

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 retroactive, 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 California 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 sweatshops and brothels—my brothers and yours tramping 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 November 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 social economy know that this great, desirable, and almost universally desired change can be effected 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 enculture a 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 fundamental knowledge of single tax and awaken a popular scientific desire for it, is to enact it somewhere, put it into practise where its beneficial results can stand out as an obtruding object lesson for all the world to see. If it is all, 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 Applied Single Tax

Had we waited for the Negroes themselves to abolish chattel slavery we would have been waiting yet. And that is no reflection on Negro psychology or mentality—but merely to recognize the influence of environment. Only the student breaks the force of his early surroundings—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 forbidding subject as taxation.

The notion of theoreticly educating to a social heaven is the foolishhest dream. You would think a knowledge of single tax could be inherited like chattels and mortgages. Each new generation is born without a knowledge of sin-

gle 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 education 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 slum 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 German junkerdom 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 mil-

lion 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 "Doctrinal 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 singletaxers, 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—singletaxers know 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 fighting forces are united. On the 28th of January the Equity Tax League withdrew its initiative measure and vacated its offices. Its former president, H. W. 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 harness 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