

C O P Y

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE

34 Hardware Street, Melbourne 3000

(VICTORIAN DIVISION)

14th Nov

Representative Rick Mahley,
Chairman, House Judiciary,
House of Representatives,
State Capitol Building,
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Dear Sir,

Ref: House Bill 302 - Substitute 76.

We read with great concern a report in the "Georgist Journal" (an international journal published in New York) that Fairhope Single Colony is again under attack.

This "economic enclave" in Alabama has always been a source of inspiration to our Georgists in Australia (and indeed in the world) because it is an example of the ideas of Henry George in action, a concrete example of what we are working to have adopted in all countries. We aim at a society in which the unimproved land value (created by the people) is used for public revenue in lieu of taxes on persons earnings and industry.

Georgists in all countries of the world have quoted Fairhope as a practical application of their ideas. We would indeed be disillusioned if the forces of reaction and vested interests were to triumph there.

It is interesting to note references from "Enclaves of Economic Reform" published by Fiske Warren, Harvard, Massachusetts, as follows:

"Fairhope is the oldest and most important Single Tax Colony in the world. It had its beginning in 1895 on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, Baldwin County, Alabama, when a few venturesome and courageous men and women bought 135 acres of land for \$771. This original tract added to by subsequent purchases from time to time, and notably by gift of about 2000 acres from Joseph Fels by 1921 it was 4000 acres..... When first occupied this section was the wildest along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, being covered for the most part with young pine timber of practically no commercial value, but hard to get off the land. For the earliest settlers to begin in this place founding of a model community which had been the object of their dream required imagination, faith, and courage. Much of the first stump-clearing from streets was done by volunteers on Saturday afternoons.

So Fairhope prospered and went from strength to strength through the efforts of a group of people who believed in the basic importance of

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justice in land tenure as a base for a healthy economy. They worked hard for this dream and made it come true.

Is this generation now going to destroy it? We sincerely hope

We appeal to you Sir, to use your influence with your colleagues Government to foil this attack on Fairhope and in so doing you will be in the van of social justice and true progress; and you will earn the appreciation of Georgists around the world.

Yours sincerely,

G.A. FORSTER,
Secretary.

COPY FOR MR. CLANCY (- (We hope it helps!))

All best wishes from colleagues here in Victoria.....
Allan and Mary Hutchinson ask to be remembered to you.