

Report of Progress and Poverty Lecture Bureau

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LIBERTY THE END— TAXATION THE MEANS

It is not always that we agree with Mr. R. L. Outhwaite and articles that appear in The Commonwealth that he edits as the organ of the Commonwealth League, of England, but we were compelled to recognize the truth that there is in the following:

"In these days it is a disservice to state in terms of taxation and rating the philosophy of land restoration. The mission of the evangelist fails when he appears in the guise of a tax collector. It is the interpretation of the natural law that is called for today. Not so long ago the medicine men shut the consumptive up behind closed doors and windows in a heated atmosphere and so hastened death. Now Nature has been called in—the light, the fresh air, and abundance of food. For mankind, hope alone lies in the throwing open of the doors and windows, in escape from the medicine men to Nature."

Just what should be our attitude toward the question of the Great Restoration and its relation to the method by which it is to be attained, is probably best summed up in the striking sentence of LeBaron Goeller, "Liberty the—Taxation the means." That the Single Tax movement has steadily retrograded from the high moral enthusiasm with which it began to a programme of mere fiscal reform from which nearly all the juices have been very effectually squeezed out, is becoming apparent to most of us, and this accounts for the new awakening which is taking place everywhere in the movement.—Single Tax Review. (now Land and Freedom), Joseph Dana Miller, Editor. (1920)

The Progress and Poverty Lecture Bureau, which started in July 1928 and stopped operations in January 1930, was a continuation of our efforts of 1910-15 to start a National Single-Tax newspaper (that is the reason why we left New York City and came to Union) which ceased publication in 1916 because of lack of support.

Both of these efforts were made to popularize Henry George's great politico-economic work, "Progress and Poverty", which may be divided into 3 phases: (1) An investigation of the Natural Law of Wages (Bk. 3, chap. 3). (2) The Remedy, and, (3) The Method of the Remedy, the latter being one of three methods; (1) Divide up the land as in Palestine when Moses led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt; (2) Nationalize the land; (3) Single-Tax—Collect the economic rent through our present tax system.

(to be continued)

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