

# The Single Tax Herald

Volume 2, No. 1

Philadelphia, Pa., Tuesday, September 12, 1916

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## Single Tax Party Invades Chester County Fair To Gain Farmer Vote of State

Installs Exhibit and Distributes Literature Explaining Benefits

### LOWERS FARM TAXES

Laurel, a campaign to acquaint the farming element of the electorate with the benefits that will accrue to it by the adoption of the Single Tax, the State Committee of the Pennsylvania Single Tax Party will to-day open headquarters at the Chester County Fair.

The State Committee has rented space in the fair grounds, fitted up a booth from which it will distribute literature setting forth the advantages that would come to all farmers through the adoption of the Single Tax. The exhibit, which will continue for four days, marks the initial move of the Single Tax Party to reach the farmer vote of the State. William A. Hagan, chairman of the Philadelphia County Propaganda Committee, who also represents that county in the State Committee, will be in charge of the exhibit. He will be assisted in conducting the exhibit by other members of the party, who have each volunteered to give one day from their business duties to insure the success of the venture.

In connection with the fair exhibit the State Committee has arranged for a monster open-air mass meeting in West Chester on Thursday night, at which addresses will be made by the party candidates on the State ticket. It is probable that the Chester County Committee will be formally organized following the meeting.

## Landlord System Holds Up Marine Depot Improvements

Illustration of the methods employed by land "owners" to demand tribute from all the people for permission to secure important benefits to the city is contained in a statement made by Congressman William S. Vare that exorbitant prices asked for real estate at S. Broad Street and Washington Avenue have prevented the federal government from making important improvements at the Philadelphia marine depot.

According to the statement, the prices of two large properties, which the government has been eager to purchase, were boosted to virtually double their appraised value when the government started to negotiate for them.

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## Pennsylvania Single Tax Party Prepares For Whirlwind Campaign To Reach Voters of State

To Send Speakers To Unorganized Counties; State Chairman Macauley and Guerrero To Lead First Group

Concentrating their forces for a whirlwind campaign in the as yet unorganized counties, the State Committee of the Single Tax Party has perfected plans to send a corps of capable speakers to every county in Pennsylvania. More extensive in its scope than any previous canvass undertaken by the Pennsylvania Single Tax Party, the campaign will cover virtually every city of considerable size in the State.

The magnitude of the great campaign to bring the Single Tax to the attention of the voters of the State can be best appreciated from the declaration of the State Committee that the territory invaded will extend from Philadelphia to Erie.

Included in the list of towns, in which the committee has already made preparation to hold rallies, are South Bethlehem, Allentown, Pottstown, Shamokin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Johnstown, Altoona, Reading, Pittsburgh and Erie. Other towns will be added to the list as soon as preparations for holding meetings can be completed.

Preparatory to inaugurating the great drive through the State, the committee is having literature printed, setting forth the philosophy of the Single Tax and the power of the party to bring about its adoption, which will be distributed free of charge to the voters who attend the big rallies.

The great forward movement for the adoption of the Single Tax in Pennsylvania will be inaugurated Saturday, September 23d, when two big open-air meetings will be held in Allentown and South Bethlehem.

The first series of meetings will be under the direction of State Chairman Robert C. Macauley, candidate for United States Senator, and Alfred Guerrero, of the Delaware County Committee, who is also one of the party's candidates for Congressman-at-Large. Other speakers, who will join the movement later, include many of the most experienced campaigners of the Single Tax movement.

Prominent among the number will be James A. Robinson, candidate for State Treasurer; William G. Wright, chairman of the Delaware County Committee, who is also the party's candidate for Auditor-General; Treasurer Jerome C. Reis, of the State Committee, also a candidate for Congressman-at-Large; State Secretary James E. Dix, candidate for Congress in the Bucks-Montgomery District, and a score of others, who have already indicated their willingness to aid in the campaign so soon as they can arrange their private engagements as not to conflict with the dates set for them by the State Committee.

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## THE SINGLE TAX PARTY PLATFORM

We demand that the rental value of land shall be collected by the government, and all improvements, industry and enterprise shall be exempt from taxation.

Being convinced that only in this way can involuntary poverty and fear of poverty be abolished; the just division of the products of labor be had; equal opportunity be achieved; and industrial justice consummated, we call upon all men, regardless of their former political affiliation, to join this movement for the emancipation of mankind.

