

WORLD LEADER OF NEW CRUSADE.



M. L. JOHNSON, OF OHIO

(Written for Henry George Edition of The Independent.)

To my mind no Henry George Edition of your valued paper would be complete without something about the man upon whom the mantle of Henry George has fallen; the greatest living single taxer; the world leader of this new crusade. Therefore, I send you the following as reported by me from a speech which I heard Tom Johnson deliver some few months ago.

J. B. VINING.

Cleveland, O.

(Extract from an address delivered by Hon. Tom L. Johnson, mayor of Cleveland, before an audience composed almost exclusively of farmers.)

After speaking on the issues in state and county for some half hour, the mayor, as is his custom, called for questions. A venerable gentleman, with long white whiskers arose and said: "Mr. Speaker, I have a suspicion, from what I have read in the papers, that Mayor Johnson desires to place all taxes on land. Is this correct?" Some one else in the audience then called out: "Tell us about the single tax."

Replying to the elderly man, the mayor said: "Most emphatically, No!" He paused for a moment, then continuing, said: "But if you mean that I have a desire to place all taxes on land values, I answer most decidedly, Yes! If you want to hear about the single tax, I will stay with you and let my tent meeting in the city wait, while I say that if it were not for this idea, called single tax, I would not be here tonight. This is the reason that I am what I am, and making the fight, which we are now in. A tax on land would be an unjust and iniquitous system, but a tax on land values would be the best and fairest system that the world has ever known. Laws which would bring about the taxation of land values would be of more service to humanity than any legislation ever yet enacted. Farmers are large owners of land, but not of land values. We have land in our city that sells at the rate of five million dollars per acre; have any of you farmers land as valuable as that? In New York city there is land that sells for fifteen million dollars per acre; is there any land in this neighborhood at that price?"

To answer my friend's question, I will relate a little talk I had one day with Congressman Pierson of Tuscarawas county, when we were in Washington together. Pierson was a farmer and he said to me one day: "Tom, I cannot go your single tax, as it would be a hardship on the farmers, and they already have more than their share of the burden of taxation." I said: "Look here, Pierson, if I thought the single tax would increase the farmers' burden I would not stand for it for one minute. In fact, if I did not know it would be the greatest blessing to the farmers and to the workingmen in the city as well, I never would advocate it again. I can show you that the single tax will lighten the farmers' burden as compared with the present method. Let me ask you some questions, to see if we can get at the facts in the matter. 'How much, Mr. Pierson, of the present tax burden do you think the farmers bear?' 'Well,' he answered, 'the farmers constitute over half the population of the United States, and I should say that they pay at least 60 per cent of all taxes.' 'Very well,

let's call it 50 per cent to be safe.' 'No, no,' said Pierson, 'that's too low. They pay more than 60 per cent, rather than less.' 'All right, but to be safe, let's call it 50 per cent.'

'Now, Mr. Pierson, I want you to tell me how much of the value of land the farmers have in the United States? Please take into consideration all the valuable coal lands, the iron, silver, gold, copper and other valuable mines—the water power privileges, the railroads and their rights of way and terminals, including street railroads, telephones and telegraphs, for these are built on the most valuable lands; all the gas and electric lighting rights of way, built on land of great value; all the city lots, some of which are worth more than a whole county of farming land. I want you to take all these into consideration, and then tell me how much of these values in the United States the farmers have.'

Mr. Pierson replied: 'Well, I should say, less than 5 per cent.' I said, 'Call it 10 per cent to be safe.' 'Oh, no, no; that's entirely too high; that's double.' 'Well, we will call it 10 per cent anyway. Now, don't you see that if the farmers are paying 50 per cent, that if all the taxes were raised by a single tax on land values the farmers, since they have but 10 per cent of these values—you say 5 per cent—would pay less; that their taxes would be reduced five times? That instead of paying one-half as now, they would, under that plan, pay but one-tenth?'

'I declare, Tom, I never looked at it in that light, and I guess you have got me.'

'So, I say to you farmers here tonight, that this single tax, of which I am proud to be an advocate, would be to the overburdened farmers and workingmen the greatest boon, the greatest blessing, the greatest God-send that any country ever knew. I wish you good-night.'

For copies of this tract, other single tax books and pamphlets, or any information on the philosophy of Henry George, write the

OHIO SINGLE TAX LEAGUE,
Cleveland, O.

SOCIALISM—SINGLE TAX

A Comparison by William Riley Boyd of Atlanta, Ga.

The single tax would restore that which has been lost through war and usurpation.

Land is the gift of God to men not to a few but to all.

"Not to destroy but to fulfill."

