Miscellany

SOCIALISM IS "SUPERADEQUATE"

I have always had an aversion to the term "Single Tax," which is really a nickname applied to the economic philosophy of Henry George.

The Georgian philosophy is really a just, an adequate socialism, for it never advocated the public appropriation of privately owned labor-created property as do those who follow the Socialistic doctrine according to Karl Marx.

The George followers advocate the public appropriation of land values by taxing the economic rent—that value which is not a labor creation, but rather a public one through the presence and activities of population—a public creation that is now privately appropriated and as a debit against private enterprise in the way of industry and exchange.

This term "Single Tax" has been the source of much misunderstanding of the philosophy in the public mind.

Some of the more conservative followers of the philosophy of Henry George do not advocate taking all the economic rent of land by taxation, but always leaving enough for a selfish incentive on the part of an individual to administer the land; that this would be more economical than its total appropriation and public administration.

Some of the still more conservative followers of the philosophy advocate taking only enough of the economic rent of land to pay the expense of government—a tax on land values for revenue only.

The basis of the Georgian philosophy is a simple, a just, an adequate Socialism—taking only that value which is publicly created, which belongs to the public, and freeing all labor creation through industry and exchange from a growing burden of taxation.

Roughly speaking, the history of every great reform since the beginning of civilization, is that someone proposed a simple and just remedy for a social injustice, as did Henry George in 1879, but those enjoying the fruits of the social injustice would not make compromise; the injustice went on from bad to worse and until the simple remedy was no longer radical enough for the radicals, and as now being proposed in the socialization of private industry.

The Georgian economic philosophy makes a very clear distinction between labor-created property values and publicly or socially created property values

Henry George once referred to the Socialistic philosophy of Karl Marx as being "superadequate."

DAVID GIBSON, in *Lorain Journal*, Lorain, O.

E. J. CRAIGIE IN THE AUSTRALIAN HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The leader of the opposition spoke of unemployment relief. He said that the people of Port Pirie complained bitterly that the rations allowed were insufficient. Of course, he conveniently forgot to state that that small amount of rations was carrying a heavy burden of taxation, and he forgot also his attitude when he was a distinguished member of the Commonwealth Parliament and did not hesitate to tax the food and clothing of the people of Port Pirie. If he takes the trouble to investigate the question he will find that in Port Pirie the total rates paid to the corporation amount to £17,000 a year and that the additional price paid by the workers at Port Pirie on sugar alone is £11,680 a year. This was caused through the efforts of James Scullin, the so-called labor leader, in the Commonwealth Parliament for a number of years. If the leader of the opposition is anxious to do something for these workers he claims to represent at Port Pirie he should direct his attention to the removal of the embargo on sugar and put about £11,000 a year into the pockets of the people of that town.

Mr. Dale—Sugar is not a State matter.

Mr. Craigie—That is the same old cry which is brought out each time. Mr. Dale knows perfectly well that he is now part and parcel of the great Australian Labor Party.

Mr. Dale—I have been a member for 40 years, and am proud of it.

Mr. Craigie—I would not be proud of it if I were in the honorable member's position. A party which has consistently taxed everything used by the working class has nothing to be proud of. He should hold his head in shame at being a supporter of a policy which has been disclaimed by every section of the Labor movement outside of Australia.

Mr. Stephens—You claim to be the only soldier in step.?

Mr. Craigie—I claim to be the only true representative of Labor in this House. Mr. Beerworth started off by saying that the Liberals were financed by the banks. I do not know that any member has any definite information to make good a statement of that kind. I could, with great truth, say that when the last Federal election was fought a donation of £10,000 went to the Federal Labor Party from the sugar interests, £10,000 to the National Party, and £6,000 to the Country Party.

Mr. Dale—How much did your Party get?

Mr. Craigie—They do not give you anything when you are out to remove embargoes, but only when you are out to put them on. If Mr. Beerworth could carry his mind back to 1928 and read the leading article in "*The Australian Manufacturer*" of that time he would find it stated that the manufacturers of Australia were seriously considering withdrawing their support from the National Party and giving it to the Labor Party, because the latter would give them more privileges than the Nationalists were prepared to. Representatives of the working class want to be conversant with the whole of the facts before they throw bricks at some other fellow's glass house. Mr. Beerworth said that the solution of the problem was the shortening of the hours of labor to keep in touch with the advances made by machinery. While such advocates are keen on shortening the hours of labor and reducing the Commonwealth's production per individual unit, I presume they do not contend that the wages of labor shall be shortened correspondingly. If such is not the case, I would respectfully submit that to shorten the hours of labor and give the same remuneration would simply mean an increase in the price of commodities. When that increase took place the purchasing power of the people would once more be reduced. I suppose our labor friends would give as their solution "Let us shorten the hours of laboring men even more."

Mr. Dale—Henry Ford said that hours should be shortened and wages increased.

Mr. Czaigie—He has said many things which do not stand examination. It is just as well not to rest on authority for any statement without understanding it, as one is likely to go astray. Members were also told by Mr. Beerworth that we had built up a high standard of living in Australia. While I listened to him my mind flew back to those villas we have on the banks of the Torrens, I wondered what was the standard of the poor unfortunates living there. When we look at the tens of thousands of people throughout Australia who are compelled under our bad economic policy to take Government relief as a means of subsistence it seems mockery on the part of Labor men to speak of a high standard of living in Australia.

A HAPPY ILLUSTRATION

Collect all land rent for the public and abolish all other forms of taxation and business will come out of its stupor with the same acceleration that the State recently fought its way free of the grip of a blizzard. Just as removal of snow opened up first one car line, then another, first one road, then another, just so will removal of taxes open up thousands of opportunities for profitable employment until every man is re-absorbed in trade and industry.

ALBERT L. MEGGINSON, in Wilmington, (Del.) *Star*.