

had dug the bottom of the ocean; the contour of the hills; the proximity to a great city, that no miracle of theirs put there; the speed and comfort of modern transport; the benefits of public enterprise; the amenities of civilized life; and in general all the advantages that attach to land by what nature and the community have done to make life worth living at that spot.

The price of £85,000 "was not accepted." In the sacred name of private property in land, the possessors chose to hold these resources out of use—to stand in the way of industry and employment and the making of homes—until someone is prepared to pay a higher price.

This dog-in-the-manger policy has its counterpart

in and around all our cities and towns. The modest "penny in the £" has now to be taken into the reckoning. It will speak persuasively to all who would profit by foreclosing against the growth of population and gamble with its necessities. It is a tax that cannot be passed on in higher prices. On the contrary this just (yet all too insufficient) payment to the community of the land value that belongs to the community will loosen the grip of the monopoly. The price of land now held out of use will fall. That is the condition necessary for the solution of the unemployment problem, the raising of wages and the freedom to go ahead with all kinds of urgent social development.

A. W. M.

## GLIMPSES OF AMERICA

By Ashley Mitchell

Last November I left England on a business trip to America taking with me, besides samples of Yorkshire worsted cloths, greetings from the United Committee and the International Union to followers of Henry George in the Western Hemisphere.

The first step of my journey was to Canada. It is a beautiful sail up the River St. Lawrence; the shipping company provide passengers with an informing pamphlet describing the places seen from the steamer.

In the opening paragraph the pamphlet states, "The World's treasures are brought to Canada's door by this greatest of rivers." It omits to add that the Canadian Government endeavours by high tariff walls to neutralize this great natural advantage, and one realizes that like all the countries on the American Continent, the official policy in Canada is to treat the people as if they were dangerous lunatics by isolating them and their trade as much as possible from contact with the rest of the world.

In Toronto there is a fine body of our co-workers. At a small gathering of friends I had the pleasure of greeting again A. C. Thompson, who was at the Edinburgh Conference, Sydenham Thompson, L. B. Walling and Mrs Barker, and their President, Mr Phillips and treasurer, Dr Floyd. Given a favourable opportunity the single-taxers of Toronto are competent to give a good account of themselves.

Eastern Canada is a land so richly endowed by nature that unemployment and poverty, in view of the sparse population, must be difficult for the thoughtful man to understand.

The next stage of my journey was to New York, that overwhelming town of which the only fitting adjective is colossal. My time there was so short that I was unable to call upon many old friends but had the delight of spending a little time with the President of the International Union, Charles O. C. Hennessy and of meeting again J. J. Murphy and others at a little gathering at the house of Mrs Anna George de Mille. (This meeting was reported in *Land & Liberty* for January.)

Unemployment and stark poverty are rampant in New York, and our friends were glad to be able to shelve the topic of their depression for a time to discuss affairs on our side of the Atlantic. It is deplorable that the worst efforts of our stunt press should be so freely published in America. The prevailing impression of our political situation was that the Labour Government had about a week to live! I was able to clear the atmosphere of such confusion and to assure them that it was quite likely that the present Parliament would last for some time yet.

Then the question was, "Will he do it this time?"

By the time these lines are published, Mr Snowden himself will have answered that question. On this point I was struck by the statement repeated in every circle of Single Taxers visited on the journey, that an example from Britain would be a mighty encouragement to our movement everywhere else in the world.

Leaving New York by steamer for Valparaiso, via the Panama Canal, I went ashore at various places, *e.g.*, Colon, Panama; Callao for a visit to Lima, the capital of Peru. This article is concerned only with the political economic conditions in the countries visited, and not with descriptions of the natural beauty about which much could be written. The poverty of the poorest classes in Peru especially is simply abject, the housing conditions in the poorest part of Callao are indescribable, and the rags seen passing as clothing made a harassing sight to a textile manufacturer. Revolution follows revolution in Peru, but landlordism reigns triumphant through every change of Government.