## The Single Tax Only Hope Of Future For Workingmen To Retain Full Product of Toil

Organization Futile Until Landlord Is Unable To Exploit Labor

### RENDERS NO SERVICE

Adoption of the Single Tax is the only hope of the future for labor, organized or unorganized, for the reason that it provides the only sure way of protecting the worker in retaining the full product of his toil.

All other methods must eventually prove to be mere make-shifts, because whatever increase in wages may be realized or unorganized, for the real higher prices which the worker must pay for the commodities he is compelled to use.

Only while the majority of workers are unorganized or poorly organized will the few thoroughly organized craft be benefited, and this necessarily be at the expense of other workers less able to protect themselves from exploitation.

That the organization of the workers for mutual protection can bring but temporary relief—a sort of first aid to the injured—is proven by the fact that if the ideal condition (the one hundred per cent. organization of every craft) aimed at by organized labor were realized, the actual conditions of the workers would not be any better than at present; for increased wages, measured in dollars, means no added benefit unless the amount that can be purchased by them equals or exceeds the present total.

Of what value is higher wages if there be a corresponding increase in the cost to the consumer of the necessities of life?

That the increase in wages under the present system must be added to

(Continued on page 5)

## Montgomery Leaders Arouse Voters At Pottstown Rally

One of the most successful meetings since the Single Tax Party started its campaign in Montgomery County was held in Pottstown, last Saturday evening.

The Montgomery County committeemen were not aware of so many workers in Pottstown heretofore, and were therefore much gratified at the interest and enthusiasm displayed at the meeting. Especially were the workers encouraged, when, at the close of the meeting following an ap-

(Continued on page 5)

## Delaware County Committee Holds Big Chester Meeting

Scores of Voters Pledge  
Support of Party's  
Candidates

Strengthening its appeal to the voters of Chester for the support of its candidates at the November election, the Delaware County Committee of the Pennsylvania Single Tax Party held a monster mass meeting in that city last Saturday night.

Hundreds of enthusiastic voters of the historic city gathered at Edgmont Avenue and Market Street and loudly cheered every speaker as he pointed out the imperative need for the adoption of the Single Tax to prevent the exploitation of the producers of the nation by the beneficiaries of special privilege to monopoly in land. Scores of those present signed applications for membership in the party and declared their intention to give active support to the party's proposal to abolish private ownership in land. William G. Wright, of St. David's, and Alfred Guerrero, of Garrettsford, the party candidates respectively for Auditor-General and Congressman-at-Large, were the principal speakers. In their addresses they pointed out the reasons for the high cost of living and the terrible results arising from lack of employment of the nation's workers, both of which they declared were caused by monopoly of land.

"Open up the use of the land on equal terms by adopting the Single Tax," declared Candidate Wright, "and you will give ample opportunity for the employment of all the people in useful occupations. Make more jobs in this way and the problem of the high cost of living and unemployment will be solved forever."

## The Single Tax Defined Clearly in Few Words

The Single Tax is the fiscal or revenue system for the collection by the government of the full annual rental value of land. Its adoption will automatically abolish the selling value of land, for the amount of the tax will be exactly equal to the sum of money for which it could be rented.

The Single Tax would directly benefit capital and labor alike, for the reason that it would protect them in the possession of their production because neither would then pay tribute to the landlord, who renders no service to the community for the percentage of production which he now demands for rent. As its name implies, it would abolish taxation on all improvements as well as all other forms of taxes.

Its underlying principle is justice. It recognizes that the land having been produced by no one is the property of all.

Properly speaking, it is not a tax but a payment to all the people of the value of a special privilege to the exclusive use of land, which properly belongs to all the people.

## Herald's Campaign Against Monopoly In Land Praised By League For Home Rule In Taxation

Leaders Strong Champions of Henry  
George Philosophy; Request Clearer  
Statement of Conditions in California

Editor Single Tax Herald,  
619 Filbert Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

San Francisco, August 24, 1916.

Dear Friend:

The California League for Home Rule in Taxation has been a subscriber to the Single Tax Herald since its first issue, and we frequently have cause to applaud the sledge-hammer blows which you are driving at Special Privilege and especially Land Monopoly.

In the issue of Tuesday, August 15, 1916, appears an editorial on the situation in California which is evidently based on incomplete information regarding the Single Tax situation in this State. We shall ask you, therefore, to publish a brief explanation.

