

FALSE PLEAS MADE BY SINGLE TAXERS

"To Abolish Poverty," Phrase Used by Communists to Misdlead Masses.

POOR WOULD SUFFER MOST

Adoption of Henry George Doctrine Would Precipitate Panic That Would Wreck Business World, Says Portland Observer.

BY A. L. YEAZIE.

"To abolish poverty," says the anxious Felix commission appeal for funds. There will be no poor, it only we will take away from the present owners the lands now idle and throw them open, heavily tax-burdened, to the willing hands of the land-hungry multitude. And I read Henry George's declaration in 1881, that all the desirable lands of Oregon and Washington were gone; that immigrants with capital and out-rits to begin farming were retracing their long journey to their old homes in the East, society wasted in fortune by their fruitless quest.

The exhaustion of the available land was a theory, an assumption made to fit the fallacious argument. If poverty were due to the locking up of the land in private ownership, it would not do to have available lands and poverty at the same time, as present! The usable lands were gone! And yet, there lay out in God's sunlight, untouched by the hand of man, millions of acres of the finest wheat lands and fruit lands on the continent of America; and even the last 10 years have seen more homesteads taken than any other decade of our history.

Against the dreamer's cry of lack of opportunity, let us put such answers as the story told me the other day by a grizzled Swain who, best in world, possessed only with a wife and six little children, struck Oregon in 1892, the year when our banks were closing, the beginning of our worst era of depression. He bought, on credit, a piece of rough land in Clackamas County, and began with mighty earnestness turning it into a farm, because it was to be his own, and his ever-perishing improvements, but the land itself, would be his own. The story has its moving parts of patience and humor, but we will jump to the end and tell how, with the children grown to sturdy, self-reliant manhood and womanhood and off in homes of their own, the old couple are now able, with their property worth \$25,000, to retire from the labor of the farm and live on the income.

It is one story out of thousands. Yet it has been told 12 years before, with the convincingness of cold type, that the lands available to the poor were gone and the only hope to abolish poverty lay in wresting away the ownership, already granted. That cry is still heard. I wonder what vagary could be so wild that it would not get a hearing in the ears of the people who are in reality fighting against the interests of the very ones they seek to help, will enroll straightway under the banner of single tax. It has pleased a boldy enough, a flat money had and free silver had, and every populist "tam" has had, to satisfy without trouble the intellects of the masses. Indeed, hard thinking is required to fathom some of its fallacies. Every form of communism, of which single tax is only one great branch, has its strong appeal to men's hearts and minds, to be overcome only by the stronger arguments of reason and human experience in favor of the individualistic system.

Is the single tax the panacea for the cure of poverty? Should it have the support of every poor man and every man who moderates fortune because it is for the interest of such as against the rich? In the first place, the whole social philosophy of Henry George is based on the fallacy that poverty is due to private ownership of land, which required him to assume, and to try to prove by instances at the time he wrote of years ago that all the available lands were already monopolized. The existence of available lands, then open for whomsoever would take, would have killed his theory at its birth. A doctrine based on such a fallacy is not likely to be true.

In the next place, the logic and doctrine of single tax are as much against the ownership of land by the poor man as by the rich man. Note the words of Henry George: "In the very nature of things land cannot be made individual property. This principle is absolute. The title of a peasant proprietor deserves no more respect than the title of a great territorial noble."

What is the programme? The way to make land common property is simply to take rent for the common benefit. And to do this the way is to abolish one tax after another until the whole weight of the relation between the value of the land. When that point is reached the battle is won. The bare is caught, killed and skinned. The real fight will come on the proposition to consolidate existing taxes upon lands values. When this is done, the landholders will not merely have been defeated, they will have been destroyed. The nature of the values will be so generally understood that to raise taxation so as to take the whole rest of economic surplus will be a mere matter of course.—The Land Question, page 66.

Single tax will burden the man who is just making his start on a rough unimproved piece of land with as great a tax as his rich neighbor has to pay, who may have bought a finely improved and developed farm or orchard, with a mansion house and thousands of dollars' worth of personal property. It will make it hard for the man who has not improved his property ever to improve it, by burdening him with a much heavier tax during the time he is trying to save the money to improve with, by also destroying his power to borrow because the value of the land title he has to offer as security has been diminished or destroyed, and because the interest rate will rise as the security becomes less stable. At the same time that it strikes these hard blows at the man who has not yet accumulated the means to build with, it will reward by the exemption

ONE WAY HOW SINGLE TAX WOULD WORK.



MANY HOMES BUILT

Activity in Residence Construction Is Marked.

CONTRACTORS ARE BUSY

Homebuilders Company Organized by Umbdenstock & Larson Increases Capital Stock to Expand Its Operations.

PENINSULA HAS BIG FUTURE

Industrial Development Is Factor in Activity at Bridgeton.

STREET OPENING IS URGED

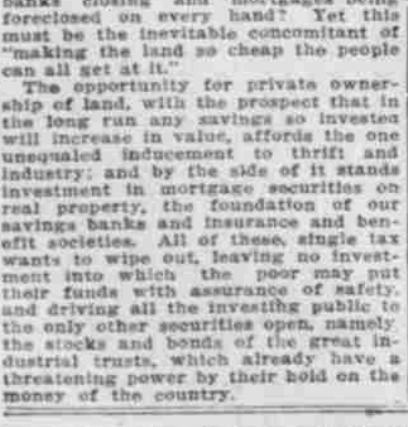
Extension of East Burnside to City Limits Proposed.

