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"Sure" *[initials]*

FREE LAND AND FREE TRADE.

It does not seem to me that any one can fully realize the harmony and beauty of the simple scheme for restoring to men their natural rights in land by appropriating for public use the values which attach to land by social growth and improvements, without also seeing the falsity of the protective theory. But I also know that men generally see the truth by degrees and not at a flash, and I am perfectly conscious that there are many who are now in favor of applying the single tax principle within the domain of state legislation who are opposed to applying it in the domain of national legislation, or who at least would postpone it until state legislation can be secured. In state politics there is no reason for provoking any difference between such men and those who would move toward the single tax through national as well as state legislation as opportunity may offer. But when it comes to the field of national politics, the only way in which the two could keep together would be for them to agree together to virtually keep out of the fight. And to run a candidate for president on the line of state measures while a national contest over the question of federal taxation was going on would virtually be to keep out of the fight. We might take that occasion to hold meetings and make speeches in favor of the application of our principles to state legislation; but for this a presidential election would be not an opportune, but a most inopportune, occasion. Under our system of government, national politics very largely dominate state politics, and it is comparatively easy to bring national issues into state campaigns, but correspondingly difficult to bring state issues into national campaigns.

As for those of our friends who think we ought to leave protec-

tion undisturbed until we have succeeded in taking land values for public benefit, and those who express ~~by~~ the same underlying thought by asking why free land will not lead to free trade much more naturally than free trade will lead to free land, it seems to me that they can hardly fully realize the great object which is to be attained by the single tax, nor yet the practical means by which the adoption of this single tax is to be secured. Like those who oppose us, or at least fail to go with us from sheer inability to see how the taxation of land values can abolish poverty, their mental gaze seems to be concentrated on what we propose to do, ignoring what we propose to do away with. The great benefit of the appropriation of land values to public use would not be in the revenue that it would give, so much as in the abolition of restrictions upon the free play of productive forces that it would involve or permit. It is not by the mere levying of a tax that we propose to abolish poverty; it is by "securing the blessings of liberty."

The abolition of all taxes that restrain production or hamper exchange, the doing away with all monopolies and special privileges that enable one citizen to levy toll upon the industries of other citizens, is an integral part of our programme. To merely take land values in taxation for public purposes would not of itself suffice. If the proceeds were spent in maintaining useless parasites or standing armies, labor might still be oppressed and harried by taxes and special privileges. We might still have poverty, and people might still beg for alms or die of starvation. What we are really aiming at is, to use the language of the Syracuse platform, "the freedom of the individual to use his labor and capital in any way that may

seem proper to him and will not interfere with the equal rights of others," and "to leave to the producer the full fruits of his exertion. To do this it is necessary to abolish land monopoly. And it is also necessary to abolish tariffs.

Signed: Henry George,
Jan. 21, 1888