

Where There Is No Vision, The People Perish.—Prov. 29.

THE TERM Single-Tax has a large connotation. In the first years of the movement it meant the cure for involuntary poverty, hard times, business depressions, high cost of living, unemployment, the abolition of all taxes on labor and the products of labor. This "Anti-Poverty" spirit gave the Georgeism of the first decade an almost religious fervor. The theme was to, institute Justice in the distribution of wealth [rent, wages and interest] and thus the evils which flow from low wages, poverty and actual want would largely disappear. Government would be simplified. All taxes but one would be abolished. The lone tax would be a tax on monopoly, upon *land-rent* or *land-values*.

Poverty! Want! "... It is Justice herself that demands of us to right this wrong, Justice that will not be denied. . . . Though it may take the language of prayer, it is blasphemy that attributes to the inscrutable decree of Providence the suffering and brutishness that come of poverty. It is not the Almighty, but we who are responsible for the vice and misery that fester within our civilization."

"Liberty means Justice, and Justice is the natural law. Our primary social adjustment [land laws] is a denial of

Justice. Where Liberty rises, there virtue grows. . . . Only in broken gleams and partial light has the sun of Liberty yet beamed among men, but all progress hath she called forth. . . . As Liberty grew, so grew art, wealth, power, knowledge, refinement. . . . Shall we not trust her? . . . Words fail the thought! It is the Golden Age of which poets have sung and high-raised seers have told in metaphor! It is the glorious vision which has always haunted man with gleams of fitful splendor. It is what he saw whose eyes at Patmos were closed in a trance. It is the culmination of Christianity—the City of God on earth, with its walls of jasper and gates of pearl! It is the reign of the Prince of Peace!" (See *Progress and Poverty*, last chapter of Book X).

Rev. Edward McGlynn spoke as follows at the funeral of Henry George: "He was not merely a philosopher and a sage; he was a seer, a forerunner, a prophet; a teacher sent from God. And we can say of him as the Scriptures say: 'There was a man sent of God whose name was John.' And I believe that I mock not those sacred Scriptures when I say: 'There was a man sent of God whose name was Henry George.'"

These are some of the things which surge through the mind when we speak of Single-Tax. However, without the hyphen, the term usually means the taxation-of-land-values as a tax reform. This is single tax—limited.—C. LeB. Goeller.