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

THE PROBE

Edited by H. W. Noren—Subscriptions: Locally by Carrier, 50c; By Mail, \$1.00.
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NOTICE.

News and advertisements must be left at NOREN'S not later than 5:30 p. m. Thursdays in order to appear the following Monday.

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Dear Editor:

From South-lands' palmy gardens to Maine's rock-buttressed shore, from California's forests to New York's monied store, from many a city dwelling, from many a farmhouse plain, they call us to deliver our land from error's chain.

Though fields and mines abundant are found from sea to sea, and nature e'er as kindly, yet there is poverty; vain all their education, vain all their charity, the people in their blindness bow to monopoly.

Shall we, whose souls are lighted from Truth's bright sparkling forge, deny to men benighted the truths of Henry George? The Single Tax! Salvation! the joyful sound proclaim, 'till Justice rules each nation and ended is their shame.

Waft, Waft, ye winds the story of this old world's new birth; men, roused by Freedom's glory, shall know their rights to earth, then Peace shall rule Earth's borders and plenty have her away, for Single Tax, triumphant, shall bring the Brighter Day.—Oliver McKnight, Philadelphia.

COMMENTS

BY NOREN

WHAT OTHERS SAY (From the Equilist).

Besides the fact that the State persists wherever man exists, we have the further proof of it being a part of the order of nature's provisions in the

fact that the revenue of the State comes into being at once with the State.

Wherever the State is there is ground rent also. Never does one exist without the other. We recognize the State as part of the order of nature and yet we wilfully and persistently violate the only natural law by which it can justly exist.—The Greenfield Bulletin, Pittsburgh, Pa.

If the editor of the Bulletin will read Morgan's Ancient Society he will learn that the political (territorial) state is of very modern growth, as compared with the probable life of humanity on the earth. Under the gens form of society—and it was once universal—there was no rent and nothing corresponding to the modern state.

We can as truly say that wherever the state is there is inequity also; for history does not record an instance where the former exists without the latter. Does that prove that inequity is the natural order? That the revenue of a state is concomitant with the existence of the state is not so occult a phenomenon as that manner of stating the fact makes it appear. The state is a territorial organization of persons. All its acts are the acts of individuals who compose it. If the state—whoever expresses the authority over that territory—wants a road, it gets persons to make the road. Whoever are pecuniarily benefitted thereby—that is, whoever are saved labor thereby—have had just that much work done for them by those who made the road. That this work manifests as ground rent is solely due to the fact that the state always makes others than the benefitted ones compensate those who work for the public. If, at the time the work was ordered done, the expense was apportioned among the people in proportion to the fiscal benefit each would receive therefrom—as provided for in the bill on another page—that work, instead of appearing as ground rent (tribute to the recipients) would be merely the exchange of work between the road makers and benefitted ones.

But I hear an "unlimited" single-taxer say that there are natural differences in nature's yield, from different locations. Surely. But that is a gift of nature, not a contribution from any person. If it is passed on without charge—as it would be by a work-time currency—from primary producer to ultimate consumer, neither would it manifest as rent. Being the gift of

nature, any work given for it is mere tribute to whoever has power to take such work, whether that be an individual or a state. It is certainly not equitably a state revenue. Equitable state revenue can be none other than the work given in return for work received from others in the form of public services.

Hence, ground rent is always positive evidence of a pathological social condition, not a normal one. Where ever it exists there the rich and poor face each other and the race degenerates.

Under the gens societies there was substantial equality and freedom. But we can get the best results of both the gens and the territorial systems by conforming to the natural law of human association so clearly stated by Herbert Spencer, Patrick Edward Dove and Stephen Pearl Andrews, nearly 70 years ago. A balanced land tenure will do it."

I haven't read Morgan's Ancient Society, but I must do so at the first opportunity. My friend says: "Under the gens form of society there was no rent and nothing to correspond to the modern state." Maybe that's why they quit it.

Again Mr. Brokaw, employing my words on the state, says: "We can as truly say that wherever the state is there is inequity also, for history does not record an instance where the former exists without the latter." Ever read the Bible, Brokaw? There was no State in Adam's time. But Cain killed Abel and if murder is inequity, what becomes of your analogy?

