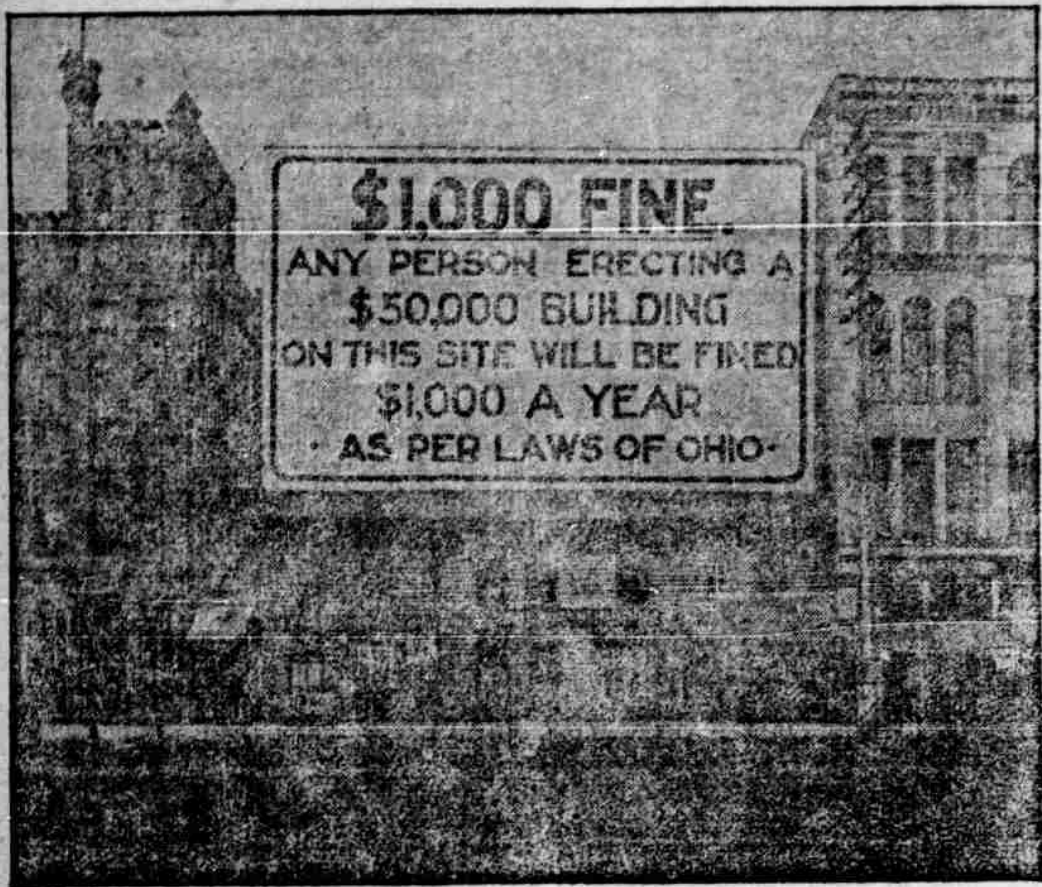


## The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

BILLY RADCLIFFE'S BUILDING FINE.



\$1,000 FINE FOR PUTTING UP A \$50,000 BUILDING.  
As Per Laws of Ohio.

What does this mean? Is this a new law, or is it an old one? That is the question and here is the answer: If a man employs labor to build a \$50,000 building, he is required to go to the court house or report to the assessor what he has done, because the laws of Ohio, article 12, section 2, says:

"Laws shall be passed, taxing by a uniform rule, all moneys, credits, investments in bonds, stocks, joint stock companies, or otherwise, and also all real and personal property, according to its true value in money; . . ."

Notice the law says its true value in money, but as it is the common thing to lie, dodge a little, you will be expected to turn it in at about \$35,000 and the tax rate in Youngstown is \$3.04 on each \$100 valuation. Now if you will just pretend to be exact about it and put it in at \$32,894.74, your tax or fine will be \$1,000 a year. How do you like this fine on industry? If you don't build, no tax, no fine; if you do build you pay the tax or fine. "Rob a chicken house they fine you once; build a chicken house they fine you every year; get drunk they fine you once; paint or improve your home they fine you every year; a man turns a desert into a garden we fine him by an increase of taxes; a man turns a garden into a desert we reduce his taxes; verily, we are a great people." Here the people have been all these years making laws, taxing and fining people who employ labor and improve their homes. Shakespeare

was right when he said: "What fools these mortals be."

A little study of the tax question will show that a tax on any thing that labor makes is a fine on industry and increases the price the user has to pay for use. For example, with a tax on houses, no man will build unless sure of a tenant, and the tax is added to the price the tenant pays to use the house. It is plain that a tax on houses is paid by the user as user and not by the owner as owner, for if I had a thousand houses, the poor that can't own but must use will pay the tax. I pay only on the one I use and those that may be empty.

A tax on land values is paid by the landlord. It is paid out of the sum he receives for ground rent and an increase of tax on land values will not raise ground rent, but will lower it, because the supply is fixed, you can't make more land. Any system of taxation is unjust that taxes a man more for improving his land or property than for holding it in idleness.

