

To the Disciples of Henry George --the Advocates of the Single Tax



THE cry of all peoples in this tremendous world crisis is for peace, the enduring peace, which can be only when there is justice within the nation and just dealing with those of other nations.

Thinking people, the world over, see that to have justice and peace with those abroad there must be freedom of trade and of migration, freedom of commerce without restriction by tariffs, colonial policies or "spheres of influence," and of migration as the right to come into a country, to remain or to go out.

And thinkers are agreed also that to secure justice and peace within the nation there must be industrial changes which will increase production while insuring equitable distribution and social changes that will be the answer to the bitter cry of the workers and the poor, the overburdened and disinherited.

But the leaders of thought can agree upon no way to secure these four essentials of the just peace, for lack of which civilization is rushing on to world-wide wreck, because each of the four makes a demand which these so-called leaders cannot answer.

He who pleads for free trade must show where to obtain the enormous governmental revenues now received from tariffs, trade concessions and colonial aggressions.

He who in the name of world brotherhood asks freedom for all to come and go the world over must prove that the incoming foreigner will not lower the wages and the living conditions of our own workers, even now underpaid and poverty-stricken.

He who would change industrial conditions must show how this can be done without injury to either employer or employe, and without such paralysis and disaster to industry and commerce as has come upon revolutionary Russia.

He who demands a change in social conditions must preach something so radical, in the sense of going to the root of injustice, as to appease the well-grounded and dangerous resentment of the victims of that injustice, something different from the poor palliatives and charities by which they have been deceived and degraded in the past, a pledge of the good faith of those who propose it as staking all upon the abolition of some unjust and powerful social institution.

And here we who know the philosophy of Henry George's gospel of the land for the people

must realize a responsibility incomparably greater than that which forced us to preach the Single Tax gospel of deliverance before the world war.

We know that from the rental values of the land, rightly the inheritance of all men, there flow into the hands of monopolists and speculators uncounted revenues which by the taxation of land values, even with all other taxes abolished, would yield so much for the expenses of government as to make Free Trade, the peacemaker, the international law of God, possible at once.

We know that such taking by the people of the rental value of land to the fullest possible measure would by making monopoly, speculation and forestalling unprofitable, open up living room and opportunity so that the coming of workers from other lands would raise, instead of lowering, the living conditions and the real wages of workers already here.

We know that by taking off of taxation from the materials, processes and accumulations of industry and business we can guarantee to the employer lower priced and more abundant materials, unrestricted and untaxed production and exchange, a greater demand for goods and, above all, a supply of workers ever more intelligent, efficient and satisfied because of ever increasing wages and ever lessening living costs.

We know that we can offer to the resentful and the rebellious the most radical and revolutionary change in social conditions ever proposed, and yet in harmony with the moral law and statute law as well, by abolishing through taxation that most fundamental and vicious of all unjust social institutions private property in land in the sense in which George denounced it as "like property in slaves, a bold, bare, enormous wrong."

Upon us is the full responsibility for spreading this knowledge during the little time fast lessening before final world disaster comes. For this, however varied our lines of work, we need organization, and we have organization nation-wide in the National Single Tax League, working through a National Committee, whose names as here given are the best guarantee we can give you as to ability and devotion. By the enclosed card you can tell us how much you will give to help the work. In the words of our chosen leader, the National Chairman,—"as a Single Taxer you know that at the root of present conditions the world over is the land question, this as George said, is the lion in the way, and you know that the only way to liberty, democracy and peace, at home and abroad, is by our solution of the land question."

Committee of the National Single Tax League

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