

HENRY GEORGE EDITION

My, my, my! Did any one ever try to get out a special edition for as enthusiastic a lot as these single taxers are? It isn't a question of finding material enough to fill the 16, or 24, or 32 pages, as the case may be, but wholly a question of how to squeeze in 64 columns of matter in 32 columns of space.

The Henry George Edition of The Independent is not intended as a text book on the single tax philosophy. Nothing will probably ever be written that will quite fill the place of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," and every reader of The Independent who becomes interested in the single tax should read that book. Subscribers who are enrolled as members of The Independent School of Political Economy can borrow the book and keep it thirty days by extending a very little money.

The Henry George Edition will be a popular presentation of the subject, told in the style of the dozens or hundreds of men who are leaders in the single tax movement today. It is intended to arouse the minds of the people, call forth criticism and discussion, and get them to thinking. Let us see what good things are in store:

Frank H. Howe, member of the Columbus Wire & Iron Works, 540 Poplar avenue, Columbus, O., will tell of the "Benefit of the Single Tax to a Manufacturer."

H. Ellingston, Minnehaha, Minn., will discuss "The Circulating Medium—Who Would Furnish It?"

D. T. Edwards, P. W. 265, Youngstown, O., an editorial paragraph on "The Single Tax as a Revenue."

Louis F. Post, editor of The Public, Chicago, will discuss the "Moral Principles of the Single Tax."

W. G. Spencer, Thomaston, Conn., sends in a leaflet, "The Land and Labor Library," a tri-weekly publication by Henry George, dated Sept. 24, 1887.

F. H. Augspurger, Trenton, O., member of the governing board of the Ohio Single Tax league, contributes an unique article on "The Subsidized Press."

Charles F. Shandrew, Germantown, Pa., concludes his discussion with the editor of The Independent upon the question, "Did God Ordain the Single Tax?"

Prof. James H. Dillard, New Orleans, La., an editorial thought on "What the Single Taxer Sees."

Bolton Hall, New York, discusses the best way "To Prevent Poverty and to Relieve the Poor."

Edward Quincy Norton, editor The Standard, Daphne, Ala., drops a hint as to the desirability of farmers discussing the question of taxation.

U. Tanner, Cannon Falls, Minn., sends a number of printed leaflets. From his stationery one would judge that he is a follower of Frances B. Livesey, Sykesville, Md., whose special mission seems to be to cry, "Stop the public schools." In fact, Mr. Tanner says: "Better by far to give the child access to the land than to give him an education that leads him away from the land." Well, the serfs had "access" to the land. Are these gentlemen advocating a return to feudalism?

Dr. J. C. Barnes, Hindsboro, Ill., vice president of the national liberty party (organized October 5, 1901.) treats the subject in a general way.

Judge Joseph Hall, Capitan, N. M., shows "How Habits and Customs Influence Opinions."

John A. McLaughlin, Providence, R. I., suggests reprinting one of Louis F. Post's stories used in illustrating a point in one of his lectures.

Laurie J. Quinby, Omaha, Neb., contributes his lecture, "Justice—Not Charity," delivered before the philosophical society in Omaha some time since.

E. B. Swinney, secretary of the Brooklyn Single Tax league, contributes "The Essential Selfishness of the Single Tax Proposition," an address by John R. Waters, delivered before the league April 10.

W. H. T. Wakefield, Mound City, Kas., contributes three short articles: "The Single Tax Correlates Anarchy and Socialism;" "Some General Observations," and "Why I Became a Single Taxer."

F. M. Marquis, Station A, Milwaukee, Wis., sends a short poem, "A Twentieth Century Child's Inquiry and A Twentieth Century Father's Reply."

C. B. Fillebrown, president of the Massachusetts Single Tax league, Boston, discusses "The Tax Which Time Imposes."

C. F. Guenther, Cleveland, O., an editorial note on the "Unearned Increment."

James L. Caldwell, Amarillo, Tex.,

promises to send a number of editorial paragraphs giving brief reasons why the single tax should be adopted. And this calls to mind that Mr. Caldwell is the senior member of the firm of Caldwell, Clark & Blackburn Bros., abstracters, real estate and insurance agents, at Amarillo, and that a great many of the successful real estate men are the most earnest advocates of Henry George's plan. Doubtless they have a better opportunity to witness the effects of private ownership in land. And this suggests the idea of an article on "Why Real Estate Dealers Favor the Single Tax."

Charles J. Finger, literary editor of The Press, San Angelo, Tex., promises an article on "The Philosophy of Selfishness," doubtless covering the subject from a different point of view than that taken by Mr. Waters.

