

THE HENRY GEORGE STANDARD

PROPOSED TITLE OF SINGLE TAX BILL

State of California,
Office of Attorney General.

San Francisco, July 8, 1921.

W. L. Ross, Esq., President The Great Adventure League,
211 Charleston Building, San Francisco.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to your request that I prepare a circulation title for a proposed constitutional amendment dealing with taxation of land values, to be submitted at the November election, 1922, a copy of which amendment you enclosed with your request, I have prepared the following circulation title therefor:

LAND VALUES TAXATION. Initiative measure adding Section 15 to Article XIII of Constitution. Beginning January 1, 1923, exempts from taxation personal property, planted trees, vines and crops; improvements appertaining to land being taxed at not exceeding preceding year's amount until exempted January 1, 1925, and other county, municipal and district revenues collected from land values. Beginning January 1, 1926, requires all public revenues be raised by taxing land values exclusive of improvements, repealing Section 14 in same article. Declares war veteran, church and college exemptions, and privately owned public utilities using highways, unaffected hereby.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter and advise me if the title is satisfactory to you.

Very truly yours,

U. S. WEBB, Attorney General.

By (signed) ROBERT W. HARRISON, Chief Deputy.

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

The following have been chosen for county chairmen and organizers in the interest of the Single Tax Amendment by the Great Adventure League: Contra Costa county, George F. Black, 337 McDonald street, Richmond; Stanislaus county, George Cartwright, Modesto, Route 1, Box 59; San Francisco county, Dr. Ethel Lynn, 723 Sanchez street, San Francisco; Alameda county, P. Y. Albright, 615 Thirty-seventh street, Oakland; Marin county, Frank Carroll, San Rafael. Volunteer workers in these counties should communicate with the above-named organizers.

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The dinner at the Washington Hotel, San Francisco, June 22, was a decided success. Everybody was pleased. Jackson H. Ralston, Esq., prominent lawyer of Washington, D. C., was the leading speaker at the dinner given at the Washington Hotel, San Francisco, July 26. California is Mr. Ralston's native State.

Please pass this on where it will do the most good.



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The Henry George Standard

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The object of this publication is to open opportunities for employment, reduce rents and the high cost of living, increase incomes that are earned and decrease those not earned, by doing away with taxes on production and taking ground rent for public uses.

WORKING FARMERS VERSUS LAND PROFITEERS

By HENRY GEORGE

The land of the working farmer is improved land, and usually the value of the improvements and of the stock used in cultivating it bears a very high proportion to the value of the bare land.

Now, as not all valuable land is improved as is that of the working farmer, as there is much more of valuable land than of improved land, to substitute for the taxation now levied upon improvements and stock a tax upon the value of naked land, irrespective of improvements, would be manifestly to the advantage of the owners of improved land, and especially of small owners, the value of whose improvements bears a much greater ratio to the value of their land than is the case with large owners; and who, as one of the effects of treating improvements as a proper subject of taxation, are taxed far more heavily, even upon the value of their land, than are large owners.

The working farmer has only to look about him to realize this. Nearby his farm of eighty or one hundred and sixty acres he will find tracts of five hundred or a thousand, or, in some places, tens of thousands of acres, of equally valuable land, on which the improvements, stock, tools and household effects are much less in proportion than on his own small farm, or which may be totally unimproved and unused.

In the villages he will find acre, half-acre and quarter-acre lots, unimproved or slightly improved, which are more valuable than his whole farm.

If he looks further, he will see tracts of mineral land, or land with other superior natural advantages, having im-

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New York, N. Y.

men's value, yet on which the taxable improvements amount to little or nothing; while, when he looks to the great cities, he will find vacant lots, twenty-five by one hundred feet, worth more than a whole section of agricultural land such as his; and as he goes toward their centers he will find most magnificent buildings less valuable than the ground on which they stand, and block after block where the land would sell for more per front foot than his whole farm. Manifestly to put all taxes on the value of land would be to lessen relatively and absolutely the taxes the working farmer has to pay.—In Social Problems.

THE TRUTH ABOUT VANCOUVER

Many people have been misled by false statements about the application of the Single Tax in Vancouver and particularly South Vancouver.

Through a political play a commissioner was appointed by the provincial government to administer the affairs of South Vancouver.

Louis D. Taylor, former Mayor of Vancouver, says this had nothing to do with the Single Tax. But the Canadian Pacific Railway Company holds thousands of acres of land in that city. With the help of other large interests they succeeded in persuading the commissioner to tax improvements. Ninety per cent of the residents of South Vancouver immediately formed themselves into a protective association and went on record against the taxation of improvements.

Mayor Taylor said that perhaps no other large community on this continent is so taxed without having any voice in the municipal government.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Thomas Lee Woolwine, District Attorney for Los Angeles, before the Hollywood Women's Club, recently lauded certain institutions of our civilization, notably trial by jury, the writ of habeas corpus and the elective franchise, as placing all men on an equality before the law and insuring to all an equal opportunity. "What more can any man ask?" was his climactic questioning.

And yet in almost the next breath he expressed his sympathy for the great masses of humanity "who had never had a chance," who had "stumbled and fallen" on life's rough pathway and had been forced by circumstances into the great procession "headed toward the grey walls of the penitentiary."

O. M. Donaldson, in *Holly Leaves*, comments editorially as follows:

"Mr. Woolwine evidently is a man of high regard for the law and of a broad human sympathy. But perhaps it has never occurred to him that there is a great chasm between these two positions that need bridging.

"If it is true that thousands of men have never had a chance, and because of that fact are headed for State's prison, it must be evident that there is something needed to insure all men an equal opportunity besides civil rights that are supposed to be the bulwark of our liberties.

"The fact is that our much-vaunted equality of all men before the law falls very far short of giving all an equal opportunity under a land system, itself based on law, that vests in a few the control of the earth, the source of all opportunity. "Equality of opportunity" is a mockery where the masses of humanity are denied the right to work, or even to live, except as they pay eternal tribute to those who are bolstered by the law in their claim to be the owners of the earth.

"And yet Mr. Woolwine is right, for if this great wrong is based in the law, and all men have equal rights to the elective franchise, the fault is their own if the law is not changed. So long as all men have the right to a voice at the polls, they have potentially at least an equality of opportunity. The thing to do is to turn potentiality into reality."

THE DOGGREL AND THE CAT

Whenever I sell a ton of beans, alfalfa hay or rice, for but a moment in my jeans I keep the modest price. My beans I buy back by the dish at 30 cents a throw, and rice at 25, poor fish! how soon I blow my dough. I think I know the reason why all things I have for sale are low in price while things I buy cost such a lot of kale. Before the things that folks consume are in a finished state, they all must pass, however we tume, through seven hands or eight. And to the price each adds his tax for county, State and Nation. This load upon consumers' backs deserves our execration. Oh, soon let sanity prescribe for this a prophylaxis; exempting me and all my tribe from such unholy taxes. When we untax all useful things that human beings do, prosperity on golden wings will come to me and you.—Fred Gaylord.

Joseph S. Thompson, prominent San Francisco manufacturer, has accepted the trusteeship of the Great Adventure League. George Cartwright, who resides near Modesto, did excellent work as temporary treasurer.

John D. Barry, prominent lecturer and writer, has accepted a place on the Great Adventure Campaign Committee.

Dr. Ethel Lynn has been invited to speak on the Single Tax Amendment before the State Convention of the American Federation of Labor this fall.