

LAND AND FREEDOM

An International Bi-Monthly Magazine of Single Tax progress

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JOSEPH DANA MILLER, Editor

HERMAN G. LOEW, Pres., 302 Broadway, New York City

GEORGE R. MACY, Sec., 150 Nassau Street, N. Y. City

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

ENGLAND: J. W. Graham Peace.

NEW ZEALAND: Hon. P. J. O'Regan, Wellington.

SPAIN: A. Matheu Alonso, Salamanca.

DENMARK: Abel Brink, Copenhagen.

BULGARIA: Lasar Karaivanove, Plovdiv.

MEXICO: Prof. R. B. Brinsmade,
Av. Centenario 219, San Luis Potosi City, Mexico.

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WHAT LAND AND FREEDOM STANDS FOR

Taking the full rent of land for public purposes insures the fullest and best use of all land. In cities this would mean more homes and more places to do business and therefore lower rents. In rural communities it would mean the freedom of the farmer from land mortgages and would guarantee him full possession of his entire product at a small land rental to the government without the payment of any taxes. It would prevent the holding of mines idle for the purpose of monopoly and would immensely increase the production and therefore greatly lower the price of mine products.

Land can be used only by the employment of labor. Putting land to its fullest and best use would create an unlimited demand for labor. With an unlimited demand for labor, the job would seek the man, not the man seek the job, and labor would receive its full share of the product.

The freeing from taxation of all buildings, machinery, implements and improvements on land, all industry, thrift and enterprise, all wages, salaries, incomes and every product of labor and intellect, will encourage men to build and to produce, will reward them for their efforts to improve the land, to produce wealth and to render the services that the people need, instead of penalizing them for these efforts as taxation does now.

It will put an end to legalized robbery by the government which now pries into men's private affairs and exacts fines and penalties in the shape of tolls and taxes on every evidence of man's industry and thrift.

All labor and industry depend basically on land, and only in the measure that land is attainable can labor and industry be prosperous. The taking of the full Rent of Land for public purposes would put and keep all land forever in use to the fullest extent of the people's needs, and so would insure real and permanent prosperity for all.

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

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Comment and Reflection

A GAIN we protest against the misuse of the word "radical." Every half-baked thinker on economics with some crazy scheme for social amelioration is dubbed a "radical." Now radical means going to the root. In this sense the 25th chapter of Leviticus is radical, as are Isaiah, Moses and Henry George. Socialists and communists may be superficial, even dangerous, but they are never radical. A radical is one who "thinks through."

THE touchstone of economic wisdom, the foundation that must be laid before we speculate as to the superstructure, is freedom. This is the negation of all planning, of all restriction and regulation. A true society is not built in this way. We must begin with assuming the voluntary cooperation of individuals, to the essential success of which all existing restrictions must be removed. The field then is left free for the normal development of society out of healthy natural impulses.

THE thought carries us far and wider. Tennyson wrote: "The individual withers and the world is more and more." The exact reverse is true, for despite the complications of government and the encroachments of the state there is at bottom an increasing impatience with the meddling of parliamentarianism, which in some degree accounts for the phenomenon of dictatorships which seeks to throw all this aside. It matters not for the moment if the individual is sunk in the prevailing ascendancy of dictators springing from the very impatience of nations with the futile pottering of legislation. Dictators are a natural reaction to the failure of society to get itself straightened out on the bread and butter question which we call economics.

SO, contrary to Tennyson, the struggle is still with the individual. He does not wither while the world grows more and more, but with increasing intelligence, as well as with increasing impatience, he beats the sides of his cage while he struggles to escape. He is striving to free himself from the same restrictions which short-sighted reformers like the socialists seek to impose. It is not to exaggerate when we say that the constant if

not always conscious struggle of mankind has been to escape government.

THE prevalence of dictatorships is not due to the failure of democracy since democracy has not been tried. Nor is it wholly due to the slave-mindedness developed in vast masses of the people by poverty and misery. The latter explains in part the ease with which dictators have slipped into power. But it has other reasons which we have indicated. Not that democracy has failed, but that those, in whose control it was, have failed to make it work.

DEMOCRACY has seemingly failed in its artificial devices. These devices are now revealed in their naked impotency. Hailed with unbounded enthusiasm by the reformers they have amounted to but little. Among these are the secret ballot, the Initiative and Referendum, the Recall, Commission Government for cities, etc., etc. These devices were intended to realize the efficiency of an improved democracy. On the whole they have turned out to be bitter disappointments.

IN a larger field the League of Nations, Woman Suffrage, Disarmament, Prohibition and the Repeal of Prohibition, have all failed to redeem the glory of their promise. And the corruption of cities is probably as deep and wide-spread as it ever was. We turn out Tammany Hall once or twice in every decade because the Hall seems to represent, whether justly or not, the forces most abhorrent to the friends of good government. But there must be something not entirely without merit in the organization which returns so repeatedly to power. Either that, or the human side of the organization finds its appeal among the poor and lowly.

CERTAINLY the revelations of committees appointed to disclose corruption in the high places of our city governments, as notably the Seabury investigation, and the many similar committees of inquiry that have preceded it, show nothing but the futility of such investigations. They help to focus attention on some aspiring politician, who momentarily flickers, moth-fashion, in the political limelight. And that is all. It seems not to have occurred to these gentlemen that the little im-

provement they strive for, the small corruptions they would abolish, are as nothing compared to the basic wrongs from which after all most of these lesser wrongs spring. The hope to rid ourselves by jailing offenders is a childish delusion. But, as we say, it is of momentary advantage to some Lexow, Raines or Jerome. Maybe these investigations have their uses as civic spasms. But history tells how little lasting are their effects.

THE shallowness and superficiality that characterize these futile investigations into various systems of municipal corruption, the regularly recurring fanfare which makes front-page news, serve no useful purpose, and the suspicion grows that they are not meant to serve any. No hint is forthcoming from any one starting or controlling these investigations as to what should be done about it. With more than half of the population in want or in fear of want the division in part of this population into a dependent class on one side and a predatory class on the other is inevitable with all that flows from it. Hereafter it will be well for those appointed to take part in such investigation to consider not whom it is intended to discredit, but for whose particular glorification it was designed. In short, cui bono?

AS there is a superficiality wide-spread in current reasoning so in phraseology. We have been wondering who are the "economic royalists" referred to by Mr. Roosevelt to describe a group not clearly identified. We concede that they may be undesirable but who are they? What do they represent? We were a little puzzled by the term Tories whom we linked up with the little pants presser in Jersey City and those who would make him a member—a rather insignificant one, it seemed to us—of what Professor Tugwell calls "a disciplined industry," all industrialists, great and small, being so many bad little boys to be whipped and sent to bed.

ONE of the ablest democratic leaders who has "walked out" is Joseph B. Ely, former governor of Massachusetts. In an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* of July 4 he gives his reasons for refusing to support President Roosevelt for reelection. He does not realize the significance of much that he says—that we fear is obvious. It is even a little exasperating to find him stumbling over the truth and then shying away from it—quite unintentionally, we believe.

HE quotes Jefferson as follows:

"A wise and frugal government which shall restrain men from injuring one another, which shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvements, and shall not take from the mouths of labor the bread it has earned."

Mr. Ely comments as follows:

"That was the ideal—the American ideal of political and economic freedom. That was our heritage—the greatest heritage ever received by any people in the world's history. And during the years we have neglected our heritage. We have allowed it to be violated. In the rush to conquer a new continent, in the concentration necessary to build up the greatest industrial nation the world has ever seen, we have failed to guard against encroachments on our freedom."

DOES he really sense the significance of the following:

"No, there will be little said about the real underlying issue. That will have to wait for another four years—perhaps longer. But sooner or later, it must be faced and the answer must be given."

YES, indeed the answer must be given. In another part of his article he says:

"We were not visited by these destructive forces because we believed in political and economic freedom. Ample proof can be found in the fact that the depression is world-wide, whereas political and economic freedom, unfortunately, is not."

GOVERNOR ELY has placed his foot on the first step of the threshold. He has knocked at the door. No one with voice comparable to his in weight and influence has come so near to indicating the real problem. We thank him. Will he now go on from where he has stopped? It is but a little way; his words unlike the ballyhoo to which we have been accustomed to listen mean something. He may not know all it means—we suspect he does not. But he hears the ringing of the bells in the steeple; he knows the direction and will find the church.

IT may be well to elaborate somewhat on the message of Governor Ely to the American people, so that our readers may sense its importance. He says: "We cannot have a planned economy under the American system." Governor Ely is one of the few men whose opposition to the Roosevelt programme is really important. He sees that something more is required than the defeat of the administration and the New Deal. He sees that to guard against a recurrence of another four years of un-American experimentation it is necessary also to defeat the insidious forces which working from without have determined the character of much of our legislation. He seeks to restore what he calls "a free economy," but he has his own idea about that and he is very positive that there is a real underlying issue, a problem to which sooner or later "an answer must be given." He therefore goes beyond the merely negative criticism of Roosevelt which is common enough, but advances to occupy what is the real battleground of the future.

flower. Drought and flood may intervene, cold and frost wither the blossoms, but deep down beneath the surface works still the eternal urge. The analogy that is suggested in the seed growth of the vital earth holds good of every moral truth that has its seed-time of planting and its certain and ultimate harvest.

The Superstition of a Street

WHEN superficial thinkers seek to picture real or imaginary abuses in our economic system they resort to symbolism. They are in the habit of referring to Wall street as if it included nearly all the evils to which we are subject. This attitude of mind we have ventured to call "the superstition of a street." There is a fatal facility in this mental process that makes the segment of the picture stand for the entire canvas.

Wall street is no more representative of economic conditions in any real sense than Minetta Lane. It is true that here is carried on the financial business of a number of powerful oligarchies, including that of the "international bankers" whom Father Coughlin is accustomed to villify. Here are the homes of the Morgan, Mellon and Rockefeller interests. But here too are the infinite variety of productive enterprises, in the smooth functioning of which our vast network of trade and commerce depends. And little originates here that is not inherent in the economic conditions of the country and the world.

We have monopolies; monopoly is a fact. Many of those who profit by it do business in Wall street as they do in other parts of the country. Legitimate and illegitimate securities are dealt in here as elsewhere and it would not alter the situation one iota if Wall street should disappear overnight. All that is baneful in American economic life would continue.

It is true that financial and industrial groups influence legislation and mould the character of government, not only as they exist in Wall street but as they exist everywhere in this broad land. Wall street is typical of the good and bad, the true and false economics that govern the wide ramifications of national and international business.

We hear much of the "money changers." Who are they? We know of a few in Washington who changed the dollar to 59.06. But Wall street opposed the change. What is "money changing" anyhow? We believe it is the legitimate banking function which concerns itself with foreign exchange, drafts, checks, etc., all of which facilitate business. Nor may we criticize the capitalization of privilege, for it is there to capitalize.

