

Robert S. Phifer, Jackson, Miss., sends contribution and writes: "Keep up the fight for the real thing. Anything less is not worth striving for by those who have caught the vision. . . . There is a clear-cut line between Single Taxers and Antis. Antis are never going to vote for the Single Tax and Single Taxers are always going to vote for it if it is on the ballot."

Dr. T. J. Kelly, Marathon, Iowa, sending contribution writes: "When 125,000 voters espouse a measure which frankly purposes to abolish property in land, you know that there are that many voters who will stay put; and this furnishes a nucleus of a force that can be made irresistible for they see that it is a question of moral rectitude, not of mere expediency! I can produce some 25 people whom I have converted to Single Tax, not one of whom was influenced by the argument of expediency."

H. W. Noren Pittsburgh, Pa., writes: "The only way single Taxers in California can oppose the Great Adventure is by an amendment of their own in opposition to yours, if they can't accept yours. So long as they lie down and do nothing because you are in the field they afford an excuse to anti-Single Taxers parading as Single Taxers to oppose Single Tax. They afford them an opportunity to oppose Single Tax without being unmasked."

Albert J. Nock from the Century: . . . "No matter, therefore, how great the pressure on production, no matter how much an increase of food supply is needed, these immense stretches of land remain idle because it does not pay to cultivate them. They are held at a monopoly price so far ahead of their earning capacity that the capital charges eat up too much of the income. . . . This is quite irrespective of farm products, for as prices go up, land values go up ahead of them. . . . In fact the land-holding monopoly of the West does not want farmers or settlers. . . . What it really wants is customers, investors. Yet one cannot get a food supply out of investments in idle land. If the hoarding of food is made a crime, how about hoarding almost half the available food-source of the United States?" And the author goes on to recommend the taxation into use of this idle land.

THE RENT OF THE LAND BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

The HENRY GEORGE STANDARD

Formerly *The Great Adventure*, published monthly by California Committee of the National Single Tax Association for the Single Tax at Room 707 in San Fernando Building, Los Angeles, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Vol. 5

APRIL 1923

"ALL-AT-ONCE" SINGLE TAX AGITATION IN CALIFORNIA

This name given by opponents to the full single tax amendments heretofore promulgated in all our campaigns is quite otherwise. It is true that such a bill, when carried, would, indeed, usher in the taxation of all land values "all at once"; but it may take a number of campaigns to put it over. The growing imminence of such a measure would cause people to prepare for it and not be caught with too many land-speculative eggs in their baskets lest the Single Tax "will git 'em ef they don't watch out." This preparatory "letting go" of unused land would automatically cheapen it for users and let us all down easy—without jolts. No "all at once" about it.

The "step-by-step" advocates place buffers even in their propaganda, and should they ever put up another so-called Single Tax bill, it would very likely be all buffers; for they can "realize to the full *their* ideals' without disturbing the elaborate system of credits upon which the social structure now rests!"

Under our present system, the community-made value of lands is absorbed by land monopolists. They pocket the vast funds created solely by the arrival and presence of the entire population. Because this rightful public property of the community is being now licked up by land speculators, it never has cash enough to put up a fire station or a school; but must issue bonds, bonds,

bonds, buying on credit with interest dragging on for years. But the step-by-steppers' "ideals" can be realized, they say, "without disturbing the elaborate system of credits upon which our social system now rests." Surely *their* ideals will not disturb it, but the Single Tax will. Our step-by-steppers, first through Home Rule, then Equity Taxation, then Exemptionism, and now as "Rational Tax Reformers," seek to interest the public. But we would issue the warning: "Use no cheap substitute. Single Tax has its name blown on the bottles."

WISE MEN FROM THE EAST

The Great Adventure has reason to be proud of the attention it attracted from the first among leading Single Taxers in the East. The Atlantic City Convention, April, 1917, of two hundred delegates, initiated by James A. Robinson, at which Luke North was special guest, was a remarkable event. The President, Wm. J. Wallace, maintained that rare poise of graceful urbanity and stern decision long to be remembered. These two, with others, were back of Robert C. Macaulay, who initiated last year in the East the collection of a \$9000 fund to improvise a campaign in California when the local Great Adventure failed to function. Though far from opulent, he gave the first thousand dollars to start the list of contributors. The actual management of the campaign devolved on James A. Robinson, who performed prodigies of valor in presto tempo to get our bill on the ballot in two months. He re-established the Great Adventure headquarters and the Henry George Standard in Los Angeles and arranged speaking dates for his successor before he returned to the East. These speeches were clarion calls to action and made many votes.

Since the November election Mr. Macaulay has maintained headquarters, kept up the Standard—at considerable cost to himself—and worked out a political plan by which to secure signatures and also the names and addresses of Single Tax voters by precinct this year, so as to get in touch with them, to secure their aid, to get the next campaign financed by *Californians*. Only our lamented Luke North could be compared to Mr. Macaulay in energy and singleness of purpose without regard to recompense.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON

In the recent California vote on Single Tax Amendment 29, the vote of San Diego County outside the city was 41.5% for the measure.

On April the eighth, Sunday evening, Robert C. Macaulay was guest at a Single Tax dinner in San Francisco. Sixty-two were present. E. Backus, President of the Great Adventure League, was toastmaster. Mr. Macaulay made a striking address in the interest of the next California campaign and obtained twenty-six new subscribers for *The Standard*.

Cary R. Colburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the San Diego Single Tax Society, was a candidate for a member of the Common Council of San Diego this spring on a platform "Home Building versus Land Speculation." His election pamphlet is one of the best propaganda documents ever printed. As one item: "Do you know, Mr. and Mrs. Voter, that San Diego land speculators, many of them non-residents, performing no useful service in San Diego, collect annually over \$5,000,000 of the earnings of the people of San Diego and pay into the treasury only about one-seventh of the amount they collect?" (From the report of the City Auditor of San Diego for 1922). While the right of each to what he individually earns is granted, the right of all to what they collectively earn or create by coming together in a community is ignored. *While* no one would like to be caught pocketing money belonging to *any one* else, nobody hesitates about openly pocketing funds that belong to *every one* else. But because of statutory ignorance vast sums of land profits, got for nothing, are constantly drained off from US. You and I, as landlords are stealing from US as part of the public. These unearned profits would be taxed into the public treasury under Single Tax. No other needed. L. I. R.

At this period in a Single Tax campaign—betwixt hay and grass—all the friends of the movement can do is to get subscriptions and distribute literature. W. F. Burgener of Norwalk, President of the Los Angeles Branch of the Great Adventure, is doing this and even working into Orange County. Waldo Wernicke is also doing similar propaganda work. He recently brought in a good list of new names. Robert C. Macaulay writes: "If it be true that the first \$1,000 is the hardest to raise, then the rest should be easy, for I had no difficulty at all in arousing the good people of Fairhope to the importance of supporting the movement in California and doing it NOW. E. Yancey Cohen, as I anticipated, came through with \$750,000 and about twenty others made up the first thousand." The following Sunday he addressed the Civic Forum and "even inflamed some of the audience to the giving up point."