

## The Philosophy of Freedom

An Open Forum for Single Taxers

### FARMER AND SINGLE TAX.

The editor of The Independent asserts that the reason why farmers do not take kindly to the single tax is because it will destroy the value of their land, and this value is about all they have left after years of hard toll.

This is true not only of the farmers, but of most land owners, especially owners of small estates. It is difficult to show these good people that destroying the individual value does not destroy it. We use the word "destroy" wrongly. True, the single tax will take from each individual his social product, i. e., the land value, thus lowering the selling price of his land, but the fact that all such land will yield annually to each community a large revenue, proves that the value has not been destroyed, but socialized. Indeed you can no more destroy the value of land in a growing community than you could destroy gravitation. Both are in the nature of things.

Let the farmers and small home owners consider who would be the gainers, were all land values socialized; that is, were ground-rents collected from each according to the value of his land, and then redistributed back to each pro rata. Those who would pay the largest taxes would be those who are today receiving the largest amounts of the social product annually—such as the Standard Oil company, with its vast land values in pipe lines, men owning valuable coal fields, or other mining properties; railroads with their valuable franchises; choice city lots, more valuable than whole counties of farming land. The owners of such properties are today paying smaller taxes in proportion to their wealth than are the farmers; but under the single tax they would pay by far the largest taxes of any; and it is right that they should, since they are receiving annually vast amounts of the social product. They have grown rich by absorbing social product. It is because they feed continually upon social product that makes each a monopoly.

The farmers and small home-owners are clinging desperately to a system of taxation that robs them of

much that they are producing by their individual labor, and of nearly all that they are producing socially, because they do not as yet realize that society produces a value, as well as the individual.

Because the farmer is not robbed of his entire social product, as is the landless man, he clings to his small land value in his little farm. But this system is so enslaving to both labor and capital that under it wages and the profits of capital can never rise to all that they really earn.

Students of Henry George know that so long as the social fund is so unequally distributed just so long will wages be low, and business depression increase.

The truth is that under the single tax, the farmers and small home-owners would receive far more land values than at present. Then people are generally so constituted that they cannot comprehend that they possess ownership of land values, unless it takes some tangible shape, as in their particular farms.

This is the result of hundreds of years of individual land value ownership. When we have had fifty years of social land value ownership each one will readily comprehend that his share is an equal pro rata part of the whole, however great it may be. In such a social state, there will be a community of interests—a common brotherhood in which men will no longer worry for fear they cannot find work to do at good wages, or that old age may leave them homeless.

There is still another reason why the masses fear this change in taxation, and that is because politics are so corrupt at present that they fear the social fund will not be equally distributed even were it fairly collected; but it is the grabbing through special legislation of the social fund that is the cause of political corruption. Tax away from monopoly what she is receiving of the social product, and she will have no incentive to bribe the political boss, and he will disappear.

Were each farmer to receive his share of the annual ground rent—the social product—of his community, he will receive far more than he gives. His taxes would be about one-third less than now. That would represent what he gives the community; but his social benefits would be two-thirds more than now. This would represent what he would receive, such as better schools, better roads, three-cent fares, lower freights, low telegraph or telephone rates, cheaper coal, light, and if rationally introduced cheaper prices for almost every manufactured article.

These advantages would increase the power of his earnings from 10 to 17 per cent.

Thomas G. Shearman, after years of study upon the subject, stated it as his conviction that to remove all taxes from everything but land values, and tax them so lightly as to collect only one-half of the social product, would result in raising wages 50 per cent! Think of it! Labor unions conduct costly strikes at great suffering for a rise of 10 per cent. If they would but study this question, they would soon vote a new system of taxation into being, that would raise their wages 50 per cent and end commercial depressions; for as Mr. Shearman so well said, wage-earners rarely save their wages. A rise of 50 per cent means a home market that would set all wheels of industry in motion, and keep them so.

