

# OUTLINE OF LECTURE ON "SINGLE TAX"

By C. LeBaron Goeller

## I. What is this all about?

- A. Political Economy is the story of how civilized men get a living.
  - (a) Not quite as simple a problem as it might appear.
  - (b) Simple enough, however, for any person to understand.
- B. A chain is as strong as its weakest link.
  - (a) Our civilization to be measured, not by the line of beautiful cars on Riverside Drive, but by the Bread Line on the Bowery.  
Bread line in France—1789.  
Bread lines—20th century.
- C. Henry George came near starving to death in Hard Times of 1865. This started the "Single Tax" movement.

## II. The Meaning of the Terms.

- A. Clearness absolutely essential in science. "A symbol (or term) which has not been properly defined is not a symbol (or term) at all. It is merely a blot of ink on paper which has an easily recognized shape. Nothing can be proved by a succession of blots, except the existence of a bad pen or a careless writer."—A. N. Whitehead (Intro. Math.)
- B. Diagrams showing meaning of terms with absolute precision.
  - (a) Main demonstration, that land is not part of "The Wealth of Nations."
  - (b) Parting of the ways between Socialism and Single Taxism. Single Tax scientific, but Socialism and program of major political parties unscientific.
- C. "In science, technical terms are names arbitrarily assigned, like Christian names to children. There can be no question of the names being right or wrong. They may be judicious or injudicious."—A. N. Whitehead (Intro. Math.)
  - (a) Illustrated by—Imaginary numbers, Evolution, Fourth dimension.

## III. The True Meaning of "Science".

- A. Accurately observed facts, properly related to one another under "natural law".
  - (a) Meaning of natural law.
  - (b) Political economy (not Economics) a true science.

## IV. The Workings of Natural Law in Political Economy.

- A. The distribution of wealth.
  - (a) Land, labor and capital get respectively, rent wages and interest.
- B. Diagrams showing distribution.
  - (a) Robinson Crusoe—First day on island. Crusoe gets capital from wreck.  
Friday becomes Crusoe's servant—becomes an economic slave.  
Revolution—when Friday defends his equal right to the use of the island.
  - (b) Diagram showing distribution as above.
  - (c) Diagram showing distribution as in our own country at present time.
  - (d) Diagram showing distribution under Single Tax.  
(Ultimate dream of the seers. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree; and none shall make them afraid."—Micah 4: 3-4).
- C. To secure equal rights to the use of the earth—
  - (a) It is not necessary to divide up the land.
  - (b) Necessary only to divide up the RENT of land by method popularly known as Single Tax.
  - (c) Wages made high by lowering rent, because—
  - (d) A tax on ground rent cannot add to prices.

FINALE—Each must earn what he gets, and will get what he earns