We hold no brief for Wall street. Some of the friends of privilege congregate there. But why not attack privilege? Is it not a fact that most of the business of Wall street finds its real stumbling block in the capitalization of land values which holds its place in any balance sheet and drops towards zero with every depression. Such

values are only hopes accompanied by fears and are the basic unsettling influence of the market.

This we can depend upon, that those who mistake symptoms for causes and talk about Wall street are honestly mistaken or are indulging in pure demagoguery. Besides, such teaching conceals the true source of our troubles in setting the hounds on a false scent.

We Appeal For A Little Discernment

THE Henry George School of Social Science is doing wonderful work. Its remarkable growth is a matter for fervent congratulation. But let us remember that there is no superlatively best among the activities for the furtherance of the cause. We think sometimes that because of the phenomenal growth of the School we are prone to lose sight of the value of other activities.

Prior to the School, apart from but cooperating with the School as one of its activities, reaching a clientele the School cannot reach, is the Schalkenbach Foundation. We wonder how many of our friends stop to consider this. The Foundation is estopped by its charter from indulging in political activities. Even if it were not so, wisdom would dictate this course. It could not reach the kind of men and women it reaches if its course were political. Great credit should be given to its early founders in the organization chief among whom are Messrs. Hennessy and Root, for their work in building up the prestige of Henry George in subtle and persistent efforts to contact editors, professors and leaders of economic thought, as well as educational groups. This neither the School nor the ordinary Henry George Organizations could successfully do. No political organization could forward the kind of contacts of which columnists like Leslie Eichel and the articles from Dun and Bradstreet agencies are the fruit. Henry George people have not understood the work of the Foundation from 1926 to 1935. Given the limited amounts the Foundation has had to work with it has carried on the war on a broad front.

The debt owed by the movement to the Schalkenbach Foundation is incalculable, as those familiar with its history know.

THE methods by which a trade union can alone act, are necessarily destructive; its organization is necessarily tyrannical. A strike, which is the only recourse by which a trade union can enforce its demands, is a destructive contest.—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

WHAT a noble income would be that of a Duke of New York, a Marquis of Philadelphia, or a Count of San Francisco, who would administer the government of these municipalities for fifty per cent of present waste and stealage!—SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

Proceedings of The London Conference

LONDON, September 10. Last Saturday there was an adjournment here, after five days of active sessions, of the Fifth International Conference of the followers of Henry George, under the banner of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

It may be said with moderation that this Conference was, in many respects, the most important of its kind yet held. The ordinarily conservative British press gave a great amount of publicity to the proceedings from day to day, especially outside of London, in such centers of population as Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow and Edinburgh. But even in London importance was attached to the Conference by the great London *Times* which on the day after the opening address of President Hennessy of New York, reviewing the critical political and economic conditions of the world, gave prominent news lead to the subject—and on succeeding days had fairly adequate reports of the proceedings.

It should be said that the Conference was notable also for the excellence and importance of the addresses made, and the active and interesting discussions that were evoked by the consideration of the more important topics. The president's address on This Discontented World is printed elsewhere in this issue.

The fact that the Conference was dealing in the main with discussions relating to the economic causes of war and industrial depression, with incidental references to the class struggle going on in Spain, may have accounted for the interest of the British press in the proceedings.

Through the commendable foresight and enterprise of the Managing Committee of the Conference, and the Secretaries Messrs. Arthur Madsen and F. C. R. Douglas, neatly printed copies of the scheduled Conference addresses were circulated in advance of delivery. A valuable paper by Hon. Lawson Purdy of New York which had not been printed in advance, was also provided by cyclostyle process for the delegates. These printed papers will constitute for interested Georgeists a most valuable collection.

They will shortly be on sale by the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain. It is hoped that quantities of these may be on hand and procurable of the Schalkenbach Foundation in this city.

SOME NOTABLE ADDRESSES

Not to mention the keynote address of the President of the Conference, which received so much publicity, there were other most notable addresses fit to be retained among the permanent literature of the Georgeist movement. Distinguished among these might be mentioned the message delivered by Bue Bjorner, a substantial business man of Copenhagen, who made a most incisive analysis of the extraordinary trade restrictions set up for the control of exports and imports by the Danish Govern-

ment four and one-half years ago. The entire foreign trade of the kingdom has been put under the control of a department of the Danish National Bank. A doubling by Germany of tariffs affecting the imports of Danish butter and other produce, and adverse currency conditions affecting Danish exchange, were some of the reasons for the setting up of the extraordinary regulation of both imports and exports adopted by the Danes. The theory behind these regulations was a safeguarding of the Danish currency system, and a desire to improve employment and production, while giving the Danish controllers of the elaborate restriction system opportunity to make advantageous trade bargains with other countries. The system was complicated in detail and put the whole import trade of the country under the control of office functionaries who had little understanding of trade practices and needs. The result of the operation of the system, Mr. Bjorner demonstrated, was not only a failure to accomplish what was aimed at, but to greatly restrict and hamper merchants of the country in their normal business, and make what was a temporary industrial depression into a permanent one.

STATE INTERFERENCE IN INDUSTRY

In the same direction as the address of Mr. Bjorner was one upon the evil economic effects of State-imposed regulations and interference with natural processes in the economic world, by H. Kolthek of Groningen, Holland, a recognized student of international questions. "That in these days Europe stands shuddering again at the brink of war," said Mr. Kolthek, "is in no slight degree the consequence of the way in which governments have meddled with the normal economic life of their people." In Holland and elsewhere, it was pointed out, the whole mass of relief measures imposed upon the people involved repeated infringements of the natural order and of personal liberty. Often the unemployed had to submit to humiliating control of their dealings. In exchange for subsidies farmers had to agree to all sorts of regulations for the management of their farms. Many industries that received direct or indirect government aid must adhere to stipulations regarding their working methods, the kind of things produced, and their quantity and price. It was not strange then, Mr. Kolthek declared, that government intervention involved stupidity, incompetence and sometimes venality in the public control of private business—all of it ending in larger burdens of taxes and prices upon the mass of the population.

LAND QUESTION IN RUSSIA

One of the most interesting addresses was made by M. Daudé-Bancel, the editor of *Terre et Liberté*, Paris, his topic being the evolution of the land ownership system

in Russia. He spoke in French, quite eloquently, and a rendering in English was made to the Conference by a British schoolmaster, Mr. Frank McEachran. It was a most scholarly dissertation. In old Russia, under the Czar, the system of private land monopoly was very bad, and there was a passionate yearning by the *mujik* or peasant class to possess a bit of land. The Soviet Government after the Revolution failed to carry out any really fundamental land reform, but under the pretext of achieving Marxism, they put in operation the most extensive experiment of State Capitalism ever conceived. The land of Russia was partitioned for the benefit of the *mujiks* without plan or method. The uneducated peasants were unprepared for Communist life, and in most cases unfitted to replace the old landed proprietors whose estates had been confiscated and split up. The result was disorder all over Russia, and famine as its inevitable consequence. The Soviet dictatorship has more than once modified the details of the collectivist farms now owned by the government, but operated by large cooperative groups in which individual ownership in the farming regions is strictly limited. The *mujik* can own no more than his family house with a small garden or orchard attached, his fowls, and a single cow. If he had more than one cow he was considered a *kulak*, and treated as such. When the government in 1928-1929, in face of the insolvency of the peasants, saw their incapacity to guarantee normal production, they proceeded to collectivise the lands of the *mujiks*. There was resentment, because the Russian peasant desired above all things individual property in land. The more intelligent and prosperous of the peasants incited the poor *mujiks* to strike and to produce only enough for the needs of their own families. The leaders of the rebels though most of them lived in a small and moderate way, employing little hired labor, were officially designated as *kulaks*. These leaders of the revolt against State bureaucracy were punished terribly. About 2,500,000 of them were expropriated from their possessions, and scattered across the country with or without their families. Since then the government has modified its land policy in some favorable respects. It is difficult to summarize M. Daudé-Bancel's paper which ought to be read by everyone interested in the Russian land question.

ESTIMATE OF HENRY GEORGE

A remarkable survey of the life, character and influence of Henry George was contained in an Address by Jakob E. Lange of Denmark, the scholarly translator of "Progress and Poverty," into Danish. In the absence of Mr. Lange on account of poor health, this paper was read acceptably by Lange's countryman, Bue Bjorner. The conclusion was eloquent:

"This then is the answer to the Sphinx's riddle: Equality, Freedom, Justice, Peace—call it what you like, these

are only different aspects of the same thing; these are the true life-giving elements of human progress, the real pillars of human society. Followers of our great leader! This is the message to a world seemingly nearer at its fall than even Henry George saw it, but also with a grander future in store for it if true liberty and equality can be secured to call forth that brotherhood of man which alone can be the foundation stone of a new and higher, firmer universal humanity."

THE QUESTION OF COLONIES

A striking address was that of Mr. Ole Wang of Tonsberg, Norway, dealing comprehensively with the demand of certain nations, notably Germany, Italy and Japan, for Colonies. Mr. Wang spoke in excellent English, and held the close attention of a large audience. He examined the reasons ordinarily advanced for pushing the demand for Colonial possessions, and showed, categorically, the essential weakness and unreality of these demands. Ordinarily, it is claimed that certain nations must have Colonies in order that they may obtain supplies of raw materials for their industries; or that they must have markets for the surplus products of their industries; or that they must have room for increasing populations. Mr. Wang examined these contentions one by one in masterly detail, with conclusions acceptable to his audience, that destroyed the basic claims of nations to Colonial possessions. In view of the Italian defence of the brutal conquest of Ethiopia, and the recent demand of Herr Hitler for the return of the Colonies taken from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles, Mr. Wang's address in refutation of the usual expansionist theories seemed particularly valuable at this time.

LAND RIGHTS IN BRITISH COLONIES

A most interesting session was that presided over by Col. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P., to whom the audience gave a rousing welcome, the warmth of which was due, perhaps, to the fact that Col. Wedgwood had recently recovered from a serious illness. Under the title of "Colonial Systems of Land Tenure and Taxation" he delivered an interesting review of the land system that has been in operation in Northern Nigeria since 1910 when, through his influence as a member of a Government Committee, there was adopted the ordinance that insured to the natives the rights of the people to their land. "It is of little use," Col. Wedgwood said, "taking credit for the abolishing of chattel slavery if, with our eyes open, we allow economic slavery to take the place of the old outworn forms of compulsory labor. There is a slavery which locks up men's bodies; and there is a 'freedom' which indeed sets men's bodies free but locks up all they need for subsistence. We must emphasize that land in all colonies must be held in trust forever

ventured the prophecy, because of the lack of understanding and faith in the philosophy of freedom, that men would grow more accustomed to reliance upon the State for the working out of individual and national destiny. "We must note in the light of past experience," said Mr. McEachran, "that Marxist Communism appears to be the culmination of the evolution of a century, even if we think it is an undesirable culmination. The growth of land monopoly, of tariffs, of quotas, of currency restrictions, of taxation, etc., widening and hardening the hindrances to the free production, and leading to great relative poverty and unemployment—all point in the same direction. The worker, unable to find work, and the employer, unable to sell his goods, both appeal to the State and find in it their only salvation." The concluding sentence of an eloquent peroration was this: "The ancient world, with all its cultural splendor, died of the slave monopoly of Rome: let us beware lest our own die from a similar cause."

