

The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

The land of every country is the common property of all the people of that country, because the Creator made it as a voluntary gift to them.—Rt. Rev. Nulty, Bishop of Meath.

LAND SPECULATION.

(Our friend, J. L. Caldwell of Amarillo, Tex., is one of those earnest, industrious propagandists who never loses an opportunity for teaching a lesson in the philosophy of freedom. The items below are clipped from recent issues of the Amarillo Evening Star.—Ed. Ind.)

The following letter, actually sent in reply to one of inquiry for vacant lots, is published by permission of the writer, one of Amarillo's earnest single taxers. It doubtless conveys his honest opinion fearlessly expressed, of the immorality of the law that allows natural opportunity—the land—to be monopolized. It ought to arouse thought on the important question:

Amarillo, Tex., June 22, 1903.—Mr. H——, O. T.—Dear Sir: Replying to yours of the 21st, will say that I am still owner of lots — block —. Cannot say they are for sale. Bought them for speculation—to forestall after corners. I have no earthly use for the lots myself, but only waiting for the necessities of the people to force them to pay "all the traffic will bear." If this necessity is still growing it may be wiser to hold them out of use a while longer.

If I knew to what extent your necessities were crowding you it would help my calculations. This you could indicate by making an offer for the land. You are permitted to make such offer on the basis of, say one-third cash, one and two years for balance, with maximum legal interest payable in advance, and vendors lien to cinch.

Or, should you want the land for same reason I do—blackmail—then I may give you a fighting chance for a share in the swag. Very truly,

J. L. CALDWELL.

N. B.—This proposition is no joke, but "Honest Injin"—altogether business.

Write again.

C.
REPLY TO MR. CALDWELL'S LETTER.

The Star, a few days ago, gave a letter from Mr. J. L. Caldwell, replying to an inquiry for some vacant lots that he owns in Oklahoma, in which letter Mr. C. showed up the iniquity of the law allowing land monopoly. The following letter is in answer to same, showing the writer regards the matter just as Mr. Caldwell does—a legal blackmailing process:

H——, Okla., June 27, 1903.—Mr. J. L. Caldwell, Amarillo, Tex.—Dear Sir: Yours of the 22nd just received. I have not the least idea that we can trade on your lots. But, will inform you I will offer you \$—, just "the extent of necessity is crowding me." But as I am speculating, like yourself, I do hope the necessities of the people will force property higher, if, as you say, you would give me a fighting chance for some of the swag." Truly yours, B——.

CONVERTS TO SINGLE TAX.

Editor Star: People are usually loth to acknowledge they do wrong even though the law forces them to do so. This is one reason why reforms grow so slowly. Instead of condemning bad laws they justify them in order to justify themselves for being obliged to use the advantages of bad laws. There is probably not a citizen, if not most of them, in our country, but what takes advantage of some bad law. They have to do it to live, but it is incumbent on them to say so openly and above board, in order to show up the iniquity of bad laws and bring them into disrepute.

My letter a few days ago in the Star, in answer to an applicant to buy some lots I own in Oklahoma, surprised a lot of goody-goody people who pose as saints and yet uphold bad laws, and sin under them every day of their lives. That land speculation is blackmail, forestalling, legal robbery, can be proven by reference to any reputable dictionary or encyclopedia, to say nothing of the Bible—much less common sense.

What we single taxers need to do is to attract attention to this unparalleled iniquity. This was done, in one instance at least, as is shown by a letter from the gentleman who wanted to buy the lots in question. It is in answer to a private letter and in substance as follows:

H——, O. T., July 3, 1903.—Dear Mr. Caldwell: I thank you for your

last favor. I certainly enjoyed reading the single tax number of the Nebraska Independent and will say that you have made one subscriber for that paper. You have also been instrumental in converting me to the single tax idea. I have given the subject more study the last few days than in all previous time. H—— is a splendid field for inspection—the speculators' finest of layouts. It is owned by persons in different states, "waiting for the necessities of the people to force them to pay all the traffic will bear"—a robbing scheme. And I am living right in this den of robbers who, under existing law, are called gentlemen. The town would have a splendid future but for this evil. I have not the least objection to you printing my letters if they will in any way promote your noble cause. Very truly yours, — B——.

I have yet several copies of the single tax edition of the Nebraska Independent for free distribution to seekers of the truth, also other literature on the subject. All my foreign mission savings for the last fifteen years have gone into this work for free homes, with most satisfactory results. Converts never back-slide.

All blessings and curses of government come through the laws—politics. Hence politics is evidently a religious question, and the person ignoring politics can lay no just claim to good citizenship, much less Christianity. Am I right?

J. L. CALDWELL.

(The following sermon was reprinted as a leaflet by the Amarillo single tax club some time ago and used for propaganda work.—Ed. Ind.)

A SERMON FOR THE TIMES.

Rev. J. R. Henson delivered a very eloquent sermon at the Methodist church on last Sunday night. The lesson and text were about the "year of jubilee" under the Mosaic law—the semi-centennial restitution of the land to the poor. He said, among many other things bearing upon the subject, that he thought that the necessities of the times demanded another jubilee; that every one should have free land according to his "needs," and no more than he needs; it was his inheritance; it was justice and righteousness. He cited the fact that three men owned three millions of acres of land within a Sabbath day's journey of Amarillo, and that millions of human souls in our country had not enough to be buried in, and were stalking in poverty, and divided and scattered from kindred and loved ones over the face of the earth, probably never to meet again this side of the turbid river of death.

The beauty of homes, the loveliness of homes, the necessity for homes for the upbuilding of the race and the grandeur of its destiny in the security of homes, were tenderly and touchingly portrayed. "See," he said, "under free home privileges the happy reuniting of the scattered, wandering loved ones, of kindred and friends, coming home, going from here, coming from there, meeting everywhere glad happy welcomes, hearty greetings, joyous tears, and shoutings and praisings—home at last! The mother and her storm-tossed daughter, the father and the prodigal son, brother and brother, sister and sister, after ruthless partings, at home again—and the robe and the fatted calf—have seen His salvation, the kingdom comes, Jesus reigneth—hallelujah to the Lamb! Free grace, free air, free homes, free people! Home, home, sweet, sweet home! there is no place like home. No wonder it is made typical of the eternal home around the great white throne. Brethren, in God's name, and for all that's good in humanity, let's stand for free homes on earth, that we may have a free pass and an abundant entrance to the one prepared for us in heaven!"

At the conclusion of the sermon his hand was grasped with thanks that again the poor had the gospel preached to them.

Should the Democrat be furnished with a full text of this sermon it will print a thousand extra copies, as its contribution to the "upbuilding of the race" under the present call. "Ah, the mind of man is growing! Soon the writing on the wall To the selfish will be showing That the earth was made for all."—Amarillo (Tex.) Democrat.

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No man made the land; it is the original inheritance of the whole species.—John Stuart Mill.

Soldiers, not lawyers, were the first conveyancers of land, and blood was used instead of ink.—Herbert Spencer.