Valparaiso, Chile, is a fine city in beautiful surroundings. As elsewhere the first impression is of the tariff wall; the local papers report the weekly takings of the brigands on the quay. One is not long in the town before hearing in casual conversation of the fortunes made in land speculation.

From Valparaiso to Los Andes, the station where the transandine train is joined, the journey lies through the Vale of Paradise (this part of Chile, unlike the north part, does have rain), the Garden of Eden must have borne some resemblance to that beautiful valley, but the evident poverty of the labourers amidst such fertility can only be due to "the robber who takes all that is left" after the customs and other brigands have satisfied themselves.

The railway journey over the Andes, is surely one of the most beautiful trips in the world; the construction of the line is a triumph of British engineering. What a mockery that men who can accomplish such wonderful feats cannot abolish involuntary poverty. It can only be because they are prevented from doing so.

Leaving Valparaiso at 8 a.m., Mendoza, in Argentina, is reached at 11 p.m. From there to Buenos Aires is another 19 hours. The day journey across the Argentine plains is an eye-opener. The great fertility of the land must be seen to be believed; it could only be fully appreciated by a farmer from the heath lands of Denmark. Watered by copious rains and possessing a great depth of rich dark red soil the crops are marvellous, the pastures rank with vegetation. Argentina is 12 times as large as Great Britain, and has a population of only ten millions. Fifty millions of people could be lonely in that

wonderful land.

Buenos Aires, with one-fifth of the population of the whole country, is a busy city with narrow crowded streets and some fine main avenues. Rents in the city must be almost as high as in New York. Houses which would let in England for £100/£150 are priced there at £250/£350. The sustained prosperity of the country from 1924 to 1929 has led to inflated values in both town and country. In consequence of the break in prices of cereals landowners are having to whistle for their rents and farmers are bankrupt.

As soon as the claims of business permitted, the writer called at the office of our associates, the Confederacion Georgista Argentina. Fortunately the curse of Babel was alleviated by the lingual abilities of Sr Alberto Alves de Lima who had just returned from a trip to Europe. Sr de Lima is a Brazilian in business with his brother Octaviano, who resides at San Paulo. Space does not permit an attempt to describe Octaviano's great activity for the cause, but that the activities of Henry George men in South Brazil are not without result is seen in the decree made recently. Alberto de Lima spends six months of each year in Buenos Aires and helps our friends in Argentina. His enthusiasm for the cause was worth travelling to South America to see, and his courteous hospitality and fine bearing put me in mind of the passage in *Social Problems*—"The deliverers, the liberators . . . have always been those who were moved by the sight of injustice and misery rather than those spurred by their own suffering."

At a little gathering in Buenos Aires the writer met as fine and enthusiastic a body of workers as could be produced anywhere. Only a few of those present would be over 40 years of age. Their keenness was shown by the questions put to the visitor, e.g., what is the best method of propaganda? The truth of the gospel of Henry George is surely proved by the way all racial and national prejudices are completely dissolved by it. At that meeting of brown-eyed, Spanish-speaking men the writer felt as much at home as if he had been in a meeting of Single Taxers in Glasgow. Their Secretary, Sr J. B. Bellagamba, is a fine intellectual type who has been and is a great leader for our cause in South America. The Chair was taken by ex-Senator Dr Alberto Dunieu. In the course of the discussion, the chairman spoke so strongly of the value to the cause of a lead by Great Britain, that the writer, having found the same view held so strongly at other places, asked Dr Dunieu to put his statement into writing; here it is:—

Translation: "England can and should render a great service to the world movement for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade as advocated by Henry George. Perfectly secure in the democratic institutions engrained in the life and mind of its people, free from the political difficulties that to-day disturb the minds of many countries on the American Continent, it has a real opportunity to promoté by example the cause of economic justice.

"The present moment is most opportune in view of the world crisis and the unsettlement and confusion existing on the American Continent."

