

The first essential change in government: Levy no taxes and collect the ground rent for public purposes.

# THE PROBE

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To produce a modern state: Take all the evils of the Russian Tsars. Multiply by ten. Label it Democracy. And there you are.

Not all the singletaxers appointed to political office by the Wilson administration were seduced. Fred Howe for one and I know two more. They are wonderful men.

Italy can come over here and get real consolation from radical Democrats. We, too, picked a winner and got—a tax on ice cream cones.

The making of peace has developed a brand new statesmanship. If you dissent, step outside. That makes three out of ten not only a majority, but it makes the vote unanimous.

In the Nation of March 22 appeared a page advertisement signed by eighteen well known men and women. It is a call issued under the auspices of the Committee of Forty-eight of 15 East 40th Street, New York, for a conference of "the leaders of liberal thought" and of "forward looking citizens." It is a most inspiring call and will no doubt meet with a great response.

I dare say the conference will meet, talk, resolve, adjourn and be forgotten by all save those who attend it.

The freedom of the people of the United States is doomed. Yes, doomed, for at least two hundred years. We are going down and so far as I can see nothing can stop us from reaching bottom. We will go lower than the Russians did under Tsardom, for we will lack their life-giving tradition of common rights to the earth.

One thing and one thing only can save the people of the United States and that one thing is free land. And when I say free land I mean free without rent or purchase price as between man and man. Every agency in the United States is promoting investments in land. But it is not really investment in land these agencies are promoting. They are promoting investment in men, women and children. They are promoting slavery. Every agency this country possesses is boosting the enslavement of mankind.

Slavery by means of the rent roll is the only sure dividend producer.

Every business eventually fails but so long as men remain ignorant they

will pay rent and make the land owner prosperous.

Among the eighteen signers to the call for a conference I note but one name that would be likely to be attached to a demand for "free land, without purchase price, to every living soul." The other seventeen will champion slavery. They will agree to everything but freedom.

"We find that the things the Bolsheviks are fighting in the state are the things that Jesus Christ himself opposed. The Bolsheviks claim that the state has become a mere policeman for the protection of property. Insofar as we find them to be right in this, we must address ourselves to correcting it."—Rev. Bernard Iddings Bell.

This Socialistic twist to the teachings of Jesus is bosh. Life without property is Hell. Private property is the one thing that makes life worth living. It is the business of policemen to protect property. It is our failure to stop the stealing of private property from producers by land owners that gives us iniquitous conditions. This communist madness under the name of Socialism is caused by the blindness that cannot see the difference between the property a man produces and the earth.

Communism is the herd instinct of fear, manifested in acts. It has been tried century after century and always with the same result; universal poverty to all who participated therein.

Communism has not produced one good thing that has stood the test of time.

Man plans, produces, executes, the herd only stampedes. When men stampede it is to destroy some hindrance to progress that man individually was too weak to overcome. We call these stampedes revolutions. After these stampedes order and progress can only come with the recognition of man's sacred and inviolate right to private property.

## AN EDITOR'S CONSOLATION

"Do not take adverse criticism too seriously. The people who criticize you or your work are not always your superiors."—From the Pittsburgh Reformer.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

**ROBT. M. ERSKINE**

Real Estate and Insurance  
Phone Hazel 17-R 115 Greenfield Ave.

**EAT RUDOLPH'S**

Home Dressed MEAT

IT'S THE BEST YOU CAN BUY

WANTED—A man to help work a half-acre garden, will furnish all tools and seeds, divide products 50-50. 500 Bigelow St. Hazel 448-J.

LARGE BED-ROOM, for man or two. Inquire at Noren's. B.

LOST—A small pocketbook with a brass band around the top. It contained two ten dollar bills and was lost between Nantasket street and the fruit store by the way of Alger street Saturday, April 26. Return to Noren's store and receive reward.

## "DAMNOCRACY"

Thousand billion dollar land monopoly, tax free.

A child's ice cream cone, tax 20%. And to shield land monopoly, the arch destroyer of human happiness, the Democratic Administration stooped to take a penny from a child.

If any one still believes that the President is a sincere liberal—there stands his right hand man Burleson to prove the contrary.

"Trade, that fruitful source of war." —The New Justice

Could anything be more thoughtless than the above quoted expression? It is a fair sample of the wrongheadedness of the new Communism, better known as Socialism. Trade is the antidote to war. Free trade unlimited, better known under the designation Single Tax, would make war impossible. People who trade do not make war on one another. It is people who live by stealing that instigate war. Even the Communistic scheme of a universal jackpot whence each hope to draw out a little more than he puts in, is based on trade—minus equity.

