

We Solicit Your Vote

# Commonwealth Land Party

3 East 14th Street, New York City

FOR GOVERNOR, NEW YORK STATE

**WILLIAM McCABE**

of Long Island

FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**C. LeBARON GOELLER**

of Endicott, N. Y.



Taken in its larger and truer aspect, the only vote that amounts to anything, the only vote that accomplishes anything is the vote that is cast for a right principle in government.

All votes that are cast in prejudice and ignorance are lost votes.

These two principles we hold to be true when taken in their universal aspect and for this reason we solicit votes for the Commonwealth Land Party which proposes to put into effect the principle laid down by Henry George of taking economic or true ground rent to run the government in lieu of taxes, and abolishing all taxation on labor and the products of labor.

"When the object is to raise the permanent condition of a people, small means do not merely produce small effects; they produce no effect at all." Thus wrote John Stuart Mill. The more one considers this the more evident it will appear, and on this ground we claim that this party of single tax advocates the only large and adequate means whereby the permanent condition of a people may be bettered. And if this be true, as we claim, then it follows as a matter of logic that a vote for the Commonwealth Land Party is the only vote that really counts.

Both of the major political parties in the United States are working in a circle and their efforts are futile as far as the betterment of the condition of labor, and the general betterment of the less fortunate members of society is concerned. If either of these parties secures any increase in the wages of labor (this includes salaries and all returns for labor, mental and physical) then the cost of living rises at the same time, so that the raise in wages amounts to nothing, for it is simply a case of equals being added to equals. Thus, if wages be doubled and the cost of living be doubled, then the condition of the worker has not changed whatever.

Parties other than the Commonwealth Land Party have no means of getting out of this program of working in a circle, and so convinced are some people that our present system is beyond remedying that they place the blame on God, and say that poverty in the midst of plenty is caused by natural law, by the pressure of population against subsistence.

As single taxers, we claim that the evils of our present social mal-adjustments, slums on the one side and palaces on the other side, are not to be blamed upon God, but upon mankind itself for ignoring simple rules of Justice in social relations.

It must be evident to all that man's primary relation is to land, the planet that we call Earth, and the treatment of land determines the social status of men. It is from this very evident proposition that one of the slogans of the party is formed: "The earth is the birthright of all mankind."

Henry George started the movement for a single tax on ground rent in 1879 when he published *Progress and Poverty*. And George ranks with such men as Newton because of his discovery in the science of political economy of the natural law of wages and the only way that all wages may be increased—by taxing and thus lowering rent. From this statement a second slogan of the Party arises: "The rent of land belongs to the people and the first duty of government is to collect it."

The natural wages of labor consists in what that labor produces, but what the worker actually gets is not determined by what he produces, but is what is left after rent is taken out. Thus, while the purchasing power of wages (the real measure of wages) remains practically constant, we find that the increase given to labor by labor-saving machinery, etc., simply raises rent (increases the value of land) thus creating, directly and indirectly, swollen fortunes on the one hand, and poverty and the constant fear of poverty on the other—the fear of poverty driving men to fight like maniacs for money—making them, in fact, money-mad.

By taxing ground rent (or land values, the price of land being the capitalization of the rental value of land) we propose to "raise wages, increase the earnings of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish involuntary poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human powers, lessen crime, elevate morals, and taste and intelligence and carry civilization to yet nobler heights."

The program of the Commonwealth Land Party is a matter of science in the same way as the determination of eclipses of the sun and of the moon are matters of astronomic science. The politicians of the old line parties are working in a circle that finally becomes a maelstrom producing war and revolution. Lacking scientific knowledge as what to do in the relations of Land, Labor and Capital they are blind leaders.

Economic Justice, which is simply another way of saying Single Tax, is the only remedy for Economic Injustice.

Those who would follow Justice, Truth, Liberty, are invited to join our ranks and fight for the good time coming.

(C. LeB. G.)