

be expected to give heed to the chain of circumstances. For a time that we may call normal, the law of supply and demand functions fairly well. Then added capital, encouraging invention, develops a surplus supply in the factory, the elevator and the storehouse. An excess demand soon follows, but it is in the workman's cellar and pantry. The first is stalled for the want of a paying market. The second, represented by labor, starves in idleness because it lacks the one essential of production. What is this essential? The answer is found in the flight to idle land in the north and the city plots. A bare subsistence for a very few may be found there, but—let him who would see open his eyes. If giving access to the natural element to labor can be made to benefit in a very small degree, what might be hoped for from a wholesome restoration to the dispossessed and idle millions of their birthright lost by that most iniquitous steal of the ages, private land ownership? The evils traceable to this wrong are not removed by any little schemes to enable a few families to provide themselves with potatoes and cabbage. The families who are being exiled up near the North pole out of the immediate reach of the land speculator have an equal right with their fellow Canadians to the most valuable sites in the largest city. The easy plan of recognizing this natural right by collecting all annual land values into the public treasury and expending them for the general good would render taxation of every kind unnecessary. Labor as well as legitimately used capital would thus be set free and with an equality of opportunity the lion and the lamb might lie down together, and in this goodly land blighting depression would disappear.

E. S. GILBERT in Hamilton (Ontario) *Spectator*.

A Plea For Political Action by the Initiative

LETTER TO THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

THIS assembly is not divided on the solution of our economic ills. There has not been nor will there be any revision of the economics of "Progress and Poverty." We need no patching like many movements for recovery. The question with us is to find the best way to get the attention of others on the solution.

Is there a way to make our work more effective? Can we create opposition and get the attention of the multitude? That will bring it into discussion, make it negative as well as positive, for and against, as in our sports and other contests?

Without finding fault with any one in the movement, I see a great need of collective action. We have a plan to abolish poverty and there should be a plan to get the people to see the plan. We have mastered economics. Now we must find the best plan to give it application.

We now seem to be inclosed from the rest of the world that we are trying to reach. We have schools and colleges, press and radios, but these channels or roads are so occupied that our voice is like a Voice in the Wilderness of Chaos. But there is a road for us and the people that we can use and no one can exclude us from it. We will not have to depend on others for a Right of Way. This road is the initiative in four of our States. The Initiatives in either of these States are good vehicles to convey our thought and at the same time put it in operation.

This plan for political action by the initiative is a plan to get our work out of "slow" into "high speed." It is the "Line of the Least Resistance." We can frame our own measure and ask people to sign the legal petition. This will get the signers' interest and make our own publicity and create the opposition that will give us the help we need to break the silence that our movement is shrouded in today. It is the way to put the Single Tax on the bill of fare.

We will fail as Custodians of the Knowledge that we have from "Progress and Poverty" if we do not use our organized effort to have a measure on the ballot in one of these States. The Single Tax seed

will grow now if planted in this way, for the people are seeking a change.

Some of you see the need of this collective action and I suggest a committee can give it the consideration it deserves. The Henry George Foundation can act as the promoting organization for a measure in any State that has the initiative. This will give indorsement and lead to a political action that will get us working together as an army. This work, like running a railroad or any other service that requires collective action, needs a head to function.

The N.R.A. we know will fail. It leaves the land owners at the feast while those that provide the feast are made to divide what this economic parasite does not devour. However, as this experiment will end in another blind alley, the people should more readily then vote "Yes" for the Single Tax if they have the opportunity. This conference is the logical body to take action at this opportune time. It will be a good investment for Single Tax Dollars.

St. Louis, Mo.

E. H. BOECK.

Radio Speech of Harry Weinberger for Welfare Committee

THROUGHOUT my career my interests have always been in economic justice, never in charity. But until the problems of economic justice are solved, someone must come to the relief of those families in acute need.

Everything I am, or almost everything I am, I owe to the City of New York. Born in the City of New York, and educated in its free public schools and high schools, I desire to give back to my city in its present great crises a little of the things that it gave to me.

There are in the City of New York at the present time, two hundred and fifty thousand families on the public relief roll, and at least thirty thousand families are in desperate need. Jobs and food and shelter are being taken care of by the City, the State and the Nation, and will continue to be taken care of by the City, the State and the Nation, but if every unemployed individual was given a job tomorrow, there would still be families who need the aid of the experienced social workers because of maladjustment, sickness, hopelessness, physical and mental breakdown in the families. Four million dollars are needed for this purpose. Some families are in a shell-shocked condition as much as any soldier was shell-shocked during the great war, on the battle-fields.

To me the most pitiful sight in the world is a man ready, able and willing to work, and unable to find work. The only thing that can be more pitiful is a family almost at the point of destitution, seeking help and unable to find it.

In my bringing up in the City of New York I have known poverty, I have known what it was to have the streets of New York City as my only playgrounds. I felt the lack of parks, of playgrounds, of swimming places. I have never lost my memories of my boyhood days in New York City. I have travelled to many cities of the world, but wherever I have gone, my heart always comes back to New York City as my home town. I have seen the beauty of Budapest, built on two hills, the loveliness of Vienna, on the Blue Danube, London on the sleepy Thames with almost every spot in the town old with historical memories, Mexico City on the mountain tops, Paris with its glamour, and parks, and wide boulevards, its marvelous art galleries, but always I come back to my New York City, situated at the cross-roads of the world, silhouetted against the sky, nestling between two rivers facing Europe—magnificent in its skylines—within its bounds the finest art, the finest theatres; with industry and trade, the last word in great progress, but in its border, like all other cities, also great poverty—great need.

Wherever I have gone in my travels I have always visited the art galleries and the theatres of every city. I have studied the great paintings and the sculpture of all nations. I have always been enthralled