As I see it, the State is here to stay. At any rate it is here now. It is our master now. It is an oppressive master. But it can be our servant. That is the State's true function, to be our servant. On the whole, mankind found the State useful. Having found it useful we proceed to load it down with every conceivable function we can think of until we arrive at the extreme of Socialism in which the State becomes the whole cheese.

Mr. Brokaw says: "Equitable state revenue can be none other than the work given in return for work received from others in the form of public services." "Public services?" Does not that imply the State? If it is a real public service, ground rent will surely arise. Since you do not get away from the State, from public service, in some form, why not use it and collect the ground rent to pay for the cost of it?

Weekly Price List

PAY NO MORE

Store opens at 8, closes at 6

This coupon is worth

35c

1 Jar Milkweed Cream.....\$.50
1 Can Ingram's Talcum Powder .25
1 10c Wool Powder Puff.... .10

Total \$.85

All, with this coupon for 50c.
None by mail.



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Gilt upholstering tacks, box.....10c
Curling tongs10c
Carpet Tacks, all sizes.....5c
No. 2 Tacks for window shades,
per box5c
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Paint Brushes10c to 50c
White Paper Napkins, one hundred
for15c

"Close Fit" cap shape Hair Nets,
black, dark brown, light brown,
medium brown and blond, 15c;
two Nets for25c
"Close Fit" Hair Nets in grey,
each25c
Fringe Hair Nets, sometimes call-
ed straight; made in France,
of genuine hair; full size, 38x40,
10c; three Nets for.....25c

Ingram's Perfumes89c
Ingram's Talcum Powder.....25c

Ingram's Milkweed Cream.....50c
Ingram's Zodenta Tooth Paste.....25c
Ingram's Therapeutic Shaving
Cream50c
Ingram's Face Powder.....25c and 50c
Sewing Machine Belts, long enough
for all makes of machines.....25c

Box Writing Papers, Tablets, Inks,
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Can Openers15c
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Bees Wax4c
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Nainsook35c
Shoe Polishers, 10c, 13c and.....25c
Boys' Overalls, 4 to 14 years.....75c
Boys' Knee Pants, 60c to.....\$2.25
Window Shades75c
Bias Seam Binding, lawn and
cambric, all sizes, 12 yards.....10c
Ric Rac, all sizes10c to 19c
O'Cedar Oil25c and 50c
Ribbons, per yard, from5c to 50c
Boys' Blouses, goods that will
wash; each\$1.00
Pee-Chee White Shoe Cleaner.....25c
Wax Tapers, box5c
Gas Mantles, 12c and10c
Bungalow Aprons79c to \$2.50
Fancy Aprons38c and 43c
O. N. T. Machine Thread, black
and white, sizes, 8 to 100, spool 6c
Electric Curlers, 2 for10c
Snap fasteners5c
Hooks and Eyes5c
Gas Globes, Upright and Inverted 15c
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Patent Leather Belts, black, red and
white.....25c
U. San. Fine Crepe Toilet Paper,
10c per roll; 3 rolls for 25c
Avelva toilet paper, 2 rolls.....25c
Linen Corset Lacers, 5 yds. long...10c
Needles for all makes of machines,
a package of two needles for.....5c
Nye's Sewing Machine Oil, bottle.....10c
Diamond Dye10c
Peroxide10c
Vaseline7c
All colors of Crepe Papers.....10c
Bromo Seltzer,10c and 20c
Silk Thread, all colors, 50 yards
only, 8c; two spools for.....15c
Black and White, 100 yards only.....15c
Meritas brand, white Oil Cloth,
1 1-4 yard wide, highest grade,
yard50c
Hump Hair Pins, all sizes.....5c and 10c
Canton Flannel39c
Flannelette, white.....40c
Boys' heavy Stockings.....fast
black; 59c value, pair.....43c
Girls' fine mercerized Stockings;
59c value, pair45c