The Single Tax propaganda work in California for some years past has been carried on by the California League for Home Rule in Taxation, composed for the most part of Simon pure Henry George Single Taxers together with certain organizations such as the labor bodies of the State who, while perhaps not thoroughly informed as to the economic philosophy of the Single Tax, are willing to give it a trial. The active workers in the Home Rule in Taxation League have been, without exception, Single Taxers.

The Home Rule in Taxation League is now conducting an active campaign throughout the State for a constitutional amendment as follows:

Section 2 of Article XVII of this Constitution, which now reads: "The holding of large tracts of land, uncultivated and unimproved, by individuals or corporations, is against the public interest, and shall be discouraged by all means not inconsistent with the rights of private property," is, for the purpose of carrying the foregoing declared principle into effect, hereby amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

"Any county, city and county, city or town, may raise its revenues for local purposes by a tax on the value of land within such county, city and county, city or town."

It will be noted that this amendment contains nothing but Single Tax and will permit the local taxing bodies to adopt the Single Tax for local purposes.

The home rule in taxation amendment will appear on the ballot at the special election which will, in all probability, be called at the adjournment of the next session of the legislature. Should no such election be called the amendment will appear on the ballot at the next State election.

The measure which will be on the ballot at the November election and to which reference is made in the Herald editorial of August 15th was placed on the ballot by one group of the California Single Taxers, who have heretofore been active in the Home Rule in Taxation League, together with the co-operation of certain elements outside of the Single Tax movement. The fact that so many signatures were secured and so easily is an indication of the strength of the Single Tax sentiment in this State, which has been built up by the work of the Home Rule in Taxation League.

Thanking you in advance for the courtesy of giving space for this correction and with heartiest good wishes to you in your fight against special privilege,

Very truly,

CLARENCE E. TODD,

Secretary California League for Home Rule in Taxation.

## THE SINGLE TAX PARTY

1403 Filbert Street, Philadelphia

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Believing in the principles of the Single Tax, I hereby apply for membership in the SINGLE TAX PARTY, agreeing to abide by its Constitution and By-Laws and to support and vote for its candidates only. Monthly dues 25 cents.

Signed.....

Address.....

Ward.....

Recommended by.....

## Phila. County Committee Broadens Campaign Scope

Holds Many Enthusiastic  
Rallies In Various Sections of City

Philadelphia County is each week broadening the scope of its campaign to bring the gospel of the Single Tax to the voters of the city.

During the past week the Philadelphia County Committee of the Pennsylvania Single Tax Party has conducted ten big open-air mass meetings in various sections of the city. Large and enthusiastic crowds have attended the rallies, many of them enrolling as members of the party.

Chairman William A. Hagan, of the Propaganda Committee, who is in charge of the local campaign, reports a growing interest in the Single Tax among the voters of the city, which he says is manifested in the increased numbers that attend the meetings and warmly cheer the statements made by the speakers.

The list of meetings held during the week includes rallies at Germantown and Cheltenham Avenues, Germantown and Lehigh Avenues, Broad Street and Girard Avenue, Fifth and South Streets, Kensington and Allegheny Avenues, Fifty-second and Sanson Streets, Seventh and Moore Streets, Fortieth Street and Lancaster Avenue, Sixtieth and Sanson Streets, Broad Street and Snyder Avenue.

Among the speakers who addressed the big rallies were George Mullan, State Committeeman William A. Hagan, Leo W. Marks, former candidate of the party for Mayor; William G. Wright, candidate for Auditor-General; William J. Sherwood, Thomas Kavanaugh, Alfred Guerrero, candidate for Congressman-at-Large; James A. Robinson, candidate for State Treasurer, and State Chairman Robert C. Macauley.

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## The Story of My Dictatorship

(Continued from page 6)

come a working man, if you really wish to work."

My first visitor, being disappointed in his expectations, assumed a defiant attitude.

"But I don't wish to work. I have not been used to work for so long that I don't care to take to it now."

"Then I fear you will have to starve."

"I can beg, can't I?"

"Yes, you are at perfect liberty to do so; but you will be disappointed. I fear. So long as people were starving from necessity, and from no fault of their own, there were always kindly disposed people—to the honor of mankind be it said—who were willing to assist their unfortunate brethren. But even then these kindly people endeavored to discriminate between the lonter and the neessitous. But as it was difficult to discriminate, the former often participated in what was intended for the honest poor. In the present State this difficulty no longer exists. Everybody knows that whosoever is willing to work can do so equally with everybody else. Under these circumstances no one will be disposed to support idleness and foster vice."

