LISTEN to a fable, children:

There was once a Manure File, breeding Flies. There were statesmen, politicians, philanthropists, even a few editors who
called themselves radicals—making Fly Traps.

One suggested a Slowlime on the Manure File. He
was stoned by the statesmen. Reform politicians
searched for a Slowlime.

It occurred to one to attack the Manure File with a Shovel. Seventeen Life Long Single Taxers rushed out to wrest the Shovel from him and place a Teaspoon in his hand.

The Shovel paid no attention to the Seventeen Single Taxers and dug deep into the Manure File. This angered the Single Taxers, who owned a patent on a Slowlime formula that was guaranteed to eat away the filth in not less than 1000 years without disturbing in the least the Fly Trap industry—and
they would have coerced the Shovel to inactivity, but for the Anarchist Policeman on the street corner.

"We must have Law and Order here," he said.

"I don't approve his dirty work: no Respectable Person would do it, but this is a Free Country, and
you mustn't physically hinder him without an order of
the court."

"But this is a Democratic Country," said the Seventeen, "and he's depreciating our Slowlime stock. It is not Fair!"

The Shovel took no notice. Soon a few Inte-
ligent Persons whose deep studies had gained them
the profound knowledge that flies breed in moist filth, came with rakes and helped to spread out the Manure so the sun could cure it.

The Seventeen Single Taxers were heart-broken.
Sobbingly they appealed to the busy Shovel, "It is not Fair!"

The kind-hearted Policeman was deeply affected.

"No, it is not Fair," he sobbed.

A few idlers straggled along, and loitered. They knew nothing about the matter, how Flies originated or how they could be abolished, but they had soft hearts and tender ears for Words. Soon they were sobbing, too.

"It's not Fair!"

The tears flowed, covering the ground with moisture that kept the spread Manure alive.

"Oh, Hell!" said the Shovel in disgust, as he
paused to wipe the sweat.

"Don't you want to be Fair?" wept the Seventeen
Single Taxers.

"No, I don't want to be Fair,—damn all that eat!
I want to clean out this Manure File. Get away, if
you can't help. Shoo! You're worse than the Flies."

"Oh! Oh! he doesn't want to be Fair!" gasped the
Seventeen as they scuttled off.

Next day they consulted a Nice Fat Office Holder
who receives a Beautiful Salary for shooting Flies from the homes of the rich.

"Try him on Harmony," said the Fat One. "He'll
fall for some line of Talk—they all do. Ask him to
Get Together with you and make Harmony. Everybody
wants Harmony—it's the stock-in-trade of the
kingdom. We feed it to soldiers and criminals; it's the chief ingredient of powder for machine guns. He'll quit for Harmony's sake."

The Seventeen went back to the Shovel, but he only grinned as he worked:

"There's no Harmony with these Flies buzzing
and stinging. Get away. This isn't a symphony
concert, but a man's job to rid the neighborhood of Flies."

Quite a number of Helpers were now on the job and a big hole was being made in the Manure File.

The Seventeen Single Taxers sought the counsel of
the Most Prominent person in Fly Trap City, who
was named Palaver and kept an elegant pawnshop on Palavined Street over which was a large sign
"The Golden Rule."

"You must induce him to drop that Shovel and
use a Teaspoon," said Mr. Palaver. "Promise him a
silver spoon, or a gold one—any kind of a spoon he
wants, so long as it is chosen at a Democratic
meeting. Play up the Get Together and the Democracy
wants good and strong—"

"But he's too stubborn," said the Seventeen out
of the fullness of experience. "He won't listen to
Reason, but keeps on digging."

"Why—happy thought!—then he's an Autocrat.
Go shout at him. It will scare off some of the Helpers, anyway."

It did frighten away a few of the Helpers, par-
particularly those with pledges in the Palaver pawnshop.

But now the People began to understand about
the origin of Flies and how to stop their breeding.

They soon came in crowds and worked like Men.

At last accounts the Manure File was rapidly fading, the Fly Trap industry was waning, and the market quotations in the Morning Bunch listed Slowlime
stock at 101 cents below par.

Is it not an interesting fable, children? But
gather closer and let me whisper, "It is also
true; it is current history, draped as diaphan-
ously as a Newport belle."

The first obstacle to gaining the earth for the
people is a hitherto-conspicuous Three Per
Cent of Single Taxers—whose interests are
bound up in a brand of Slowlime.