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

One of the most notable sessions of the Congress was that devoted to a discussion of the Henry George School of Social Science of New York, at which Miss Helen Denbigh delivered a moving testimony to the success of the New York School. She was roundly applauded at the conclusion. She was followed by Lancaster Greene of New York, a trustee and volunteer teacher of the School. His address was listened to with the greatest of interest and he afterwards effectively answered many questions from the floor. Mr. Greene's capacity for salesmanship and his intense earnestness captured the crowd. It is now understood that several Extension Classes of the School are soon to be established in Great Britain. The first class, with Leon MacLaren, the son of Andrew MacLaren, the well known M.P., has already got under way in London. There can be no doubt that the International Conference was a worth-while event, if for no other reason than that it proved to be the beginning of the extension of the New York School movement on the European continent. Already classes are being formed in Denmark and Holland.

ON HENRY GEORGE'S BIRTHDAY

The evening of September 2, anniversary of Henry George's birthday, was celebrated in the Conference Hall by a large gathering. President Hennessy in opening the proceedings quoted from the noble prophecy of Rabbi Gottheil at the funeral of Henry George. He pointed to the realization in the audience before him representing a number of European countries, of the truth of the prophecy.

Mr. R. R. Stokes, a well known London business man, gave an admirable address, followed by the reading of the address (already referred to) prepared for the occasion by the veteran Jakob E. Lange of Denmark. In his

absence on account of illness, the tribute was read with fine effect by Bue Bjorner, Mr. Lange's countryman. The proceedings were fittingly closed by an eloquent appeal address from Henry George's daughter, Anna George de Mille.

At the election of the officers at the close of the Conference President Hennessy declined re-election, but was complimented by the Conference by being selected as Honorary President or President Emeritus. The new President is Mr. Bue Bjorner of Copenhagen, a young man of outstanding ability and business experience, filled with enthusiasm for the Georgeist faith. President Hennessy paid a warm tribute to the character and ability of his successor. Mrs. Anna George de Mille was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents, and Hon. James Blauvelt, Hon. Lawson Purdy and Leonard Recker were elected to the Executive Committee of the Union.

GEORGEIST IDEAS IN MANY LANGUAGES

It must be said that the Conference arrangements were most excellent, thanks largely to the activities of Messrs. Madsen and Douglas, the secretaries. The organizers had not only circulated advance copies of the printed addresses of those in attendance, but had mailed many of them to numerous societies and associations. One document in this connection deserved particular notice, namely, a reprint of the comprehensive paper on "The Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression" which had been circulated at Geneva in a half dozen European languages, and the later memorandum issued at the time of the 1933 economic conference in London, which gathering, it is commonly asserted, was broken up by the word of Mr. Roosevelt to the American delegation not to enter into agreements as to currency stabilization or other international economic agreements.

The wide circulation by the Georgeist Conference of their point of view on world economic questions helped considerably in preparing for the remarkable publicity which the Conference achieved.

The Land Question in Spain

THE Spanish peasant, for generations, has suffered from "land hunger" just as the French and Russian peasants did before their revolutions. The land was held almost entirely by a small section of the community. They were immensely wealthy, while the peasant was desperately poor. In many parts of Spain the peasants received little or no education, and the amount of illiteracy was a disgrace to the country.

The government, therefore, decided that the land must be more evenly distributed. They didn't seize or confiscate it, but they bought it from the great landowners at the value which the landowners themselves had decided was just, when it was a question of taxation. In other words, the owners having assessed their land at a low value in order for years to pay the smallest possible taxes to the government were given that value for the land when the government decided to buy it from them—a decision in no way contravening the law of justice.

MONICA WHATELY in *Equal Rights*, Baltimore, Md.

conditions within the nations. After weeks of deliberation, that notable gathering found no difficulty in arriving at a practically unanimous conclusion as to the causes of world-wide industrial depression and the economic sources of international ill will. Mons. Theunis, then foreign Minister of Belgium, who drafted a review of the undisputed findings of the Conference, used language very like that which Dr. Butler is using today:

"The main trouble now," wrote Mons. Theunis, "is neither any material shortage of the resources of nature, nor any inadequacy in man's power to exploit them. It is all, in one form or another, a maladjustment—not an insufficient productive capacity, but a series of impediments to the full utilization of that capacity. The main obstacles to economic revival have been the hindrances opposed to the free flow of labor, of capital, and of goods."

But beyond the making of this accurate diagnosis of the causes of the world's illness, nothing was accomplished by that gathering of the economic physicians at Geneva. The hindrances to freedom of commerce which were then discovered by the representatives of 50 nations remain still to afflict the world, but magnified in intensity since that Conference by the extremes of nationalistic tendencies and the delusions of national self-sufficiency that have characterized the statesmanship of most of the great nations.

With some satisfaction we may recall that at that Economic Conference in Geneva this International Union of ours presented a notable Memorandum, printed in a number of European languages, wherein we emphasized the growing need and increasing significance of free intercourse and trade between nations, because the economic interdependence of peoples was now greater than ever before. The division of labor, we pointed out, had long transcended national boundaries and had become the economic basis of civilized life, so that, as it appeared to us, it had become the duty of governments to now reconcile the legitimate claims of nationalism with the economic internationalism which has grown up almost in spite of them.

We then pointed out that true free trade involved the establishment of international policies in every nation that would ensure to the people the destruction of the private monopoly of land and natural resources, so that freedom and justice might be established in the production and distribution of wealth. The impoverishment of peoples, the growth of unemployment, the reduction of wages, the gross inequalities in the distribution of wealth had given rise in all countries, we pointed out, to problems of more than national importance. A state of mind had been created among the masses which served to threaten internal strife and instability of governments. This truth of our message to Geneva nine years ago is now finding a terrible illustration in the savage civil war being waged in Spain, with its excesses of bitterness and cruelty unparalleled since the French Revolution. Thoughtful students of world affairs must recognize in this Spanish

strife a war between economic classes, those of a government on the one hand pledged to abolish ancient privileges of the few in the interest of greater economic opportunity for the many; and on the other hand those who would restore and preserve those privileges. That an age-old monopoly by a powerful few of the land of the country upon which many must depend for subsistence, is one of the major causes of this terrible struggle in Spain cannot, I believe, be questioned by any fair student of the situation. That the significance of the terrible struggle in Spain transcends the boundaries of that country must be obvious to those who have noted through the press the trend of the expressions of public sympathy for one side or the other in the Spanish conflict, as revealed in the new columns of the leading newspapers of the world. The fierce struggle of classes in Spain is but a sign and a symbol of what is smoldering beneath the surface of human society in many of the countries of the world.

Henry George, with marvellous prevision, in "Progress and Poverty," published more than half a century ago delineated in prophecy much that is happening in the world today:

"It is the delusion which precedes destruction," he wrote, "that sees in the popular unrest with which this civilized world is feverishly pulsing only the passing effect of ephemeral causes . . . We cannot go on prating of the inalienable rights of man and then denying the inalienable right to the bounty of the Creator. Even now in the old bottles the new wine begins to ferment and elemental forces gather for the strife! . . . In our time, as in times before, creep on the insidious forces that producing inequality, destroy liberty. On the horizon clouds begin to lower. Liberty calls to us again. We must follow her further. We must trust her fully. Either we must wholly accept her or she will not stay . . . But if while there is yet time we return to justice and obey her, if we trust liberty and follow her, the dangers that now threaten must disappear, the forces that now menace will turn to agencies of elevation."

It seems plain to us that until men within national boundaries are set free by access to natural opportunities through the destruction of land monopoly, and the reduction of tax burdens that bear so heavily on labor and its earnings, we cannot expect enduring peace at home in any land; nor until the manifold obstructions to freedom of trade between nations are done away with, can we expect enduring peace either within nations or between them. Governments will best serve their own people and the world when they learn to limit their chief functions to the establishment of the concepts of orderly justice and freedom. The legitimate concern of governments everywhere should, in our view, be not in doing things for people but in setting people free, under equality of right and opportunity, to do things for themselves; where honest toil and its just rewards will be open to all, and where the intellectual and spiritual emancipation of mankind may grow to glorious attainments in an atmosphere that, in the language of Henry George, "*will make war the pos-*

belittle the extraordinary political advancement made in various parts of the world.

But no one can deny that we need more readers for our periodicals, more support for our Foundations and that education must precede real political advancement.

Without question our generals leading political campaign need more lieutenants—whether here in Great Britain where you are fighting for the taxation of land values; whether in California, where under Judge Ralston a war has been waged against the stupid and iniquitous taxes on the products of labor and for the taxation of land values; whether in Pennsylvania where the Pittsburgh Plan is being so successfully tried; whether in Denmark, Canada, New Zealand, Australia—in short, wherever the good fight is being fought, our ranks must be reinforced.

Mrs. de Mille spoke of the California campaign and read Alper's cable to her from San Francisco—"Supreme Court rules Amendment off ballot, fight will be renewed. Judge Ralston extends to Conference best wishes. Alper."

Therefore, I implore that we who are here assembled—regardless of what our several and separate plans for advancement of our cause may be—I implore that we focus on the one thing that we can work on concertedly our greatest common denominator, so to speak—a campaign of education,—and take seriously into consideration the adoption of this School so finely started in the United States; I beg that we equip ourselves to establish it in all languages and in all countries, wherever it can be established—thus spreading the light of understanding and defeating the advancing powers of ignorance and darkness.

Not only would this be the surest way to continue to spread the message of the prophet and of his disciples who have fought so valiantly and so tirelessly to carry on his work, but it would be the greatest way to honor the name of Henry George.

The Henry George School of Social Science

LANCASTER GREENE AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE *

I VENTURE to say that, outside of the United States, few followers of the social philosophy and economic teachings of Henry George are acquainted with the really astonishing success of the educational methods practised by the Henry George School of Social Science with its headquarters in New York and with extension classes in seventy-three cities across the American Continent.

The accomplishments of this School seem immensely significant, not only as illustrating a new method of teaching fundamental economics, but as a rapid means of turning out soundly educated and enthusiastic proponents of the Georgeist faith. A discussion of the School and its work, therefore, would seem to be an important matter to impress upon the attention of followers of Henry George in every part of the world. It is this fact that has induced some of us familiar with the work and accomplishments of the School to make some sacrifices to be here to deliver a message to you about it.

* Mr. Greene is Trustee and Instructor at the Henry George School of Social Science.

It may be assumed, I suppose, that Georgeists in every land are interested in making new converts to their faith, especially among the youth who are about to assume the responsibility of coming age, among whom may be the future leaders of public opinion in the countries. Young men and women who have seen the light of a great and beneficent truth are bursting with eagerness to do something to right the wrongs of a world as they see them. We who are Georgeists believe we know the source of the injustices that afflict the world and the way in which they may be righted. Our programme is to teach certain simple fundamental economic truths to those who may become the file leaders of the public opinion of the future; to teach in such a way that those who learn will be impelled to pass on to others the vision of righteous social relationships that they have come to see.

