

NOT IDLE IN TEXAS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We have been getting lots of effective publicity since last November. As you know cotton is our chief agriculture product. When Mr. Wallace and associates decided on cotton acreage reductions for this year our people suddenly discovered we had a "tenant problem" and "land problem." Since that discovery several of our leading daily papers and our leading agricultural paper *Farm and Ranch* have not only given much attention to the subject and space to correspondents, but have editorially treated the Single Tax as the fundamental remedy.

In our signed articles for the country papers we have to be careful in treatment of the subject. These have been going out with some regularity for several years. Editors tell me that their readers comment on what Black says. We have gone far in removing the chance of frenzied fear among farmers and townspeople such as we had in Missouri in 1912.

San Antonio, Texas.

WM. A. BLACK.

SHARE CROPPERS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

According to *Harper's Magazine* for April the *Charleston News and Courier*, in answer to the Powell and Cutler article, had the following to say:

"Whatever else the landlords of the South may have done, or failed to do, they have always heretofore managed to keep their share croppers out of the breadlines, off the public charity lists, and as much cannot be said for any other group of employers. If Northern critics and Federal agencies would only let them alone, they would successfully continue in the task of keeping the Southern farm negro, only four generations removed from the African jungles, from becoming a public charge."

I am very much interested in understanding the meaning of the term "share cropper," for upon that depends whether the *News Courier* is sincere or just crabbing at criticism from north of Mason and Dixon's line. If a share cropper in South Carolina, or any other part of the South, means a farmer who is permitted to farm another man's land and pay a share of his crop for the privilege without receiving any aid of any kind from the landlord, then its answer to Messrs. Powell and Cutler, to *Harper's*, and to Northerners in general, is not only naive, but also amusing if not downright hypocrisy. Is it possible that the negroes in the African jungle have to depend upon breadlines or other forms of charity because of the lack of landlords to permit them to crop share? The lives of the Zulus of South Africa, and our own Hopi, Hopi, and Navajo Indians show the absurdity of its position. We have heard many declarations in defense of private ownership of land but this beats them all in asininity.

The question of man's right to sustain life in his body is not a question of race or color. It concerns all men. White share croppers in Porto Rico, in Virginia, or anywhere else, are all laborers as well as all workers in any line of endeavor, and they all must pay tribute to private owners of land in order to labor to live. They are victims of a system which has culminated in this depression. But what do we find when men are courageous enough to point out the damnable injustice of such a system, a system that allows certain men to be parasites upon others? We find among other elements in the storm of abuse that follows such disclosures, Southern gentlemen, endowed with a normal amount of intelligence, ignoring the great injustice of the supporting of a large class of landlords by the labor of land users, and pretending to be offended by the Northerners' reference to Southern injustice to negroes.

It would be more fitting for the *News and Courier* to work and endeavor to make the landlords of the entire nation self-supporting by compelling them to use their land. This can be done only by collecting the entire economic rent from them. When that is done we

shall hear no more of the benevolence of those who charge us for permission to support the life in our bodies.

JOHN LUXTON, Henry George School of Social Science.

JUDGE RALSTON ADDS TO HIS NEWS LETTER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

If not too late for your coming issue, permit me to add a few lines. A note just received from Mr. George W. Patterson at Los Angeles informs me of the very successful progress of our movement at that point. The leaders of the unemployed cooperatives' organizations, which number several hundred thousand, are taking an active interest in pushing our amendment, and the same is true of some other organizations. As illustrative of what can be done by a little voluntary individual work, Mr. Jackson within two weeks has procured 500 signatures; Mr. Waldo J. Wernicke, who has unfortunately been ill for several weeks, has returned to the work with renewed vigor, and is extremely effective. Other of the best workers are falling in line actively.

It is interesting to note that the two most prominent candidates for the Democratic nomination for governor are George Creel and Upton Sinclair; both nationally-known figures. Mr. Creel has been for our amendment from the beginning, and Sinclair likewise. He is mentioning the amendment and urging it at all of his meetings.

Mr. Sheridan Downey, of Sacramento, who was in line for the governorship, has withdrawn, and will be a candidate for lieutenant governor. He likewise favors the amendment.

These little items will give you perhaps some idea of what I believe to be "the swing of events."

Palo Alto, Calif.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

HENRY WARE ALLEN TELLS SOME MATTERS OF INTEREST

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

This is to report the death of F. B. Hamlin of Pretty Prairie, Kan. "Judge" Hamlin, as he was familiarly called by his fellow-townsmen, was born March 6, 1859 and during the past thirty years he put Pretty Prairie on the map as a Single Tax town so far as the numerous converts made by Judge Hamlin could make it so. It would have been an easy task for some good writer to have prepared a magazine article, illustrated by a picture of Mr. Hamlin at his bench as a harness maker and entitled, "How One Man Converted a Town to the Single Tax."

As a result of Mr. Hamlin's enterprise Single Tax meetings in this little town of Central Kansas were numerous, and among the distinguished Single Tax speakers who were brought there from abroad were John Z. White, George H. Duncan, and Herbert S. Bigelow. The little town of Pretty Prairie afforded an object lesson which in itself was a stimulus to the good cause. One family in particular had amassed a huge fortune as a result of extensive land holdings nearby. Mr. Hamlin was a man of most pleasing personality and left a host of friends to mourn his loss.

John Lawrence Monroe visited Wichita, March 26—27 and made good use of his time while in this city. Commencing on Monday at 9:30 a. m. he addressed two large groups of classes in economics at the High School North, finishing just in time to address a group of about two hundred at the High School East at 12:30. That evening at eight o'clock he spoke at a public meeting held at the Y. M. C. A. On Tuesday morning he addressed several classes that were brought together under Professors Wall and Wright at Wichita University, finishing just in time to take luncheon with the Civitan Club at the Allis Hotel where he addressed a large gathering of business and professional men. Mr. Monroe wears well the mantle inherited from his father and his talks in every instance were forceful and calculated to attract support for the movement.

At the High School North we came across one of Prof. Ely's text books in which the Single Tax was dismissed as impractical and unjust!