

THE HENRY GEORGE STANDARD

News of the Movement

Mr. James H. Talbot, advance agent for the lecturers of Krotona Institute, distributes Single Tax literature in both Oakland and San Francisco during his spare time.

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A shipment of Progress and Poverty, in both cloth and paper binding, has been forwarded by the National Single Tax League to the Great Adventure League in San Francisco.

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Henry George's birthday anniversary was celebrated by a dinner in Los Angeles given by the Single Tax League. William C. de Mille presided.

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Single Taxers visiting San Francisco are invited to meet the Single Tax Workers' Committee who dine Monday evenings at 6 at the "Sunset," second floor, 40 O'Farrell street.

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Mrs. Lucy Durham, one of our best workers, in writing for literature, says that the prospects for success in the State look better all the time.

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John D. Barry is chairman of the committee of judges to award the cash prizes for the four best essays on the Single Tax offered to high school pupils of California by a San Francisco contributor to the Great Adventure League.

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On the evening of August 28, Dr. Ethel Lynn spoke at the Valencia Theatre at an organization meeting of the working women of San Francisco. She advocated a wiser use of the ballot and stronger support of the Single Tax amendment. Six hundred persons were present, all of whom received a copy of "Single Tax—What It Is and Why We Urge It."

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Lincoln Steffens and John D. Barry were the principal speakers at the dinner given by the Great Adventure League in San Francisco September 2 in honor of the birthday of Henry George.

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Frank Carroll, organizer for Marin County, writes that he can use considerable literature, both for personal distribution and for mailing. He states that Marin County should be a good field, with an aggressive campaign. Mr. Carroll was forwarded a supply of literature. Who is next?

*The Single Tax will triumph when,
In seeking truth, the voter finds
That idle lots mean idle men;
And vacant acres, vacant minds.*

—G. A. BRIGGS.



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.

TEACHING LABOR ITS PLACE

THE SAN FRANCISCO DAILY NEWS recently published a series of five articles by Dr. Ethel Lynn on the labor situation.

Dr. Lynn deserves credit for informing the public how big business organized a lockout last May against labor union men working in the building trades. While doing business on the closed shop plan themselves, they want an open shop for their workers.

But such methods are not new for big business. We know its methods in trying to discredit the Single Tax movement. We know how it lies, through the newspapers, about what they call failure of the Single Tax in Vancouver. They never tell the dear people that Victoria and the other fifty or sixty towns in British Columbia operate under the Single Tax for local purposes.

During the last campaign big business had the services of one of our State officials who told the voters that if the Single Tax amendment should be put into operation it might take \$11.69 on each hundred dollars' worth of land to supply enough revenue for the State. Absurd and silly as that statement was, big business knew that many of the voters would believe it. It knew that just as sea doves are easily gulled, so many of the dear people who vote are easily gulled.

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

Labor, and labor unions, will continue to suffer until the rank and file learn the importance of the ballot and learn how to use it as Dr. Lynn has advised them to do.

Nearly a year ago, big business and its lackeys began to whisper around that they must teach labor its place. The big demand for all kinds of help during the war had made working people independent. No doubt they were oftentimes unreasonable. Employers were obliged to swallow their pride. Many had their vanity wounded, and in revenge they decided to smash the labor unions. They want their own unions and combinations to help them pluck the consumer, but—that's different.

The worker and the capitalist are both human and are much alike. But under our present unjust system capital can drive a hard bargain with labor, so that many workers and their families are going hungry. We pity the underdog in a fight. We pity the women who usually bear the hardest part of the burden and the little children who did not ask to be brought into the world—a world naturally good and beautiful but cursed by ignorance, greed and selfishness.

If the working people are wise they will make more jobs than there are men to fill them. More jobs than men is the natural condition, but land monopoly has closed the doors of opportunity. Carry the Single Tax amendment and there will be a job for everybody in California. Vacant lots would be forced into use by higher taxes, but no tax would be paid on houses and furniture. Miller and Lux and other profiteers holding land idle would pay more tax, but the farmers and home owners would pay less. Business would boom, wages rise, rents fall, and there would be employment for everybody. Workers, don't be a lot of sea doves; work for the Single Tax.

MARCUS A. WEST.

The Silver Thread

There are in every society a number of people who care. For these life is not bounded by their material satisfactions. They are not content to mind their own business and let the world wag along as it will. For it doesn't wag that way. It has no will. It wags as Rockefeller and the Steel Trust will. And that spells a shameful and unnecessary poverty, hunger, prostitution, starvation wages, child slavery, insanity, suicide, murder for profit, and millions unemployed.—*Luke North.*

The reserved right of the people to the rental value of land must be construed as a condition to every deed.—*Justice Miller, U. S. Supreme Court (1887).*

Democracy or Plutocracy

That amusing trait in children, which prompts them to cry "no fair" when a weapon they have been employed in the present attitude of our dear friends, the perpetual enemies of the Single Tax and—when it does not suit their purposes—the enemies of the Initiative and Referendum also. These good but very serious people went down to defeat last November on their proposal to amend the Initiative and Referendum law in such a manner that while it could be used by them it could not thereafter be used by the Single Taxers, and now smarting from this defeat they are engaged in casting discredit in the Initiative and Referendum law and demanding its abolition, whereas, had they won their Amendment No. 4, the Initiative and Referendum law would at present have no stronger defenders than they.

Weird, indeed, is their logic. "There should be some weighty reason," they say, "why the act of a legislative body elected by the people should be suspended." Bless their innocent hearts, yes. Was not the Initiative and Referendum law itself the Act of a legislative body elected by the people? It was. And what "weighty reason" is advanced by the opponents of the Initiative and Referendum law? Not one. In place of a single, weighty reason they offer us the light and trivial objections to the Initiative and Referendum that the people and "the legislative body elected by the people" rejected when the Act was passed. To be sure they further hint vaguely of dangers to the Republic if the people should ever go so far as to take an active interest in the acts of their representatives, but here they cut their own throats by calling such citizens a mob, and we can safely rely upon public spirited citizens resenting that imputation.

The truth is there are no valid reasons that can be urged against the Initiative and Referendum. Every member of a public body has the right not only once, but again and again, to present his views on public questions.

If his views do not meet with approval they can be voted down, but those who would deny the right of presentation or would forcibly suppress the expression of views which they do not happen to like, are the real enemies of truth and human freedom.

It is they who today menace free institutions and it is their activity, and not those of the so-called mob, that society has most to fear. They reveal themselves everywhere by talking about democracy, mobocracy and autocracy, but more noticeably by their silence regarding the perils of plutocracy, or government of, by and for the rich.—G. R. S.