Celluloid Knitting Needles, pair.....25c
Steel Knitting Needles, 5c each; a
set of five for.....22c
P. K., extra value, yard.....48c
Silk Hose, black, full fashioned,
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Dark brown Silk Hose.....\$1.25

HIGH GRADE INFANT'S AND CHILDREN'S WOOL GARMENTS

Infant's Knit Bands, without sleeves,
wool plated, mercerized finish,
the kind you have always
bought, all sizes50c
Same as above, in all pure Austral-
ian Wool, all sizes75c

Fold-Over Shirts, sleeves, Merino,
mercerized finish, sizes one to
six (up to 4 years); this Shirt
is 60% wool, an unusually large
percentage at this price, per
garment95c
Same as above in all pure Austral-
ian 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 Austral-
ian Wool, silk finish; up to 6
years1.35

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Every public service or social ad-
justment will benefit one location
more than another. If this benefit is
not charged against whoever receives
it and collected from him in some
form, he will have received a free gift
which he is at liberty to keep or sell,
and that is then ground rent.

Youngstown, Ohio, Sept. 25, 1918.

To the Editor of the Probe:

Ever since Mrs. Fels gave the Great
Adventure the cold shoulder at Niaga-
ra Falls Conference and broke up the
Fels Fund on account of the leaning
of some of the members of the com-
mission to the California movement,
I have frequently wondered how a
single taxer could stomach her paper,
"The Public."

The fact is that Mrs. Fels and her
squire, Louie Post, never intended
well for the cause of a "free earth."
To them single tax and the single
taxers were only a lever to pry some-
thing out of Privilege for themselves.
Hasn't the squire his island?

I do not like to be the "fall guy" in
any game and will not if I can pre-
vent it. For this reason I lost no time
after the Niagara Falls Conference
in cancelling my subscription and I
think it is time now to induce as many
as possible to do likewise. The sin-
gle taxer, "who wants single tax" will
easily see that any propaganda sheet
like the "Public," which has never
mentioned the only single tax measure

ever proposed under the I. & R. is a positive detriment, and should if possible be wiped out. When it loses the support of single taxers it will not be long in breathing its last.

Was pleased with what you said in your last issue about the Frank Walsh Report of the Federal Industrial Commission. I agree with you. Walsh and his "reports" are about as strong for single tax as Mrs. Fels and "The Public." Left to them it will never get past the "propaganda stage." Mrs. Fels and Mr. Walsh are enthusiastic enough for the Missouri single tax proposal. It means nothing.

Yours for the Great Adventure,
George Edwards.

I publish Mr. Edward's letter, because it represents a view rather extensively held but seldom or never seen in print. Contrary to Mr. Edwards I think the Missouri tax measure has teeth enough to justify the most aggressive support by singletaxers. It is also my impression that Mrs. Fels some time ago withdrew the support she had pledged to the Missouri venture.

Mr. Edwards' comment on THE PUBLIC is more than justified. The singletaxers had given liberally of time, money and labor to make this journal an effective organ for propaganda. Daniel Kiefer's years of labor for THE PUBLIC was a still greater contribution. His contribution was greater than any amount of money contributed by any single interest. Kiefer's service made THE PUBLIC better under Danziger and Cooley than under Post. And what's THE PUBLIC good for now? Nobody knows for sure. But it seems to me that its tendency is to make radicals conservative, not to convert conservatives into radicals. In other words it is weakening the radical forces. It uses the forms of speech familiar to the radicals with which to support measures absolutely destructive to democracy.

Its lip service to singletax is more hateful than open opposition. For nearly twenty years the supporters of THE PUBLIC looked forward to such an issue as the Great Adventure. And when this issue arrives, in the fulness of time too, the movements chief journal ignores it.

This and this only, is the test: "He who is not for us is against us." By that test THE PUBLIC damns itself.

Women suffrage would come slowly by separate state action in about a

hundred and fifty years. Only "Tanatics" would look to Congress. And there was the Senate. Why utterly impossible! and then a frail little woman. Alice Paul, who thought more of human rights than of punk dignity feeding on big salaries. She arose and confounded the corporation tools who hid behind fancy vests and long discourses on the constitution. And now it is no longer the women who are on the anxious seat about woman suffrage. It is the senate, that impossible barrier, whose members are fearful lest the little frail women cause their majority party to go down in defeat.

