

moment seems ripe: he will not breast the popular current, or seek to make headway against the tide. Much has been said for and against him. From one view he is right, from another he is wrong. Individually it is probably a matter of natal endowment.

The Great Adventure seems to have smoked out from his hole an entirely new animal, the Inopportunist, to whom no time is ever ripe, who is as fecund of reasons why this is not just the right time to enact the thing he has been preaching for thirty years as the shad is of—caviar. He has lived, dreamed, and worked, for single tax—as a theory—but now when the opportunity offers to apply it, when The Great Adventure in California is almost certain to enact it at the coming election as a war measure to open twenty million idle acres to the immediate production of food and supplies, he has a thousand excuses for not being interested.

His first "reason" against The Great Adventure's one tax constitutional amendment was its inhibition of the gross earnings tax on public utilities. Demanding only one tax, it was therefore not single tax and should not be supported by singletaxers!!

The memory of that serio-comic fiasco—car-

ried to the daily plutocratic press by a single-taxer of considerable prominence, in the name of single tax, on the eve of election—should charitably be obliterated from the annals of single tax; but while the single tax Inopportunist continues to function against the first and only chance ever offered in America of immediately enacting single tax; how can his ludicrous, albeit damnably effective, original objection that "one" is not single, be forgotten?

Two life-long singletaxers met at Kansas City late in the summer of 1916. One was of national public renown, the other widely known in the midwest and generally known in the single tax world. Said one to the other, "That Great Adventure bill in California is away ahead of its time. People won't vote for so radical a measure."

"Of course they won't," said the other. "I don't believe they will poll 50,000 votes."

"Fifty thousand!" smiled the first. "They won't get 10,000 votes."

That was pessimism talking. The names of the speakers will be supplied to anyone interested. The answer was 260,332 counted votes and—as we have reason to believe—a good many more uncounted.

## A New Program of Inaction

Passing innumerable other single tax objections to the immediate abolition of all taxes but the one on land values, we arrive at what seemed to be the last stand of the single tax Inopportunist—harmony!

"You people out in California get together; then we'll be interested. While there are two proposals, how can we decide between them? Sink your differences. Harmonize tax elimination and single tax. Pull together."

The logic of this was not so good as its sound. "It means," wrote Charles H. Ingersoll to Daniel Kiefer, "that you are waiting for the tail to wag the dog."

It was about the same as an attempt to hold up war supplies until the minority in congress ceases to oppose the administration. But it sounded well, a year ago, and offered a plausible excuse for singletax lukewarmness or hostility to the California campaign.

Last fall it became apparent, thru sheer logic of world events, that the California minority opposition to The Great Adventure had practically ceased.

In face of the Russian revolution, the bottom fact of which was the opening of the land to 180,000,000 people by the mere penstroke of Nicholas Lenine, without a day's warning to the landed aristocracy, the California proposal

for the concentration of all taxes on land values lost its drastic appearance; it was seen to be mild and patient enough for these hours of world changes.

Intestinal differences gone in California, but one single tax demand pending and that with every reasonable prospect of winning—a new Inopportunist appeared in the single tax world, two of them, in fact. One shouted: "This is no time to embarrass the prosecution of the war by proposing to change the land system. We must kill prussianism first; then we will consider single tax again. All bets are off now until the war is won."

"Food will win the war!" rang thru the land.

The Great Adventure in California adopted the cry as its own. "The stars in their courses" are battling for a free manhood on a free earth. Destiny comes with outstretched hands to Single Tax, bearing the one thing necessary for its complete immediate application—an Obvious national need producing a popular psychology ready to embrace it!

And Daniel Kiefer rises and says: "Don't do that. You mustn't put over single tax as a war measure. This terrible war is the thing to fight now. When peace has been declared then we'll apply single tax." And he writes to Henry Bool, of Somerset, England, as follows:

I am as strong for The Great Adventure as I have been from the start of it, but have lost interest and faith in Luke North. His change to the war side makes him unworthy of any further confidence. I hope they will win with The Great Adventure this year, but if they do, I won't believe it is because he came out for organized murder.

As the sage of Pulcruria once remarked: "Mine enemies I will disarm with kindness (after I have beaten 'em to it) but who will save me from my friends?"

Could Inopportunist go further?

And the National Single Tax League starts an elaborate program of—education!

On the eve of victory—

When the national necessity for opening the land and resources to production has become so obvious that the dullest can see and only Prussian sympathy and intrigue dare oppose it; when the president of the United States, the most conspicuous figure in the world, has shown his approval of the single tax plan by selecting a number of its chiefest exponents as his confidential advisers and officials—

When christendom faces a food famine and no man, woman, or child can blink the Obvious fact that food can only come from land open to Use; when world events have conspired to produce popular feeling against land speculation; when the world is aflame with the demand for tangible economic democracy and "Darkest" Russia has gained it—

When the nation resounds with the call and the deep feeling of true patriotism whose first and most insistent demand is for Food that can come only from land free to labor; when the former head of the steel trust, the greatest monopoly in the world, has openly said:

"We are at the threshold of a new social era; which means that the man who labors with his hands, who does not possess property, is going to dominate the affairs of the world—not merely Russia, Germany, and the

United States, but the whole world. This great change is going to be a social adjustment. It is nearer than we think."—

When in Mississippi the legislature is considering a straight, frank single (one) tax bill; when the people of Missouri for the second time are trying to enact an initiative proposal to put single tax in the state constitution; when in California, following a popular vote of over 260,000 for an immediate change in the land system, the same proposal is now unitedly endorsed by all radical and labor forces in the state and is held by the most disinterested view to be almost certain of success at the coming election if at all decently financed—

Now, on this eve of victory for single tax, when probably it might be won in three great states of the union and almost surely in California—

The National Single Tax League, true to its anti-militant history and its academic personnel, begins to outline an elaborate campaign of—education! While in illiterate Russia and peon Mexico the people have taken the land, abruptly and forcibly dispossessing the landlords, we in "enlightened America," after thirty years of nation-wide single tax agitation and education; in this world hour of Action—when the products of the earth are so short that even money cannot procure them!—

When government operation of railroads has been achieved over night, and the whole line of Hearst newspapers have practically passed over to single tax advocacy, along with the sixty or more Scripps evening papers—

When the application, the enactment, the Practise of single tax is so near that "if it were a snake it would bite you"—and only single-taxers themselves can delay or defeat it—leaving the inevitable social readjustment to violence between "reds" and reactionaries—

## For Another Decade of Theory

Comes now the National Single Tax League asking the singletaxers of the nation to finance—"Four sets of contributing agencies!" (quoting from the January Bulletin of the league on "Our Work for 1918.") What are these "four contributing agencies"? Let Mr. Towne himself tell it, in his own engaging typograph:

Speakers  
Writers  
Organizers  
Newspapers

The League ought to have a central lecture bureau with branches in the leading cities of the country operated in conjunction with the State organizations. I happen to know that Boards of Trade, civic organizations, colleges, churches and societies without number, want to know about the Single Tax and will give it serious attention. The League ought to provide the

facilities for all our best writers to be well and happily employed. I will help to provide such facilities if you will give me a hand.

We ought to have trained organizers at work all over the country organizing civic bodies and societies of various sorts for the local discussion and promotion of our ideas. All these branches of the work can be made largely self-supporting if the League will supply the initial capital to get them started.

And finally, we must have an active Single Tax journalism at the strategic points all over the country. I cannot go into all the details of this work here; but I can promise you that I will make the League largely instrumental in helping along these lines if you will all stand together and each give us the small amount of financial assistance we are asking from you.

How delightful! From this admirable program of Inaction nothing is forgotten, except