

THE RENT OF THE LAND BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE

# The Henry George Standard

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## "THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN GANG AFT A-GLY"

During the period that Robert C. Macauley occupied the California State Headquarters and edited the "Henry George Standard" he gave out his future plan of campaign; one hitherto untried in California. It was to begin in July of this year and combine the usual signature getting with securing the names and addresses by precinct of the single tax voters of California so as to secure their help financial and otherwise; and all to be completed *this year*, leaving next year free for straight propaganda work. The initial fund necessary for this plan he, himself went east to secure, expecting a three months stay. Meanwhile we had rumors of an International Single Tax Conference to be held August 13, in Oxford, England. At first a cloud no bigger than a man's hand, by the time Mr. Macauley had reached New York by way of Fairhope where he secured \$1,000 toward his fund, there was every sign of a big storm of enthusiasm among American single taxers to attend this Conference. Nothing else could be thought of. So the Single Tax Party endorsed the idea and will send a big delegation. This will necessarily put back Mr. Macauley's plan for California campaign till the first of next year. But this Conference cannot help put California on the map in the minds of American delegates at least. Mr. Macauley (who, by the way, was nominated as candidate for President of the United States at the Single Tax Party convention in Chicago three years ago), only thinks in terms of California state campaigns, and Mr. Wm. J. Wallace, president of the Single Tax Party, at a dinner given in New York in honor of Mr. Macauley, said with great positiveness: "We will be in

California in 1924." And, of course, James A. Robinson will "smell the battle from afar" and again do stalwart work.

Among other advantages from this Conference, the Labor Party in England being considerably in advance of Labor in this country and attending this Conference, will be likely to make prominent to their comrades both in England and this country, the fundamental thing that is hurting them—land monopoly.

But during this postponement of work here, the Great Adventure Headquarters must still be maintained and the "Henry George Standard" issued while all attention is centered elsewhere on this International Conference. This, the present incumbent will endeavor to do. How well she succeeds will depend on how steadily the friends of the California movement come in with their monthly contributions and *pay up their subscriptions*. The cost will be not less than \$100 a month (with no outgo for salary). About half of this amount is already pledged locally. The balance should be easily raised for this emergency. It is in your hands.

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## **CANNOT BE "SLIPPED OVER"**

Bolton Hall writes urgently against "pussy-footing" and "Letting the revolution come by degrees" and adds: "The people not being really converted to an understanding of the question or to a desire for equity, will manage to distort or repeal our first steps which will probably put us in worse condition than before.

"All these plans for 'slipping it over' upon the monopolist of great Grability are as dangerous as the Income Tax."

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## **LET THE LANDLORD DO THE STEP-BY-STEPPING**

A correspondent urges the step-by-step method of putting single tax in operation. Agreed. But why should *we* do the step-by-step dance? Present the moral principle of this proposition to voters; use more funds, more energy and improved methods. When the vote shows material gains, which it will, landlords will soon fear to hold too much land out of use and begin to let go, thus tending to cheapen land to users step-by-step. Let the landlords do it.

## A STRANGE ANOMALY

A few hundred families decide to settle in a certain county where land is cheap. They expect to rent at first till they can buy their land. By the time the last of the procession arrives the land has greatly increased in value by virtue of their coming. Then if they understand their business, are thrifty and industrious and make good crops, the land increases further in value because of their own work on it. The more they produce, the poorer they get, the rent or price of the land rises ahead of them. Because of their labor and thrift they grow poorer and poorer as more and more goes for rent!

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## WHY CONCEAL THE TRUTH?

*Any* tax on land is an asset not a liability. It just so far lessens the cost of land for use. The higher the tax, the lower the price; the lower the tax the higher the price. A business man must count as liabilities the interest on the capital invested, labor, taxes on his buildings and products. But *not* taxes on his land. Because in just so far as his land is taxed his capital invested in it is so much lessened.

Only a pailful of water bailed out of a leaky boat steadily may keep the rise of water down to the level of possible safety. The more water goes into the ocean, the less remains in the boat. A good pump would quite empty the boat, permit repairs and allow the vessel to make port in safety.

Say the owner has a cargo, he would reckon his capital, his distance, fuel, labor expenses, even the barnacles on the bottom of the boat as liabilities costing an outgo of money. But how could he so reckon the *water* that was pumped out of the boat? That was all to the good. Our present tax on land is the water bailed out by the pailful. It just permits the boat to navigate. Taxing *all* the value of lands into the treasury of the community is the water all pumped out of the boat and restoring safety to all. The price taken from the land.

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## OUR FRIENDS THE SOCIALISTS

The time has come when single taxers should recruit into their voting ranks the vast army of socialists who, through mistaken policies in both schools of thought have for so many years remained alienated. Though the divergence of methods of the two would very likely always prevent amalgamation, more and more socialists are ready to admit that to socialize the land values would be the first logical step to their own ideal of more co-operation. What if they do insist that our proposition is a very small step indeed? Let us agree that it is, albeit a *fundamental* step. If they will accept that, we can all travel on the

same road for some time, secure that however much more socialists may want can only be granted by the people. Why not put off our contention with socialists till the real time comes?

Though their argument proceeds in reverse direction from our individualistic tendency of thought, they have a fire, a tenacity and intensity of temperament which we can ill afford to lose if we could get it on our side. Indeed, it is doubtful if the socialists are not nearer kin to us today than are the "Rational Tax Reformers."

Since the recent period of so many revolutions many socialists do not "hone" for a revolution to come to usher in socialism. And they see the futility of trying to superimpose any degree of socialism upon our present form of government. Hence our legal campaigns to socialize, or return to society the land value which undoubtedly society creates, makes a strong appeal to them. Why not emphasize our ideals and purposes instead of our differences?

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## SINGLE TAX MEETING

A home single tax meeting was held on the 8th at 3061 Verdugo Road, Los Angeles, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Withers who had arranged a clever questionnaire to take the place of an address on the subject. Miss Helen Withers had invited a score of her co-employees at the City Hall, who with the neighbors, made a houseful. The jolly group of young folks took the questionnaire as a puzzle game for their entertainment and all innocent of prejudice either way, cheerfully tackled the questions and gave natural common sense answers which were usually right. To see those pretty dolled-up girls actually put their minds—yes *minds* on some of those points and dig out the reasonable answers was curiously interesting. The charming and vivacious Miss Helen knew her Henry George and was always ready if anybody failed. Refreshments and dancing closed the evening. Mr. and Mrs. Withers are from New York and heard Henry George speak many times.

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## MEETING AT ONTARIO

On the 12th, through Miss Olive Maguire, Mrs. Lona Robinson spoke before the Women's Business Club at Ontario, on the Antiquity of our Present Land and Tax System, essentially unimproved since the cuneiform stone tablets of ancient Assyria recorded mortgages and titles 420 years B. C. She showed that revision was due.

Mr. W. H. Burgener of Norwalk, who did such good work last campaign, was injured three weeks ago by a fall from a ladder and is at the hospital recovering.

Mr. Gillam and son, S. L. Gillam of Glendale, are going to attend the International Single Tax conference at Oxford, England.