## Weekly Price List

Read this list carefully, prices revised every week.

**PAY NO MORE**

Store opens at 8, closes at 6  
Except Saturdays.

### The CLOSE FIT



AN INVISIBLE NET OF HAIR FOR THE HAIR  
THE BEST SELF ADJUSTING  
HAND MADE REAL HAIR NET

WE COULD NOT IMPROVE THE NET SO WE IMPROVED THE ENVELOPE

"Close Fit" cap shape Hair nets,  
black, dark brown, light brown,  
medium brown and blond, 15c;  
two Nets for .....25c  
"Close Fit" Hair Nets in grey,  
each .....25c

Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes called  
straight; made in France,  
of genuine hair; full size, 38x40,  
10c; three Nets for .....25c

Hair Pins of all kinds, Bone, Celluloid  
and Wire.

Barrettes .....5 and 10c

Electric Curlers .....2 for 10c

Curling Tongs .....10c

Boye Hair Curlers .....4 for 5c

Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards  
only, 8; two spools for .....15c

Black and White, 100 yards only .....15c

O. N. T. Machine Thread, black  
and white, sizes, 8 to 100, spool 6c

O. N. T. Machine Thread, in colors,  
spool .....6c

O. N. T. Mercerized Crochet  
Thread, all sizes 3 to 100, in  
White; ball 10c, per box of 12  
balls .....\$1.00

O. N. T. Mercerized Crochet  
Thread in colors, No. 30, ball .....10c

O. N. T. Embroidery Cotton, long  
skeins, 3c; two for .....5c

Silkateen, white, black and colors 8c

Utopia four strand, white and colors  
.....8c

O. N. T. Pearl Cotton, No. 3 and  
5, .....10c

Bias Seam Binding, lawn and  
cambric, black and white, all  
sizes, 12 yards .....15c

Ric Rac, all sizes .....10c to 19c

Snap Fasteners .....5c

**3 more**

Her Majesty .....5

Hooks and Eyes .....5c

Lingerie Tape, white, pink, blue .....10c

Kleinert's Dress Shields .....35c

Middy Lacers .....5c

Thimbles (silver), all sizes .....5c

All sizes of rubber and pearl buttons.

## QUALITY GOODS.

Alma

Corset

Waists

for

Misses

All

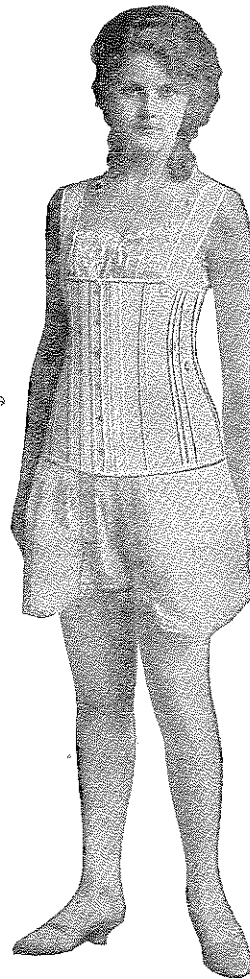
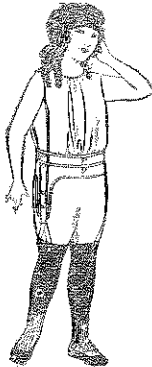
Sizes

\$1.25

Value;

Price

99c



"Best Made"  
**R. & J. Muslin**  
Underwaists for  
girls, with sup-  
porters. Highest  
grade made.

63c

H. B.

Anchor Brand Muslin Panty Waist  
for boys. It will wear.

43c

"Little Wonder" Muslin Panty  
Waists for girls, without supporter.  
A marvel at the price.....43c

"Best Made" Children's Muslin  
Drawers, hem stitched ruffle, covered  
seams. 4 to 14 years.....35c

"Best Made" Children's Muslin  
Drawers, French seams, embroidery  
trimmed. 2 to 12 years.....38c

"Best Made" Misses' Muslin Draw-  
ers. All seams covered; embroidery  
trimmed; high grade goods. Sizes  
14, 16, 18 .....59c



King Fly Swatter.....9c

Princess Fly Swatter with cloth-  
covered edges .....10c

## STATIONERY

Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks,  
Envelopes, Pens and Pencils  
Glue and Mucilage.

Receipt books, Memorandum  
books, Book straps, Pencil  
boxes, etc.