William Riley Boyd, Atlanta, Ga., contributes an editorial note, and "Socialism—Single Tax; A Comparison."

George Cartright, Toronto, Canada, discusses the single tax from the standpoint of the Canadian farmer.

With more than twenty-five manuscripts on hand, and others coming; and with some of Frank Vierth's "Junior Why?" to fall back on, is there any reason why the Henry George Edition should not be a pronounced success? About two thousand extra copies have been ordered thus far. If ten thousand are taken at \$1 per hundred, it will enable us to make the edition 24 pages (possibly 32), the \$100 being close figures on the additional expense for adding eight pages and paying trust prices for the white paper.

At the price of \$1 per hundred copies, we mail either in single wrappers, one copy to each name, or in bundles of any amount to one address. It will be economy to have the papers sent singly from this office, as we can mail at pound rates (about 10 cents per hundred copies), while it will cost the purchaser one cent each to distribute them himself by mail.

Lists of names should be sent in as early as possible, so they may be addressed and ready for immediate mailing May 14.

TENANT FARMERS.

A disciple of Henry George wants to spend a dollar in placing a hundred copies of the Henry George Edition in the hands of tenant farmers. Send the names of 5 or 6 tenants in your neighborhood. Address, "Tenant," care The Independent, Lincoln, Neb.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ORGANIZATION.

Two subjects have not yet been touched upon by the single taxers who are contributing to the Henry George Edition: Some one should give a popular article (not a mere book catalogue arrangement) treating of the various books published on the single tax. Most people have at least heard of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," but how many know of the existence of the many other books which have been published? It is not expected that every little pamphlet can be mentioned; but an interesting story could be told of the books and newspapers of the past and present, and how the interested person should go about it to gain a thorough knowledge of the single tax.

Then, too, the matter of single tax organizations could be made the subject of an interesting article. This could show the various clubs and leagues; when organized; number of active members; and present officers, together with any historical incidents thought pertinent.

Who will undertake the work?

A SINGLE TAX VICTORY.

Editor Independent: I am pleased to learn that a single tax edition of The Independent is to be issued soon. I further hope that its columns will be filled with not only expositions of the single tax philosophy, but with encouraging reports of the progress of the cause throughout the world.

I shall not attempt to give any more than a brief account of the work in this place.

Some five or more years ago a Mr. O. P. Hyde and a few others, including myself, began to do single tax work. We began our work by holding weekly meetings in rather an "out of the way" place—in a paint shop.

Our meetings increased in interest as time went by. We then began to do propaganda work, began to distribute single tax literature. By and by the "Polen Single Tax Lecture Bureau" was organized and incorporated and I was placed in the field as a lec-

turer and exponent of the single tax. Our greatest opposition seemed to be the want of means to carry on the work. We opened a reading room in the city, which proved to be of at least some benefit. We continued to labor, although at times under the most trying circumstances. When, at last, an effectual door was opened to us, the Journal Publishing company of this city began to issue a daily paper, I was chosen to be its editor, and we are proud to say that for a year the columns of the Daily Journal were well supplied with single tax matter.

Finally the political campaign of the present year came. A "citizens' ticket" was placed in the field. At the head of this ticket was the name of Mr. O. P. Hyde, the well-known single tax enthusiast, as a candidate for mayor.

The contest was a bitter one, reminding one of the great conflict in which Henry George fell in New York while seeking the same official position. But notwithstanding the opposition which included two radical republican papers, Mr. Hyde, as well as the whole citizens' ticket was elected by a fair majority.

I state these things to show that the single tax cause in this part of the world is firmly fixed in the minds of the people. Let the friends of the cause feel encouraged, let them go on sowing the "good seed of the kingdom," feeling assured that the harvest ere long is sure to ripen.

REV. J. M. POLEN,

Of the Polen Single Tax Lecture Bureau,
Marietta, O.

A CORRECTION—AN INVITATION.

Editor Independent: I received a copy of The Independent this morning and as I have my machine before me preparatory to start in on my contribution to the special issue, I will drop a line or two for the purpose of making a couple of corrections and to tell you that I have four hundred copies of the issue of the 14th engaged and have so far made no canvass, so you see there is an interest aroused already.

I'll call the attention of our friends to the enterprise and inform you of the result. I hope the 10,000, or more, may be engaged and that our people throughout the country may see the advantage of such a journal as The Independent, taking a stand for broad liberalism towards such questions as are presented by us for the consideration of the thinking people of the land. I shall not only try to encourage the publisher in this enterprise, but I shall also set a good example for others by subscribing for the paper and thus endeavor to aid him in his efforts to live while seeking to enlighten the people on their social and political rights and their duty towards their fellow-men.