I delivered these words with deliberation and emphasis, and I could see that their meaning was not lost upon my applicant. He saw at once how difficult it would be for him to practice in future his former habits, and half plaintively asked me to give him an order for the workhouse.

"There are none," I replied. "Those disgraceful institutions have been closed, and such blots on humanity and civilization have at last been wiped out."

"What! Actually turned all the poor helpless folks out into the streets?"

"Not so. Most of the occupants were there because they had no home to go to—old helpless folk or cripples. But now that their children and other relatives can earn good livings and have comfortable homes, they would no longer tolerate those dear to them branded as State paupers, but took them home—now no longer a burden to them, but a source of pleasure. Some few there were helpless and friendless, victims of former social conditions. To these we have granted pensions to enable them to live where they like and as they like—as citizens of the State, not as its paupers."

"Can't you grant me a pension?"

"Certainly not; you are not helpless."

"No, I am not helpless. You are right," he said, defiantly. "If you have closed your workhouses, you have not yet closed your prisons. I shall find ways and means to get there, and then you will have to keep me."

"If you do violence to the liberty or property of your fellow-citizens of course it will be my duty to protect them; and if you cannot otherwise be prevailed upon to keep the peace and respect the equal rights of others, we shall have to restrain you. But you will not be cast into prison and fed at the expense of your fellow-men."

(To be continued.)

# Are You for Preparedness?

## THEN WHY NOT HOLD A SINGLE TAX MEETING IN YOUR TOWN

Only by bringing the subject squarely before the voters can we hasten the final adoption of the Single Tax.

The Pennsylvania Single Tax Party is prepared to furnish trained lecturers to aid you in the work.

At a trifling cost you can help in the campaign to abolish involuntary poverty. For further particulars as to personnel of speakers, address

**James H. Dix, Secretary**  
1403 FILBERT STREET PHILADELPHIA

## The Single Tax Only Hope Of Future For Workingmen

(Continued from page 1)  
the cost of the commodity which the individual worker produces, there can be no disagreement.

That the same percentage of increase in the cost of commodities he must use, as any increase in pay he may receive, would leave the worker in exactly the same condition as before he got the raise, leaves room for no argument.

Suppose then a hundred per cent. organization of all crafts. That the members of each craft were strong enough to get any increase in pay they might demand. Under such condition—the goal sought by organization—all workers could get the increase they demanded; the increase in pay to all workers necessarily being proportionately the same.

In what way would this benefit the worker? Would he be any better off if he made \$10 a day, if it cost him \$10 a day to live, than he would be if he made but \$1 a day and the cost of living was also \$1 a day?

The reason that under the present system of private ownership of land the worker does not get the full product of his labor, is because the "land owner," who renders no service in production, demands a considerable portion of the output for rent.

Increased production, either measured by the total wealth produced, or expressed in terms of dollars, means increased payments to the holders of land for its use. Proportionately the same part of production goes to the landlord for permission to use the earth—Nature's provision for the continued existence of man. Until the landlord is prevented from taking a large percentage of production, for which he gives nothing in return, labor will continue to be robbed of a large proportion of what it produces.

The collection by government of the full rental value of land (the Single Tax) and the abolition of all taxation on labor or its products is the only way to free labor from economic slavery.

## The Story of My Dictatorship

(Continued from page 4)  
are already full of 'Lands to let.' So you can make your choice."

"And pay rent, I suppose, as before?"

"You'll pay rent to the State; for whatever the ground value is, you would have to pay the State in any case, whether you were the nominal owner of it or not."

"Oh, that's the talk. If there is no advantage in owning land, then why do not these people who don't want the land for their own use give it up altogether?"

"Because they have improvements upon it, which are theirs. Whatever is paid for the use of these will go to the owner, the rest goes to the State. If you want land without any improvements upon it, we have now plenty belonging to the State, which the former owners have relinquished

rather than pay the tax for land which to them was useless. Amongst these lands are some very fine deer parks; that is, which formerly were deer parks. You can pick and choose where you like, and take as much of it as you please."

The applicant's face brightened.

"And would it be mine, then?"  
"Yours as long as you care to keep it. Your children's after you, or whomsoever you may choose to transfer your right of possession."

"And what have I to pay for it?"  
"If there are no improvements on it belonging to former owners, nothing at all."

"And as much as I like?"  
"As much as you care to take, subject to paying its annual value to the State."