In the summer of 1915 the Single Tax
Leagues of Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Stockton, backed by the Radical
ism of the state, declared for the Immediate
restoration of the earth to the people and with
unparalleled temerity set about the enactment
of its demand.

This was the birth of The Great Adventure
which had been conceived in the pages of
Everyman (issue of Jan-Feb, 1915) not as a
Single Tax movement, not in any doctrinaire
way, but as a Base of Union upon which to
focus the entire radical strength and Move it
to the Immediate accomplishment of a definite
fundamental issue—not by educating the peo-
dle in the theories and subtleties of a taxation
system, but by a direct appeal to their Sympa-
thy and Manhood.

Its demand was, and is, variously stated:
That land and resources not in Use shall be
free and open to whoever will use them; that
the private ownership of land, or its monopoly
holding, shall cease; that the raw products of
earth, its coal, iron, oil, timber, etc., shall be
public property in which all shall share on
equal terms; that ground rent, or the rental
values of land, shall be paid into the public
treasures instead of private pockets. State it
otherwise, if you wish; there is to be no quarrel
over phrasing. It is the real tangible earth
that is demanded, all that is by nature alone
placed on or under it, and all its site or popula-
tion values. There shall be no Land Lord
and monopoly shall be destroyed at its root.
The cause of war, which is Monopoly and Privi-
lege, shall be abolished.

We shall approach life from an entirely dif-
f erent angle, with different feeling and motive,
that of the Golden Rule. We shall no longer
grab-as-grab-can regardless of the weak and
the unborn, but each take from nature's store-
house on the rule of fair play with due con-
deration for every member of the human family.

This is the demand of the Great Adventure—
for a new social base—Immediately!

It is agreed that this can be harmoniously ac-
complished and maintained only in one way, by
the application of a Single Tax on land values
pushed to its logical conclusion of absorbing all
rent. Of course, to apply the Single Tax means
to abolish all other taxes—else words have no
meaning at all; else the purpose of Single Tax
can never be accomplished.

Students of sociology, all who have examined
carefully and fearlessly social causes and re-
lations, are agreed that the Single Tax, faithfully
administered with that end firmly in view, will
speedily reduce the tenure of land to Use and
distribute its values and resources fairly.

How far this will result in a fair and humane
distribution of the manufactured products, the
finished food and clothing, the money, etc., re-
 mains to be seen. We needn't worry much about
that. When we take the Sources of wealth we will probably have sense enough—and the Manhood!—to control the wealth itself
in a satisfactory manner.

We need not be so anxious about the great
accumulations of the billionaires. They haven't
so much tangible property—scarcely any that is
not scrap-heaped every ten years and must be
renewed from the Source. Their enormous
wealth is mainly in paper securities that are
mortgages on labor thru titles to the earth.

The inherent value, compelling power, of
these mortgages and titles will be destroyed by
the One Tax on land values—or its enact
ment will be futile.

On a free earth Wall street will have no
power to exact high prices, to compel low
wages, to starve or disemply, to take rent.
When the People own the Source they will be
able to control all that flows from it, but while
the Source remains in private hands all efforts
to control the flow are but wasted energy.

If the Single Tax is not administered with
the definite, determined purpose of accomplishing
this result it will be futile—and so would
any human device. The world is ruled by
Desire, usually by the desire of the few
impressed on the many—negatively the desire of
the few becomes the desire, or the acquiescence,
of the many. Occasionally the Many awake
and enforce Their Desire, marking an epoch in
history. Russia is marking one now.

These epochs are marked when the natural
leaders of the people, the radicals of the time,
find a base of union and, at least for the mo-
moment, cease bewildering the crowd with con-
tradictory counsel. The Base of Union is here
—the Land Issue! Not a radical of any school
will care to dissent or withhold his active sup-
port from the land issue when it becomes an
Immediate movement of the people to take
possession of the Source of their supplies.

But what a fatuous error it is to confuse the
actual radicals who are ready Now to act bold-
ly and frankly, with those pseudo, academic,
timid, self-styled, radicals whose only sign of
movement is to hinder Action!

Is it to be thought, indeed, that there is such
confusion in anyone's mind? or is it that those
who seem to hesitate between the Shovel
legions or the Teaspoon Seventeen are trying to
"salve their consciences," "looking for a soft
place to fall," or "trying to carry water on both
shoulders"? They catch at such trivial reasons,
anything in the guise of a reason seems
enough; any Word or catch-phrase they cling
to, any untruth or half-truth flung about, any
silly personal accusation (true or false, as tho
the failings or virtues of a person had anything
to do with the Land Issue) any technical or
legal quibble raised by a paid attorney—(even
children know that lawyers disagree).