Some of us feel that our great movement for social justice and the prosperity of nations has not had in the past the cohesion nor the driving force that insures its growth and extension. Viewing the astonishing increase in a few years of the number of students in the Henry George School of Social Science in America, we feel deeply that as a world movement it may be that Georgeism needs to be born again through an extension in every civilized land of the teaching methods of the School. So we, of Henry George's birthland, are here to ask you to join us in thinking of the world as the campus of the Henry George School of Social Science. We want you of the older lands to examine the teaching methods that have proven so strikingly successful in America, in the hope and confident belief that you will find these methods helpful to you in spreading the beneficent teachings of Henry George into every part of the world.

The policies of the School may be summed up by a quotation from Henry George:—

"Whoever, laying aside prejudice and self-interest, will honestly and carefully make up his own mind as to the causes and the cure of the social evils that are so apparent, does, in that, the most important thing in his power toward their removal. . . . Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints and denunciation; by the formation of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas. Until there be correct thought, there cannot be right action; and when there is correct thought, right action will follow."

This School, inspired by the great faith of its founder, the late lamented Oscar H. Geiger, has amply proved the efficacy of its method over three years of practical experience. The school received its charter from the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York on 15th September, 1932, though it was a year before it was located in permanent quarters. At first Mr. Geiger was the only teacher. His classroom was a small room adjoining his living apartment. The first year the School enrolled 84 students in eleven classes in that one room. The second year showed an increase of 1,327 students in 65 classes in 23 cities. In the third year, up to 1st May last, there were 3,247 students in 163 classes in 73 cities, and now the extension work of the School, carried on almost entirely by enthusiastic volunteers, is expected to take 10,000 students through the study of "Progress and Poverty" in the next year.

Perhaps the most impressive single fact about these results related to the character and quality of the student body. Mostly the students are young men and women, many of them public school teachers, a number of them members of other learned professions—the law and journalism, for example. Practically every walk of life is represented. Another inspiring fact is in evidence among the graduates, and that is that they seem to be in most instances not merely intellectually convinced respecting the truths of natural law in the economic world, but spiritually exalted with a concept of the possibility of a new world that may be built on foundations of social justice among men.

Another fact that I would like to impress upon you is that the record of the School is not due to any extraordinary talent or ability upon the

part of its devoted teaching staff, who for the most part, as I have intimated, are enthusiastic volunteers. The method devised by Oscar H. Geiger, the founder of the School, plus the inspiring content of "Progress and Poverty" when systematically studied, are the factors which perhaps account most for the School's success. I believe this success can be duplicated anywhere in the world where even a small group of Georgeists can be found to make the start. It can be done, too, at a surprisingly small money cost. It can be done with the human raw material available anywhere. The zeal of the new converts will serve to carry on the work.

At the national headquarters in New York the costs of getting a nucleus were heavy in the beginning. One of the handicaps, be it confessed, was the scepticism and hopelessness of old Single Taxers, who could not believe that the School could ever do more than they had been able to do themselves throughout the years of arguments and debates with the unconverted. The first year the cost for each student enrolment in the School was \$76.20, no salaries being paid except a small compensation to the Director of the School and a stenographer. The second year the cost per enrolment had dropped to \$5.90. This past year it has reached \$3.63 and the budget for next year offers a cost of \$2.20 per enrolment. Nevertheless, the paid staff of the School has been enlarged, although at modest salaries, though the teaching staff continues to be, with the exception of a staff leader, an unpaid body of student graduates who simply love the work they are engaged in. If you will reflect upon the costs of making converts as I have recited them to you, you may concede that from the mere money standpoint, we have discovered a means of sound and successful propaganda superior to any that has been in operation in our own country, or elsewhere perhaps, since devoted men and women of the old guard first undertook the job of spreading the light of Georgeist teachings.

Our experience in the New York headquarters of the School, confirmed by the experience of Georgeist leaders of the extension classes throughout the United States and Canada, has demonstrated that the reasoning of "Progress and Poverty" when properly and systematically taught, can be readily comprehended by men and women of limited academic training, and, what is more, can be made vitally interesting to people in every walk of life. We have had confirmed Socialists and Communists enrolled in our classes, inspired very often, perhaps, more by curiosity than by ambition to get our message. Graduates tell us that those who come with preconceived and erroneous economic views end up in becoming thorough-going Georgeists, convinced that we are proposing a reform without which no other reform can be practical or successful.

Indispensable to the instructor of "Progress and Poverty" is the carefully prepared *Teacher's Manual*. This remarkable instrument, based on the notes used by Mr. Geiger in his classroom work, makes it possible for anyone acquainted with the philosophy of Henry George to teach a class with results that cannot fail to please both the teacher and his students. The *Manual* contains questions and answers covering each chapter in "Progress and Poverty," together with suggestions on how to conduct the class, reading assignments, and illustrated charts. The instructor finds himself with a faithful guide each step of the way.

The School's prescribed course in "Progress and Poverty" as outlined in the *Teacher's Manual* requires that the student shall spend two hours a week in the classroom, usually in evening classes, for a period of ten weeks. Outside of the classroom the student is expected to spend about two hours in reading assigned passages in "Progress and Poverty" carefully planned so as to set the student seeking the answers to printed questions that are handed out at the close of each school session.

At the next week's class period the instructor strives to have the members of the class furnish the answers to the questions. He merely supplements their efforts. He observes the class closely and encourages the less active members to take part, remembering that

"truth is the daughter of time and discussion." At all times, however, the discussions, as well as the questions, are confined to the particular lesson before the class. Digressions along irrelevant lines during the class period are avoided. Valuable time is not lost on hair-splitting discussions in which only one or two of the class may be interested.

Students' questions of a partizan or local political nature are not taken up by the instructor unless they have a direct bearing on the current lesson's assignment. Such questions are always answered in reference to their economic rather than their political aspect.

Sessions are opened and closed promptly. The instructor constantly keeps in mind that the essential core of material as outlined in each lesson must be covered during the two-hour period. Under no circumstances, in the early lessons, does he reveal the conclusions to which Henry George was led by his inquiry. The student's curiosity is kept alive as an incentive for his further study. Experience in the classroom has shown that "Progress and Poverty" is veritably a "linked argument" that cannot be anticipated at any point. It must be followed link by link. Once the chain is forged in the student's mind, it cannot be broken by the spurious arguments of false philosophies which today threaten the sanity of mankind.

When one or more classes have been completed in any community it is found that from among the graduates can be developed the most effective teachers. At the headquarters in New York more than three-quarters of the teaching staff are graduates of the School who took the Teachers Training Course. Pittsburgh now has a staff of twenty-five instructors, nineteen of whom are recent graduates. In these cities, as in many others, district classes are being organized to take advantage of the new additions to the teaching staff.

The technique of the Teachers Training Class is simple. The students literally teach themselves how to teach. The class is formed, limited in membership to those who have completed the course in "Progress and Poverty." The class goes through exactly the same study following the *Teacher's Manual* but instead of there being one teacher for all the lessons, there are as many teachers as there are students, each student being assigned to take the class through a portion of the course. Thus each student gets some actual experience in teaching, but, more than this, he gets a thorough review of the subject to serve him in good stead when he is to go before a class of new students.

In addition to the Teachers Training Course, the graduates of the primary course in "Progress and Poverty" may enrol for other courses using *Protection or Free Trade*, *Social Problems*, *The Science of Political Economy* and George Raymond Geiger's *The Philosophy of Henry George* as textbooks. Incidentally, there are courses in the art of expression by the written or spoken word.

Graduates of the School automatically become members of the Henry George Fellowship as the world-wide alumni body of the School. Chapters of the Fellowship have already been formed in many cities and their field of activity is constantly widening. The members of the Fellowship everywhere feel a close bond between them because of their common understanding of the truths taught by Henry George. The motto of the Henry George Fellowship is: "Let us move forward together."

We who have seen this miracle of the practical success of the Henry George School of Social Science grow under our eyes until its potency for making converts has won warm support and approval of the student body and graduates alike, would like to bring the School to you who are keeping alive the light of Georgeist teachings in the older lands.

We would like to put at your service an instrumentality and a method that if you will but try it, we are sure will delight you in the making of new converts and supporters for the cause more easily and more rapidly than ever before. The Extension Department of the Headquarters School in New York will help with counsel and practical aid. It will supply the *Teachers' Manuals*, advertising material and questionnaires, and the sheepskins, so-called, for the

graduates. We do not want to keep this exclusively an American and Canadian movement. We crave for it the distinction of being a world movement for the service of mankind everywhere. The world is our campus. Our experience in the United States and Canada demonstrates, we believe, that we have found a sure way for popular education in the great and inspiring truths of the natural economic order which must lead to the setting up and maintaining in all civilized lands of a system of just human relationships that will mean more for world peace and human happiness than the treaties or leagues upon which a disturbed and unhappy world has vainly relied in the past. We offer you the Henry George School of Social Science.

Henry George's Birthday Celebrated in Washington

THE Washington, D. C., Georgeists, including a goodly number of the recent graduates of the two District of Columbia extension classes of the Henry George School of Social Science, celebrated Henry George's birthday at the home of Mr. W. I. Swanton, his two charming daughters acting as hostesses. After reading a letter of greeting from Mr. Tideman, Secretary of the Chicago Single Tax League, Mr. Swanton, who, with his daughters and his Denver son had but recently returned from a delightful trip to the Pacific Coast, recounted many pleasing incidents of the people and the places they had visited. As an attache of the Reclamation Service, his interest was largely centered on the noteworthy dams and irrigation projects along a wide circuit of 5,000 miles, not to the exclusion, however, of his many personal visits to well known Georgeists, including one to Mr. Jackson H. Ralston. On the return trip they stopped at Chicago, where they attended a noon and an evening meeting of the Chicago Single Tax League.

Mr. Swanton was followed on the programme by that lovely and venerable lady, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, who gave a most enlightening and unforgettable reminiscent talk of the early days and activities of the movement when she and her eminent husband, Mr. Louis F. Post, were intimately associated with our immortal leader, Henry George. A new spirit of high endeavor was with us when she had finished.

Among others, who spoke briefly, were Mr. George A. Warren, Miss Alice I. Siddall, Mrs. Marie Heath, Mr. Walter N. Campbell, Mr. Thomas W. Joy, and Mr. W. S. Erwin.

Your correspondent then read two of Mr. Joseph Dana Miller's poems: his "Henry George Commemoration Ode," and "The Coming Poet," following with selected extracts from the Biography chapter of Prof. Geiger's book "The Philosophy of Henry George." She told briefly of George's visit to New York, "that mighty city of the East," where he saw "at first hand an example of the bewildering coincidence of progress and poverty . . . where misery and wretchedness were already smugly accepted and slums were beginning to fester. The young man walked the streets and wondered and made a vow. Years later he told of that silent vow." Writing to a friend, a priest, he said:

"I shall say something that I don't like to speak of—that I never before have told any one. Once, in daylight, and in a city street, there came to me a thought, a vision, a call—give it what name you please. But every nerve quivered. And there and then I made a vow. Through evil and through good, whatever I have done and whatever I have left undone, to that I have been true."