Please notice my correct name. You have it Chester. It is Custer, a name somewhat familiar to the American people, but hardly as renowned; although if I could hope or look forward to such renown as was accorded to the memory of Gen. George A. Custer, I should certainly seek it in a different course of conduct from that by which he attained to such distinction. I should rather remain in obscurity all my days than attain to distinction in military life. Another correction I desire to offer is this: The St. Louis Single Tax league now meets every Wednesday evening at the headquarters of the Ashbroedel club, N. E. corner 18th and Olive streets, but we will hardly continue regular meetings after the middle of May.

I also desire to make an announcement: On or about the 15th of May the league will probably give a dinner as a compliment to Dr. William Preston Hill, now resident of Tucson, Ariz., formerly of St. Louis, who will be with us for a season about that time. Dr. Hill, although a wealthy man and owner of a great deal of landed property, much of it vacant, has done a great deal, (much more than all but a few know) to aid both the cause we battle for and that of direct legislation, which is also on our program as the present political issue with us.

At the last session of our legislature, after three unsuccessful attempts previously, we secured the submission of a constitutional amendment for the initiative and referendum. It is not submitted in the form as we had hoped for, but as a whole it is a splendid starter for majority legislative rule in old Missouri, and I trust all readers of The Independent in the state will study the measure and spread the information within the circle of their acquaintance. A postal card request to Mr. S. L. Moser, 15 North 4th st., St. Louis, will bring a pamphlet both giving the text of the amendment and the arguments for its adoption. Let every reader take advantage of this opportunity to help

in the spread of pure and undefiled democracy, (democracy in its true meaning—the rule of the people).

The contemplated dinner referred to will consist of a "feed" for the inner man to be followed by a feast of reason for the intellectual man, and we anticipate the presence of Louis F. Post, editor of The Public, of Chicago, to my mind the greatest philosophic and economic logician of the day and generation. Plates will be \$1, and if any of the readers in this city or elsewhere desire to attend and partake of the good things offered, may correspond with the undersigned.

L. P. CUSTER.

1203 Mississippi ave.,
St. Louis, Mo.

MR. SPACKMAN RETORTS.

Editor Independent: I was very much surprised to find my letter to The Independent published in the last number under the head-line, "Wants the Earth." I am delighted to find you right on the single tax doctrine for once. Yes, sir, we single taxers want the earth and have started out to get it and will be satisfied with nothing less. We want it for the home of all the people whose heritage the great Omaha populist platform de- it is. Do not for one moment think that a slap in the face like that you gave me in your remarks will check the determination of one who has worked to help capture the earth.

Please let me explain. I was considering how many of the 10,000 extra copies I would take and I wanted to know what I was likely to get for my money. I meant no unkindness when I said that I did not consider either the editor or the assistant editor qualified to edit the edition. I propose to stand by my guns and if you will be as liberal with your space in publishing what I now think is my due in the matter, as you were in the article I did not want you to publish, I think I will convince your readers that I am correct.

If some editor who is opposed to government ownership of railroads should propose to get out an edition and present the case of public ownership, would you consider such an editor the proper person to edit such an edition? And do you think the friends of public ownership would expect it to be the best presentation of their case that could be made?

E. B. SPACKMAN.

Fullerton, Neb.

(If in the supposed case, such a paper turned over its entire space for one issue—exclusive of the advertising columns—there is no reason why the friends of public ownership could not make it a stronger paper than any single regular edition of a paper advocating public ownership. The Henry George Edition (May 14) belongs to the single taxers. They will fill its columns. Their articles will be printed without modification, except mere technical errors in spelling, etc., and without comment. What the editor or his associate may care to say on the subject will appear in the issue of June 11.)

No single number of any single tax paper in the United States will surpass our Henry George Edition, either in amount or quality of the matter printed. It will reach many thousands of our regular readers who never saw an exclusive single tax paper. It will cause discussion of the subject among men who are not now, but may become, single taxers.

If The Independent had announced that henceforth it would champion the single tax philosophy and had set itself up as an "authority" upon the subject, Mr. Spackman's objections might have some weight. Those who want such a paper know where to look for it—they get Louis F. Post's The Public (box 687, Chicago, Ill.) But our Henry George Edition will reach thousands who may never see The Public, and it will contain much more about the single tax than any single edition of Mr. Post's paper. Year in and year out, of course, The Public will contain more single tax, just as The Independent will contain more populism.

Of the several hundred single taxers who have written The Independent within the past two or three weeks, Mr. Spackman is the only one who denies us the right to conduct our own business in our own way. Our offer to sell sample copies does not carry with it the right to conduct The Independent to suit the whim of the purchaser of such sample copies.—Associate Editor.)

