

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

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?