And again:

One day, shortly after George's return to California, he was riding through a district where the magic boom of land speculation had filled the scrubby countryside with a feverish collection of land offices and claim-jumpers. George relates:

"Absorbed in my own thoughts, I had driven the horse into the

hills until he panted. Stopping for breath, I asked a passing teamster, for want of something better to say, what land was worth there. He pointed to some cows grazing off so far that they looked like mice, and said, 'I don't know exactly, but there is a man over there who will sell some land for a thousand dollars an acre.' Like a flash it came upon me that there was the reason of advancing poverty with advancing wealth. With the growth of population land grows in value, and the men who work it must pay more for the privilege. I turned back, amidst quiet thought, to the preception that then came to me and has been with me ever since."

In 1897, George, in his speech of acceptance of the New York mayoralty nomination—delivered while he was scarcely able to stand—declared:

"I believe . . . that unto the common people, the honest democracy that believes that all men are created equal, would bring a power that would revivify not merely the imperial city, not merely the state, not merely the country, but the world. No greater honor can be given to any man than to stand for all that. No greater service can he render to his day and generation than to lay at its feet whatever he has. I would not refuse if I died for it. What counts a few years? What can a man do better or nobler than something for his country, for his nation, for his age?"

A further and striking example of his adherence to his vow is illustrated in a conversation George had with his doctor, concerning the advisability of his accepting the mayoralty nomination:

"Mr. George said to me: 'Tell me, if I accept, what is the worst that can happen to me?'

"I answered: 'Since you ask, you have a right to be told' It will most probably prove fatal . . .'

"Mr. George replied: 'Dr. Kelly says the same thing, only more positively. But I have got to die. How can I die better than serving humanity? Besides, such dying will do more for the cause than anything I am likely to be able to do in the rest of my life.'"

And again, the following conversation of George with his wife:

"Annie, remember what you declared Michael Davitt should do at the time of the Phoenix Park murders in 1882—go to Dublin and be with his people, even though it should cost him his life. I told you then that I might some day ask you to remember those words. I ask you now. Will you fail to tell me to go into this campaign? The people want me; they say they have no one else upon whom they can unite. It is more than a question of good government. If I enter the field it will be a question of natural rights, even though as Mayor I might not directly be able to do a great deal for natural rights. New York will become the theatre of the world and my success will plunge our cause into world politics."

"Mrs. George answered, 'You should do your duty at whatever cost.'"

Heroically he accepted and plunged into the last desperate fight, speaking often at half a dozen meetings in an evening. "And then came the last night, Thursday, October 28, 1897, five days before election. George had spoken four times that evening, and as the night advanced it was evident that he was becoming weaker. He returned to his hotel, the Union Square, after midnight, and before retiring complained of feeling ill. In the early hours of the morning his wife arose and found him standing, one hand on a chair, as if to support himself. His face was white; his body rigid like a statue; his shoulders thrown back, his head up, his eyes wide open and penetrating, as if they saw something; and one word came—"Yes"—many times repeated, at first with a quiet emphasis, then with the vigor of his heart's force . . . Mr. George was entirely unconscious when Dr. Kelly arrived. A stroke of apoplexy had fallen. The great

will undertake the bookkeeping duties that occupy much of the time that the executive will give to promotion of Georgeist activities. She will not be confined merely to bookkeeping, but will aid in publicity and advertising ventures. Finally Miss Peterson will assume the executive charge of the office and will carry on the work as Acting Secretary. The undersigned will remain in touch by letter from her home in Suffern, New York, and will be available for any pressing questions or matters that may arise.

Readers of LAND AND FREEDOM will be glad to know that at the annual meeting of the Foundation in May two new directors were added to the roll—Mr. Leonard T. Recker and Mr. Thomas Larkin. The officers of the Foundation were reelected as follows: Mr. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President; Mr. Philip H. Cornick, Vice President; Mr. Henry George Atkinson, Treasurer, and Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, Executive Secretary.

—A. K.

American Single Taxers To Assemble in Cincinnati

AS we go to press, preparations are virtually complete for the Eleventh Annual Henry George Congress to be held, November 12 to 14, and both the local committee and the Pittsburgh headquarters of the Henry George Foundation are putting forth vigorous efforts to bring to Cincinnati a large and representative group of delegates representing every section of the country. Rabbi Aaronsohn and his committee are looking forward to this year's convention with great optimism and with a determination to make this gathering productive of great good for the future growth and development of the American Single Tax movement.

This is the first convention of the Henry George Foundation to be held in the state of Ohio and Ohio Single Taxers are very active in preparing to welcome their colleagues from other centers of Georgeist activity. Cincinnati's central location, with the advantage of reduced railroad rates this year, will facilitate a large attendance and the programme is a strong one.

As special attractions this year the speaker's committee has invited Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, and J. W. Graham Peace, the well-known English writer and speaker, to address one of the principal convention sessions. While the presence of Secretary Hull is not yet definitely assured, there is good reason to believe that he will be able to honor the Congress with an address on a very timely topic. And Mr. Peace has announced his intention of coming to America to participate in this year's gathering. Other additions and changes are possible before the convention actually opens.

Some of the more prominent American delegates to the

recent International Conference at London are expected to present interesting reports of the situation abroad and the progress of the movement in Great Britain and other European countries. The activities of the Henry George School and the Henry George Fellowship will again be strongly featured.

All members and friends desiring reservations or having suggestions to present, may communicate with Secretary Percy R. Williams at the Pittsburgh headquarters, 809 Keystone Building, or with Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Chairman of the Convention Committee, 218 Forest Avenue, Cincinnati.

Following is the tentative programme:

ELEVENTH ANNUAL HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

NETHERLAND PLAZA HOTEL—CINCINNATI, OHIO

THURSDAY—FRIDAY—SATURDAY NOVEMBER 12, 13, 14, 1936

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00 a.m.—Registration.

10:00 a.m.—Address of Welcome: Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Response: Hon. George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, Pa., President, Henry George Foundation of America.

12:15 p.m.—Luncheon.

2:00 p.m.—Subject: Educational Programme of the Henry George School of Social Science.

Speakers: John Lawrence Monroe, Chicago, Ill.
Hon. Robert C. Bowers, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nathan Hillman, Chicago, Ill.

Reports from Extension Class leaders.

8:00 p.m.—Subject: The Single Tax, the Simple and Sovereign Remedy.

Speakers: Hon. William N. McNair, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Hon. Abe D. Waldauer, Memphis, Tenn.
Benjamin W. Burger, New York City.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:00 a.m.—Subject: Practical Pedagogy.

Speakers: Frank Chodorov, New York City.
Hon. Hugo W. Noren, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Discussion.

12:15 p.m.—Luncheon.

2:00 p.m.—Subject: The Practical Application of the Principles of Henry George.

Speakers: Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.
Emil O. Jorgenson, Chicago, Ill.
Bolton Hall, New York City.

Discussion.

8:00 p.m.—Subject: World Peace and Free Trade.

Speakers: Col. Victor A. Rule, Chicago, Ill.
J. W. Graham Peace, London, England.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

10:00 a.m.—Subject: Organization and Mobilization.

Speakers: Clayton J. Ewing, Chicago, Ill.
Joseph Dana Miller, New York City.
Discussion.

12:15 p.m.—Luncheon.

2:00 p.m.—Subject: Legislative Progress and Plans

Speakers: Hon. Charles R. Eckert, Washington, D. C.
Dr. Mark Millikin, Hamilton, Ohio.
Walter Fairchild, New York City.

Discussion.

6:30 p.m.—Annual Banquet.

Speakers: Hon. Marvin C. Harrison, Cleveland, Ohio.
Mrs. Anna George de Mille, New York City
Hon. Peter Witt, Cleveland, Ohio.
Hon. Herbert S. Bigelow, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The California Campaign

TO Our Supporters and Sympathizers: We have met with a temporary check by the action of the State Supreme Court, based upon the petition of the head of the Parent-Teachers Association.

The lady in question, about a month ago, filed in the Supreme Court an application for an injunction restraining the Secretary of State from putting our measure upon the ballot. Several grounds were alleged, only one of which entered into consideration by the Supreme Court. This requires a little explanation.

Under the direct legislative provisions of the State of California it is the duty of the Attorney General to prepare a summary of all proposed measures in not more than 100 words. This appears on the first page of all petitions. At the top of the second page in our instance there had to be what is called a "short title in not to exceed 20 words, stating the nature of the petition and the subject to which it relates." In our instance these 20 words were as follows:

"Certain sales taxes forbidden—certain tax limitations rescinded—certain homestead improvements and, progressively, improvements and tangible personal property taxes abolished."

In brief, the decision of the court was to the effect that these words were insufficient, failing to disclose the fact that taxes so abolished were transferred to land values. Where the court expected them to go except to land values, we are at a loss to imagine.

Of course, but for the limitation of 20 words, the result to follow from the successive abolition of taxes on improvements and tangible personal property might have been included in the sub-title, but any one of intelligence enough to vote in the state of California must have known the natural course of events. Nevertheless, it was the idea of the court that some person whose identity is absolutely undisclosed might have been misled.

The court divided, six as stated, and one of its ablest members, Judge Seawell, dissented, regarding the decision of the majority as a weakening of the initiative upon, as he said, "hyper-technical and captious reasons." He also remarked that "many of such (like) titles by actual

comparison which have passed the inspection of the courts furnish far less information to the signer than is given by the title attacked."

The simple fact remains, however, that we shall not be on the ballot this year.

A word as to the history of the application. We heard several months ago that such an application was likely to be made, although the grounds of it were not disclosed and our imagination was not sufficiently vivid to discover them. It was, however, the further understanding that the petition should not be submitted unless, as election day approached, it became manifest that there was a probability of the adoption of the amendment. Evidently this condition had arisen demanding filing of the suit on almost the last possible day.

There was ample reason for the fear exhibited by the commencement of the action. In all the largest cities of the state our amendment would have undoubtedly received a great majority, not to be overcome probably by the adverse votes of the smaller counties. Nevertheless, tremendous efforts were made to solidify such vote.

One thing is clear beyond peradventure, and that is that we in the advocacy of the amendment were following sound policy. As a result of the campaign hundreds of thousands of people have gained new ideas upon the subject of taxation, and these they will not lose. We have had the absolutely solid support of the labor press of the state, and the unanimous vote of every labor organization before which the subject has been brought. In saying this we include both the American Federation of Labor and the leading Railway Brotherhoods.

Some of the high points of the campaign may be briefly recapitulated as a guide to those who enter upon like struggles in other states.

As indicated, we started by gaining the solid support of the ranks of organized labor. This must be the case anywhere our principles are brought into practical operation. The interest of labor is absolutely with us. In the business districts of San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego we circulated to advantage 150,000 copies of the *Sales Tax Repealer*.

