the spelling-bee at the new school-house, the
weekly quilting party at Abijah Jenkins, and
the noonday game of checkers at the corner
grocery. The "most prominent Singletaxer of
Spoon River" was a "dangerous anarchist" to
this pacifist plan of perpetual propaganda.
How the land monopolists and food speculators
tremble when they read "Our Work for 1918!"

Another generation of education!
Could anything be more untimely, more re-
troactive, in this moment of rapid world
changes, when twenty million human beings
are mangling one another on the battlefields of
Europe?—when Missouri probably, and Cali-
ifornia certainly, are on the eve of Enacting
single tax. This is camouflage, Mr. Towne.
You have forgotten the starved babes of the
slums, the slave children of the coal mines and
fabric mills, the underfed, shivering, debased
human beings of christendom—the girls in
swathshops and brothels—my brothers and
yourself an idle earth in search of work!
This is the hour to Apply single tax, not to
begin to prepare to teach it. Mankind is eager,
waiting, for its Practise. It will be put into
practical operation Now or Never, I venture
the prophecy. If not now, in the moment of
its most obvious need, to establish economic
democracy in an orderly manner, the world of
Men will turn against it as a rich man's toy,
the hobby of intellectual gymnasts—the living
analogy of the orthodox heaven of futurity.

What can stay the enactment of single tax
in both Missouri and California at the Novem-
ber election? Nothing but the apathy, the
academics, the antagonism of singletaxers!
For the application of single tax the world looks
naturally to the singletaxers, to that body of
social students and propagandists who have
specialized on the plan of social salvation
announced in the writings of Henry George.
Almost everybody is morally opposed to land
speculation. Scarcely any fair-minded person
needs much conversion to the simple rule of
justice, fair play, that only those who use land
and resources should be permitted to hold them.
Ninety percent of the population would vote
tomorrow to open the earth to the immediate
production of food, if they had a chance, if the
issue were put thus frankly before them.

But only the specialists in the study of so-
cial economy know that this great, desirable,
and almost universally desired change can be
effectuated in a quiet, orderly manner by limiting
the taxing power of the state to the site-value
of land. So everybody loves music, art, and
literature, but only the specially endowed or
trained can produce them. A vast number of
people never would be scientific musicians, if
all the players and composers in the world
stopped the practise of their calling and went
to teaching it. The best way to enculturate
the population is to give it more and more and more
good music, art, and literature; surround it,
shower upon it the works of the experts therein.

The best and quickest way to spread a funda-
mental knowledge of single tax and awaken a
popular scientific desire for it, is to enact it
somewhere, put it into practise where its bene-
ficial results can stand out as an obtruding ob-
ject lesson for all the world to see. If it is
clear, or only half, of what we claim it to be, the
whole world will quickly embrace it.

Shall we have no music until a majority of
the population has been educated in its rudiments;
no art until fifty-one percent of the
voters have learned to draw; no freedom until
the slaves themselves have learned the elements of scientific social economy? The world
doesn't progress in that way.

Educative Value of Single Tax

Had we waited for the Negroes to abolishe chattel slavery we would have been
waiting yet. And that is no reflection on Negro
psychology or mentality—but merely to recog-
nize the influence of environment. Only the
student breaks the force of his early surround-
ings—the student of art, literature, music,
finance, business, sociology. All would study
something or other and become proficient
therein, if they had a chance, but not a tenth of
any population will ever study such a forbid-
ing subject as taxation.

The notion of theoretically educating to a so-
cial heaven is the foolishest dream. You would
think a knowledge of single tax could be in-
herited like chattels and mortgages. Each new
generation is born without a knowledge of sin-

dle tax! Or shall we wait for single tax to
open the land until it is taught in the public
schools like readin' and writin'? Why, it has
almost reached that point now in California.
Probably there is not a high school in the state
that does not have debates on single tax at
least once a year.

Perhaps education is all right and we can't
have too much of it. I don't believe it—but
maybe I am wrong. Well then, what better
single tax education could we have than its
direct application in one of the great states of
the union? What possible single tax educa-
tion could be a hundredth part so efficacious as
the enactment of a clear, simple, straightforward
single tax amendment to the constitution of
Missouri or California?
Evidently, we have forgotten the starving children, the wrecked lives, slums, brothels, and prisons—fruit of the feudal land system—which only the enactment of single tax can abolish.

