

News of the Movement

Marcus A. West distributed over 3000 pieces of literature in San Francisco during the past two months.

* * *

E. Backus distributed several thousand pieces of literature for the Great Adventure League recently. The distribution of advertising material is part of Mr. Backus's publicity business, but he did our work free of charge.

* * *

One of the best pamphlets ever produced on the Single Tax is the revised edition of "Unused Democracy," by H. H. Willock. The Great Adventure League has ordered 100,000 of these booklets to be printed by The James H. Barry Company of San Francisco.

* * *

A shipment of Social Problems has been received by the Great Adventure League from the National Single Tax League.

* * *

Dr. Lynn spoke to a well attended and very interesting meeting of the Business Girls' Club. William L. Ross answered questions from the audience after Dr. Lynn finished her address.

* * *

All minors in California who expect to vote at the election in November, 1922, and who wish to vote with intelligence, are offered cash prizes for the best essays of six hundred to eight hundred words on the Single Tax. First prize, \$10; second prize, \$5; third prize, \$3; fourth prize, \$2. Time limit, October 31, 1921. Write The Great Adventure League, 251 Kearny Street, San Francisco, Cal.

* * *

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has sent out a warning to school pupils not to write essays on the Single Tax for cash prizes. It appears that more academic essays are permissible, however, such as essays on "Who did Thomas Jefferson crib his ideas from that he expounded in the Declaration of Independence?" Cash prizes are offered to pupils for the best essays on the above subject, although that, while being the substance of the subject, is not the exact language. It is made to appear more important by the use of English less plebeian.

* * *

The Great Adventure League will give a dinner Wednesday evening, October 19, at 6:30, at Washington Hotel, Grant avenue and Bush street, San Francisco, Cal.



The Henry George Standard

Official organ of The Great Adventure League, 211 Charleston Bldg., San Francisco; telephone Douglas 6882; and The Single Tax League, 420 American Bank Bldg., Los Angeles; telephone 624-17.
Published monthly at 211 Charleston Bldg., 251 Kearny Street, San Francisco.
Editors: William L. Ross and Frank D. Butler. Year, 50 cents. Entered in the Post Office, San Francisco, Cal., as second class matter.

Vol. 4

OCTOBER, 1921

No. 50

The object of this publication is to abolish every tax now levied on the people of the United States and collect the entire rent of land for Federal, State and local expenses. The rent of land belongs to the people, not the landlords.

IS IT A REVIVAL?



Is there a revival of interest in the California Single Tax movement? If so, it first should be shown by the more active supporters of the Cause.

Is it merely a coincidence that unusual interest was displayed at the three dinners on Henry George's Birthday in San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego?

Last month we went to press too early to publish more than short notices of the Los Angeles and San Francisco meetings and we had heard nothing from San Diego. Since then, Cary Richard Colburn, secretary of the San Diego Single Tax Society, has written us as follows:

"The San Diego Single Tax Society celebrated Henry George's Birthday anniversary by getting together for a dinner at the Y. W. C. A. Cafeteria. There were fifty-four present. So even sleepy San Diego is waking up. We had such a good meeting and so many of us were so filled with the spirit that we decided to meet at the same place the first Friday evening of every month to sup together and teach the gospel of a free earth."

About one hundred and fifty were present at the dinner of the Single Tax League at Los Angeles.

In his introductory remarks, William C. deMille, as chairman, laid aside his usual inimitable wit and told the simple story of the "Prophet of San Francisco" in the early days when he was engaged in co-ordinating facts into truths, deducing from the chaotic mass of phenomena all around him one of the natural elemental laws. Mr. deMille then introduced Stoughton Cooley, formerly one of the co-editors of "The Public," as the speaker of the evening, who spoke of his early acquaintance with Henry George and his great idea.