"Oh, that's all right! I don't mind that, because, you see, I shall let it to tenants at a higher rate, and so make a comfortable living. It is right that the workingman should at last have his turn."

"Stop, you are under a misapprehension," I said. "If you take land with such an intention, it will be of little use to you, since all the rent would accrue to the State, leaving you only the trouble of collecting it, and the responsibilities connected therewith. It is for this very reason that its former possessors have relinquished it, because they did not care to incur risk and trouble for land for which they had no use."

"Yes, but I intend to put the tax on to my tenants in addition to the rent."

"That will help you but very little, even if you could get it, as the tax is not a fixed sum, but twenty shillings in the pound on the annual rental value. If you can let the land at a higher value than it was let formerly, this, of course, would show that it is worth more, and you would still have to hand over to the State fully twenty shillings for every pound you receive."

The applicant pulled a long face. "What good is the land to me, then?"  
"It gives you free access to the opportunities of Nature, and whatsoever others, your tenants, as you say, can make it yield is theirs. This is the spirit of the Constitution."

"So this is the kind of workingman's friend you are, is it?"

"Yes, I am a workingman's friend, but not the friend of those who wish to live by the labor of others." I replied, sternly. "You can have land in plenty, together with every opportunity and facility to labor, and full security of the fruits of your toil, sacred not only as against every fellow-citizen, but sacred even against the power of the State. It is yours exclusively and absolutely. You are free from all manner of taxation and from all vexatious laws and restrictions that formerly hampered trade and industry. In short, you have now every inducement offered to be—"

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## Montgomery Leaders Arouse Voters At Pottstown Rally

(Continued from page 1.)

peal to those in the crowd to sign the party's petitions, quite a number of voters lined up at the automobile from which the County Secretary, Lewis Ryan, handed the candidates' petitions around to the crowd for signatures necessary to place the candidates on the official ballot at the coming election.

One gray-haired man came forward and said he had been waiting thirty years for such an opportunity as this to vote a Single Tax ticket. He said he would surely vote for it every time he had the chance.

Charles D. Ryan, the party's candidate for the Assembly, in the Fourth Montgomery District, made one of the principal addresses at the meeting. Mr. Ryan, who is a farmer at Spring Mount, Pa., pointed out particularly to the farmers who had come in town and attended the meeting, the value of the Single Tax to the tillers of the soil. He showed how the farmers get very little, if anything, from government in the way of public improvements or conveniences, and yet they have to pay comparatively heavy burdens of taxes.

"The farmer's land value is very small," declared Mr. Ryan, "but he is taxed on his farms, his stock, his implements, and pays a heavy tax in the purchase price of all the living and working supplies he buys.

"The Single Tax will change this for him, his land value being small, he will pay exceedingly small taxes, and the big land speculators in the towns and cities, where the value rises to millions of dollars an acre, on account of the great public demand for land there, will have to pay this land value to the government for public benefit."

James A. Robinson, candidate for State Treasurer, drew peal after peal of laughter from the crowd by his humorous stories, which clearly and pointedly showed how the forcing of idle land into use by the Single Tax would create a great demand for labor, which would in turn greatly increase wages and give to the workers a feeling of independence, which they knew little of to-day.

James H. Dix, the party's candidate for Congress, in the Bucks-Montgomery District, caused considerable excitement by issuing a stirring challenge to Henry Watson, the present incumbent, and to former State Senator Joseph Haecock, the Democratic nominee in the district, to meet him in joint discussion in Pottstown, Norristown, Doylestown, Bristol, or any other section of the District, and tell the voters if they had any real plan to propose, if elected, to bring real permanent improvement to the condition of the workers. Mr. Dix charged that these men, both of whom have legislative records, and the parties back of them had done nothing in recent years nor now proposed any plan which would bring real good to the masses.

The Montgomery County Committee will hold a meeting in Ambler, Saturday night, in Zieglersville, next Tuesday, and one at Jenkintown on the following Saturday.

## Pennsylvania Single Tax Party Prepares For Whirlwind Campaign To Reach Voters of State

(Continued from page 1.)

That the tour of the State by the Single Tax Party campaigners will prove the most successful effort in Pennsylvania for the advancement of the cause is assured by the promises of co-operation of Single Taxers in every district already received by State Secretary James H. Dix.