HEIGHTS PROPERTY IS SOLD

Dorr E. Keasey & Co. Close Number of Sales.

VENABLE HOTEL BUILDING COMPLETED.

STRUCTURE BUILT AT COST OF \$115,000.



The modern four-story structure at the northeast corner of Third and Main streets, built for J. W. Cook at a cost of \$115,000, has been completed and will be known as the Venable Hotel. It has been leased by Mrs. Alice Venable. The building occupies ground space of 100x150 feet. It contains 160 rooms and is equipped with all modern conveniences. The hotel was opened a few days ago. The building was designed by Benes & Hendricks.

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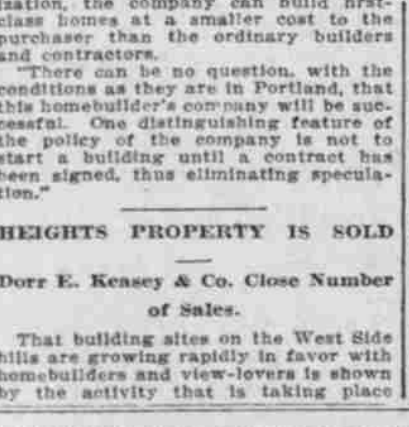
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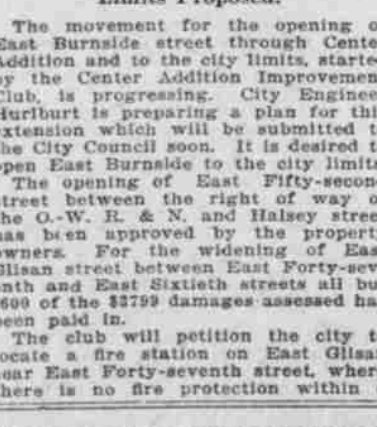
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They Said "CHEESE IT" to Tillamook: —but Tillamook proved it was not boasting

TILLAMOOK COUNTY the past year made over three and one-half million pounds of the peculiarly delicate cheese which bears its name, and sold it practically all to buyers at its own gates for around 20 cents a pound—a very fancy jobbing price for cheese, which proves that Tillamook must be very fine.

BAY CITY DEEP WATER SEAPORT AND RAILROAD TERMINUS ON TILLAMOOK BAY

LOTS NOW \$65 to \$1500 ON EASY TERMS

BAY CITY LAND CO. 701-2-3 SPALDING BUILDING, PORTLAND PHONES MAIN 1116, A 7023

CHEESE is one of the least of the products of the Tillamook country. On the completion of the Panama Canal and the Tillamook Bay deep channel (about the same time), the outputs of immense saw and lumber mills at BAY CITY will find markets in every quarter of the globe.

It is then the WISE INVESTORS now buying lots in BAY CITY will reap immense profits.

Call, or send for particulars, also for the SECRET of successful investment.

BRIGHTON ON NEHALEM BAY

REMEMBER the history of Raymond, Wash. In six years a hamlet of 50 people has grown to a city of 3500. Brighton has advantages which insure rapid expansion. A safe harbor—just inside the Nehalem jetty on Nehalem Bay. Assured of the extension of the present jetty, the bill having passed the House and the Senate committee having agreed on it with additional appropriations for Nehalem jetty.

- BRIGHTON NEHALEM JETTY PANAMA CANAL FISHERIES DAIRY PRODUCTS Cheese Alone \$650,000 in 1911 TIMBER, 25 BILLION FEET

BRIGHTON IS ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

Hundreds of people have bought lots already at Brighton. Wise investors get in at the beginning of a new town. Why wait and pay the penalty of advanced prices which accompany development?

LOTS \$50 UP

On Easy Monthly Payments

Call for printed particulars and other information.

BRIGHTON DEVELOPMENT CO. 904 AND 907 SPALDING BUILDING, PORTLAND FINE OPPORTUNITY FOR SALESMEN

Residence Property Purchased. W. F. Teague, assistant superintendent of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company, has purchased the beautiful home of D. J. Mahoney, on East Forty-fourth street, between Broadway and Hancock streets, for \$5000. This is a two-story seven-room residence, with finished attic and basement, and is one of the attractive homes of the Menofee Addition. Mr. Teague will take possession at once. Scott & Beesley made this sale. This firm sold two lots on Oregon street, between East Eighty-first and East Eighty-third streets, for W. A. Gray to O. T. Dillman, who will erect a modern home in the near future.



Parkrose children aren't suffering from want of pure, healthy milk. Living in Parkrose combines all the advantages of country and city life. You have heard for years of the abundance of butter and milk in the country. It is all yours at Parkrose. Hundreds of city babies die every Summer from unclean, unsanitary milk. THAT cannot happen in Parkrose, where every family may keep its own cow. A good cow shows the family a saving of \$10.00 a month and more. A cow is only one of the advantages of living in Parkrose. There are fifty families living at Parkrose now. THEY'VE SOLVED THE HIGH COST OF LIVING. It will pay you to investigate Parkrose now. Take the family out to Parkrose today. Let them breathe the fresh Parkrose air and see if they wouldn't like to live there. Take Ross City Park car. An Acre in Parkrose Costs No More Than a Good City Lot. Call, write or phone for further information. SLAUSON-CRAIG COMPANY Successors to Hartman & Thompson, Real Estate Department Chamber of Commerce Building, Fourth and Stark Streets Portland, Oregon