I am as strong for The Great Adventure as I have been from the start of it, but have lost interest and faith in Lake 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 organised 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 Inopportunism 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 afeafe 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 only come 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 personality, 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 practice 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 single-taxers 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 typogaph:

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 quilling 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-
fornia certainly, are on the eve of Enacting
single tax. This is camouflage, Mr. Towne.
You have forgotten the starved babes of the
slums, the 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
your tramp 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 Pracite. 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 turn will against it as a rich man's toy,
the hobby of intellectual gymasts—the living
anology 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
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 practice of their calling and went
to teaching it. The best way to enculturate
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 funda-
mental knowledge of single tax and awake a
popular scientific desire for it, is to enact it
somewhere, put it into practise where its ben-
ficial results can stand out as an obtruding ob-
ject 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 rud-
iments; no art until fifty-one percent of the
voters have learned to draw; no freedom until
the slaves themselves have learned the ele-
ments of scientific social economy? The world
doesn't progress in that way.

Educative Value of

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 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-

Applied Single Tax

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 educa-
tion could be a hundredth part so efficacious as
the enactment of a clear, simple, straighforward
single tax amendment to the constitution of
Missouri or California?