Mr. John Davidson, one of the talented young single taxers,

Gertrude Colles,
R. 403, 939 8th Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

perhaps a convert of Mr. deMille's evening classes of actors learning the single tax, read Henry George's wonderful encomium on Liberty from the last chapter of "Progress and Poverty." Mrs. Anna George deMille, only living child of the great economist, very clearly gave a neat little résumé of her plan, which she called her "One Speech a Day Club," by which a vow was made, and kept, to talk to at least one prospective convert a day on single tax. Following was an instructive narration by Geo. A. Briggs, manager and field worker of the League, of how to approach the farmers of the State on the single tax amendment, culled from his own experience. The executive committee was instructed to organize southern counties of the State for propaganda among farmers and business men.

The best part of the whole meeting was the fraternal spirit of hope and the satisfaction of meeting other earnest co-workers in the reform.

The Great Adventure League was fortunate in having an excellent program in San Francisco. John D. Barry presided and Lincoln Steffens delivered an address that was said by many to be one of the finest addresses they had ever heard. Mr. Barry's experience as a journalist and lecturer, in addition to his other attainments, has given him a prominent place as an accomplished after-dinner speaker and chairman.

Mr. John G. Wright of Berkeley, one of the pioneers of the movement, inspired the large crowd present with some interesting reminiscences of the earliest days of the movement, and William L. Ross in a brief address urged those present to do all in their power to help push the good work along.

As a result of the meeting several offered to help. Prominent among these was Dr. H. Wahle of Oakland, formerly of Wisconsin. Dr. Wahle is an experienced and effective public speaker, and says he will go anywhere at any time to speak for the Single Tax.

The most important outcome of the meeting was the publicity given by the daily papers, particularly the San Francisco Call, Fremont Older, editor of the Call, was present at the dinner, and Mr. Barry, whose articles occupy a prominent place every day on the editorial page of the Call, devoted two articles in succession to a description of the occasion and a discussion of Steffens' address.

Is there a revival of interest in the Single Tax movement of California? Is the time coming when everybody will be discussing the Single Tax? Will the old enthusiasm of the days of George and McGlynn come again? It will, if we preach the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. It will, if we show that Single Tax will make room at the Father's table for all His children.

Why Sing So Low on Single Tax?

The San Francisco Examiner, like the rest of the Hearst papers, seems to take the same attitude on the Single Tax that the colored preacher was ordered to take by the board of deacons when he got to preaching some unpleasant truths about hen roosts. He was given to understand that he must confine himself to preaching the straight Gospel and let the complicated question of chicken-stealing alone.

Arthur Brisbane and others in the main office of the Hearst papers throw a bouquet at the Single Tax every little while, but when a responsible business man writes them on the subject of taxation which they profess to be discussing on its merits, the boldness of the lion gives way to the prudence of the rabbit and the Examiner moves in the direction of the tall grass. Following is the letter the Examiner failed to publish:

August 31, 1921.

The Editor of The Examiner,

San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

Since your editorial column in this morning's Examiner definitely urges those having a better taxation plan than the Sales Tax to bring it forward, I take the liberty of drawing your attention to the bill substantially the same as the Ralston-Nolan Bill, placing a measure of the federal taxation upon land values (which are created by the public and not by individuals) and lifting it from the shoulders of "Business, Production, Trade and Employment."

To tax the land, making it an expensive business to prevent others from using it, and to untax industry, building materials, homes and other improvements, making it a less expensive business to indulge in these luxuries, would seem no more than plain, sound common sense. But Congress will never "get the gumption" to try the land tax because it is too simple, intelligent and sane, and treads on too many influential toes.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JOSEPH S. THOMPSON.

An Inspiring Letter

Paul K. Mohr, secretary of the Bakery and Confectionery Workers' Union, writes from Seattle as follows:

The Great Adventure League,

211 Charleston Bldg.,

San Francisco, Cal.

I am enclosing to you \$10.00. Five is what I contribute. But the other five I send you was the money that the Carmen's Union and Brick Makers' Union gave me last Labor Day for telling them how to become possessed of the earth and the fulness thereof.

The burden of my argument at that picnic at Renton was that labor must forget the old slave idea of seeking a job and a master. That it should have a new vision, the vision of freedom, where labor will not seek a job, but the power to create its own jobs as master of its own destiny.