To be more explicit, since it seems impos-
sible utterly to ignore these superficial things,
since even the Land for the People plea must
be interlarded with these sectarian quibbles,
since there may be an honest uninform-
ent hesitant—

For "Shovel" read The Great Adventure's
unequivocal California demand for a Free Earth
—at once—written in the plainest, most direct
and unmistakable, the frankest and tersest
language, without an extra word or syllable
upon which to hang a cavil: "All public reve-
uues shall be raised by taxation of the value of
land irrespective of improvements thereon"—
followed by this equally clear expression of its
purpose, "The intent is to prevent the holding
Rule organization of seven or eleven members printed an imposing letterhead and issued a statement in which No. 5 was denounced in the name of Single Tax, because (quoting): “I would deprive municipalities of revenues collected from public utilities!”

As the California constitution taxes public utilities only for state revenue, as such tax is known to be a swindle, and as Single tax cannot be enacted while it lasts, this was a stupid sophistry scarcely worth its price to plutocracy —yet it helped to create the cloud of quibbles and doubt by which No. 5 was beaten.

The “Singletax” Allies of General Otis

October 22, 1916, near the close of the campaign, this document was published in the Los Angeles Times under this heading:

**SINGLETAX BODY TURNS ON VICIOUS AMENDMENT**

Consecutively Initiative Measure on November Ballot Is too Much for Home Rule League That Worked for Two Previous Proposals of the Same Purported Tenor — Destructive Features Exposed!

The article was two columns long, spoke an untruth or vicious half-truth in every paragraph, and was signed by David Woodhead as president, and P. T. Anderson, secretary of the Southern California League for Home Rule in Taxation. Appended were the names, as officers and “advisory committee,” of R. E. Chadwick, Helen Murphy—and a score of well known men and women more or less closely allied with Single Tax and kindred work, among them, for instance, Thomas Barker, secretary of the Building Trades Council. Of course Barker promptly repudiated the use of his name in any such connection, and so did most of the others.

But these repudiations were not published in the Times—that was not part of the program. Again word went over the state that Singletaxers repudiated the Single Tax amendment.

Concerning this Times publication, on October 30, 1916, Daniel Kiefer wrote to Clarence E. Todd, the state Home Rule secretary at San Francisco, as follows:

Contributing Singletaxers of the United States should be assured that their funds will never go to anyone who cannot show that he or she is not under suspicion of connection with opposition to a movement (The Great Adventure) that had the approval of ninety-nines and nine-tenths percent of the Singletaxers of the United States. I think it incumbent on you to denounce such unspeakable knavery.

When the roll is called, whether The Great Adventure win or lose, the traitors in California should be exposed and drummed out.

But the Eggleston-Todd-Troy “Singletaxers” were not in the business of exposing and drumming out their associates. There was other similar work to be done, and such workers were few. The matter was dropped, hushed, almost forgotten. The workers of The Great Adventure had no feeling to pursue the traitors, expose the “Singletax” infamy to the world. They contented themselves, after election, with refusing to confer on political action with those known to have worked with plutocracy against No. 5.

Yes, it was Treachery that defeated No. 5. Singletax money, dollars collected from Singletaxers, by Singletaxers, for Singletax, used by Singletaxers, in the name of Singletax, that defeated the first Single Tax measure ever proposed in the United States that ever stood the slightest chance of enactment.

It cannot be said that these were the acts of sincere but mistaken men who honestly believed that Amendment No. 5 was not a genuine Single Tax proposal which if voted into the constitution and administered by those in sympathy with its clear intent would not speedily end land monopoly in California.

They claimed that, they published it in the plutocratic press, but their plutocratic allies were more honest, openly declaring that if No. 5 passed it would destroy land values. Especially the banks and the real estate sharks flooded the state with such declarations.

If No. 5 was not a Single Tax bill, if it would not destroy speculative land values, if it would not stand the strain of the courts—then why was it so bitterly fought by united plutocracy? Why did the plutocratic press even refuse to publish paid-in-advance advertisements of it?

The Los Angeles Times declared it to be the “Greatest Menace to labor and industry as well as to all property interests of the state.” By its enemies the crowd knew it to be a Single Tax bill—and honest Singletaxers in doubt