Mr. Shearman also showed that today the farmer was being taxed on his land values nearly as much as he would be under his plan, but that monopoly was escaping this tax almost entirely. Tax its social privileges at their full value it would soon cease to be a monopoly.

True, under the single tax the farmer would not be able to sell his land for a large lump sum. Neither would any one else, so he would not have to pay a large sum for homes for his children. The conditions would be so changed that only those who realize how differently men act and appear under hardships and privations from what they do when they have leisure and plenty—only those who dwell in loving thought upon this great scheme of justice can fully appreciate all that the single tax has in store for humanity.

But we should not view this subject wholly from that of personal gain, but look rather at the justice of it.

What the individual produces belongs to him. What society produces

# A BOOK That Tells All About Boys & Little Fellows Clothing SENT FREE

To subscribers of The Independent. The book shows correct styles by illustration, correct fabrics by sample and then goes on and tells how to get the clothes.

Parents should write for this book today. A penny postal card request will get it.

Address

## Armstrong Clothing Co.

1221 to 1227 O St.

LINCOLN, NEB

## BEE SUPPLIES

Dovetailed, Ferguson, Langstroth and Alternating hives; sections, foundation, smokers, veils. Send for free catalog. Bees wax wanted.

## TRESTER SUPPLY CO.

103 SO. 11th St.

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

collectively belongs to each member of that society equally; and this means equal rights for all, and special privileges for none.

ELIZA STOWE TWITCHELL,  
Wollaston, Mass.

### Entirely Wrong

Editor Independent: The good things that are to be found weekly in the columns of your paper emphasize the wonder at your giving over the front page in your last issue to the letter by Mr. John S. De Hart. I take it that the looseness of his reasoning has your approval else you would not give it so prominent a place in your paper. The absurdity of his reasoning is evidenced in the contradictoriness of his statements relative to Mr. George's system of taxation. At the bottom of the first column he says that "Mr. George and his followers propose a single tax upon land values as a substitute for custom house taxes and all other kinds of taxation." Then in the third column he says, "Had Mr. George's system of taxation—internal taxation upon wealth—been practical and," etc. One who assumes to interpret for your readers as Mr. De Hart does should know at least the meaning of his terms and that Henry George's proposition of a single tax upon land values did not propose a system of taxation upon wealth. Plainly it is my opinion that Mr. De Hart does not know the meaning of the word wealth and if you would have your readers credit you with having a clear understanding of Henry George's philosophy such articles as this would not find a place in your paper, without at least an editorial expression from you as to it.

DANIEL KIEFER.

Cincinnati, O.

(The Independent has said a thousand times, more or less, that it does not hold itself responsible for the views of correspondents. It is an open forum. It allows access to its columns to every man who honestly believes he has something for the benefit of mankind. It never will adopt the policy of the plutocratic dailies and shut out from discussion everything that it does not itself fully approve. The Independent is not infallible. Neither is Mr. Kiefer. If Mr. Kiefer had read in The Independent anything except the single tax matter he would have no trouble in finding out whether its editors were in favor of a protective tariff or not.—Ed. Ind.)

Prof. Gray of Chicago university has issued an order that any student in the classes of his department of political science who reports outside anything that he says shall be summarily dismissed from the department. Perhaps Prof. Gray has in mind what happened to Prof. Bemis and several other teachers in the Rockefeller institution. Yet President Harper declares that Rockefeller never interferes with the professors there. Perhaps he will not interfere when he gets his temple built on the Nebraska university campus.

## GREEN GABLES

The Dr. Benj. F. Bailey  
SANATORIUM.

For treatment of nervous diseases, diseases of women, rheumatism, and in fact all non-contagious diseases. All baths and electric currents useful in treatment of sick. Massage and physical culture. This is the largest, best equipped and most beautifully furnished sanatorium in the west. Write for particulars. Address

Dr. Benj. F. Bailey Sanatorium,  
Lincoln, Nebraska.

Send 25 cents for **HOMESTEADER'S GUIDE** containing 48 pages of valuable information. **Official Map** and full instruction how to get claim on the

## ..Rosebud Reservation..

Forbes Locating Agency,  
Bonesteel, South Dakota.

