

FOR LAND-VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE.

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The Awakening of China

THE late Dr. Sun Yat Sen was quoted as follows in the *Independent* (New York) in 1912:

"There is one point to which we ought to give the greatest attention. Formerly, people owning land paid taxes according to area. In the future taxes ought to be levied according to the value, not the area, of the land. The valuable land is mostly in the busy parts and is in the possession of wealthy men; to tax them heavily would be no oppression. The poor land is mostly the possession of poor people in the far back districts; nothing but the lightest taxes should be levied on them. If the tax were levied on the value of the land then this injustice would be done away with. If you compare the value of land in Shanghai to-day with what it was 100 years ago, it has increased ten thousand fold. Now industry in China is about to be developed. Commerce will advance. and in 50 years time we shall see many Shanghais in China. Let us take time by the forelock and make sure the unearned increment of land shall belong to the people and not to private individuals who happen to be the owners of the soil."

It is said that Chiang Kai Shek, commander in Chief of Canton armies, whose success in defeating entrenched armies far outnumbering his own, stamp him as a military genius of the first order, is an avowed Single Taxer, while the Christian general Feng, commander of another Canton army, assisted Dr. W. E. Macklin in translating "Protection or Free Trade". Dr. Macklin writes Will Atkinson that three editions of "Progress and Poverty" have been printed and that the cause is making steady progress in that country.

A reader of LAND AND FREEDOM, Floren L. Ink, of Denver, writes us as follows:

This is from Fernand Farjenel, "Through the Chinese Revolution," Chap. II, p. 13, "The Genesis of the Revolution." Mr. Farjenel is a Frenchman. He was in China at the time of the Revolution in 1912. Of Dr. Sun Yat Sen he says, "A Cantonese doctor of medicine was for twenty years the apostle of the Revolution to the world at large. He travelled to the ends of the earth, stirring up the enthusiasm of his countrymen in every corner of the globe. This is the famous Sun Yat Sen who has well deserved to be called the "Father of the Revolution," seeing that he has devoted his life to it, seeking to enlist in its cause foreigners and Chinamen alike."

Following this, Farjenel gives what was called the "Summary of the Revolution" issued by the Revolutionary Party in the year 1904. I have extracted the following: "All citi-

zens shall share equally in the advantages of civilization. Land may possibly rise in value owing to social and economic changes. Experts shall therefore determine its price, which shall belong to the owner. After the inauguration of the Republic, any additional increment shall belong to the State, in order that the people may share in it. This shall be the basis of the socialistic government, which shall ensure to every citizen the wherewithal to live.

"Monopolists, being a grave menace to the life of the people, shall be outlawed."

Also, in another book, "China Revolutionized," by John Stuart Thompson. This, also, has a chapter on "The Genesis of the Revolution," and on page 13 (I had not noticed this before but it looks like 13 might be an unlucky number for somebody in China and perhaps elsewhere), "Doctor Macklin, an American missionary of Nanking, had translated Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" into Chinese, and this book was in the hands of the reformers, and particularly appreciated by Sun Yat Sen." And on page 33 he says, "Sin Chin Nan, by translating parts of Dickens, had shown the Chinese people that the common man endured wrongs that should be righted.

"Thomas Paine's "The Crisis," which was read before the American regiments of 1776, was translated to be read to revolutionary societies like Sun Yat Sen's "Ka Ming Tang" and "Sia Hwei."

And on page 555 in a chapter on "Chinese Sociology" Mr. Thompson quotes a statement by Sun Yat Sen of which this is a part: "I am an ardent admirer of Henry George, whose ideas are practicable on the virgin soil of China, as compared with their impracticability in Europe or the United States, where the money is controlled by the capitalists. I have the full consent of the new republican government to start a propaganda immediately whereby the railroads, mines and similar industries will be controlled by the government. The Single Tax system, and as far as possible, free trade, will be adopted."

Taking all of the foregoing and later statements of Chinese leaders into consideration, it does not appear to me that they are entirely clear in their ideas about the Single Tax. However, it may be that they have inherited some of the defects of the ancient classical writers, of whom it has been said, that their language became so laconic that it lacked lucidity and became obscure. And since a great deal of ground is covered in these short statements, and they were perhaps made off hand, it may well be that they are capable of clearer thought than would appear."