Probably Mr. Towne will not contend that his vast scheme of single tax education, which he is now beginning to prepare to organize, with “facilities for all our best writers to be well and happily employed”—will feed any dinner children this year or the next.

Evidently, we have forgotten the food famine that threatens the world, the need of the Allied armies and peoples for food today—that “food will win the war!” and its lack will probably lose it, or at least cause it to end in a draw—an armed truce, leaving Germany junkatorium free to recoup itself and remain a menace to the world!

Probably Mr. Towne will not contend that his program for “an active single tax journalism at strategic points” will increase the food supply this year or the next.

Yet food is the world need—and twenty million idle fertile acres in California can be opened to its production, twelve months of the year, by an overwhelming majority vote of an aroused and patriotic electorate, on the 5th of November of this year, provided enough money is forthcoming to enroll 100,000 signatures to secure the initiative demand a place on the ballot, and to keep the issue bold and frank before every voter.

The need of the hour is not education, of any sort—but Food—and the single tax campaign vigorously, universally waged in California at once will throw open millions of acres of good land months before election day. The speculators will rush to improve or release their holdings the moment the single tax campaign is known to be capably financed. The great vote of 260,332 in 1916 was gained at an average expense of Four Cents per vote—and against single tax opposition, secret and open!

This year there is no single tax opposition. The logic of world events killed it. As announced in The Great Adventure weekly of February 9th:

California Battle Line Closes

With the election of Judge J. H. Ryckman to the executive committee of The Great Adventure in California, at the meeting of February 2d, there came to a happy ending (so far as human vision can foresee) that contentious book of "Doctrinaire Differences" whose first chapter began with the birth of The Great Adventure’s single (one) tax measure early in 1916.

Against great odds, poorly financed, openly opposed by former single-taxers, the one tax proposal won a place on the state ballot against the opposing home rule measure and at the election gained the surprising large vote of 260,332. In 1917 the Equity Tax League and its tax elimination bill took the place of home rule in opposition to The Great Adventure measure.

Came the nation’s part in the world war and the Allies’ need for food and supplies—single-taxers knew the Source of them!

World events have closed the ranks and shown unmistakably the line of least resistance against the common enemy—Land Monopoly.

The warring forces are united. On the 28th of January the Equity Tax League withdrew its initiative measure and vacated its office. Its former president, H. B. McFarlane, has authorized G. J. Johnson and Judge Ryckman to announce that the Equity Tax proposal is out of the field and all efforts to place it on the ballot have been abandoned.

In formally re-joining The Great Adventure, Judge Ryckman assured the campaign committee that not only was all opposition withdrawn, but in light of recent world happenings he felt sure that the entire radical, labor, and liberal forces of California were now in spirit and would soon be in actual working harmony behind the one political revolutionary demand of the hour—to Change the Land System!

It was Judge Ryckman who went to Atlantic City as the representative of the Equity Tax League and at the organization of the National Great Adventure for Single Tax opposed the California single tax amendment, urging endorsement of the Equity’s tax elimination bill.

Personally the Judge made a good many friends in the Atlantic City convention and his witty remarks at the inevitable succeeding banquet (for even the militant single taxer eats—occasionally) are still pleasantly remembered. In returning to the single tax position he offered no apology for changing his mind—and if he had, would have been answered with Emerson’s famous passage in Self Reliance: “A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds... Speak what you think now in hard words and tomorrow speak what tomorrow thinks in hard words again, tho' it contradict everything you said today...”

The Great Adventure owns no patent on single tax. In California any group or person may initiate a constitutional amendment, send it to the attorney-general for a ballot title, print it in legal form, and go out and ask the voters to sign it. If eight per cent of the qualified electors sign, the secretary of state must place the issue on the ballot at the next election.

The Great Adventure executive council (originating in the Los Angeles Single Tax League, the largest single tax body in the state) put forward the single tax amendment—because no other group or individual did or would. Similarly, the management of the 1916 campaign, very largely, fell to the hands of those, not most competent, but whose feeling in the matter and their positions in life enabled them to give themselves most unreservedly to