

price really one billion of dollars instead of the 400 millions just stated in press dispatches. This sale includes but a small portion of the trust's ore lands to say nothing of its more valuable coal lands. Where does the other third of a billion given in U. S. census as total for the nation come in? Is it the Anthracite coal lands, the Standard Company's oil wells, the Calumet and Hela Michigan Copper mines that pay 34 per cent yearly dividends, the Standard oil, the Clark, the Heinze and other copper mines paying countless millions, the Alabama and Tennessee coal and iron region, the nation's bituminous coal, salt, gold, silver, lead, zinc, etc., mines. That third must be accounted for somehow. Perhaps it is the coal and iron recently stolen from Uncle Sam in the West.

WAKEFIELD

THE REVIEW BRINGS LIGHT INTO DARK PLACES.

Editor Single Tax Review:

Some devoted follower of the late lamented Henry George favored me with the "summer number" of the REVIEW. I find so much to encourage me in the columns of that number, isolated as I am as a firm, steadfast, devout believer in the abolition of landlordism as advocated by our noble leader in the midst of our iniquitous generation where graft and injustice seem to rule supreme, that it seems to me that the current issue cannot but have some word calculated to strengthen, revivify and to make plainer and easier the solitary way of the Single Taxer in these parts.

GEO M. STOVER.

Boonsboro, Md.

UNDER WHAT NAME?

Editor Single Tax Review:

I want herewith to commend Brother Bucklin's article "under what name" in the autumn number of the REVIEW in which he has certainly said the right thing and in the right way. It is surprising how little the name "Single Tax" attracts sufficient attention to cause investigation and this indifference I think is explained by Brother Bucklin when he says that the general impression of others than Single Taxers is that it refers merely to a fiscal movement, having nothing to do with correction of the existing unfair and rotten system. On the other hand there are none so ignorant but that they have some idea of the meaning of socialism and hence the dissatisfied will look up Socialism and may become imbued with that ism, having never looked into the claims of Single Tax at all. The Single Tax theories I never hear mentioned by workingmen with whom I am daily brought in contact, while I do hear much of Socialism. I venture to say that the name Georgian will attract at least sufficient curiosity to find

out what it means and thus perhaps in many cases create sufficient interest in some individuals to look up its theories and create an appetite for more, and in this way we may get many recruits to read and study it. We need a name that will cause inquiry and investigation if only from curiosity. "Single Tax" does not do this or at least so slowly that I think it will be many times the 10 years predicted by our deceased Brother Watson Stuart, before this system will be adopted by his native State, Pennsylvania. Apropos of spreading the George "gospel" I think the plan of the Single Taxers of Philadelphia a good one: They send speakers to the city hall plaza every Saturday and Sunday night, perhaps other nights as well who, like the Salvation Army, soon have a crowd about them, and I am sure make many recruits in this way. There is nothing of the kind pursued by Pittsburg Single Taxers and I venture to say there is less known of Single Tax here than any town in the State, population considered.

Like Brother Bucklin I think it would be a good thing to adopt the name "Georgian" and for you to start it by naming the REVIEW as such, only I would suggest "The Georgian Single Tax REVIEW instead of (as Brother Bucklin suggests) inserting "or Georgian" before REVIEW. I have inflicted you with a much longer letter than I intended.

G. E. STUART, Md.

Pittsburg, Pa.

A QUOTATION FROM THE GERMAN ORGAN OF THE SINGLE TAX.

Editor Single Tax Review:

The last *Deutsche Volksstimme* of Oct. 20 has the following, copied from *Berliner Lokal Anzeiger*.

"The Single Tax is throwing, its shadow before itself."

Although the Grundwertstener (land-value tax) has not yet been adopted in Berlin, but yet landowners begin to figure with it. Most of the leases executed the last month the clause is inserted. If the land value tax should be adopted, then the lessee is to assume the payment of it. A correspondent to the *Lokal Anzeiger* remarks to this: This disproves the claim of the Single Taxers that a tax on land value can not be shifted.

The *Volkstimme* says to it: "We are delighted that land owners begin to prepare for the unavoidable; and as to the shifting they will learn by experience."