As a measure looking to universal peace I would do away with all tariff taxes, I would abolish private ownership of land; so that trade, land, and men, might be free!

THE MEANING OF "SOCIALISM."

Today socialism is the term by which we describe the belief of millions of men and women who hold it to be essentially true, and its adoption a human need.

This is their statement: The socialistic theory is based on the historical assertion, that the course of social evolution for centuries has been to gradually exclude the producing classes from the possession of land and capital, and to establish a new subjection—the subjection of workers who have nothing to depend on but precarious labor. The socialists maintain that the present system (in which

land and capital are the property of private individuals freely struggling for increase of wealth) leads inevitably to social and economic anarchy to the degradation of the workingman and his family, to the growth of vice and idleness among the wealthy classes and their dependents, to bad and unartistic workmanship, and to adulteration in all its forms; and that it is tending more and more to separate society into two classes, the millionaires confronted with an enormous mass of proletarians, the issue out of which must be either socialism, or "social ruin." To avoid all these evils, and to secure more equitable distribution of the means and appliances of happiness, the socialists propose that land and capital, which are the requisites of labor, the sources of all wealth and culture, should become the property of society and be managed by it for the general good.

WHAT IS "SINGLE TAX?"

Briefly stated, the single tax contemplates the abolition of all tax upon the product of labor, and the substitution of one tax upon "the value of land!" The state should appropriate the total rent of all land, thus relieving improvements. The underlying principle upon which this action is based is "Land is the gift of God to man, not to the few, but to all." No man made the land, therefore no man can rightly own it to the exclusion of others.

Here we differ from the socialist who proposes that "land and capital, which are the requisites of labor, shall become the property of society." Thus the claim of the single taxer is included in the demand of the socialist; yet our difference is radical, and not reconcilable. For a cardinal principle of the single taxer is this: "Every man is entitled to possess the fruit of his own labor."

The advocate of the single tax asks for the earth only; the socialist demands much more. Clearly both must wait. Meanwhile it is well to inquire into the merits of the lesser demand.

Authorities agree that present system of taxation is inadequate. There must be a change. The effort of the state to uncover hidden wealth has failed, and must continue to fail; but a tax upon land value would be easily collected, would be just, and would stimulate improvements by relieving them from taxation.

In New Zealand a beginning has been made, and much of the burden of taxation has been lifted from the people and placed upon the land by relieving personal property. The experiment, so far, has been successful, and the world's best thinkers watch with interest the outcome.

It is not proposed by conservative single taxers that any violent revolution should be inaugurated, but rather a gradual movement to relieve the products of labor from taxation.

At present we endeavor vainly to tax men upon what they possess; the improved system would require men to pay for what they use—that is land.

Nearly every great fortune that has been acquired by individuals is due to the increased value of land, the result of labor by the community; the community should share in the benefit.

A flow of oil, a discovery of coal, or other valuable products, should benefit the public instead of the individual or the corporation.

All of this indicates some of the advantages which would come to the public if we recognize and put in practice the great truth, "The land belongs to the people."

The recent increase of the standing army of the United States is intended not only to carry out the policy of the administration abroad, but to enable the authorities to hold in check the spirit of discontent among the dwellers in our large cities where the aggregation of wealth is the greatest.

If we were called upon to point out the place where men are deprived of the comforts of life in the greatest degree, we would not select the wilderness, but in the heart of the great cities may be found the greatest suffering, the most hopeless and abject poverty. Nowhere is the call for reform more clearly heard than in our centers of population. The danger which menaces the government and people of the continent is that spirit of anarchy which demands relief. If so much of their demand, which is justly founded—"The possession of land"—were conceded, there would be peace, the armies could be reduced or disbanded, the consumers would become producers, a burden would be lifted from an overtaxed people. Inasmuch as the abolition of all tax upon the products of labor would cause the absolute freedom of trade between the nations of the world, the disappearance of tariff tax and custom houses, so it would hasten the time when the brotherhood of man would be fully recognized!

The single taxer does not expect the immediate coming of the millennium with the adoption of his favorite theory. It is less important that there should be haste than that men should be induced to move in the right direction; the rate of progress is of less importance.

With the single tax in successful working, our own ever-present race question would be adjusted, wholly or in part, and the migration of the negro (if such migration seems a need) would be made easy of fulfillment! The lands of the world would be open to him. If our primary truth be indeed truth, it is certain to prevail. War and usurpation have deprived men of the natural rightful possession of the land and its products, but as we realize the full intent and scope of the "golden rule" we shall restore, and men will again possess the land, and for all the children there shall be peace and plenty! Writing of single tax, Henry George says: "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance."

