

2. *The simplest possible form of taxation.* We now attempt the impossible—to ascertain incomes that are hidden; to find bonds that are concealed; to estimate the values of stocks of goods not knowing whether they are gold or pinchbeck; to watch every man woman or child that crosses an imaginary line equal to half the circumference of the globe. Our present method is a direct encouragement to lying, false swearing, and fraud. Land lies out of doors and with no other value can the public by any possibility be so well acquainted.

3. *We secure to every man his equal right to common inheritance of the earth.* In abilities, capacities and qualities there is inequality. Some are short, others long, some bright and witty, others dull and stupid. In rights there should be equality. Nothing could be more atrocious then to proclaim one kind of justice for the stout and another for the lean. The land, forest, water power, and mine were furnished and given by the Creator. No man produced them. This is one kind of wealth—natural wealth. The laborer takes the raw material and produces houses, furniture, etc.—this is another form of wealth—labor produced wealth. Now the claim of the laborer to that which he produces should be unquestioned, as his to use or exchange or give as he pleases. But to the natural wealth, the common gift to humanity, one man's claim cannot by any consideration of justice ever be better than another's—the claims of all are equal. By appropriating the value that comes from growth of population we secure that equal right.

4. *We secure to the toiler the product of his industry.* At present the toiler must provide—1st for his family, which is all right; 2nd, for the collector of land values, which is all wrong, a continuous tribute; 3rd for the maintenance of government, which is largely wrong, for the collector of land values should also contribute to this fund. Concentrate taxation on land values and the toiler is at once relieved from one of these exactions—the contribution to land holders—and what he pays as tax is still his, in a common right to the public institutions of the country.

5. *We abolish the most prolific sort of poverty.* The laborer is now subjected to tribute so

exacting that even with the severest toil he can secure for himself but an animal subsistence—food, clothing and shelter. Even in the best of times the laborers life is often one of sad hardship. Let population increase, the exaction increases. Some here and there climb into fortune, but for the mass of humanity there is no escape. Let any calamity happen, sickness, accident, depression of trade, and at once thousands are pushed from noble self-help to dependence, charity and pauperism.

6. *We increase the production of wealth.* The flood of population on this continent is one of the most remarkable facts in history. Seventy millions now, seventy millions more, one hundred and forty millions, twenty-five years hence. If it is anywhere near the truth that each addition to the population of our city causes a thousand dollars increase of land value, then will this increase of population cause a vast, an enormous increase somewhere in this fund for grasping, non-producing speculation—a direct bounty to idleness, economic idleness; for whatever scheming may be done to get a share of this fund, such scheming is of no service to society. Let this common fund be diverted into the public treasury, and at once a large part of humanity are changed from a non-productive burden on the toiler to productive aiders, increasing vastly the wealth-producing power of humanity.

And with this impediment to the progress of humanity removed, where shall we end predicting the enormous benefits that will follow. With leisure and means to develop his intellectual faculties, to strengthen his genius for invention, to attain to greater power and accuracy in reasoning, may we not look for advances far surpassing in splendour those of the past. To see justice enthroned, righteousness established the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man recognized, are we not fully warranted in looking for enormous improvements in the moral development of the race?

For lo! the days are hastening on,  
By prophet-bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song,  
Which now the angels sing.

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