Likewise we have Luke North. Not much bigger than Alice Paul. He too thought it was time to act. He said, "Let's vote on it." And the preachers of singletax got frightened. They said let's educate the people first. They had already educated one generation and it had died. Now they would educate another generation and it would die. So it would go on forever until the end of time. But North said, "Let's vote on it." And so came the great issue in California, and the talkers and educators are frightened, lest their everlasting educational scheme burn up. And now let it be said, that he who is not for the Great Adventure is against singletax.

Things get ever funnier it seems. We have a committee in Pittsburgh to investigate rent profiteering. No, dear reader, that is not a joke. I saw the names of the members of the committee in print. One of them is a member of one of the biggest landed estates in Pittsburgh.

And mind you the Schenley estate is heavily represented on the main committee of which the profiteering branch is a subcommittee. If the profiteering committee would seriously undertake to perform its avowed function, it would start in to investigate and to expose its own head; that is: the main committee of which it is a part or offshoot. The membership of this main committee represents or is allied with 98 per cent. of all the rent profiteering in Pittsburgh.

If this committee took itself seriously and punished anyone guilty of profiteering it would hardly hold any sessions at all, outside of jail. It would march there bodily, being entitled to board there for life. Every penny of ground rent that does not go into the public treasury is profiteering. Right here in Pittsburgh is thirty million dollars worth of rent profiteering annually. And I dare say, this committee and their allies and associates, gobbles up at least 98 per cent. of the whole for themselves and for those for whom they act as agents.

Seriously I wonder if this commit-

tee won't be on a real hunt for weak spots where high grade profiteering could be speeded up a little.

Of course they may find some poor fellow who has tried to get fifty dollars a month for a house worth twenty-five. Lord knows they are plentiful enough. And if they find one such, they may make an example of him and punish him severely—not for being so bad but for being so small.

On the other hand if they discover a man who has raised the rent to his tenants from \$25,000 to \$50,000, what will they do to him. Well, they will get his picture and publish it in all the daily and weekly papers with a writeup extolling the virtues and ability of a new and rising genius in the business life of the community. They will give a banquet to him. Elect him to their clubs and to the Chamber of Commerce and in all likelihood they will elect him as a member to serve on the committee on rent profiteering; to suppress it, of course.

Do you, dear reader, think you could get this committee on rent profiteering to investigate how much the Schenley estate raised the rents last year? Or the Hitchcock estate, or the Denny estate or the Liggett estate? Why no. That could not be done because these estates, or at least the biggest of them, are represented on the committee. Men are not appointed to investigate themselves.

Suppose the Government had said to the leaders of the I. W. W. "Boys, there has been a lot of talk about you being disloyal; form yourselves into a committee and find out if that is true." Do you think the I. W. W. boys would have been in the Leavenworth penitentiary now? Well there is just about as much chance of this committee finding its own members, or its members' clients, guilty of rent profiteering.

"If passing the whole product of an hour's work in exchange for an hour's work led to the preference of exchanging with those who produced most, would it not lead to the highest efficiency in the use of both natural resources and individual abilities?"—The Equitist.

Is this not a shift from exchange of

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work for work as measured by hours, to exchange of result for result?

I naturally would prefer to exchange my hours work with those who could show the greatest quantity or the highest quality in the result of their hour of work. Would not the less efficient, who probably produced only half as much, soon be offering two hours result of his in order to effect an exchange?

An excess profit tax does not benefit the toiler who produces both the profit and the excess and shares neither.

Class Five.

Officer—Legislative, executive or judicial of the United States or State, Territory or District of Columbia."

Now we breathe easier. What would have become of the rest of us, if Congress had drafted itself for the trenches in France. What a narrow escape we had. Think of Statesmen like Johnny Morin, going from a saloon in Pittsburgh to dig ditches in France by way of Washington. But we are saved and, so is Johnny.

