

They are the ones who so largely support the million dollar churches and the dog hospitals.

The Anti-Single Taxers have a powerful organization. They have money to burn. They know that money largely controls the avenues of thought. They know that lies become as living truth, if often told. If you doubt this statement, just look the world over. They know that the Single Taxers have the best of the argument. They dare no longer stand up before the ballot box, which is the American bar of justice. They have evolved a new scheme. They would destroy the power of the initiative and referendum by changing the law so that it will take 25 per cent. instead of 8 per cent. of the total votes cast to place the amendment on the ballot. They would thereby make any change in tax law prohibitive, and by so doing they would make themselves safe with their idle land. No, don't blame the rich; even though we could reverse the conditions between the struggling mothers and the patrons of the dog hospitals, these conditions would remain the same. Struggling mothers and dog lovers must both be given an equal opportunity.

If you have had just a little glimpse of that beautiful vision held by Henry George, you will realize that there is only one way out—with the ballot we must free the land, and let human beings have the same privilege as the birds of the air, to build their nests in any place not in use.

California Single Taxers are standing shoulder to shoulder. The line of cleavage is sharply drawn between them and the Anti's. It will be a battle royal until the votes are counted in November.

Single Taxers are fighting for the landless people; for the young men and women who want to live clean lives; for the mother who wants to raise her own children. Single Taxers would be good to dogs, but they believe in children first. In this struggle to emancipate ourselves from hypocrisy and landlordism, what will you do? Go look into the glass and ask yourself: "What should I do?" Go into communion with yourself, with the God that is within you, and then let your conscience dictate the amount.

Yours for a better world,

GERRIT J. JOHNSON.

**W**E gather from the *Revista del Impuesto Unico*, of Buenos Aires, news of Dr. Octavio de Souza Caneiro, mayor of Nichteroy, capital of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Souza Caneiro is an enthusiastic Georgist and succeeded in establishing the Single Tax for revenue purposes in his city. In other ways he was a conspicuous figure in his country, occupying the post of technical director of the great Brazilian steamship line, the Lloyd Nacional.

THE necessary relation between labor and land, the absolute power which the ownership of land gives over men who cannot live but by using it, explains what is otherwise inexplicable—the growth and persistence of institutions, manners, and ideas so utterly repugnant to the natural sense of liberty and equality.—HENRY GEORGE.

## The Law of Rent and The Law of Wages

(ADDRESS BY ROY R. WATERBURY BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL AT BAKERSFIELD, MARCH 18.)

**I**N San Francisco there is a live Men's Club for the discussion of present-day problems, known as the Commonwealth Club. Labor leaders are among its principal speakers. Much research work is done through committees, which in turn report periodically to the Club. Some time ago the writer was asked by the president to designate the committee to which he would rather belong. He replied, "To the Committee on Industrial Relations," giving as his reason that he was a Single Taxer. He received a reply that he had better change his preference to that of the committee on taxation or the agriculture committee, as there seemed to be but a remote relation between the land question and the wage question.

Strangely enough, at a previous time I had received an almost similar reply from the secretary of the law and legislative committee of the Central Labor Council of San Francisco in response to a request of the writer asking for a hearing by their committee on the form the next Single Tax measure should assume, he writing me "there were other things of much greater importance to which organized labor must give its attention."

Now, is there only a remote relation between the land question and the wage question?—and is there anything of more fundamental importance to labor than the land question?

To each of these propositions my answer is an emphatic "No!" It is what one can produce on land at the margin of cultivation which determines the prevailing wage in the cities as well as in the rural communities.

The land question is at the bottom of the wage question. It is what labor can make employing itself on a piece of land which determines what it will obtain in the form of wages elsewhere.

What one can make for himself on a piece of land after paying rent determines the going wage not only for the farm hand, but for the laborer in the city as well.

The law of rent and the law of wages are therefore complements of each other. Labor gets what it produces less what is absorbed in the form of ground rent. If the basis for ground rent is two-fifths of the amount of wealth produced (as it is in many rural communities) it means that labor is getting but three-fifths of what it produces. This approximates the extent of the robbery to which labor is subjected today. In other words, the man getting \$6.00 today should get \$10.00, and the man getting \$10.00 should receive \$16.00. He should get this without experiencing a diminution in the purchasing power of the dollar he receives.