The main reason for building booms in Ohio in 1881 and 1882, in 1891 and 1892, in 1901 and 1902, is that the land of Ohio, especially in business centers, is increased in value for tax purposes every ten years.

Read up on the single tax and let your thinker think.  
Single tax literature sent to any address on receipt of 2-cent stamp.  
BILLY RADCLIFFE, S. T.  
Youngstown, O.

### CAPITAL.

Editor Independent: The socialist who complains bitterly of the private ownership of machinery by capital, would do well to explain how capital got its advantage. Why is it, that the worker in this country, not so many years ago, owned the tools he worked with, and why not today? How did it come about, that the worker ceased to be a capitalist?

But before answering that question, let us see what capital really is and where it comes from. Capital is wealth produced by labor from land and used in the production of other wealth, but land is not capital. Machinery, tools, factory buildings are capital and are the products of the worker. Why must he part with this capital now, and cease to be the owner where years ago he could retain it? If his hands and brains produced it, it surely ought to be his.

The reason for this can readily be seen and explained. Owing to the immense amount of land in this country, land for many years was cheap and as a consequence rent was low. The worker, then, was not compelled to give up half of what he produced to the land owner in ground rent, as he does today.

That is the chief reason why the worker ceased to be the capitalist and the owners of land became also the owners of capital. But should we for that reason abolish private ownership of capital and land as the socialist proposes? Or should we abolish private ownership of land only, by which capital is confiscated from its rightful owners?

There is absolutely nothing wrong

in the private ownership of machinery or tools itself. It is most natural and just, that the man who by his labor makes a machine should be the owner of it. He has a perfect right to use it himself or let others use it, or sell it. But there is something radically wrong in the private ownership in land.

Did the present owners of land make it by their labor? Or did they buy it from the makers? If they did not make it or do not possess a title deed from the Creator, what right have they to own it? They have no moral right to own it, and never had any. Private ownership in land is robbery, it is a gigantic institution based on fraud and injustice.

Now, if some men through private ownership of land, an institution based on wrong and injustice, are enabled to confiscate the capital rightfully belonging to others, private ownership in land ought to be abolished and not private ownership in capital. Would you propose to abolish private ownership in watches, because some highwayman robbed you of your watch? Or would you propose to abolish highway robbery?

Any man who can reason right would propose to abolish highway robbery, but the socialist would propose to do away with the private ownership of watches. In order to abolish the injustice and robbery growing out of the private ownership in land it is not even necessary to make land common property, as the socialist proposes. We need not even dispossess the present owners of land. All that is necessary is to abolish the tariff, the license and personal property taxes one after the

other and collect all taxes from land values only, or what is known as the single tax.

Capital would then remain in the hands of those who produced it—the workers.

The horrors of capitalism would vanish and with it the whole socialistic philosophy would fall to pieces.

P. CULLMAN, Jr.  
521 Larrabee st., Chicago, Ill.

### OHIO SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The Ohio Single Tax league recently held its seventh annual conference at Columbus. Resolutions adopted were published in The Independent of June 11. The following is the secretary-treasurer's report:

The Ohio Single Tax league asks your attention to its work of the past year and its plan for the future. In the Colorado fight, attracting widespread attention and giving the greatest hope of success, our efforts were directed towards furnishing funds for the final struggle. The greater part of the \$550 shown in treasurer's report, was sent during the summer and early fall of 1902. The Colorado friends made a gallant fight; we did our best to help them; but we lost, not altogether by the lack of votes, for we were counted out wherever we had enough strength to be dangerous. Who ever expects the "House of Privilege" to surrender easily, should learn a lesson from the "forestallers" of Colorado. They knew what the Bucklin amendment meant to monopoly, and were early in the field to protest against this measure, and to raise an hundred times as much money to defeat it as the friends of justice could raise for it. However, in the words of our dauntless leader, "Truth loses some battles, but no wars."

Today, Ohio is the center of the coming struggle, and our league is pledged to use its best endeavors to secure only the most able and trustworthy candidates for all public offices, and while not neglecting our propaganda work, to become active political workers in caucus and convention, to the end that we may have some part in carrying forward the new era in Ohio politics.

The continuation of our distribution of literature throughout the world; the support of the Bigelow press bureau; the more thorough organization of our newspaper work; combining of our friends into an active, determined force for the advance of the right ideas in taxation; the holding of party nominees to personal pledges and party platforms, calls for your support.

To whomsoever it has been given to see the truth as shown by Henry George, we make this call. The hour for doing your part is at hand, and Ohio is the battlefield of the new crusade.

Kindly fill out the enclosed card and mail to the secretary, together with any advice or suggestions as to how the work may be best advanced. Fraternal yours,  
J. B. VINING,  
Secretary.

76 Harriet ave., Cleveland, O.

### INDUSTRIOUS PROPAGANDISTS.

Probably no class of men work so enthusiastically and industriously as the single taxers—not even the socialists, and they are very earnest. For example, Mr. Snediker whose article on public ownership appears elsewhere in this paper, has printed on the back of his business envelopes this legend:

Read and Think.—If all public revenue were raised by a tax on the products of labor, goods would be higher in price—harder to get. And if there were no tax on land values, land would be higher in price—harder to get, for then it would not cost the speculator anything to hold land idle.