I translate from the *Deutsche Volkstimme*, of Dec. 5th, which came to-day, the following item: "Nearly all of the land near and further around Berlin, controlled by land syndicates for speculative purposes, and in spite of the immense growth of Berlin's population, prices for building lots have

been paid that were far in advance for many years to come to be normal. The general public, having confidence in the fine sounding name of those syndicates, as well as the dividends which had been paid before, participated in this land speculation by buying shares, until all at once there turns upon the horizon the spectre of the Single Tax.

The market in building lots became dull. Banks not only stopped loaning money on vacant lands, but are also reluctant to loan on improved lots. It seems also by this that their confidence in being able to shift the land value tax is shaken."

F. BURGDORFF.

Cleveland, Ohio.

UNFORTUNATE IN NAME.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

It is unfortunate that Henry George had so common a family name. If it had been as rare a name—say as Garrison—a philosophy or a review named for him would have a distinctive character. Georgian Review would be mistaken for one printed in Georgia. Henry George Review sounds rather awkward. So we are indeed unfortunate in the matter of a name.

E. E. SODERSTROM.

Emporia, Kansas.

THE QUESTION OF NAMES?

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

If a newcomer may venture a contribution to what promises to be an interesting and instructive discussion, I desire to register an emphatic vote against the proposition to dub the Single Tax propaganda by the name of Georgism. However strongly lovers of the great personality of Henry George may be tempted by a not ignoble sentiment, it is to their sober second thought that the truer appeal should be made. The great truths of the world have always been found to stand best on their own merits, and to rest their legitimate claims on universal principles, rather than on the wisdom or the virtues of their discoverers or greatest exponents. In fact, no truth springs full armed from the brain of any single individual. Many minds in the past have been gradually contributing the material which genius embodies in some magnificent synthesis. While realizing this only in part, the popular mind dimly perceives that doctrine to be of but limited and narrow application and of doubtful reliability, which can be readily incarnated in the name and memory of one man or woman. It is not the friends, but the enemies of modern biology, who take every occasion to refer to the concept of evolution by the title of Darwinism. Luther, like Paul before him, protested against the adoption of his name by

the sect which accepted most closely his teachings; nor was it the wish of Swedenborg that the church he founded should bear the title "Swedenborgian." The Liberal of to-day no more terms himself an Ingersolian than his predecessor accepted the appellation of a "Tom Paine" man. The term "Christian" was applied first as an epithet of scorn, and ultimately adopted by the rising Galilean sect only because the dogma that their founder was a divine being caused them to merge the teachings put forth by him with the thought of worship due his personality; and the survival of the title to-day, taken in connection with the actual character, doctrine and moral tone of the church is the grimmest sarcasm on the pages of history. It may with little reservation be averred that no cause has done well which has chosen to weaken its universal appeal by assuming the name of a single person.

If it be indeed true that the creation of enthusiasm for the cause dear to Single Taxers demands as a rallying cry a name of more potent appeal, there is at least one ready to hand, which is both intrinsically and historically adapted to stir the blood. The Single Tax is the latest and highest form of the evolution of the movement which years ago led the way to freedom by demanding the freeing of American soil from the curse of chattel slavery. Surely no more positive, lucid or inspiring term could be chosen to-day than the grand old word "Free soil." It is like a clarion call to old and young alike, to those who remember and to those who hope. If a change must be made, here is surely the logical choice.

And yet, there is another side to the question. Is it so certain that any change is desirable? Do we want enthusiasm so much as intelligence? Is not the very simple, practical suggestion of the name "Single Tax" a most powerful recommendation? Here are no fireworks, no millenial dreams as the immediate result of a trick of legislation, no cut and dried schemes for a mechanical Utopia, but a plain proposition for plain people. We leave castles in the air to our Socialist architects. There is work here on earth for us. The Single Tax is not a magnificent ideal, to be achieved some time in the distant future, when the race shall have grown to a higher stature. Such ideals are indeed priceless; and I yield to none in my longing for the perfect and free society which I picture in the night watches, and under the inspiration of which I go forth with renewed vigor to prepare the way for it by faithful labor in the present. But the Single Tax has a mission of its own. It is an actual need of the present time, and is based on the very fact of the individual and social imperfection of the day. It does not need to be prepared for, but is itself the means of preparation for whatever grand social combinations the future has in store.