National Labor Journal: The workers of the future, conscious of the amounts now used for war purposes, are likely to urge that the public treasury be equally liberal in financing socially ameliorative measures.

That will be rather tough on those workers of the future who must toil to first fill the treasury.

I am moved to exclaim: God save labor from some so-called labor papers. The National Labor Journal, in a rehash of what had appeared in the daily papers about Debs being sentenced to jail, quotes with glee and approval the words of the judge, but is silent on what Debs said.

That is the treatment a so-called labor journal accords to a labor leader who endured prison terms for championing the rights of the toilers. Labor paper! Ye gods.

If one or two men proceeded to rob rich widows and orphans because they found it easy, we would hardly con-

sider it honorable. How many of us would it take before such robbery would become morally right?

Does it befit a nation of a hundred million people to stoop to such low contemptible practices? If we can not get sufficient revenue by other means had we not better do with a little less? And by the way, it is a good rule by which to judge all social conduct. If it is wrong for one man to do it, it is wrong for a hundred million men to do it.

But of course congress was up against this question: Shall we tax widows and orphans or shall we tax land monopoly? And congress simply had to take care of the sacred graft of land monopoly.

Judge Lindsey says: "This is not a ruler's war, but a people's war." I think the judge is right. In all the millions that have been killed in the war, not one has been a general or a ruler.

Teddy wouldn't be "last resort" card for the Memory Day celebration, and those who came to be entertained had to listen to Babcock and Jim Burke. Which was something akin to punishment I should say.

I see by the vote of their Senator, Boise Penrose, the Western Union Telegraph and Bell Telephone Co.'s are against women suffrage.

I am a generous soul, but when I spell the United States Steel Corporation, the Pennsylvania Railroad, the Bell Telephone Co., and the Western Union Telegraph Co., all with capital initials, I think it is heaping too much honor upon their servants, Boise Penrose and p. c. Knox, to spell their names with capital initials too.

Women of surpassing beauty, or those who think themselves beautiful, have a habit of deliberately putting a bluish upon their countenance in the form of a small piece of black sticking plaster. This calls attention to the fact that the beplastered lady is beautiful and that she knows it.

Max Eastman and his friends used to issue a magazine called the MASS-ES. It wasn't exactly a beauty, but it was so odd and so clever that observant people could not help noticing it. Among others who observed it was the Postmaster-General. He did not like the Masses and withdrew its second-class mail privilege. That was the end of the Masses.

Shortly after a new oddity was born. It inherited the clothes of the dead one and while it bore a different name one could tell it was a blood relation to the Masses. The new progeny is named the LIBERATOR. I am sure I don't know why, for it is itself in chains. At any rate it wears beauty spots by compulsion. The September issues bears two black sticking plas-

Ingram's Milkweed Cream

Improves the skin-health. It has a remedial action on pimples, freckles, blotches, eruptions, blackheads, etc. It relieves redness, roughness and irritation.



50c and
\$1.00 Jars

ers on its countenance. Each one covers the advertisement of a book. (I soaked the paper in water until the plaster came off). One book I read and saw nothing improper in it, but it must have hit a bull's-eye, so it must. Can it be that this government monopoly bites the hand that feeds it? When it smites a journal opposed to monopoly it smites a foe. But when it smites the Liberator it is, I hope, merely administering paternal chastisement to a wayward child. As I see it, the government's business is to keep the highways open to all who want to peacefully travel. Likewise with the mail. If the government forbids all others to carry mail, it becomes the government's business to carry all the mail. Not to censor it, but to carry it. Of course a government monopoly is as hateful and can be as tyrannical and unjust as a private monopoly. That is why I and others can justly object to the power of censorship. It is vested with the power of monopoly and should be taken away. No postmaster-general is good enough to be vested with the power of monopoly. But the Liberator has no kick coming. It believes in government monopoly. It is attending its own kind of school and should be happy even though chastised.

Things act and react. If Socialism is a winner I can see the day when Max Eastman will be putting beauty spots on the New York Sun.