Another matter of moment, the effect of which will be lasting, was that we were able to secure the introduction in the Congressional Record of a fairly comprehensive document prepared by Jackson H. Ralston, and its circulation to the extent of about 500,000 copies going particularly into every rural neighborhood and small town of the whole State. To this we were able to add, to the extent of a hundred thousand, a very effective radio speech made by Ralph E. Chadwick, of Los Angeles.

By the time the Supreme Court had struck our measure from the ballot it was manifest that, aside from the Presidential issue, in the center of attention on the part of every voter in the state was our measure. This is attested by over a thousand newspaper clippings turned in for the month

of August, and innumerable speeches for and against the proposition had been made.

The State Board of Equalization, an organization now in high disrepute in California, turned out great amounts of literature, undoubtedly paid for by the state, containing falsehoods of so gross a character that one would not have expected a child to be deceived, and these were solemnly attested by the state and county officials as deserving credence.

It is important that the public should be as thoroughly instructed in our programme as may be, and this imposes upon us a great labor, for which from a pecuniary point of view we are not well prepared, although hopeful.

Many of you have subscribed for the *Sales Tax Repealer*. The circumstances we have narrated have rendered it inadvisable to go to the large expense incident to their printing at the present time. We should therefore appreciate it if we were not called upon to return any part of the subscriptions paid therefore, although if desired this course will be taken.

We should have had difficulty in carrying on the campaign as well as we feel we have, but for the fact that we were able to receive the sum of \$5,000 (not \$20,000 as stated by a Single Tax paper in the state, which misstatement was largely used against us), from the Ingram Estate. All other contributions have been exhausted in the campaign, and about half of this sum of \$5,000 remains for the future work.

At every point where our campaign has been most active—San Francisco, Los Angeles, Stockton and San Diego, it has been our fortune to have active, earnest, and determined workers. Every one of these has been lively and energetic and ready to work for the success of our amendment. Their spirits are in no wise cast down by temporary adjournment of the debate.

For obvious reasons it is not well now to go into details as to future action. Further in some degree these may be modified by events. We can only say there will be another day in two years. This period cannot be shortened.

It is our intention to maintain permanent offices in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. Work of education will be continuous. We are out to win a war, not a battle. And in this sense we will appreciate your continued help and support.

JACKSON H. RALSTON, General Chairman.
N. D. ALPER, Executive Secretary,
Northern Division.

TARIFF warfare breeds hatred and suspicion. If tariffs and international duties were abolished, it would be possible to abolish navies, and armies as well, for there would be no more war. The pacifists should work against the economic war. Then, if they were successful, they would have little difficulty in putting armies and navies out of business and putting the unemployed to work.—ADMIRAL SIMS, U.S.A. Navy.

Activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL'S WEEKLY RADIO SCHEDULE

Mon. WCNW, 2:30 P. M.; WWRL, 11:15 P. M.

Tue. WLTH, 1:15 P. M.; WCNW, 2:30 P. M.

Wed. WOV, 10:15 A. M.; WWRL, 1:15 P. M.; WCNW, 2:30 P. M.

Thu. WOV, 9:30 A. M.; WCNW, 2:30 P. M.

Fri. WDAS (Phila.), 1:00 P. M.; WILM (Dela.), 3:15 P. M.

Sat. WCNW, 7:00 P. M.; WWRL, 11:00 P. M.

Sun. WOV, 6:30–7:00 P. M.

All kilocycles 1400 to 1500 except WOV, which is 1130.

Broadcasting in August and September excelled any previous two months, totaling 135 fifteen minute periods. The character of the current events programmes steadily improved in attractiveness to the average listener and in economic content.

The study of novel forms of presenting our principles is Mr. Ingersoll's daily work. The examples below will verify this. Mr. Ingersoll is full of the idea that before we get the Single Tax across, we will have to boil down economics to the movie and radio fan level. Here is something he has written on this subject:

"While we will doubtless usher in the Economic Era through the leadership of 'key men,' we have long enough made the mistake of catering to them in our propaganda; and should henceforth conduct our educating with and to the public—the average intelligence.

'Key men' are very coy: who and where are they? We have thought—quite naturally—that educational leaders were the ones to concentrate on; individual and organized economists have conducted whole campaigns on professors, colleges, and libraries: and the net results seem to be a concentration of economic illiteracy in our educational system grater than at any other point."

VOX POP ECONOMIC LETTERS TO THE PRESS

The last two months have been unusually productive in letters to the press. Tests have been made in a variety of papers and their location. And also, of capacity of individual papers to use our material. The case for organized letter writing is complete. Our letters are popular, and should be going to practically all the largest papers in the country continuously. It is rare that one fails of publication, and none contain less than 100 per cent of Georgeism.

Mr. Whidden Graham is assisting Mr. Ingersoll in organizing letter writing, as a model for assistance of hundreds of capable writers in the country. A partial list of recent

met twins of ordinary atoms—are being used in Denmark to trace the course of water, minerals and organic substances through the physiological processes of plant and animal bodies. The functions of these seldom-met twins were not known in the colonial period of which Mrs. A. M. Bevis has just written, wherein "the founders of Harvard cried out for knowledge" while the student-body "beat their piggins on the table and shouted for food." The Harvard boys had taken umbrage at Mistress Eaton's "share and share alike" menu in feeding the boys and the college swine, whereupon the founding fathers finally arbitrated, in order to save "learning," by bringing wampum and corn "for the diet of the students."

Professor The Svedberg, of the University of Upsala, is now investigating the size and make-up of the protein molecule which is the largest and most complex of atomic aggregates. Protein, you know, has a food value.

Of outstanding interest, in these more important matters, is the proposed Supreme Court of Organized Knowledge. Anthropologist Bronislaw Malinowski believes it to be imperatively necessary for the salvation of the modern commonwealth; but Dr. Hu Shih is of the opinion, as a "pragmatic thinker," that such a court could not click. We are obliged to await further developments on this matter.

Dr. Henry O. Taylor announces that the "medieval times" constitute an integral element in cultural gain. Such times did not arise merely because someone threw a monkey-wrench into les affaires du jour. Professor Peter Debye, director of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institute of Physics, is responsible for "developments of extreme importance" in the structure of liquids. He is perfecting methods of photographing molecules individually.

Professor Pierre Marie Felix Janet, of the College de France, has established "confused phenomena, phobias, automatism, suggestions and compulsive acts" under the distinct department of psychopathology; whilst Denys W. Harding, of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, discovers that people's urge for entertainment is motivated by one of three conditions:—(1) just plain tired; (2) boredom, irritation, strain, etc., and (3) elation, energy and euphoria generally. At the same time, the Reverend F. A. Farley finds that theatre-goers are fond of crowds, consequently the mob is part of their entertainment.

Ambassador Hiroshi Saito assures us that "only about 8 per cent of our (his nation's) trade with you is competitive." Nothing to be alarmed over at all, at all. Of much more concern is the statement by Professor R. J. S. McDowall, of Kings College, who says that poor blood circulation, apart from the heart, is responsible for the loss of "thousands of lives each year."

It is with pardonable pride that we report the Harvardian graduation, to date, of 14,000 students of law. They have produced many matters of note, including "Conflict of Laws."

Dr. Friedrich Bergius presents the real poser of our brief survey. The honorable doctor finds that while we Americans are trying to turn food into industrial products Germany is trying to turn waste industrial products into food.

We trust that we have made clear the situation which prevents us from straightening out the tax muddle at the present time. You will note that our men of prominence are very busily engaged in more important matters.

THOMAS N. ASTON.

Every Single Taxer Should Do Some Research Work

ONE of the reasons why the people of the United States have not adopted the Single Tax is because they are not land conscious. They do not believe that there is any land problem. For this reason, the Rose Research Bureau wishes to collect as many facts as possible relating to land tenure in our country. Therefore, every Single Taxer is invited to cooperate with the Bureau in securing these facts. Statistics relating to the following three divisions are particularly welcome

1. Absentee landlordism in America. An absentee landlord may be defined as one living outside the county or the state in which his land is located. Give the owner's name and foreign address; the location of his land, and the assessed valuation.

2. Find out the assessed value of the land (or real estate) of the large cities in your State, and also of your State. You can secure this information by writing to the department of assessors of the various cities, as well as the Treasury Department of your State.

3. Send in any facts that tend to condemn land ownership and landlordism, such as holding land idle for a number of years, thereby retarding progress; title secured from the government or the state, or elsewhere by gift; or secured from any source by gift, fraud or violence; unusual fortunes made by landowners or speculators; unusual rise in unearned increment; peculiar leases; the share croppers of the South, etc.

As an example: The Wendel sisters, of New York, eccentric old maids, kept a million-dollar plot of land idle for many years just so they could have a playground for their pet dog.

Send all letters to John C. Rose, 504 City-County Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Ingram Bequest

MR. FREDERICK F. INGRAM, a well known manufacturer of Detroit, Michigan, and for many years an active and ardent Single Taxer, died about three years ago, and provided in his will for a fund to carry on the education in taxation.

In the recent settlement of his estate \$20,000 has been awarded to establish the Frederick F. Ingram Taxation Trust, and the three trustees named by Judge Adolph F. Marschner of the Wayne County Circuit Court are Rev. Samuel H. Forrer, Minister of the Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church; F. Gordon Pickell, Architect, and A. Laurence Smith, a Detroit manufacturer.

At a meeting of the trustees, Mr. Smith was elected Fiscal Agent, and the office of the Trust will be at 2460 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan.

The trustees will appreciate suggestions that will assist them in their plans to expend this fund wisely and effectively, and perhaps it may be possible to join with other groups in other cities in the

promotion of some major activity, but in this connection it may be well to state that no contributions will be made toward local campaigns of any kind.

For the benefit of those who did not know of Mr. Ingram, it should be mentioned that he was one of the fathers of the Parcels Post system which has proved such a valuable adjunct to the U. S. Post Office.

For a busy, practical man of affairs, Mr. Ingram devoted a large part of his time to public problems of such a nature that he could expect neither public acclaim nor reward, and it is unfortunate that there are not more of our business leaders who can see the wisdom of trying to reach an intelligent understanding of some of the reasons for "Progress and Poverty."—A. LAURENCE SMITH.

Miscellany

TAXES AND RENT IN HANDLING FOREST FIRES

The Town of Mashpee is located on the southern shore of Cape Cod. The population is small and composed mostly of mixed Indian and Negro blood. The inhabitants own very little property, the most valuable consisting of cranberry bogs, which furnish some employment to the local people, and a magnificent beach and undeveloped shore front some six miles in extent. Most of the bogs and the shore front are owned by non-residents.

This matter of land ownership involves a social problem that has a direct bearing on the fire. Why should the inhabitants of Mashpee slave and raise the tax rate on their humble homes to protect the property of absentee land speculators?

