

***The* GIST of HENRY GEORGE**

1—The Problem—Why is there any poverty and actual want, with people looking for jobs, when there is plenty for all? Why does the cost of living always go UP instead of going down—as we should logically expect, with the use of labor-saving machinery?

2—To Be Sought—What is the LONG-RANGE or ULTIMATE cause of this upward trend of the cost of living, and the consequent tendency of wages to “fall to a minimum which will give but a bare living?”*

3—Ultimate Object—Naturally “the ultimate object of our inquiry is to discover the Natural Law of Wages.” This is, that wages depend upon how we treat land as property. If individuals or corporations are permitted to monopolize land, then “wages will tend to a minimum.”

4—Land Monopoly—is the Real or Ultimate cause of low wages (the buying power and not the mere name), inflation, depressions, unemployment (or rather dis-employment), strikes, lockouts, etc., etc.

5—The Remedy—The simplest way, the best way, the ultimate way to raise wages (or lower the cost of living) is to destroy Land Monopoly.

6—Destroying Land Monopoly—This can be done in a crude way by Nationalizing the land; or it can be done in a better and more scientific way by indirect action.

7—Free The Land—To free the land from monopoly (and thus solve our BASIC social problems) it is not necessary to nationalize the land. The equal rights of men

to the use of the earth may be secured by considering society as a sort of stock company—since the land, the earth, is their common property. It is similar to ten people owning a ten-room house. It is not necessary for each one of them to occupy a single room—one the kitchen, one the bath room, another a bed room, etc. The house could be rented out and the net proceeds equally divided. Thus equal rights to the use of the house could be secured in the best and most logical way.

8—Wages UP!—Since wages are low (both actually and relatively—in actual purchasing power) and tend toward the minimum of a bare living because land-rent is relatively high, the solution of our basic social problem is to **REDUCE LAND-RENT**. The reason for this is that Monopoly and Speculative Rent rob labor of its earnings except for a bare living, and so the way to raise wages is to reduce Land-Rent, or Ground-Rent as it is generally called. Where Monopoly and Speculation in Land is permitted Ground Rent is composed of three elements—Economic rent which is a differential of the locality-value of land, and Monopoly and Speculative rent, both of which are robbery of the workers. Monopoly and Speculation in land can be abolished by the taxation of rent (potential as well as actual), and the remaining rent, i.e., Economic rent should be collected by the government for its legitimate expenses—and by “legitimate” we mean economical, non-socialistic, natural expenses. The taxation of Ground Rent (three forms under our present system) together with the simultaneous **ABOLITION** of all taxes on labor and its products, is the simplest way to destroy Land Monopoly and Speculation in Land and thus raise wages to the full earnings of labor.—C. LEBARON GOELLER.

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