While the mass meetings will form an important part of the campaign to canvass the State, this part of the work will be but a portion of the duties of those assigned to direct the big movement. The results of the canvases which will probably be of most permanent benefit to the propaganda of the Single Tax, not only in the present campaign, but also for all future campaigns, will be the formation of County Committees in the districts visited by the speakers.

The proposed speaking tour through the State is but a small part of the activities of the Single Tax Party. In the organized counties meetings are being conducted under the direction of the officers of the respective County Committees. Prominent among the meetings to be conducted by the local county organizations during the coming week are those of Montgomery and Delaware Counties.

The Montgomery County meetings, which are being directed by County Chairman James H. Dix and County Secretary Lewis Ryan, will include big rallies at Ambler on Saturday night, Zieglersville on Tuesday night and a monster mass meeting at Jenkintown, September 23d.

The Delaware County Committee will hold meetings at Marcus Hook on Thursday night, at Clifton Heights on Saturday night and a second big rally in Chester Saturday, September 23d. The Delaware County meetings are being directed by William G. Wright and William R. McKnight, chairman and secretary respectively of the Delaware County Committee.

Philadelphia County under the leadership of Chairman William A. Hagan, of the Propaganda Committee, is now conducting eight open-air meetings weekly in this city.

The increased activity of the several County Committees, as well as that of the State Committee, has been made possible through the financial support given to the party by earnest and enthusiastic advocates of the Single Tax from every section of the country. In fact the largest contribution to the party was from a prominent manufacturer of Newark, whose support came as a recognition of the really great work being done for the cause by the Pennsylvania Single Tax Party.

## Landlord System Holds Up Marine Depot Improvements

(Continued from page 1.)

The enormous power given to the beneficiaries of the present unjust system of private ownership of land was never more forcefully shown than in the present instance. That a few land holders are enabled by the power conferred by that system to prevent the representatives of 100,000,000 people of the nation from making needed improvements necessary for the defense of the nation, unless they are paid the tribute the demand shows clearly the dangerous character of the special privilege conferred by the indefensible system, which recognizes the "right" of an individual to ownership of an element of nature, access to which is necessary to the very existence of humanity.

These few Philadelphia title holders are enabled by this iniquitous system to demand from the United States what an enemy force of many millions of men could not compel it to submit to—the payment of tribute for permission to use the land made valuable by the expenditure of its own revenue.

The adoption of the Single Tax (the collection by government of the annual rental value of the land) will forever wipe out this iniquitous system, which grants immunity, to a privileged few, to hold-up and loot the remainder of the people.

Vote the Single Tax Party ticket at the coming election to hasten its adoption.

# THE SINGLE TAX HERALD

A National Weekly devoted to advancing the cause of scientific and equitable taxation of land values for the benefit of all the people.

**SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR**

**Published every Tuesday in Philadelphia at 619 FILBERT STREET**

## NOTICE

The Single Tax Herald will publish in its columns the news of the land value taxation movement in all sections of the country.

In addition to special articles dealing with the philosophy of the Single Tax, contributed by capable writers, The Single Tax Herald aims to publish records of daily happenings interpreted by the light of the great principle of equitable taxation.

The columns of The Single Tax Herald will be open to all who have suggestions to offer for the advancement of our great cause.

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ROBERT C. MACAULEY ..... Editor and Manager



Believing that the abolition of involuntary poverty and unemployment can be accomplished only by a single tax on land equal to its full rental value and that through the adoption of this system a more equitable distribution among all the people of the wealth created by them may be attained, The Single Tax Herald will fearlessly champion the cause of making land values bear all the costs of government.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1916.

**P**ASSAGE by Congress of the eight-hour law for trainmen, which prevented a tie-up of the transportation lines of the nation, has naturally produced considerable criticism. The minority party in Congress is attempting to create the impression that the action is a surrender to organized labor of the rights of the people; while the majority party declares that in no other way could monstrous injury to the welfare of the nation be prevented.

Unfortunately neither side to the controversy is making a serious effort to solve the problem involved. Both are endeavoring to make political capital out of the incident in the hope of aiding their respective presidential candidates in his campaign for election.

That all workers, whether they be trainmen or engaged in other occupations, receive but a small percentage of the value of the service they render, would seem to justify the passage of the eight-hour law.

—~~Part of~~ benefit accruing to the trainmen from its passage will be of but temporary benefit to them no serious student of economics will deny.

Every increase in the wages of workers is reflected in the increased cost to the consumer of the commodities produced. That the law is but temporary in its purpose and that the railroad companies intend to pass over to the consumer whatever burden may be involved is indicated by their declared intention to appeal to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to raise their freight rates.