## HIGH GRADE INFANTS AND CHILDREN'S WOOL GARMENTS



Infant's Knit Bands, with-  
out sleeves, wool plated,  
mercerized finish, the  
kind you have always  
bought, all sizes .....50c

Same as above, in all  
pure Australian Wool, all  
sizes .....75c

Fold Over Shirts,  
sleeves, Merino, mer-  
cerized finish, sizes one  
to six (up to 4 years);  
this Shirt is 60% wool,  
an unusually large per-  
centage at this price,  
per garment .....95c  
Same as above in all  
pure Australian Wool  
(up to 3 years) ..\$1.50



Knit Shirts, button  
front, sleeves, Merino,  
mercerized finish, 60%  
wool; sizes, infants to  
6 years .....85c  
Same as above, all  
pure Australian Wool,  
silk finish; up to 6  
years .....\$1.25

Bird's Eye, Diaper Cloth, yard .....35c

High grade Nainsook .....35c

Extra fine Lingerie cloth, or Nain-  
sook, yard .....50c

Dimity, yard .....25c

Toweling, part linen, yard .....27c

P. K., extra value, yard .....48c

Flannelette, pink, white, yard .....27c

Grey, extra fine grade, yard .....45c

Longcloth, yard .....30c

Lancaster Gingham, yard .....20c

Chambray Gingham, yard .....30c

Sateen, absolutely fast black, yd.  
.....45 and 60c

Mercey cloth, black, for lining,  
yard .....55c

Cambric lining, white, yard .....25c

Pillow Tubing, 40-in. ....35c

Mohawk Sheets, 81x90 .....\$1.50

Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth

1 1/4 yard wide, highest grade,  
yard .....45c

Turkish Towels, each .....25c and 50c

Turkish Bibs, large .....19c

Fine Face Cloths .....15c

**NOREN'S**

Greenfield Ave., and Winterburn St.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR WASHINGTON

### NOTE TO SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WHO HAVE WRITTEN THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR AS TO SECURING FARM HOMES.

March, 1919.

Congress has adjourned without passing the farms-for-returned-soldiers bill, which was indorsed by President Wilson and ex-President Roosevelt, under which you would have had an opportunity to get work and make homes for yourselves upon the unused lands of the country. There can be no doubt, however, that this proposal has met with the approval of the people, and it is my hope that it will be adopted at the next session of Congress.

Let me know if you change your address.

FRANKLIN K. LANE.

At a time when the United States is seething with unrest and the whole world is in upheaval against corrupt and impotent governments, our Congress and Senate presents a most pitiful spectacle.

The card sent out by Secretary Lane vividly expresses the utter helplessness of Congress. Under the lash it will abjectly and reluctantly do the will of the President but beyond that it functions not, save as it is driven by corporation mandates.

So far as I can learn there was no real opposition to the Lane proposal. It was not acted on simply because Congress is a stupified body whose inertia has become chronic. If the new Congress contains enough live members to force actions beyond speech the country will be agreeably surprised. In so far as the Lane measure is concerned it deserved to be stillborn. It has the fatal defect of further entrenching land monopoly. As fast as it would produce private property it also would produce private land values.

Any finished project under the Lane scheme will consist of the value of the labor products and the value of legal monopoly. The former represents power to serve and the latter power to extort. Improvements will represent labor, and the land value will represent power to levy toll. But both together will be the "property." At a sale or in a lease the two values will be merged as one. Any owner will be as interested in maintaining the one value as the other. Thus every owner of a Lane project will be financially interested in maintaining land monopoly. One can not expect any improvement in social conditions from the Lane project, any more than a man can lift himself by pulling at his own bootstraps.

Lane's proposal did not offend Congress. The majority of its members no doubt approved of it. As already stated it was not acted upon because Congress with its cumbersome machinery and reactionary committee control has lost its power to function.

It has become absolutely hopeless to work for any change if the co-operation of Congress is essential. A singletax measure, for instance, would require at least fifty years for passage even though the American people demanded it overwhelmingly. Our Socialist friends who expect to elect

a congress of their own to make their laws, have a hundred years' job ahead of them.

From a political standpoint the initiative and referendum is our only salvation, but since that again depends upon action of Congress that door, too, is closed.

The unresponsive nature of our chief legislative body is producing its own antidote, the I. W. W. This much derided aggregation of labor unions has the only plan proposed as yet that will function effectively without legislative action. We may not like the proposed action of the I. W. W. but short of such measures as will win their supporters away from them we can not stop them. What we want we work for and hope for. What the I. W. W. want they work for and are sure of getting. To say that we will have civil war when the I. W. W. try to put their program through is not to give us any comfort.

We may debate and pass resolutions in our legislative halls but the I. W. W. will possess the means to wage the civil war and it will leave us worse off than if we hadn't started it.