The cheapest method of handling a forest fire, or rather one that places the least tax burden on the local inhabitants, is to burn out the entire block in which a fire occurs from some natural boundary or fire stop. This method, of course, is very destructive to the forest, but being a simple and easy way to get a fire under control, was the one that the town fathers wished to employ.

As a forester and a state official, I felt it my duty to put out the fire, with the least destruction to the forest even if the cost was to be borne, in part, by the local tax payers and the chief benefits accrue to the absentee landlords.

LINCOLN CROWELL, Forest Warden in *Fire Fighting* for July.

DIFFERENCES OF OPINION

Sir: Mr. H. L. Mencken writes that the New Deal "sucks in the discordant perunas" of a large number of persons, among whom he names Henry George. I challenge Mr. Mencken to cite even one utterance, let alone a single act, of the New Deal which fulfills the doctrine of George. Indeed, I challenge him to cite anything in the record of the New Deal which is not the antithesis of George's principles.

After all, even a subscriber to a magazine has some rights. When he spends 50 cents and several hours of his time on a magazine he earns the right to kick like hell when defrauded by a confidence man, whether the crook be Mr. Mencken or Mr. Roosevelt. He has the right to demand that, even if the authors can't be expected to know what they're writing about, they should exercise some effort toward accuracy in elementary facts. It is clear that Mr. Mencken either did not read George, or he did read George and didn't understand him, or else he deliberately lied. Whichever it was, he defrauded your readers.

Mr. Mencken ought to go to school to Mr. Nock. By the way, I want to congratulate you on printing something by Mr. Nock each month. I'm surprised that you have enough sense to do it. It's tough, though, on cheapjacks like Mencken, to have to appear between the same covers with a thinker and writer like Mr. Nock.

KARL B. MICKEY in *American Mercury*.

WHY BUSINESS MEN GO INSANE

As we have pointed out in our first article, the revenue act of 1936 imposes five taxes on corporations, viz:

1. Normal Tax.
2. Surtax on Undistributed Profits.
- 3a. Surtax on Improper Accumulations (or)
- 3b. Surtax on Personal Holding Companies.
4. Capital Stock Tax.
5. Excess Profits Tax.

Daily News Record.

WHO OWN THESE LAND VALUES?

If taxes are for the benefit of the public, then they should be assessed against that value which is publicly created and to the exemption of labor, energy-created values.

This quoted clause from the Constitution of Ohio has fattened the few in the great cities of the state and to figures beyond the comprehension of the average person and at the expense of the farmer and industry generally—employer and employed.

The land value of Cleveland, for instance, now equals one billion dollars; it is held by less than eight percent of the population, and one-third of it is owned by only 125 families.

In Cincinnati, there are three families holding 75 million dollars of its land values.

All this publicly, legally created and privately taken value is the result of that uniform tax clause quoted from the Constitution of Ohio of 146 years ago—rewarding land speculation by a fine collected from industry.

DAVID GIBSON in *Lorain (Ohio) Journal*.

Causes of Fear

EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESS AT LONDON CONFERENCE

By S. VERE PEARSON, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

FEAR is a state of mind induced as a protection against danger, real or imaginary. There are terrible apprehensions about now-a-days producing armaments and wars. But fear is not the primary cause of war, for behind the fear is danger, chiefly danger of want and loss of liberty. Even stronger than the fear of want and of actual destruction is a fear of degradation of freedom. People are apprehensive lest foreigners should cramp their self-development and creativeness even more than they are hampered at present, but are blind to the basic causes of present lack of freedom. When justice gives equal opportunities to all at home such fears will go; discussions on disarmament will also end; for a foreigner can do no harm in a country where true justice reigns. Civil wars arise because of the fears fed by the injustices so rife in society, and rulers can distract the workers from destitution and discontent by leading them to wars abroad. They easily arouse fears of over-population, of foreign competition, etc. "Unable to fill empty bellies with bread, the leaders aim instead at filling empty heads with collective hysteria,"* to the accompaniment of brass bands, flags and verbiage. Once war has begun, anger over the inevitable slaughter boils up. Indignation can be intoxicating especially if it be righteous even in imagination. Mob hatred can be pleasurable and, unfortunately, persistent.

Pacifists too often, through not understanding the causes of war and the economic conditions lying behind most anxieties, appeal to ethics. Many believe with Roosevelt that "any social, political or economic problem would melt away before the fire of a spiritual awakening." This overlooks the fact that the spirit is crippled by fears and by economic straits. From the time of the proposals for a league of nations during the Peloponnesian War down to the present century all efforts to establish peace by resort to disarmament discussions and courts of arbitration have proved futile. From the time of Isaiah to the latest European treaty most of the covenants built on foundations of that kind have proved merely "bargains with

*Aldus Huxley *Beyond the Mexique Bay*.

death, and compacts with hell." Too often do such discussions and so-called leagues act as a smoke-cloud obscuring the forces constantly tending to produce strife, envy, fear and hatred. These forces will vanish only when economics and its natural laws are recognized. Selfish and unselfish people alike use the multiplication table; similarly they use the laws of physics to make a steam-engine of an aeroplane. Discussion about these laws ceases so soon as they are widely apprehended. We gain advantages from our acceptance of and obedience to these laws, regardless of the ethics which influence individuals. So it will be when the laws of economics are understood.

The crowd is made up of individuals. Hence the crowd psychology cannot be entirely separated from the instincts and psychology of the individual. The reactions which affect the human crowd are in some particulars the same today as amongst primitive peoples, while in other respects they are definitely modified by the conditions prevailing in these times. Fear is a mental state more likely to be morbid and less likely to be useful in the crowd than in the individual and today than in ancient times. Religious feelings are based partly upon fear (Urfurcht is the German word), the fear of what is outside ourselves. There is also the life-instinct (Lebenstrieb) which may be associated with fear. Man is actuated by the three sets of instincts associated with the three words sustenance, sex and society, the three "s's." Fears enter sometimes into each of these domains and they may be interwoven in the individual's and in the crowd's mental state.

There are, today, peculiar forces tending to produce group fear. People are herded into and within cities more than ever; they are divorced from the land, from mother nature, and from the influence of the soil and the growing things thereon. They are led to think that certain countries are over-populated and that they cannot promote self-development so readily as in former times. Land monopoly and taxation are at the root of these retrogressions. If all taxes were abolished and the public's only proper revenue, the land rent from occupants of sites were collected, then everyone could hold in full the products of his labor and get the interest on his capital. The natural initiative, industry and creativeness of man, in other words, self-determination would then be fostered. Hindrances to production and exchange and to international friendliness would disappear; and people would be better distributed on the ground and in occupations. But eyes to see these things are blinded. For people's minds are darkened by superstitions, and biased by early training and environment. The worst superstition constituting the greatest iniquity of all ages is particularly hard to root out; it is, that anyone can own the earth. The cloud of this iniquity is perceived from time to time hanging over society; but the means of dispelling it are not easy to learn. For example, the Communists of Russia have done much towards getting rid of private property in land; and they have accomplished a great deal the bring about self-determination of individuals and races. Consequently, they are not aggressively-minded towards their neighbors. But they have not banished fear. They have built vast armaments and have developed frightful preparedness for wars. This is because they have not discovered the necessary measures to banish the great iniquity and to ensure freedom. The vital law of rent is not known to them. They still have taxes, particularly those covertly extracted by profits on State monopoly enterprises. Therefore, Communism is based on bloodshed and has cause for fearing neighbors. It has been founded on slaughter and is a dictatorship. It is no antidote to Fascism.

To study briefly the mental development of the individuals who make up the herd:—The psychology of the individual is largely determined by the influences which act at a very early age. In spite of modern teaching few young children can grow up in an atmosphere of freedom. They are seldom even looked at with unbiased eyes, for adults are blinded by the prejudices and pre-occupations they have themselves acquired. Those who do not understand what freedom

is are very apt to blame human nature for society going askew. Similarly, few indeed are those persons throughout history who have taught that the child may be right. At last people are beginning to learn that not only the small difficulties of the child and the great ones of adult life, but also that social unrest and chaos are just mistakes which better knowledge can rectify. A child is handicapped by his parents finding themselves unable to give him the necessary materials and understanding for his work. Again, a youth is often forced to take up an occupation for which he has no liking. Creative ness and self-expression are thwarted.

The Open Forum

Under this heading we shall print from time to time, usually without editorial comment, short contributions on controversial points. In this decision we are abandoning our resolution to exclude discussion on points that seem to us to be painfully repetitious. But it now appears that our readers think otherwise, and LAND AND FREEDOM is their paper, and we are willing to accord our policy to their wishes.

—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

CONFUTES J. B. ELLERT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Congratulations upon the symposium, "Step by Step to Nowhere, and other good features in your last issue.

Inasmuch as my views are referred to in two separate articles, I feel that your readers are entitled to be protected against misrepresentation regarding them, particularly as the misrepresentation on page 125 follows a similar misrepresentation in your last issue, page 93. You are doing good work in helping your readers to get their economics on straight; let me help by correcting Mr. Ellert.

On page 93 in your May-June number he says:

"I see that Mr. Beckwith does not approve of our tax plan in Milk River. I am at a loss to make out what he advises us to do; he seems to think that to increase our taxes on land value is wrong and to gather the land rent through our system of taxation is wrong."

Those of your readers who take my bi-weekly, *No Taxes*, know that there have stood in the title page of that paper from the very first issue, more than four years ago, these twenty words:

"We pay it all in our rent. Take for the public all the rent and collect not a single tax."

If more evidence is needed to show the inaccuracy of Mr. Ellert's statement, it will be found in the article "Milk River Passes the Test," page 3202 in *The Forum* and page 505 in *No Taxes*. In that article I commend Milk River for voting against lowering the village levies on land, even though they are bringing in nearly twice the revenue necessary. Further commendation of Milk River for this course will be found on page 3220 of *The Forum*; and this will appear in an early issue of *No Taxes*.

On page 125 of your last issue, Mr. Ellert says:

"Mr. Beckwith's idea of putting all taxes on present land values, or taking the rent on speculative values, etc. . . . Mr. Beckwith and Mr. Jorgensen are both trying to solve the Single Tax by our present unnatural land system. . . ."

Your readers may not be interested in my views; but if they are you want these views correctly presented in your columns. Otherwise the good work you are doing in helping readers to get their economics on straight will be hindered.

I was notified by a government telegram that I was scheduled to appear before the U. S. Senate Finance Committee at the hearing on the tax bill, May 6. As I could not go to Washington, I filed with the committee a statement made up in the form of questions and answers exactly as such a hearing might be conducted. The following quotations from that will not only correct Mr. Ellert with respect to my views but will add to the excellent symposium upon the subject suggested by Bolton Hall. I quote as follows from the seventy-four questions and answers:

*See my book on *The Growth and Distribution of Population*. (Geo. Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London, and J. Wiley & Son, New York, 1935).

price. So, when privately appropriated, rent is not only in prices, but through taxes, forces prices higher and higher.

