

tude of benefits which would result to society on every hand from this change in the tenure of land. This change in land tenure would not only decentralize wealth as to individual possession, it would decentralize it as to locality. It would cause the large cities to spread out more over the country, and we would not see as we do now, masses of humanity huddled together in narrow streets and packed in houses tier over tier. On the other hand we would see population brought nearer together in the country and there would not be wide tracts of productive land unoccupied separating farmers and settlers from one another. The same cause will separate population where it is unhealthily crowded, and will bring it together where it is unnaturally separated.

Inasmuch as land values rise the highest where the population is the densest there will be no inducements whatever for wealth to fix itself in the large cities for the sake of the rise, for nothing can then be made out of the rise. It will thus lead to the diffusion of population and spread of wealth more evenly throughout the country, a consummation which every social reformer and philanthropist would hail as the greatest boon to society.

To conclude, sad experience has taught us that to prove the justice of a cause does not avail to secure its acceptance among men, indeed no great reform has ever been effected in the world without at first odium and obloquy being heaped upon it, and many a hard name associated with it, and we may expect the same for this. \*

There are difficulties in the way I admit, though not so great as many suppose, but even if greater, these ought not to

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\* Witness the treatment measured out to Henry George, whose work, "Progress and Poverty," no one can read without being impressed with the author's keen sense of justice and right, and with the fairness and honesty with which he presents his subject. Yet a portion of the press and of the pulpit vie with each other in heaping odium upon him, and go about to crucify him, seeking to lift him up between two thieves, striving to identify him with them. They will not themselves hear what he has to say and do their utmost to prevent others.