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EDITORIAL

“VOLUNTARY” AND “INVOLUNTARY SOCIALISM.”

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SOME Single Taxers, those among them who have shed the one-time superstition about Socialism “crushing out individuality,” and who have grasped the sociologic import of collectivism, or co-operation, pronounce themselves Socialists—but “Voluntary Socialists.” According to them the Single Tax social system would be the Socialist Commonwealth, exactly what Socialists aim at. The difference, with these Single Taxers, lies in the method. They hold that the Socialist Commonwealth, arrived at via the Single Tax, is arrived at voluntarily; whereas the Socialist Commonwealth, arrived at via Marxism, is arrived at by compulsion. In other words these Single Taxers conceive two different sorts of Socialism— “Voluntary Socialism” and “Involuntary Socialism.”

The characteristic lineament on the physiognomy of the Socialist Commonwealth is the civic right, vested in the individual, of access to the most improved plant of production whereby to exercise his labor-faculties. No more than in a democracy is the citizen left to “hustle” for the right to vote, and, no more than in a democracy is the “hustler” rewarded with as many votes as he can earn and cast,—no more, and for identical reasons, is the individual in the Socialist Commonwealth left to “hustle” for the opportunity to exercise his labor-faculties with the most approved social means, or is the “hustler” rewarded with possessions which invest him with greater fruition. As the suffrage, one-man-one-vote is the apenance of citizenship, so is ready access to the best social means of production the birth right of the individual in Socialist Society.

Does the physiognomy of Single Tax Society bear the same characteristic lineament? If it does, then, it would be Socialism, and by that token would it be “Involuntary,” or “Compulsory”: the economic law of Exchange-Value compels the

investment of the individual with the civic right of access to the best available means for the production of the necessities of life, and compels the organization that makes such an end a reality. If the physiognomy of Single Tax Society does not bear that distinctive lineament, then it is not Socialism, Voluntary,” or “Involuntary.” Fact is the characteristic lineament of the Socialist is expressly absent from the Single Tax physiognomy. Boastfully the Single Tax motto is—“Hustle!”

Objection to Marxism as “Compulsion” is discreditable to him who makes the objection. It takes a civilized man to bend with self-respect and gladly to an imperative truth. Only he is Man and Free. All others are the slaves of their own individualism. Psychologically the line between them and the savage is imperceptible.

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