Introduction

The Free Acres Association is a working model of Henry George's ideal, that the land belongs to the people as an inalienable birthright, and that therefore the rent of the land should be taken by the people, instead of taxes, for all their public expenses.

This, he believed, could be attained by a gradual abolition of taxes and substitution step by step of levies on the sum for which the land would rent.

It is not a Single Tax colony or "enclave," because it is not possible to get away from local taxes, school taxes, licenses and such like depredations; nor from national taxes, income, tariff, excise and other similar impositions.

Taxes, so called, are almost all paid in the end by the workers and the benefit of the public works and activities for which they are spent go mainly and eventually to the holders of the land. The Free Acres members are the holders here, so that most of the benefits go to them.

In this respect also Free Acres is a working model. It shows that any large land holder can without expense to himself and with very little risk establish a Henry George Settlement by deeding a central portion of his land to trustees in the way that the most of Free Acres land was deeded.

In my part of establishing this settlement, I have hoped that some one else would be led thereby to set up one on a far larger scale, that would attract nation-wide attention to the practicability and benefit of the communal ownership of the land.
If he will come and look at our children here and consider the effect upon them of even a measure of freedom, he will realize that the members of the community would have reason to be grateful to him not for his beneficence but for his wisdom.

Free Acres differs from other communities in that it requires no profession of belief, religion, adherence to the "Single Tax" or any other social doctrine or practice. It does not seek to control its members. There are laws enough already, God knows, for that. Our practical constitution and by-laws are, in the words of John F. Tucker (a distinguished Socialist and an early member of Free Acres) "to pay your rent and mind your own business."

In the words of our Constitution we desire "to create a community for the study and demonstration of problems of self-government, social progress and taxation where all shall be mutually helpful and free from all forms of monopoly of natural resources, in order to secure to all equality of opportunity and to each a full reward of efforts."

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