

When I became a Single Taxer in 1912 I was sure that I would see the Single Tax adopted in my lifetime. But with the passing of time I became more and more disappointed. And I am not alone. Our failure is either the fault of the doctrine or else of the way we have presented it. I believe it is the latter.

In Progress and Poverty Henry George offers two plans to collect the rent of land. Plan No. 1 is to, at one stroke, abolish all land titles, declaring all land public property and leasing it to the highest bidders. Plan No. 2 is to refrain from abolishing the land titles but to let the landowners buy and sell and bequeathe their land. He proposes to appropriate rent by taxation.

After promoting this tax method for 100 years we are no further advanced than we were in 1879. Did George make a mistake by choosing Plan No. 2? I say yes.

To set the Georgist movement on the right track I would recommend the following: A division of the movement into two parts with different names. 1, a national organization to campaign for amendments to the U.S. Constitution that all the land is our common heritage; that the rent of land which is created by the people shall be collected and distributed, in equal shares, to the people in order to give each one an equal economic opportunity to make an honest living; on a given date all land titles to become null and void. 2, state organizations under another name to abolish all indirect taxation and promote other reforms.

All public revenue should be obtained by direct taxation according to services rendered. There should be no public debt.