A Faithful Worker Gone

A FAITHFUL as well as reasonable teacher of Henry George's principles and policies died at Charleston, South Carolina, on the 5th of April. His name was William Wallace Childs. In 1881 he came into the service of the daily *Truth* of New York City, as a local reporter. During the serial publication of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" in *Truth's* Sunday editions, Childs became an intelligent and devoted convert; and all the rest of his life he did useful missionary work, especially in economic circles, for the promotion of the cause which acknowledges Henry George as its founder and principal teacher.

For several years Mr. Childs was attached officially to governmental service at Washington. He retired on account

of age and illness, and last year he went back to Charleston, his native city, for the benefit of his failing health. It was his intention to pursue there his service in behalf of Henry George's teachings, but his life physically was too far gone.

In the best sense of the term Childs was a Southern gentleman. He was also a type of the earnest advocate of whom Henry George wrote in the conclusion of his "Progress and Poverty" that the "truth that I have tried to make clear . . . will find friends—those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be die for it."

The South Carolina *News and Courier* commenting on the death of Mr. Childs, said in its issue of April 10th:

"Mr. William Wallace Childs was a South Carolinian who spent the greater part of his life in the service of the government at Washington, and whose work in the federal civil service was of decided economic importance to the country. He was recognized, too, as an authority on the single tax, and was at work on a book dealing with this subject when he was stricken by the illness which occasioned his retirement.

"During the construction of the Panama Canal Mr. Childs was for four years stationed in the Canal Zone. Observing the great waste incurred through the double monetary system used in paying the host of employes there, he brought the matter to the attention of the Isthmian Canal Commission and secured the abolition of this system. Mr. W. W. Warwick, then examiner of accounts for the commission, and later comptroller of the United States treasury, impressed by the great saving to the United States resulting from this change, became a firm friend of Mr. Childs, and is among the many prominent public men who have frequently expressed their admiration of his ability and character.

"Mr. Childs early became convinced of the practicability of Henry George's theory of a single tax on the value of land as a means of establishing economic justice. In furtherance of this cause he wrote many articles printed in various magazines and in economic magazines. The book upon which he was engaged when he became ill would have been his most important contribution to the literature of this subject."

Mr. Childs became a Single Taxer when he and I were both writing on *Truth* in 1881-84.

LOUIS F. POST.

The Law

The land shall not be sold forever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

God to Moses (Lev. xxv:23).

Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law?

Jesus to the Jews (John vii:19).

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I am not come to destroy but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled,

Jesus to the Jews (Matt. v:17, 18).

Feudalizing America. The Early Lord Proprietors.

DURING the seventeenth century and while Feudalism was still in full sway in western Europe, the Kings of England granted immense territories on this continent to Feudal Lord Proprietors largely as gifts or bribes for various services they rendered him. Land is all that Kings have ever had to give away. And since Land makes Lords and a ruling class, it has always been the secret of the power that Kings and Lords have held over the disinherited landless masses.

GOVERNMENT BACK OF LAND CONTROL

And since America, the boasted home of Liberty and where anyone could get a "Mule and forty acres of land" and make a living, has suffered all the social wrongs that follow Land Concentration, though in a less degree than in Europe because of so much unsettled land to which Labor could escape, it becomes evident that every citizen should be informed as to why this is true and what is the self-evident Cause.

Work on Land produces Wealth. And when we say Land we mean all that results from Land acted on by the Labor of men. Machines that multiply wealth come from Land, and whoever controls the sources of the raw materials from which Machines are made, has the final control over Labor and the division of what Labor makes. So Land control is back of all industry; and the sorry part is that it is back of all our social wrongs. But the disposition of Land is due to the system of Government that formulates the rules and places the authority for the possession and control over Land. Hence to get at the evils that grow out of Land exploitation, we must cross-examine the Government, its agents, and the institutions that perpetuate the system of Government and uphold the system of Land tenure in vogue.

THE EARLY AMERICAN PRINCIPALITIES

England's rulership over the world and her ambition for world empire, had an early beginning. While Spain discovered the new world, England was among the first to challenge her claims to all of it. She sent out one exploring expedition after another, empowering the leaders to take possession of the new territory in the name of the sovereign of England. These were soon reenforced by actual settlements in Massachusetts, Virginia and Georgia. Later they were made all along the Atlantic seaboard except at the mouth of the Hudson where Holland had a small foothold. All this preparation for enlarged operations took about a hundred years or all of the sixteenth century. When the seventeenth century opened enough had been done to prove the riches of the lands beyond the sea and great were the expectations of not only the persecuted peoples of the Mother country but also of those of the nobility to increase their power of domain.