that wages are paid out by capital.

It also overthrew nearly the whole teachings of socialism, that wages will not rise by a natural law, but must be forced up by strikes, or by legislature enactments, such as minimum wages. To one who understands this law, it seems as tyrannical for government to fix the price of wages, as to fix the price of wheat.

In this great discovery is found also the true answer to the contention that competition must be destroyed.

THIS TRUTH BROADLY STATED

There are two great channels of distribution, each are distinct from the other in that each has a different cause or origin. These two channels are ground rents and wages. The term wages includes profits and capital. Wages are produced by the added value labor gives to the raw material in producing wealth. Wages have a labor value, while ground rents have a labor-saving value. They are produced by industrial and civic betterments, by invention, morals and general progress.

The channels of ground rents are to-day flowing into great lakes of monopoly or privilege, so called because those few who are receiving them are privileged by law so to do, yet they did not produce them.

This deep seated injustice produces a condition of speculative rents, which forces down the rate of wages. This is their relation. Too high rents make too low wages, and profits.

Change the channel of ground rents by Taxation and wages will rise by a natural law to their economic level.

The Federation of Labor after spending thousands of dollars on a strike, going through untold suffering, rejoices greatly when the Corporation is forced to come to their terms, and they receive a rise of ten per cent, yet here, without a strike, just by knowledge of this law, and a use of the ballot, a rise of fifty per cent in wages, and an equal benefit to capital can be effected.

No one saw with clearer vision than Henry George that this great economic law was also a law of justice among men. No one saw with clearer vision that for men to shape their civic institutions in disobedience to this law would be to bring about the overthrow of civilization by means of war and anarchy; but to form their laws in obedience to this, would be to bring such peace and prosperity that he likened it to the New Jerusalem seen by John of Patmos.

No wonder his soul was stirred to high purpose! No wonder his eloquence gave "the breath of life" to a cause for which at last the time was ripe.—ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL.

FROM ONE WHO FIGHTS FOR
ENGLAND.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

I take the opportunity of a few days' sick leave from the trenches to renew my subscription to the REVIEW, which is always instructive and welcome. It is a pleasant change from the thoughts of our misguided assailants.

What misery their protectionist ideals (they are the mainstay of tariffs today) and their land gambling (which goes far to gag even such lofty souls as Adolf Damaschke and Dr. Schrameier) are bringing on their country and all the world! It is a vast pity that Bryan cannot see that a state of war is a trivial evil compared with the results of protection and land monopoly whether in peace or war.

What might not be done for the world if only the United States would take a stand for Henry George's philosophy! That they might or might not be "at war" with any or every other nation at the time would matter about as much as if you ate your eggs boiled or fried—yet poor Bryan talks of "peace" in a country ravaged by "pirates" and "hordes of ferocious wild beasts," as George well said.

Good luck to you and keep up your War.
—M. J. STEWART, Falmouth, Eng.

HOW WE MAY ALL BECOME STATIS-
TICALLY RICH

The following letter by a Melbourne Single Taxer has been addressed, not for publication but in acknowledgment of the editor's clear vision, to the *Saturday Evening Post*.

In your Editorial of the 19th June you say "Dividing that (the unimproved land value) by the number of inhabitants is merely a sort of grim statistical joke." May I point out that this quo-

tient is most important, but that it represents the amount of the National Debt per head, not wealth as the statisticians would have us believe.

It comes to the same thing whether a Government sells a bearer bond for a given annual income for a lump sum or whether it sells the title to collect rent on a piece of land for a lump sum.

Nobody would think of taking the market value of the National Debt and dividing it by the number of the population to get at the wealth per head. Why then should the land value euphemistically called "real estate" be treated this way and our friends the statisticians expect to get away with it? It is a fine thing to see common sense in such a widely read paper as the *Post* for it is quite time that somebody called their bluff.

HEARKEN TO THIS PARABLE:

"A certain successful General returned to his native burg after the war. His admirers wishing to make him a present but having no money gave him a franchise to throw a string across Main street and collect one cent from all passers by.

"In the course of time the General wanting ready money sold his income which amounted to \$10,000 to the public for \$200,000 in bonds. The purchasers were satisfied with 5% on their investment and the General blew the money and died.

"Many years afterwards a genius arose in that town and said, 'Let us cut this string' but a great outcry arose against him for it was shown that the income from the bonds was the sole support of all the widows and orphans in the community. Besides, said the statisticians, you will destroy \$200,000 of wealth and if you divide that by the number of the population you will all be poorer by the amount of the quotient. So the string is still across Main Street and they are thinking of putting up some more and making themselves statistically richer."—VINCENT PANTIN.

THE Single Taxers of Philadelphia celebrated the birthday of Henry George by a "Twilight Pilgrimage" to the birth place of "the prophet of San Francisco."