

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905

pickpockets calmly went through their breeches and relieved them of their pocketbooks.

That's precisely what the land speculators do when they tell you that a single tax on land values will rob the farmer and the small home owner. The hand of Greed paints on the board of Hypocrisy a big yellow spot of Sophistry for you to gaze upon while you are robbed of your natural right to the Earth!

How much longer are the land-gamblers going to play you for the sucker that you are?

LOCAL NEWS

A dinner was given by Single Taxers on the evening of the 16th to William Marion Reedy, editor of Reedy's Mirror. The dinner was held at the City Club of Los Angeles and was a pronounced success. William C. de Mille, who introduced Mr. Reedy to the large gathering, talked eloquently, exposing some of the unscrupulous tricks to which the Antis resorted to keep Single Tax off the ballot and to destroy the Initiative and Referendum.

Amid frequent applause and laughter, the witty and scholarly guest of honor briefly outlined the Democratic and Republican conventions at Chicago and San Francisco, which he had attended on his way here. A very beautiful tribute was paid by him to Henry George, "the greatest philosopher and economist that America has ever produced," and to the Single Tax leaders of the past campaigns. Mr. Reedy also spoke of the Chain Meetings his friend George A. Briggs will conduct, with the aid of Mrs. Lona I. Robinson and others up to the election.

Mr. J. H. Talbot is back in Los Angeles after spending a few weeks in San Diego, where he has distributed many thousand pieces of literature. Mr. Talbot contributes most of his time to distributing literature throughout California. His untiring devotion to the cause is deeply appreciated by us.

Let us know immediately how many copies of this bulletin you can distribute each week in California from now till November. Do your bit now to help us win.

PLEASE PASS THIS ON WHERE IT WILL
DO THE MOST GOOD.

The Great Adventure

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THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Single Tax Will Bring Down Rents!

By Haines D. Albright

THE FIRST thing needed to enable us to cure the intolerable building situation in California and throughout the country is to abolish the taxes on buildings and building materials and to shift them to land sites. This will make building sites cheaper and decrease the cost of building, bringing great building activities and consequent lower rents.

The cost of building houses has recently increased at least 100 per cent, and the construction of ordinary dwelling houses for sale or rent, at a moderate, fair price, is practically at a standstill, notwithstanding the fact that all of the storage warehouses are full of stored household goods and many families accustomed to separate, private homes have doubled up.

A \$3,500 dwelling house commences to disintegrate soon after it is built, and will in time become untenable and valueless, unless money is spent on making good the depreciation from wear and tear. The money which must be spent in order to keep its value up to the original cost of construction amounts to an average of \$100 a year, which amounts in thirty-five years to a duplication of the entire original investment of \$3,500. The experts who formulated the U. S. Income Tax regulations have therefore formulated a rule for calculating depreciation, which is based on the proposition that the life of a dwelling house is about thirty-five years.

If the total amount of house rent, which the tenants will most probably pay during the next thirty-five years, can be shown to be reasonably sure to exceed the cost of constructing such a house and paying carrying charges, investors for profit will build dwell-

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The Anti Single Tax organization is supported by big business. It is supported by bankers, land monopolists, railroad monopolists, newspapers like the Los Angeles Times, people like Miller and Lux, the Kern County Land Company, the Southern Pacific with its 5,000,000 acres of California land, and a horde of land monopoly interests. These Anti Single Tax organizations, backed by those who would do anything for the working people but get off their backs, are circulating a leaflet entitled, "The effect the Single Tax would have upon the wage earner." They are trying to throw a scare into the working people.

Do these parasites offer this unasked-for advice to wage earners because they love them as Romeo loved Juliet? Are they not interested in getting the unearned increment rather than in those whose labor produces this unearned increment? This great interest in wage earners so suddenly shown by the champions of big business is somewhat like the interest a pack of wolves has in a flock of sheep. It reminds us of the time Cleveland ran for the presidency. An Irishman's boss told him not to vote for Cleveland because if he should be elected wages would go down. But Pat said: "Be jabbers, if that was true you would be the first man to vote for him."

Land-hog corporations are holding out millions of acres of good farm land while hard-working, struggling tenants and owners of mortgaged farms are increasing the value of these idle acres by hard labor. The Single Tax would relieve the workers and force these idle acres into use on terms that would make wages high and prices low.

W. L. R.

PLAYING YOU FOR A SUCKER

By Pitchfork Smith

Some years ago the professional pickpockets in the city of London hit on a bright idea that improved their "business" wonderfully. They placed a large billboard at one of the busiest street intersections. In the exact center of the board they painted a bright yellow disc against a background of solid black. On top of the board were these words, in letters large enough to be read across the street:

"Look steadily at the yellow spot below until you have counted up to one hundred; then look up and you will see a big red ball hanging in the sky."

While the gathered boobies stood around with their mouths open, intently gazing at the bright yellow spot on the board, the

ing houses. The reason that dwelling houses are not now being constructed is because the cost of carrying a house for thirty-five years at the present rates of taxes, interest, insurance, etc., plus the present cost of original construction, amounts to more instead of less than the rent which it will probably yield; and people who have the power to invest money in such building operations are not induced to do so by a prospect of consequent profit, but, on the contrary, are deterred by the fear of certain loss.

The state of affairs now existing will be in time outgrown, either by a permanent increase of rent or by a reduction in the cost of building materials and of building, labor's cost of living or of carrying charges; and some people even hope to mitigate the evil by persuading rich philanthropists to build and rent at a loss! But permanent relief can be looked for from no other source than a substantial reduction in the present high carrying charges. The present average tax per \$100 on a \$3,500 house repeated once a year for thirty-five years, during which the investment in the house must be entirely renewed, amounts to \$3,491.25, or practically 100 per cent of the original cost of the building. The present discounted lump sum value of this \$3,491.25, payable in thirty-five equal yearly installments calculated on a 6 per cent interest basis, is \$1,532.96, so that the abolition of the tax on such a building would be the equivalent of paying a bounty of \$1,532.96 for every house built and maintained in good condition.

The tax on the lots of ground on which dwelling houses are erected does not amount to so much as the tax on the buildings, because dwelling houses are usually erected on land the market value of which is small compared with the cost of the house itself, the house being usually worth four times as much as the lot. So that a 25 per cent increase in the tax rate on dwelling houses amounts to as great an increase in the cost of carrying such a house as a 100 per cent increase in the tax rate on the land. This but emphasizes the advantage of taking the tax from dwellings and building materials and putting it on land values. It will cure the building famine quickly and permanently. The California Single Tax amendment, if adopted, will end the era of high rents.

BACKED BY "BIG BUSINESS"

The People's Anti Single Tax League is an organization formed for the purpose of protecting big business. In most cases this is only another name for big graft. Big business takes much and gives little in return. For every dollar's worth of wealth or service it gives the community it extracts two dollars' worth—often five or ten dollars' worth. Then it covers its tracks with