

would use the public product—land rent—for public use and cease confiscating private property by taxation. Ogden Mills is right. He is "getting warm." See the leading editorial in *The Wall Street Journal*, April 20, 1935, entitled "Property and Freedom."

DR. C. J. LAVERY.

ENLIGHTENING THE RURAL NEW YORKER

T. A. McHenry of this city has written the following letter to the *Rural New Yorker*:

I read your paper every week to bring a whiff of boyhood country days into the ninth floor room of a skyscraper.

Now, your leading editorial this week states "road surfacing adds \$21 per acre to farm values," and you approve using a tax on gasoline to pay for it.

Permit me to re-word this sentence as follows: "The benefit of improved roads is reflected in higher values for farm land, and, therefore, their cost should be paid by gasoline users."

Or, if I may presume further, let us assume a builder erects a \$1,000 barn and upon presenting his bill to the farmer, he is told to stop every motor vehicle passing by and extract four cents a gallon on gasoline used until he collects the bill.

Now, Mr. Editor, don't get mad or call me a doctrinaire as I am a good American citizen, but can you untangle this knot?

TOM JOHNSON'S STATUE

Now that the nightmare is over, one may describe what to some was the most heartening spectacle at the convention. This was seeing men and women from over the country standing before the fine statue of Tom Johnson in the public park, several blocks west of the Auditorium where the sessions were held, finding out for the first time about the inventor, street railway operator, steel producer, Mayor of Cleveland, who gave his fortune and life, as he so often expressed it, to make his city "a happier place to live in, a better place to die in."

Situated on a spot which he dedicated to freedom of speech, the statue represents Johnson seated and holding a copy of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." Johnson, under whose leadership Cleveland became known as "the best-governed city in the United States," died in 1911.

It was not by accident that the sculptor chose the historic book which the father of the Single Tax idea brought out in 1879. Before he read Henry George's gospel, Tom Loftin Johnson had been concerned chiefly with piling up a fortune for himself. After that, he gave his whole time for the welfare of the rank and file. He had invented the first street car fare box for coins; he had invented a type of car rail and the machine for rolling it.

As a Cleveland street railway operator, he had competed with the system owned by Mark Hanna. His steel interests had made him piles of money. Under social convictions as the result of his experience in reading "Progress and Poverty" and his contacts with its author, for whom he campaigned in New York City mayoralty races, Johnson first went to Congress, where he became an ardent advocate of free trade, although steel was a highly protected industry.

The broad shouldered, kindly, eloquent Johnson did not care for Congress because of its detachment from the people. It was in city government, he concluded, that most could be done by men who stand for the interests of ordinary men and women, and it was as Mayor of Cleveland that he did his memorable work. Elected first in 1901 and re-elected three times, he based his methods on his belief that the disgraceful city government of the time could be regenerated only through an informed and interested electorate.

Johnson took every issue directly to the voters. He had no radio but he did have a vast tent which seated 5,000 people. Moved from one part of the city to another during the campaign, this great canopy was a public forum in the fullest sense of the term. Questions were invited and answered. No one's story could have been more informal

than Tom Johnson's. No citizen was too humble to feel at home at his meetings for municipal ownership of street cars, home rule, just taxation and low fares. As the inscription on the statue says:

"Beyond his party and beyond his class,
This man forsook the few to serve the mass." •

IRVING DILLIARD, columnist in *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

VICTORIA, B. C. SINGLE TAXERS SUBMIT BRIEF

Taking the reverse position of the arguments advanced by the civic authorities and real estate groups, the Henry George Club of Victoria has circulated the provincial government and members of the B. C. Legislature, urging that land taxes be increased and improvement taxes cut down.

The brief states:

"That both province and cities increase taxes on land values and decrease them on improvements, and we strongly urge that municipalities still be allowed to exempt improvements altogether; also than no more British Columbia land be alienated, but leased to land users for what it will bring, with periodical revaluations and corresponding increases in the rental charged."

The brief was presented by Alexander Hamilton, president, and F. W. Davey, secretary, as an answer to representations made by civic and real estate bodies who urged the government in February to consider a shift of taxation lightening the burden on land and throwing it onto improvements.—*Victoria Daily Times*.

MUST WORK ACCORDING TO HER LIGHTS

Replying to a letter of solicitation for contributions to aid the starving people of China a lady well known to some of us replies as follows:

"In reply to your letter of June 1, I regret that, while appreciating the magnitude and humanity of your work for China Famine Relief, the acute situation in which the whole world finds itself today leads me to cut down more and more my contributions to philanthropic and alleviative work and to devote whatever resources I have to forwarding the social philosophy and economic programme of Henry George, which strikes at the root of our troubles and aims at permanent relief through the abolition of so much need for it. In this connection I am naturally interested in the statement of Chinese officials, reported in your little clipping, that the famine in China is due to Communist raids—an immediate cause, perhaps, but what shall one say of the age-old economic flaws in this, as in other countries, which produce not only the famine but the extreme swings toward both Communism and Facism which aggravate such conditions? We must each work according to our best light and you will understand why, holding my convictions over a long period of years, I feel that, at this crisis in world affairs, I must throw all my force into the struggle to secure an equitable basic social structure for all mankind, present and future."

TRIBUTE TO FRANK STEPHENS FROM SOLOMON S. COHEN

Clearminded, firm in his grasp of principles, he taught the simple gospel of the right of man to the use of the earth; of the equality of opportunity; of the right of every man to do as he wills, so long as he infringes not upon the equal right of any other. He taught, though perhaps he knew it not, the doctrine of the Hebrew Bible, seldom translated properly—"Thou shalt love for thy neighbor that which thou lovest for thyself." He realized, as few except Henry George have realized, the economic and fiscal importance of the Single Tax; but he also realized, as did George, the overwhelming importance of the moral aspect of the movement. He realized that questions of political economy and of governmental revenues are of importance only as they are necessary conditions of the existence of human beings in communities, and thus go to shape the character and destinies of the community and its members.

RIGHT TO ACQUIRE TAX-DELINQUENT LAND REDUCES TAX DELINQUENCY

As a means of adding to the municipality's land holdings, the Act authorizing the town of Collierville, Tenn., to operate "an enclave