

measure they think should be placed on the ballot at the next election, any outside aid for the Single Tax should be extended to them.

Peter Aitken, Albert Brandt, A. P. Canning, Stoughton Cooley, Otto Cullman, Benjamin Doblin, E. Stillman Doubleday, John Filmer, Joseph H. Fink, W. D. George, Whidden Graham, Byron W. Holt, Julian Kennedy, Emanuel M. Klein, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Sidney C. Lewi, William Lustgarten, Joseph Dana Miller, Samuel Milliken, Frederic H. Monroe, John J. Murphy, A. C. Pleydell, Edward Polak, A. P. Potter, William Ryan, Robert Schalkenbach, E. J. Shriver, Walter G. Stewart, August Weymann, Harry H. Willock.

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## THE DAUGHTER OF HENRY GEORGE ON THE CALIFORNIA SITUATION

*(For the Review)*

By ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE\*

Since the beginning of time there has not been such need as there will be when this world strife shall have ceased for those "who see the light" to show the crushed and bewildered peoples a way out of their economic tangles.

And so it seems vitally important that Single Taxers, who are surely the clearest of economic thinkers, should lay aside all petty differences and personal desires and pull together toward their great goal where they may demonstrate to the suffering world an ethical philosophy and a tax system that will make it possible to have peace on earth and good will to men.

That we in California should band together in one strong group that will make for concerted and focused action seems vitally important. We live in a State where Nature has been superlatively bountiful, but where graft and privilege stalk rampant. Here the Single Tax philosophy was born, and last November the fact that many thousands are looking toward the Single Tax as a solution of their economic troubles was demonstrated by the inspiring number that voted for a near-Single Tax Constitutional amendment. This splendid propaganda, led under the banner of the so-called "Great Adventure" group, is now being followed up by even more vigorous and widespread proselytizing. Two measures are to be submitted by petition to the voters of the State.

The fact that there are two petitions means a waste of money and energy, and a certain weakening in results. Therefore the question as to which one Single Taxers should concentrate on, is of great import.

A true Single Tax document to be circulated in a petition that he who runs may read, and that afterward goes on ballot, must be short and concise. It cannot, unfortunately, cover all details in disposing of the old regime and

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planning for the newly proposed one, but it must make its demand in brief but definite form so that even hostile officials may not find it easy to misinterpret.

While the Equity Tax League measure may not seem a perfect document to those who want unequivocal Single Tax immediately—those who framed it made it as strong as they believed the traffic would bear and there is little doubt in the minds of the great majority of California Single Taxers that it is by far the better of the two petitions offered, and excellent in itself—it has been indorsed by practically all the Single Tax Clubs and by the Socialists and Labor Unions. It is a self-executing measure, and once it is accepted by the people of the State as part of their Constitution, it cannot easily be twisted and misinterpreted by a hostile legislature.

It approaches Single Tax through the exemption method—a wise one, surely, for few people object to the lifting of the tax burden. Nor does it make the change from the old mode to the new one so abruptly as to cause confusion in taxation administration, but instead works slowly, and over a period of two years' time.

Since it removes improvements and personal property from the list of taxable things, it leaves land values as the source of revenue, thereby gaining its desired aim.

At first glance the "Great Adventure" measure seems straighter Single Tax, but as a proposed Constitutional amendment it has weaknesses. It is not self-executing, it removes public service corporations, (which in California are listed as personal property), from taxation, and it plans to work into the Single Tax, not slowly and conservatively, but fully and completely on Jan. 1, 1920. Henry George, himself, did not advocate making this fundamental move from the old form of taxation to the desired one in a day. He knew that a great and fundamental reform, to be lasting, must be made step by step, and with the support of the majority of the people educated to its need and conversant with the arguments that support it.

It is idle to discuss whatever merits the small "Great Adventure" group claim for their particular measure, since they stand isolated and apart from all other organized groups of Single Taxers.

If democracy stands for anything in our lives it must be a living force in the attainment of Single Tax. The vast majority of organized Single Tax groups have declared for the Equity Tax League amendment, and if it were for no other reason than the democratic principle of the will of the majority, this should be sufficient to commend the indorsement of this measure.

It will be no easy task to install Single Tax in California, for graft and privilege are entrenched here, and the power of press and money will be used to misinterpret and harm us in every possible way. Is it not wiser, then, for us who see the light, dim and far off though it may be, to travel together on the same path—the path that to the vast majority of us seems the wiser and better of the two?