But to attempt to get such an increase without putting a stop to unearned incomes flowing into the pockets of

private individuals in the form of ground rent is as futile as trying to lift ones self by pulling on one's own boot straps.

In San Francisco today land values, after deducting all improvements, total \$600,000,000. Figured at 10 per cent., this means \$60,000,000 being paid to a few individuals for the privilege of living in and doing business in San Francisco, equivalent to \$100.00 a year for each man, woman and child in San Francisco, or \$500.00 per family. This means, figured out at 10 per cent., that there is being taken from the producers and given to privilege \$300,000 annually as tribute for the privilege of doing business on one acre in San Francisco.

Consider for a moment, the factors of production—

LAND

LABOR

IMPLEMENTS (Called also Capital)

Land—Created by the Almighty,

Labor—Individual effort,

Implements—Labor of yesterday.

We thus see that the passive factor is *land* and the *active* factors are labor of today and labor of yesterday. The division of the things produced manifestly should go to the active factors—the labor of yesterday and the labor of today. In other words, the products of labor should divide in two parts, one in payment of the labor of today (wages) and the other in payment of the labor of yesterday (interest). Instead, we permit it to be divided into *three* parts, the third, ever increasing in amount, going, not to labor, but to *privilege* in the form of ground rent.

How puerile and hopeless the attempt to increase the amount received in the form of wages unless something be done to reduce the other two (rent and interest).

The way to reduce interest is to stop wars. In times of peace the interest rate steadily declines.

The way to reduce rent (rent always means in economics, *ground rent*) is to place it in a common fund, then use this fund to meet the common expenses of society, such as schools, old age pensions, liability insurance, etc.

Only thus can privilege be curbed and equality of opportunity be restored. Only thus can labor, be it of hand or brain, receive what it produces.

Thus we see that the law governing rent, properly applied, will free labor by equalizing opportunity, and, it may be added, by opening up additional opportunities for labor to apply itself—the result being more jobs than men. Concurrently it will reduce the cost of living by taking off all taxes which pass on to the consumer.

The land value tax cannot be passed on to anyone, because, to tax land heavily forces it into use, makes more land available, and reduces its selling price.

A tax which increases the available supply and reduces the selling price of a thing is quite different from a tax which makes the article scarce and increases its selling price.

The Single Tax Amendment now before the voters of California proposes to relieve all labor and labor products from taxation. By increasing the tax on land values, it will force land, especially land in the cities, into use. All

business will be benefited. The building trades will be especially benefited.

Only the business of holding valuable land out of use will be deterred.

Permit me to close these remarks with a quotation from "Progress and Poverty," a work first published by Henry George in San Francisco in 1879:

"The reason why, in spite of the increase of productive power, wages constantly tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living, is that, with increase in productive power, rent tends to even greater increase, thus producing a constant tendency to the forcing down of wages."

"What I therefore propose as a simple yet sovereign remedy, which will raise wages, increase the earning of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human powers, lessen crime, elevate morals, and taste, and intelligence, purify government and carry civilization to yet nobler heights, is—to *appropriate rent by taxation.*"

## H. J. Chase Killed By Motor Car

IT is our sad duty to chronicle the death by accident of Henry J. Chase, of Providence, R. I., a veteran Single Taxer whose distinguished services to the cause will be long remembered. He was run down by an automobile, and was carried three blocks to the home of a physician where he died.

Mr. Chase was nearly seventy years old. He was a graduate of Trinity College, New Haven. Long a familiar figure in Providence, he was widely known as an advocate of the Single Tax.

Later his favorable consideration had been aroused by the Single Tax Party idea and he was preparing for use by the National organization a list of those who might help to carry the issue into the politics of Rhode Island.

For years Mr. Chase had been a loyal lieutenant of ex-Governor Garvin. A letter just received from Mr. Garvin says: "Rhode Island has lost its most faithful and persistent worker. For years he has given his whole time to the work. As Secretary of the Business Men's Organization of which Mr. James A. Doran is President, he interviewed hundreds of influential persons in the State, convincing them of the justice and expediency of applying the Single Tax here. Those who survive him will need to work the harder."

"COME with me," said Richard Cobden to John Bright, as John Bright turned heart-stricken from a new-made grave. "There are in England women and children dying with hunger—with hunger made by the laws. Come with me, and we will not rest until we repeal those laws."

THE taxation of land values is a just principle which is becoming universally established.—LORD ROSEBERRY.