The granting of such permission would compel the whole people of the nation to pay the bill. What justice can there be in assessing 100,000,000 persons for the benefit of a comparatively few, whether they be stockholders in the companies or members of the various unions?

Even admitting the contention of the railroad presidents that the trainmen get bigger pay than other classes of workers; what they receive is but a small portion of the value of the service they render. That they receive more proportionately than other workers speaks volumes for the power that lies in organization. The trainmen should be commended for their wisdom in protecting themselves against exploitation.

A strong labor union is a better weapon for the defense of workers than no organization at all. But even a strong labor union is powerless to protect the worker in the possession of the product of his toil so long as the "owner" of land, who renders no service to the community, is permitted to absorb a material portion of production.

The landlord, rendering no service for the portion of production which he demands from workers for permission to labor, preys alike on capital and labor.

Whatever is given to the individual, who adds nothing to production, must necessarily be taken out of the wealth produced by others.

That the land was produced by no human agency and that its value in production would exist regardless of his supposed ownership, must be convincing proof that the land holder gives nothing in return for that part of production, which the present unjust laws permit him to demand.

The adoption of the Single Tax (the collection by government of the annual rental value of the land, properly the common property of all the people) would benefit capital and labor alike. Neither would then be exploited by the special privilege growing out of private ownership of Nature's provision for mankind's continued existence.

## The Story of My Dictatorship

A Strong Portrayal in Narrative Form of the  
Economic Deliverance of a Brave Nation  
Through the Adoption of The Single Tax

(Continued from last week.)

### III A Loafers

The next instant I found myself seated in my audience chamber, with the whole crowd pressing in upon me, each eager to be first. Foremost amongst them was a man whom, for brevity's sake, I shall describe as a loafer. The guards tried to push him back to make room for others more respectably dressed. But I interrupted, saying, "Under the new Constitution all have equal rights by virtue of their citizenship; and not by virtue of the kind of coat they wear. first come, first served."

With this it seemed as if I had recovered a little of my lost ground. The man himself was delighted, and thanked me warmly.

"You are the true workman's friend, after all," he said. "I have come, governor, for my bit of land."

"Explain yourself," I replied. "To what bit of land do you refer?"

"Well, I mean my share of the division."

"But there is to be no division, neither of land nor of anything else. The Constitution says nothing of division."

"No, but it does speak of equal opportunities; and how can I have equal opportunities with the duke owning his thousands of acres and I having none?"

"You have equal opportunities with any duke. For every penny that

accrues to them by virtue of the mere ownership of land they have to hand over to the State. If you owned it, you would have to hand it over. The real owner, therefore, is the community, of which dukes and yourself are equal citizens."

"Then you still allow dukes to own land?"

"Certainly, if they like to. What does it matter to you who has possession of the land, provided that your share of the land values, or rent, is secured to you?"

"All right; hand me over my share of the rent."

"Not quite so quickly. If you please, You have equal rights with every other citizen, but also equal duties, and therefore have to pay taxes the same as everyone else. Your share of the rent is appropriated by the State as your share of the taxes."

"What good do I get out of that?"  
"Every good that a well-organized State can secure you. You will receive every facility to produce wealth, and the fullest protection for what you do produce, together with all such conveniences, in the shape of roads, railways, facilities for education, etc., as are best provided by the State."

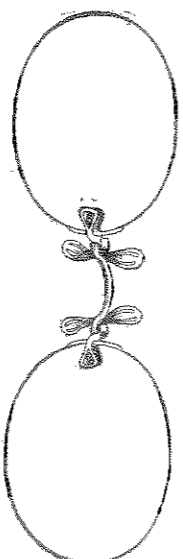
"But did you not say that we should all have equal access to the land?"

"Oh, if it is merely access to land you want, you can be easily supplied. See here, the columns of the Times

(Continued on page 6)

## ARE YOUR EYES

the source of Headaches, Back-  
aches or Nervous Exhaustion—  
WHY do you put up with it?



## YOU DON'T NEED TO

Years of investigation, study and daily practice enables me to guarantee results in the most difficult cases of Eye trouble. Cross eyes straightened—No knife used.

For Distinctive service, honest dealing and fair prices call on

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2544 North Front Street, Philadelphia

# Are You for Preparedness?

## THEN WHY NOT HOLD A SINGLE TAX MEETING IN YOUR TOWN

Only by bringing the subject squarely before the voters can we hasten the final adoption of the Single Tax.