Innocent souls who think the American Federation of Labor will prove a bulwark against the I. W. W. should go to an A. F. of L. mass meeting and note what the men applaud. Straight out I. W. W. sentiments is the only thing that brings applause. The body of the American Federation of Labor and the body of the I. W. W. are as one. Their differences consist in this: The I. W. W. has a feasible program fearlessly stated in their publications and championed by their officers. The A. F. of L. has no program of its own but the membership at large accepts the I. W. W. program. This acceptance is ignored as far as possible by their officials and those in charge of their publications and are sometimes denied, but in a crisis such as at Seattle the camouflage is brushed aside and the I. W. W. tactics are rather strictly adhered to.

Frankly I do not like the chaos of I. W. W. control, but land monopoly is so entrenched legally, that I doubt if anything short of scrapping the whole legislative machinery will suffice to bring relief.

It is true that the I. W. W. has no land program. In fact, beyond the point of getting control of large units

of industry it has no program at all.

What the Lane plan would make worse the I. W. W. ignores. The former converts public domain into private monopoly. The latter converts private property into a public monopoly. Both ignore the sensible and just solution of treating land as public domain and the products of labor as the private property of those who produce them.

"Troubles thrive only in the company of the weak; never in the company of the strong."—The Pittsburgh Realitor.

Tell that to the Kaiser. He was strong and had a strong company; but who would want his troubles?

"Miss Marie A. Depue, a high school teacher in Philadelphia, said: 'The minimum salary of a teacher in Pennsylvania is \$315 a year; 10,000 teachers in the state receive that salary. The average salary of a man is \$71 a month and of a woman \$51.'—From the Public.

This is the state where the legislature proposes to increase judges' salaries from \$11,000 to \$14,000 a year. The same legislature is also discussing making criticism, of the State government, sedition. Well, that sedition law is needed on the same principle as burglar insurance. In this case not for the benefit of the victim but to make it safe for the burglar.

The radical press speaks of the League of Nations as the new holy alliance. I would not go to that length in slandering the dead. Rather would I call it the unholy alliance.

We are all squatters on earth and those who squat on more than they can use should be outlawed.

### A WOODROW WILSON DEMOCRAT "OUTRAGED"

"While the people of Petrograd were starving, the American ambassador gave a banquet and ball, at which officers of the ex-Tsar danced with American ladies. Because Anarchists threatened to blow up the embassy with a bomb, the ambassador appealed to the Soviets for protection, and some of the Red Guards were sent to the embassy. These Red Guards saw the officers of the ex-Tsar, wearing their uniforms and decorations, dancing with American ladies, and they pointed out to the ambassador that in so wearing their uniforms and decorations, the officers were violating a law of the new government of Russia. The Guards committed no violence; but because they made this objection, Ambassador Francis was outraged, and complained to the Senate Committee that his ball had been ruined."

From a speech by Louise Bryant, as reported by Upton Sinclair in Appeal to Reason.

To the Editor of The Probe:

If all wealth is produced by labor, how can there be such a thing as "wealth produced by the community as a whole" by its presence. This involves a contradiction.

All wealth is produced by labor and belongs to the laborers.

Some wealth is produced by the community, as a whole, by its presence, and this belongs to the community.

This is as if one would say: All crows are black and follow it with the statement that some crows are white; and I think it will put an unusual strain on your imagination if you will try to think of a man or any number of men producing a bushel of wheat or a pair of shoes by their presence.

Much, very much of the reasoning by which the Single-Tax is upheld is based on this mythical wealth-produced-by-the-community-as-a-whole, and however much Single-Taxers may think they understand how wealth is produced without labor, by the presence of the community, I feel sure they do not.

In the first part of *Progress and Poverty*, Mr. George said: "Nothing which Nature supplies to man without his labor is wealth," and specially mentioned land as excluded from the category of wealth; but throughout the remainder of the book he speaks repeatedly of "land values," "the value of land" and "what gives value to land," also declares we must make land public property. How can this thing land which Mr. George says is not wealth, have a value, and how can a thing which is not wealth and can therefore have no value, be made property, either public or private?

There is a contradiction here. Can you explain it away?

It seems to me that Mr. George was inconsistent in denouncing private property in land while upholding private property in those numerous forms of wealth, the tangible part of which consists entirely of land.

For instance, Mr. G. upheld private property in bricks. Now the tangible part of a brick is land. A brick is land mixed with labor, as are most other forms of wealth. But this is exactly the case with an improved farm, which is therefore, even from the Single-Tax point of view, a proper subject for private ownership. It was the unimproved land which Mr. G. saw all around him and saw it stupidly and unjustly treated and classed as property, that deflected his thinking.