Will it at length prevail? Ultimately, yes. But in our own times, or in times of which any memory of us remains, who shall say?

This is not the message of the pessimist who despairs, nor yet of the dreamer, but rather that of the inspired prophet who foretells that which shall be!

WILLIAM RILEY BOYD.

Atlanta, Ga.

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NOTICE TO NON-RESIDENT DEFENDANT AND UNKNOWN HEIRS.

To Herman Monka, and the unknown heirs of Sophia Herzer, deceased, defendants:

You, and each of you, are hereby notified that on the 2d day of April 1903, the plaintiff filed his petition in the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, against Herman Monka, and the other unknown heirs of Sophia Herzer, deceased, and the State of Nebraska, alleging that ever since the year 1878, he has been the owner of the south half (S. 1/2) of the southwest quarter (S. W. 1/4) of section one (1) in township eight (8) range five (5) East in Lancaster County Nebraska, and still is the owner and in possession of said premises; that during the year 1874, he purchased said real estate from the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company; that during the year 1878, he married Sophia Herzer, now deceased, and that said Sophia Herzer was his wife during the year 1878, when he purchased said real estate; that prior to the purchase of said real estate, in consideration of "love and affection," he agreed with said Sophia Herzer that she should hold the naked legal title to said real estate, during the term of her lifetime, with the express understanding, however, that prior to her death, said Sophia Herzer would convey the legal title to said real estate to the plaintiff, and that during all of the time that said Sophia Herzer should hold said legal title that she should hold said real estate in trust for the plaintiff, and plaintiff alleges that said Sophia Herzer agreed with the plaintiff to so hold the title to said real estate, and upon the conditions alleged; that thereupon this plaintiff caused the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company to execute a contract in writing to said Sophia Herzer, obligating itself to convey said premises by warranty deed to said Sophia Herzer upon the payment of the purchase money of said real estate.

Plaintiff alleges in his petition that when he married said Sophia Herzer she had no property of her own except only a small sum in cash, part of which was used for the purpose of purchasing said real estate; that the plaintiff, himself, personally, paid all of the purchase money for said real estate to the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company on the 18th day of March 1884, and at said time said Railroad Company, by warranty deed, conveyed said premises to said Sophia Herzer, which deed was filed for record in the office of the Register of Deeds in Lancaster County, Nebraska, on the 6th day of July 1884, at 1:30 p. m. and recorded in Book 21 of Deeds at page 214; that said Sophia Herzer died in Lancaster County, Nebraska on the day of 1888, intestate, and without issue, and that the only heirs at law was the defendant, Herman Monka, who is a brother of said Sophia Herzer, residing in Germany, and that if there are any other heirs of said Sophia Herzer that their names and residences are unknown to the plaintiff, and also that the name and residence of Herman Monka, the above named defendant is unknown to the plaintiff, and that he is not certain that Herman Monka is the correct name of the brother of said Sophia Herzer, but that he has made diligent search for Herman Monka, and the other unknown heirs of Herman Monka and he has been unable to learn either their names or their residences, and that they are unknown to him at this time; that he does not know whether the father and mother of said Sophia Herzer are living, and does not know their residences although he has made diligent search to learn their names and residences, but that he has failed to learn either, and both their names and residences are unknown to this plaintiff.

That about three years prior to the death of said Sophia Herzer she was insane and incapable of making a conveyance of said premises to this plaintiff, and that because of said insanity and for no other reason, were said premises not conveyed to this plaintiff prior to the death of said Sophia Herzer, and that ever since the year 1878, he has continuously had possession of said real estate in an open, adverse, notorious and peaceable manner, and that during all of said years he has farmed the same and improved the same.

That ever since March 18, 1883, at the time the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company executed a deed to said Sophia Herzer for said premises, he has each year paid to the County of Lancaster, and State of Nebraska, all of the taxes accruing on said real estate, for which plaintiff holds receipts.

That the State of Nebraska claims to have some interest in said real estate which plaintiff denies.

Plaintiff prays for a judgment of the court decreeing that the state of Nebraska has no interest of any kind whatsoever in and to said real estate, and decreeing also that the above named Herman Monka, and any and all unknown heirs of Sophia Herzer, deceased, have no interest of any kind whatsoever in and to said real estate, and that plaintiff, Frank Herzer, be decreed to be the real owner of said real estate, and that the court will enter a decree quieting title in him, and for such other and further relief as to the court may seem proper.

You are hereby required to answer this petition on or before the 8th day of June 1903.

FRANK HERZER, Plaintiff.

By Doyle & Berge, His Attorneys.