### FARMERS, ATTENTION.

Do you wish to sell your farm? If so, send full description, lowest price and best terms. Or, if you wish to buy a farm, ranch or Lincoln home, write to or call on Williams & Bratt, 1105 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

### DEL MAR'S WORKS.

Ancient Britain, \$2; Middle Ages \$3; Augustus Caesar, \$3; Hist. of Money, Ancient States, \$3; Hist. of Money, Modern States, \$2; History of Money, America, \$1.50; Science of Money, \$1; Monetary crimes, 75c.; Venus di Milo, 50c.; History of Precious Metals, \$3; Fine paper, best cloth bindings, handstitched. CAMBRIDGE PRESS, Box 100 Madison Square P. O., New York.

## Cancers Cured

Why suffer pain and death from cancer? Dr. T. O'Connor cures cancers, tumors and wens; no knife, blood or plaster. Address 1306 O St. Lincoln, Nebraska.

## Imperial Hernia Cure

Rupture radically cured by new process, in a few weeks, without inconvenience or loss of time in bed. Send for circulars.

O. S. WOOD, M. D.

521 N. Y. Life Bldg.,

Omaha, Neb.

## STEEL ROOFING.

100 SQUARE FEET.....\$2.00  
We Pay Freight East of Colorado. Strictly new, perfect, semi-hardened steel sheets, 8 and 1 foot long, the best roofing, siding or ceiling you can use. Nails free. Painted two sides. Flat, corrugated or V crimped. Write for free catalog & on material from Liberty and Inventory sales. CHICAGO HOUSE WRECKING CO. West 50th & Iron Sts., CHICAGO.

A. D. KITCHEN, Real Estate and Rental Agency, 1222 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

### FARMS WANTED.

If you want to buy a farm, or if you want to sell a farm, see me. I have several buyers who want to buy. List your farms with me.

## WILL SEND \$3.75 FREE.

Franklin Miles, M. D., LL. B., the Eminent Specialist Will Send \$3.75 Worth of His New Treatment Free

That Dr. Miles is one of the most successful and reliable of physicians is proven by hundreds of testimonials from well-known people. One patient cured after failure of eleven Grand Rapids physicians, two after having been given up by six or seven Chicago physicians, another after nine of the leading doctors in New York city, Philadelphia and Chicago failed. Thousands of testimonials sent on request.

The late Prof. J. S. Jewell, M. D., editor of the Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases, published at Chicago, advised Dr. Miles to "by all means publish your surprising results." Prof. J. P. Ross, M. D., President of Rush Medical College, wrote in 1874: "Dr. Miles has taken two courses of my private instruction in diseases of the heart and lungs." Col. N. G. Parker, Ex-Treasurer of South Carolina, says: "I believe Dr. Miles to be an attentive and skillful physician in a field which requires the best qualities of mind and heart." Col. A. M. Tucker, late General Manager of N. Y., L. E. & W. system of railways says: "Dr. Miles' success as a physician has been phenomenal." Col. E. B. Spilman, of the 9th Regulars U. S. A., San Diego, Cal., says: "Your Special Treatment has worked wonders when all else failed. I had employed the best medical talent and had spent \$2,000."

When an experienced and wealthy physician offers to prescribe free \$4,000 worth of treatment for diseases of the heart, nerves, stomach or dropsy, it is conclusive evidence that he has great faith in his skill. And when hundreds of prominent men and women freely testify to his unusual skill and the superiority of his New Personal Treatment, his liberality is certainly worthy of serious consideration.

The Doctor's new system of treatment is thoroughly scientific and immensely superior to ordinary methods.

As all afflicted readers may have his Book and \$3.75 worth of specially prepared treatment free, with full directions, we would advise them to send for a Copyrighted Examination Chart at once. Address, Dr. Franklin Miles, 205 to 231 State Street, Chicago, Ill.

Please mention The Independent in your reply.