My own position is that rent for land is robbery, (meaning robbery of the tenant) and as this rent could not be collected but for the support of the law, obviously the first and common-sense thing to do is to withdraw this support. Ground-rent should be outlawed. The Single-Tax proposition to abolish a form of robbery, by taxing the robbers, does not appeal to me.

When the early gold-diggers of California left behind them the disease called civilization, they began to think naturally and rationally, their common-sense came to the surface and they outlawed ground-rent. As a result the wages of all kinds of labor went soaring. And it all happened without the Single-Tax.

In discussing this Mr. George says: "Had these mines been on appropriated land or had they been immediately monopolized so that rent could have arisen, it would have been land values that would have leaped upward, not wages." (Book V, Chap. II).

But these mines were on appropriated land, but Mr. G. is right in saying "it was not monopolized so that rent could arise." That is, each appropriated claim was subject to an occupancy and use rule and if this rule was not observed, the claim was open to the first applicant. Rent could not arise, although private property in land still persisted and was recognized. Mr. G. would have us abolish private property in land in order to get rid of rent whereas the trick and secret of getting rid of rent in a simpler and more direct way was right before him. And in the complicated state of affairs of today, simplicity and directness are important qualities in any proposed reform. Ground-rent cannot "arise" until it receives the support of the law.

Henry George denounced private property in land as a "bold, bare and enormous wrong like that of chattel slavery." If he had said this of ground-rent I would have agreed with him. However if you will look through *Progress and Poverty* (especially Book VII, Chap. I) you will see that Mr. G.'s objections to private property in land were based on the assumption that it logically and necessarily involved the unlimited holding of land by some, for which they could and would demand rent from others.

But with the occupancy and use rule which would result from the outlawing of ground-rent all these objections disappear.

There is no such thing as "unearned increment." All wealth is earned by the individual producers of it, and there are no "social values" as distinguished from "labor values."

The fallacy of the belief that there is in existence an enormous fund upon which society may draw without putting a burden on any one, is sufficiently shown in its unconscious reduction to absurdity by an English Single-Taxer, who asserted that the Single-Tax meant "no taxes at all and a pension for everybody." This is the Single-Tax gone insane.

But it is all logical enough and if it were not for the falsity of the premise would be unanswerable.

I know there are some splendid parts in *"Progress and Poverty,"* eloquently setting forth the frightful and pressing need of land reform, but

none of these furnish any real support to the Single-Tax.

JAMES BANN.

I am glad to publish this letter of Mr. Bann's. I do not agree with all of it. But it is time we examine our presentation of the single tax. With the sanest philosophy in the world and a plan that is orderly justice itself, for carrying it out, we fail to convince. It may be that our propaganda has not been intensive enough.

Mr. Bann says: "Ground rent can not arise until it receives the support of the law." I am not so sure of that. I suspect there are a great many people who will submit to paying tribute for advantageous locations rather than fight an usurper. This very fact gives rise to necessity for law. It is true, of course, that the law now gives power to the usurper rather than relief to his victim. The single tax will correct that. With all vacant land free to any one who wants to use it we will yet have ground-rent. At least enough to pay for so much government as will be necessary to maintain public order. We will pay this ground rent not by reason of a usurper's mandate but for benefits of an equitable public order.—Editor's note.

It was some feat for the Woodrow Wilson controlled Congress to raise the necessary billions without touching monopoly, but it did it. In order to let the thousand billion dollar land monopoly go scot free it had to reach down and soak the kiddies' ice cream cone a cent. It was a tight squeeze but the land monopolists and the Woodrow Wilson Democratic outfit came through together with colors flying. The old time druggist who thought it necessary to keep a city directory for the free perusal of his patrons considered it the ultimate limit of a nuisance. But our friends the druggists would now be willing to keep ten directories free for nothing if they could be relieved of the tax nuisance imposed by what they call the "Damnocratic" party.

Charles W. Lapp, United States Marshal! So you would rather jail Debs than resign, would you? Is the spirit of Tom Johnson dead in Cleveland? Has the silver of political handouts killed the soul of all Tom's lieutenants? No, not all. Fred Howe and Billy Radcliffe, S. T., still stand true. Charles W. Lapp, will this thought comfort you? The name of Simon the cross bearer goes thundering down the ages but the name of Herod's marshal is buried with his bones. Probably fate will be as kind to you.

Kaiser Bill was a mollicoddle. He played autocrat and gave his radical tormentors four years in a sanitarium. If he had played Democrat he could have given them twenty years in the penitentiary and hung them up by the wrists.