After a few days spent in Monte Video, Uruguay and a short stay in Rio de Janeiro, a place of such beauty that it must be mentioned even here, I arrived back in England in February. In the course of my journey I set foot in eight countries on the American Continent and in all of them it was plain to see, as in Europe, that the common people are in poverty because they are trespassers in the land of their birth; that the existing economic conditions are exactly as described in *Progress and Poverty*; and until the recognition of the right of all mankind to a share in the bounty of the Creator is granted there can be no permanent peace and prosperity.

## OUR ESSAY COMPETITION

### Prizes Awarded

The Essay Competition conducted by the Henry George Foundation closed on the 24th March and the Trustees of the Foundation, announce their adjudication as follows:—

Essays were received from 180 entrants in the Senior Group and 14 in the Junior Group.

The awards offered amounted in all to £125 for the Seniors and £75 for the Juniors. In the case of the Seniors, so many essays were of equal standard that the Trustees felt justified in departing from the original scale set forth in the Prospectus. Instead of awarding two first prizes of £25 each, they distributed the corresponding amount so as to increase the number of £5 prizes. Accordingly the total of £125 has been made up with three £10 prizes, fifteen £5 prizes and ten £2 prizes.

#### SENIOR GROUP

£10 Awards: Wm. McLennan, Glasgow; F. Mero, Budapest; and D. E. Peddie, Winnipeg.

£5 Awards: J. E. Handley, Glasgow; H. F. Hardacre, Brisbane, Queensland; J. T. Haxton, St. Andrews; R. W. Jackson, Bristol; M. A. Murchison, Melbourne, Australia; Harold Page, London, S.W.11; G. W. A. Robinson, Leyton, E.17; G. F. Robson, Spennymoor, Durham; Miss Berta Rode, Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany; J. W. Ruddock, London, N.W.6; J. D. Slater, Rossendale, Lancs; Henry Smith, Oxford; W. Waddington, Coventry; G. E. Watkins, Hull; and G. R. Watmough, Cambridge.

£2 Awards: S. H. Baker, Bath; J. P. Boyle, Bradford; F. M. Higgs, Moorabbin, Australia; A. Lerner, London, E.2; H. Morrill, London, S.W.20; H. R. Reece, Dinas, Rhondda; R. A. Reed, Devonport; J. Slater, Clitheroe, Lancs; G. Tulloch, Busby, Glasgow; and H. J. Twigg, Prestwich, Manchester.

#### JUNIOR GROUP

£5 Awards: Miss E. Alderson, Hull; R. E. Matthews, London, S.W.12; and D. H. Tagg, Levenshulme, Manchester.

£4 Awards: C. S. B. Attlee, Shrewsbury; S. E. Banyard, Ely, Cambs; J. L. Copeland, Whalley, Birmingham; W. A. Holt, Bingley, Yorks; and C. Huddy, Ashburton.

£2 Awards: R. J. L. Curtis, Wembley; J. A. May, Thames Ditton; W. J. Meredith, Barrow-in-Furness; Miss V. M. Simpton, Coventry; A. H. Smith, Southsea; and J. Whiteside, Harrow.

Each of the competitors will receive by post notification of the result, which is also announced in *The Times* Educational Supplement and *The Times* Literary Supplement of 6th June.

### The Competition Renewed

The Trustees of the Henry George Foundation (the United Committee) have decided to continue the Competition for another year.

There is no Entry Fee. The Essay subject is:—

*Land Value Taxation and the Remission of Taxes upon Trade and Industry: Explain this Policy and Discuss its Merits as a Possible Remedy for Unemployment and Business Depression.*

The awards offered for the current Competition total £100, made up as follows:—One of £20; One of £15; Three of £10 each; Seven of £5 each.

The Prospectus with full particulars (Second Year, 1931-32) is obtainable on application to the Henry George Foundation, 94 Petty France, S.W.1.