

AUTHORITIES WHO SUPPORT IN PART THE POSITION OF SINGLE TAXERS

In another part of this volume will be found an article from the pen of Mr. Samuel Milliken on the Forerunners of Henry George, which includes mention of many writers who before *Progress and Poverty* was published, taught, more or less adequately, the truths for which Single Taxers stand. Some years ago the late Ernest Howard Crosby made an elaborate collection of quotations from writers, poets, statesmen and others who have voiced the expression of man's equal right to the use of the earth. These were published under the title of *The Earth for all Calendar*, now out of print. Following are a few quotations from writers on political economy:

J. E. CAIRNES—"Little impression has been made on the rate of wages and profits by the universal industrial progress of recent times. . . . The large additions to the wealth of the country (England) has gone neither to profits nor to wages, nor yet to the public at large, but to swell a fund ever growing even while its proprietors sleep—the rent roll of the owners of the soil"—*Some Principles of Political Economy*.

HERBERT SPENCER—"There is reason to suspect that while private possession of things produced by labor will grow even more definite and sacred than at present; the inhabited area which cannot be produced by labor will eventually be distinguished as something which may not be privately possessed. As the individual, primitively owner of himself, partially or wholly loses ownership of himself during the militant regime, but gradually resumes it as the industrial regime develops; so possibly the communal proprietorship of land partially or wholly merged in the ownership of dominant men during the evolution of the militant regime will

be resumed as the industrial type becomes fully evolved.”—*Political Institutions*, chap. 15.

LAVELEYE—“The increased value of the soil resulting from national activity should be reserved to the nation, and not granted to sinecurists, who reap the advantage in the form of increased rent.”—*Primitive Property*, p. 347.

FICHTE—“The transformation of materials by our own efforts is the true juridical basis of property, and the only natural one Every man has over the material world a primordial right of appropriation and a right of property over such things only as have been modified by him.”—Quoted by Laveleye in *Primitive Property*, p. 348.

JOHN STUART MILL—“The essential principle of property being to assure to all persons what they have produced by their labor and accumulated by their abstinence this principle cannot apply to what is not the product of labor, the raw material of the earth.”—*Political Economy*, book 2, p. 85.

HERBERT SPENCER—“Equity does not permit private property in land. If the land owners have a valid right to its surface all who are not land owners have no right at all to its surface. Hence such can exist on the earth by sufferance only. It is manifest that an exclusive possession of the soil necessitates an infringement of the law of equal freedom. For men who cannot live and move and have their being without the leave of others cannot be equally free with others. The doctrine that men are equally entitled to the use of the earth is consistent with the highest state of civilization, and need cause no very serious revolution in existing arrangements.”—*Social Statics*.

Here are citations from eminent legal authorities:

SIR WILLIAM BLACKSTONE—“Accurately and strictly speaking, there is no foundation in nature or in natural law why a set of words on parchment should convey the dominion of land.”

SIR FREDERICK POLLOCK—“It is commonly supposed that land belongs to its owner in the same sense as money or a watch.

This is not the theory of English law since the Norman conquest, nor has it been so in its full significance at any time.

“No absolute ownership of land is recognized by our law books, except in the Crown. All lands are supposed to be held immediately or mediately of the Crown, though no rent or services may be payable and no grant from the Crown on record.”

JUSTICE LONGFIELD—“Property in land differs in its origin from property in any commodity produced by human labor; the product of labor naturally belongs to the laborer who produced it, but the same argument does not apply to land, which is not produced by labor, but is the gift of the Creator of the world to mankind. Every argument used to give an ethical foundation for the exclusive right of property in land has a latent fallacy.”

PROFESSOR W. A. HUNTER—“The English landlord system, so far from having any moral basis, is founded upon a supercilious contempt of the only moral principle that can afford any justification for private property in land.”

PROFESSOR ZACHARIE—“All the sufferings against which civilized nations have to struggle, may be referred to the exclusive right of property in the soil as their source.”

Statements from a few thinkers in other fields follow:

THOMAS CARLYLE—“The notion of selling for certain bits of metal. . . . the land of the world Creator, is a ridiculous impossibility.

“The widow is gathering nettles for her children’s dinner. A perfumed seigneur, delicately lounging in the Oeil de Boeuf, hath an alchemy whereby he will extract the third nettle and call it rent.

“Properly speaking the land belongs to these two: To the Almighty God and to all His children of men, that have ever worked well on it, or that shall ever work well on it. No generation of men can or could, with never such solemnity and effort sell land on any other principle. It is not the property of any

generation, we say, but that of all the past generations that have worked on it, and of all the future ones that shall work on it."

THOROLD ROGERS—"Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every bettering of the general condition of society, every facility given for production, every stimulus applied to consumption, raises rent. The landowner sleeps but thrives."

FRANCIS W. NEWMAN—"The history of the gradual, stealthy, but really nefarious revolution in which landlords, by their own legislative power and their influence over lawyers, changed themselves into landowners, needs to be popularized."

JOHN RUSKIN—"Bodies of men, land, water, and air are the principal of those things which are not, and which it is criminal to consider as personal or exchangeable property."