The Pennsylvania Single Tax Party is prepared to furnish trained lecturers to aid you in the work.

At a trifling cost you can help in the campaign to abolish involuntary poverty.

For further particulars as to personnel of speakers, address

**James H. Dix, Secretary**  
**1403 FILBERT STREET PHILADELPHIA**

(Continued from page 4)  
are already full of 'Lands to let.' So you can make your choice."

"And pay rent, I suppose, as before?"

"You'll pay rent to the State; for whatever the ground value is, you would have to pay the State in any case, whether you were the nominal owner of it or not."

"Oh, that's fine talk. If there is no advantage in owning land, then why do not these people who don't want the land for their own use give it up altogether?"

"Because they have improvements upon it, which are theirs. Whatever is paid for the use of these will go to the owner, the rest goes to the State. If you want land without any improvements upon it, we have now plenty belonging to the State, which the former owners have relinquished

rather than pay the tax for land which to them was useless. Amongst these lands are some very fine deer parks; that is, which formerly were deer parks. You can pick and choose where you like, and take as much of it as you please."

The applicant's face brightened.

"And would it be mine, then?"

"Yours as long as you care to keep it. Your children's after you, or whomever you may choose to transfer your right of possession."

"And what have I to pay for it?"

"If there are no improvements on it belonging to former owners, nothing at all."

"And as much as I like?"

"As much as you care to take, subject to paying its annual value to the State."

"Oh, that's all right! I don't mind that, because, you see, I shall let it to tenants at a higher rate, and so make a comfortable living. It is right that the workman should at last have his turn."

"Stop, you are under a misapprehension," I said. "If you take land with such an intention, it will be of little use to you, since all the rent would accrue to the State, leaving you only the trouble of collecting it, and the responsibilities connected therewith. It is for this very reason that its former possessors have relinquished it, because they did not care to incur risk and trouble for land for which they had no use."

"Yes, but I intend to put the tax on to my tenants in addition to the rent."

"That will help you but very little, even if you could get it, as the tax is not a fixed sum, but twenty shillings in the pound on the annual rental value. If you can let the land at a higher value than it was let formerly, this, of course, would show that it is worth more, and you would still have to hand over to the State fully twenty shillings for every pound you receive."

## The Single Tax Only Hope Of Future For Workingmen

(Continued from page 1)  
the cost of the commodity which the individual worker produces, there can be no disagreement.

That the same percentage of increase in the cost of commodities he must use, as any increase in pay he may receive, would leave the worker in exactly the same condition as before he got the raise, leaves room for no argument.

Suppose then a hundred per cent. organization of all crafts. That the members of each craft were strong enough to get any increase in pay they might demand. Under such condition—the goal sought by organization—all workers could get the increase they demanded; the increase in pay to all workers necessarily being proportionately the same.

In what way would this benefit the worker? Would he be any better off if he made \$10 a day, if it cost him \$10 a day to live, than he would be if he made but \$1 a day and the cost of living was also \$1 a day?

The reason that under the present system of private ownership of land the worker does not get the full product of his labor, is because the "land owner," who renders no service in production, demands a considerable portion of the output for rent.

Increased production, either measured by the total wealth produced, or expressed in terms of dollars, means increased payments to the holders of land for its use. Proportionately the same part of production goes to the landlord for permission to use the earth—Nature's provision for the continued existence of man. Until the landlord is prevented from taking a large percentage of production, for which he gives nothing in return, labor will continue to be robbed of a large proportion of what it produces.

The collection by government of the full rental value of land (the Single Tax) and the abolition of all taxation on labor or its products is the only way to free labor from economic slavery.

The applicant pulled a long face. "What good is the land to me, then?"

"It gives you free access to the opportunities of Nature; and whatever others, your tenants, as you say, can make it yield is theirs. This is the spirit of the Constitution."

"So this is the kind of workingman's friend you are, is it?"

"Yes, I am a **workman's** friend, but not the friend of those who wish to live by the labor of others," I replied, sternly. "You can have land in plenty, together with every opportunity and facility to labor, and full security of the fruits of your toil, sacred not only as against every fellow-citizen, but sacred even against the power of the State. It is yours exclusively and absolutely. You are free from all manner of taxation and from all vexatious laws and restrictions that formerly hampered trade and industry. In short, you have now every inducement offered to be-

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