

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 119.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

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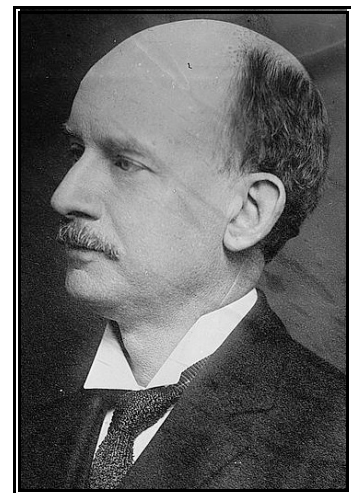
THE Spectacle presented in this campaign by the candidature of Henry George, Jr., on the Democratic ticket for Congress in the 17th Congress District of this State and City is a Spectacle that deserves serious contemplation—and equally serious handling.

Henry George (Sr.) launched in 1886 a Movement that aspired at nothing short of the abolition of involuntary poverty. It was an answer, whatever one may think of the answer, earnestly and honestly advanced to the burning Social Question of our generation. It was, accordingly, a Revolutionary Movement. Nor did the Movement fail to conduct itself as such. It threw the gauntlet at all the existing, especially the dominant parties as inherently criminal, as hopelessly corrupt. And it set up its standard bearing the uncompromising device: “Abolition of all other Taxes, a Single Tax upon Land Values.” That happened 24 years ago.

Only 24 years later, in this year of grace, Henry George, Jr. accepts a nomination for Congress from the Democratic party upon a platform that directly and indirectly is a repudiation of the Single Tax, and that “rubs it in” by the express advocacy of an “income tax”—a veritable Anti-Christ concept to the concept of Single Tax.

If in the course of these 24 years Henry George, Jr., had dropped the Single Tax and become a convert to Murphyism, then his conduct would present no Spectacle. A man may change his opinion. Some may even praise the change. It is to a man’s credit if he drops an error, even if the credit be qualified by the adoption of another error. It is otherwise in this instance.

Aided by the circumstance that he bears his father’s name, Henry George, Jr.,



HENRY GEORGE, JR.

has traveled on that name as the hereditary Calif of the Califate, holding forth the unadulterated 24-years-ago tenets of the Single Tax.

These combined facts render the candidature of Henry George, Jr., on the Murphy ticket a veritable Spectacle—a Horrible Sample.

A Sample? A Sample of what? Of Single Tax degeneracy? No. It is a Sample of that peculiar, lamentable and insidious disease to which upholders of an Error are ever exposed. It is a Sample of what may be expected from all quarters that try to grapple with the Social Question without the necessary equipment therefor, and with the consequent cocksureness that comes from shallowness and that blocks enlightenment.

The annals of the Social Question teach that the archest of Reactionists come from the Ideologists—the ideologic Charles A. Danas, who ideologically imagined that popular education was the all-sufficient antidote for involuntary poverty, develop into cynic owners and Editors of the *Sun*, so soon as their ideological bark gets beached on the beach of facts. The ideologic Samuel Gompers, who ideologically imagined the emancipation of the Working Class could be achieved by Craft Unionism pure and simple, develop into Vice-Presidents of the Hannas, the Belmonts and the Lows on Civic Federations, so soon as their ill constructed crafts suffer shipwreck on the rocks of facts. So, likewise, do we now see in process of the lamentable evolution the ideologic Intellectuals of the so-called Socialist party, who, not fathoming the fact that a Revolution can be achieved only by the ORGANIZED INTERESTS of the revolutionary forces, ideologically imagine that oratorical descriptions of the New Jerusalem can conjure up a new Crusade, and, as fast as the loose tackles of their barks snap in the storm, begin to dicker and deal, fuse and hobnob with the powers they set out to conquer.

The candidature of Henry George, Jr., upon a Murphy and income-tax platform is an up-to-date Sample of the identical disease to which the Danas and Gomperses have succumbed. It also is a warning Spectacle of the Spectacle that is bound to be presented by the S.P. political ideologists into whose veins the disease is creeping and in whose anatomies it is making visible progress and ravages.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded November 2011

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