

a tax upon products and a tax upon the value of the legal institution, property in land? That is the question that today is confronting civilization, and civilization is going to answer."

White tells why chattel slavery has been abolished: It had to be done to make way for invention. Piracy was abolished because it stood in the way of commercial progress. It was necessary to destroy laws for imprisonment for debt; they obstructed expansion of the credit system. Then, after telling of the two unnecessary overhead production costs due to low taxes upon the privilege of holding land and high taxes upon the products and processes of industry, he says simply:

"We are, of course, going to right this absurdity, just as we did the others, and for the same reason."

There you have it: No doubt whatever; it is sure to happen; it is necessary to progress. Such confidence is contagious; it compels attention. Try it on! Send copies to your friends with letters asking them to give White a reading. You will receive replies often of an encouraging nature. I know from experience.

We have a vast literature. Let's get it out! Each can do something in that way—one a day or one every week, or more.

Cleveland, O. HOWARD HOLMES.

LINKING OUR PHILOSOPHY TO CURRENT PROBLEMS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It may interest those who read the contribution by Harry Gunnison Brown in your last issue to know that the plan he proposes has been in practice here for nine years and that it works.

As I understood him, he urges Georgists to take advantage of the discussions in which the people are interested by entering those discussions as Georgists, applying the Georgist formulas to those particular issues and so getting attention,—rather than depending upon academic discussion.

For nine years I have been conducting *The Stockton Forum* on that very principle.

If the city council is struggling with a zoning ordinance, I report its discussions in Georgist terms; if the Chamber of Commerce puts on a membership drive, I discuss Chamber of Commerce benefits in the light of the resultant rent; if the school teachers complain that their work is hampered for lack of funds, I get into that discussion with figures on land value and unearned increment.

In short, public events and public perplexities are just so many texts for articles illustrating the theory and application of the Georgist doctrine.

People who began by taking *The Forum* in spite of the way it "rides its hobby," have come to understand public finance as never before and are beginning to be heard in advocacy of the Georgist plan.

And people not personally or directly interested in Stockton have come to value the paper because of these concrete applications of our teachings; for they know that the principles involved are universal and what is true of a school tax principle in Stockton is true of a school tax principle in their own state or province.

Prof. Brown's plan is a good one. I know, and it occurred to me that your readers might be interested in knowing this and to know how I know.

Stockton, California.

L. D. BECKWITH

ESSAY CONTEST IN CEDAR SPRINGS, MICHIGAN

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I should like to call the attention of your readers to the fact that Michigan is a very fertile soil for tax reform. The Governor has a special commission investigating taxation who are to report if possible some means of better equalizing of taxes.

The Farm Bureau and Grange favor an income tax, although business is weak and rather anaemic from past bleedings. Hearings before this commission are not developing anything constructive or permanent.

The one day that I attended, Mr. Charles R. Adair, of Flint, was the only one to draw applause from the audience, when he in a few minutes of an able speech tried to show the true source from which public revenue should be drawn.

There is an urgent demand for tax experts in this state during the next few months. However, I feel quite sure that any tax on earned incomes would be turned down by referendum, as it has been twice before.

I should also like to call attention to an essay writing contest between the students in, and the schools of, Cedar Springs and Kent City. The subject is "Economic and Social Principles as expounded by Henry George in his famous book, *Progress and Poverty*."

In this contest 48 students are supposed to have read an unabridged copy of this book, and have written an essay of about two thousand words. These essays will be in the hands of the judge within a few days and perhaps before the next issue of your paper we can report the winners.

I have read several of these essays already—signed under assumed names—and am simply amazed by the wonderful grasp these students have attained of this subject in so short a time, and wish that our state tax commission could be induced to read them.

For helping to make arrangements for this contest I wish to thank Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, Mr. Edward Polak, Mr. John L. Munroe, Mr. John Z. White and his assistants, also Mr. Walter Fairchild, representing the Anna C. George essay committee, for an appropriation of \$25.00 to procure a speaker to address the students. The speaker was Miss Edith Seekel, of West State Teachers College, who is an ardent Georgist, and an able speaker. Beside this \$25.00, \$145.00 was raised by public subscription, and \$110.00 will be paid in prizes.

As might naturally be expected considerable faulty reasoning and fallacious ideas crept into the writing of these students. These I expect to take up with each separately, directly after the contest is closed.

Cedar Springs, Mich.

J. S. TINDALL.

A SOCIALIST SINGLE TAXER.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just finished reading Jan.-Feb. edition of *LAND AND FREEDOM*. I note suggestions of some readers to make the Socialist party the means of Single Tax advocacy. I have been a socialist for forty years and have advanced Henry George's land-tax ideas whenever possible. In California, where we succeeded several times in getting on the ballot a Single Tax proposal, it was the socialist voters who gave it their almost unanimous support at the polls. Personally, I know this to be a fact. And I could never understand why so many Single Taxers persist in support of one or the other old parties with any idea of ever receiving recognition of their principles from them. If it was clearly brought out that a socialist vote was for Single Tax, then we would not be declaring ourselves aimlessly.

Union Printers Home, Colo. Springs, Colo.

JOHN H. JOSSELYN.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

We learn of the death at San Diego, California, of our old friend, James MacGregor. Here he had gone at the call of F. F. Ingram, of the Ingram Institute, leaving Fairhope where he had spent many pleasant months. He had a stroke of paralysis while in New York several years ago as he talked pleasantly with friends in this office. But his marvellous constitution enabled him to recover the use of his physical faculties to a great extent—his mental faculties were not impaired by his sudden affliction, and he continued to speak to audiences on the subject that had so long engaged his singularly active mind. Physically, too, he had shown marked improvement, despite his eighty years and more, and his sudden death, particulars of which are lacking at this writing, was not looked for. As a debater he had few equals in the movement. His mind was an active one and he was a great