Conversely it is manifest: That if wealth produced by labor were free of all taxes, fines and restrictions, things that tend to supply human wants would be cheaper—easier to get. While if all public revenue were raised by tax on land values, exclusive of improvements in, or on the land; land, the source of all wealth, would be cheaper—easier to get, for then it would cost the speculator as much to hold land idle, as others pay who use like valuable land.

Which proposition do you favor?

### MUST ENLIST ALL REFORMERS.

The task which devolves upon single tax workers is not so much one of arousing and stimulating reform effort as of organizing and directing what already exists. There is no dearth of effort exerted in the hope of benefiting mankind, but much is futile because of its misdirection. While the schools, churches, reformatories, charitable institutions, and philanthropists in all parts of the country are working to eradicate various forms of evil: crime, insanity, and other indications of social disease increase

in a greater ratio than population. This shows, beyond doubt, that the primary cause of these symptoms of unhealthy social adjustments is yet untouched. And no good can come from blows directed at an apparent cause which is, in itself, an effect of a more remote cause.

Manifestly, our first duty is to convert reformers by showing them that their efforts are vain while the fear of want is driving men to deeds which are repulsive to their natural instincts; that while the injustice of private property in land stands, whatever of evil flows from it must also remain; that even those ills uncaused by it, must by it be strengthened; for one wrong will endure longer in the presence of another than alone. It is to these earnest men that we must look for our most effective support. The masses of men, of whom there are the leaders, often have not the time or the means to investigate these questions for themselves, and therefore it is of the utmost importance that those who instruct them and labor for their advantage should be in touch with the truth and not prove "blind leaders of the blind." When the single tax movement has enlisted the services of the active reformers we may hope for early victory and realization of the dream of the brotherhood of man.  
FRANK JACKSON,  
Metamora, Ind.

### Fillmore County

Fillmore is one of the very best counties in Nebraska from the view point of a farmer. Here is found the same character of soil as in Richardson, Otoe, Saunders and other rich farming counties, including Saline, where land sells up to \$100 per acre. Fillmore county is also in the rain belt and a crop failure by reason of drought is unknown.

Fillmore county offers tempting opportunities to the homeseeker who wants the very best land, as the prices of land are not so high as in other counties mentioned. However, prices are advancing rapidly. Weber & Farris, of Lincoln, Neb., have a 160-acre farm three miles west of Strang that is offered for sale; all very choice land; 100 acres under cultivation, 40 acres pasture and 20 acres in hay land. Good 7-room house, barn for 10 head of horses, hog house, chicken house, coal house, granary, corn crib, some alfalfa, fine ash grove, some fruit, good hog and cattle lots, etc. On free mail delivery route and telephone in the house. Price \$45 per acre. \$2,000 of this can run four years at 5 per cent if desired.

Any one desiring to buy a first-class quarter section farm will do well to investigate this property. It is offered at a very reasonable price and in a few years will command \$75 to \$100 per acre. There is no better land in the state of Nebraska. It is a comfortable home, a good farm and will prove an exceptionally good investment. Weber & Farris, 1328 O st., Lincoln, Neb.

Socialists have the opportunity to edit the Karl Marx Edition of The Independent (July 23, 1903) just as the single taxers did the Henry George Edition.

The readers of The Independent should remember that one of the best methods for favoring the paper is to examine the advertisements carefully and make purchases from advertisers when possible, always mentioning the fact that the advertisement was seen in The Independent. Write today for the several catalogues advertised and look them through for what you want.

## KEEP SWEET.

TO INDEPENDENT READERS:  
HONEY in 11-lb. cans—4 or more cans, \$1 each. A. No. 1 article. F. O. B. here. Address  
F. A. SNELL, Milledgeville, Ill.

### NOTICE TO REDEEM.

To Whom It May Concern:—  
Notice is hereby given that on the fourth day of November A. D. 1901, Charles Hammond bought at tax sale from the treasurer of Lancaster county, Nebraska, the lands as described below, all situated in Lancaster County, Nebraska, for the delinquent taxes of 1900 and all prior taxes and taxed to the names of the persons hereinafter set forth and that the time for redemption will expire on November 5th, 1903.  
Southeast quarter of southwest quarter of section 11, township 7, range 5 taxed to P. Gristinger.  
Northeast quarter of section 2, township 11, range 5, taxed to Robert Inhaber.  
Southeast quarter of section 1, township 12, range 5, taxed to H. De Butts.  
Northwest quarter of northeast quarter of section 17, township 8, range 7, taxed to J. W. Mueser.  
Southwest quarter northwest quarter of section 36, township 10, range 7, taxed to Lute C. Young.  
West half northwest quarter of section 22, township 7, range 8, taxed to Warren B. Pickett.  
Dated at Lincoln, Nebraska, this 1st day of July, A. D. 1903.  
CHARLES HAMMOND.