On the other hand the public taking of the whole rent prevents land monopoly, permits labor and capital to employ themselves on the best locations free of taxes with consequent greater efficiency and lower costs and the rise in rent is offset by increased public services furnished to labor and capital. When rent is collected by the public it equalizes everyone's opportunity to work to the best advantage and makes possible the gradual solution of all humanity's social and economic ills.

Rent can be collected by the community with the same ease and accuracy as it is now collected by individuals and the trustees of our universities.

Rent, in common with other natural phenomena and laws, is beneficent or destructive according to whether it is or is not treated and used in accord with natural law. This principle has long been recognized as to the physical laws and phenomena of gravitation, electricity, chemistry, astronomy, etc.

It is frequently stated that our powers of production of wealth have reached a high state of perfection but that our distribution of wealth is very backward and faulty. The reason is plain. Our machinery, tools, structures and chemical productions are all produced in accord with scientific understanding and obedience to natural physical laws but our distribution of wealth is attempted in utter defiance and ignorance or ignoring of natural economic law.

All the talk about "the maching age," "technological unemployment," "money" or "the money power" being responsible for unemployment and lack of purchasing power is foolish or knavish "bunk".

In my opinion Beckwith is absolutely sound in his economics, is teaching sound Georgeist principles and is doing the best work I know of in forwarding and disseminating the truth. He has done much to simplify and clarify the science of political economy and to show business men and all the industrious and thrifty that it is essential to their best interests and welfare. He has wisely steered clear of opportunist political futilities.

Jorgensen has done excellent work in exposing the teaching of false economics in our schools and colleges and in showing and impressing the importance of rent upon business and the consumer, which means every human being.

I am now convinced that Henry George did incalculable harm to the ready acceptance of his proposal:

1st. By talking land value taxation and Single Tax instead of always insisting on the collection of the whole of rent into the public treasury and abolishing of all taxes.

2nd. By not putting more emphasis on the importance of capital and the validity of interest.

3rd. By accepting the sophistical dictum of Ricardo that rent did not enter into price.

4th. By departing from his true roll of philosopher and scientist and twice being a candidate for mayor of N. Y. City on substantially a socialist-labor platform. Also by support of Bryan in 1896 George implied an economic importance of the money question which George knew could not exist.

5th. By advocating a political step by step method of adoption of his proposal.

John Stuart Mill was right when he said that small economic changes could produce no worth-while economic effect. This has been abundantly proved during the last fifty years by the experience in Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Texas, Vancouver and Pittsburgh.

Chestnut Hill, Mass.

EDMUND J. BURKE.

I HAVE seen nations, like overburdened asses,
kick off their burdens—meaning upper classes.—

LORD BYRON.

BOOK REVIEWS

How to Abolish Poverty, by George L. Record. Published by the Record Memorial Association of Jersey City, N. J. Cloth, 201 pp. Price, \$1.

This volume contains a statement of the economic and political faith of George L. Record. An introduction by Amos Pinchot and a foreword by James G. Blauvelt are affectionate tributes to the late Mr. Record, and on the whole are not undeserved.

There is no doubt that George L. Record performed a distinct and signal service in keeping alive in the state of New Jersey the flame of social reform. That he fell short of full accomplishment of his aim seems to us to have been due to his marked limitations and a certain self-delusion that he was a politician. This weakness was strikingly exhibited at the convention of the Committee of 48 in Chicago where from motives that must forever remain undisclosed he side-stepped the real issue at the very minute that Oscar Geiger, with his flaming courage, had won a magnificent but bewildered convention to our cause. It was a great moment and the truth must be told that George L. Record failed us.

We dislike to dwell upon this. It may have been that Mr. Record saw or thought he saw the futility of a ringing declaration on the land question that might have immortalized this convention. It is not possible to believe even after this lapse of time that George Record was right and Oscar Geiger wrong.

We prefer to dwell upon the real service Mr. Record rendered to the cause. We want to echo the encomiums pronounced by Messrs. Pinchot and Blauvelt. He was at least a strong figure in the politics of his state and people knew what he stood for. It is no exaggeration to say that he made Woodrow Wilson. He could do for others what he could not do for himself, for despite his strange self-delusion he was primarily an agitator and not a politician, and Henry George was the inspiring impulse of his life. The tragedy of his career was that he mistook himself for a political leader, and he failed in political compromise because every fibre in his nature responded to quite different stimuli.

We can endorse in the main the confession of faith he has given us in these posthumous papers. Only in one chapter do we find statements with which we would take issue. That is the chapter in which he tries to justify income and inheritance taxes. He seems to feel that some part of the great fortunes of Ford and Woolworth are unearned and should be taken in taxation. He supports this contention by the following:

"Society by establishing and maintaining at public expense, public roads, courts, police and fire departments, and the penal statutes affecting property rights, by authorizing and supervising the banks and coining money, and by establishing laws governing the medium of exchange, and by providing for the formation of corporations so as to make possible large aggregations of capital, contributed directly to the productions and to the element of permanency of the wealth acquired by the so-called owners."

Mr. Record has weakened his case, for the argument concedes in great measure the validity of taxes upon all forms of wealth, and could be quoted to sustain the reasonableness of any tax on production.

Mr. Record by dwelling upon the legislative rather than the economic argument has missed the point. Granted that the Ford and Woolworth fortunes do include an unearned portion, society gets all it is entitled to when it collects the economic rent. That both Ford and Woolworth profit by conditions in which labor sells its service at a disadvantage; that in subtle ways great aggregations of capital under present conditions render any bargain entered into by labor and capital a one-sided contract, we are to remember that the taking of economic rent by making all natural resources free will be to establish a very different relationship. We need not therefore concern ourselves in futile speculation as to just what part of these great fortunes is unearned. If society takes what it is clearly entitled to, the shares going to employer and employed in the work

REVIEWS

by L. E. Record. Published by the Record Memorial Association, 1000 10th St., N. W., Wash., D. C.

of the economic and political situation in the United States. It is a valuable contribution to the literature of the subject.

Mr. Record performed a distinct and valuable service in the state of New Jersey the same as in the state of Illinois. His efforts of full accomplishment of his task in his limited time and resources.

It adds to the value of this little volume that the admirable paper by A. W. Madsen of London, Land Value Taxation in Practice, is included as an Appendix.

J. D. M.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

It may have been that Mr. Record's declaration on the subject of the convention. It is a pity that the time that George

Mr. Record rendered to the cause of the poor is a very small one. It is a pity that the time that George

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of production will be automatically regulated in accordance with justice under the free play of natural laws, in which it is feared Mr. Record, as indeed is the case with many others, had insufficient faith.

But this part of this very useful work may be disregarded in view of the contribution to sound economic thinking which Mr. Record has left to his followers. His errors are of little importance but it is important that the Record Memorial Association live and flourish to carry on the work so well begun, and that this little volume will serve to perpetuate both the name and service of one who, if not always proof against the acid test, led the fight in the state of New Jersey in the sordid politics of his day as a lone eagle for the abolition of privilege.

It adds to the value of this little volume that the admirable paper by A. W. Madsen of London, Land Value Taxation in Practice, is included as an Appendix.

J. D. M.

"High Taxes and Unemployment in This City," is a pamphlet of 17 pages and cover by William Wallace Munro. The city referred to is Schenectady, N. Y. where Mr. Munro has been well and favorably known for many years for his work in behalf of our principles.

A Foreword by James B. Montgomery says of the author: "He can be referred to as a public spirited man who tries to get his principles applied in practice."

This little work consists of a treatment of our doctrines by the author with citations from Henry George, Thomas G. Shearman, James R. Brown, Lawson Purdy, J. C. Lincoln and others.

We might take exception to the statement that real wages were high at any time succeeding the war, but conditions were so immeasurably better during that period that the statement may be allowed to stand. Analysis, however, will reveal that actual wages were low enough even at this time.

A large part of the discussion on taxation is admirably done and we wish we had room to quote. But our readers can do no better than to send 25 cents to Mr. Munro for a copy of this brochure.

The author designs in so far as may be possible to canvas the city in a campaign for interested adherents, using this little work as a medium of introduction. We think the plan is capable of general application elsewhere, in which case it would be well to incorporate and feature, rather more than is done in this little work, local instances of abuses aimed at. But principles, of course, are the same in every case and in every locality.

There are some typographical errors in the copy before us which will be corrected in future editions.—J. D. M.

"CAPITALISM" DEFENDED

The Case for Capitalism is a pamphlet of 62 pages and cover by L. Stratford Houghton, published by Daniel and Company, of London, England, at the price of one shilling.

This booklet which is more than a pamphlet is for the most part an examination of a work by Fred Henderson entitled "The Case for Socialism," Mr. Houghton sticks close to fundamentals and can be easily understood. There is here and there a certain carelessness of language, but this does not affect the argument, which is sound throughout.

There is an excellent discussion of the misuse of the terms profit, profiteer, and commercialism, and some useful rationalizing concerning spending and saving. There are also some very clarifying remarks on money, and here the author fails to stumble as so many do.

In Chapter V, "The Place of Land in the Production of Wealth," the argument is clinched and the heart of the problem laid bare. Speaking of the effect of land speculation on production Mr. Houghton says in these weighty words: "Serious results are so inevitable that

had this handicap on industry not been offset by the great improvements in inventions and the like, which have made it possible to produce more wealth on the same space of land and in a shorter time and with less effort, we should doubtless have reached a world-wide crisis ere now."

There is a happy phrasing here and there in which the author is an adept. Speaking of those who urge concurrently the theories of overpopulation and overproduction, he asks: "How could there be at one and the same time too many people for the goods and too many goods for the people?"

Very adroitly, the confusions of Mr. Henderson are answered, and always with delightful courtesy.

Mr. Houghton says: "The reform that is here suggested, i.e., the taxation of land values—is tremendously important, for conditions must inevitably get worse all the time until it is carried into effect."

And this statement is a significant and pregnant one: "We must remember, too, that the more we tax production the more we have got to tax it, because the taxes on production cause unemployment and poverty which need further taxes to relieve it."

Well done, Mr. Houghton!—J. D. M.

H. ELLENOFF SCORES AGAIN

Many of our readers are acquainted with H. Ellenoff and the excellent pamphlet from his hand, "A Printer Tells the President."

Here he is with us again in a larger booklet, "How to Create More Jobs than Men," in which in 48 pages, which is a model of condensation, he reviews the facts and arguments which support our philosophy. The price of this very useful pamphlet is 25 cents and Mr. Ellenoff's address is 409 Pearl street, New York City, care of the Beaverbrook Printing Company.

He begins with a striking quotation from Ferrero's "The Greatness and Decline of Rome," under the chapter heading of that book, "The Gracchi and the New Italy."

Mr. Ellenoff appeals to President Roosevelt, pointing out to him that this economic philosophy received thirty votes in the last session of the Pennsylvania legislature and asking him, "Why not put your influence behind this economic philosophy?"

The questions of war, machinery, "capitalism," are discussed at some length, and our author has fortified his contentions throughout with citations from authorities as well as quotations from Henry George, and congressmen Galusha Grow and Cable, the last two from speeches in Congress in the fifties.

Mr. Ellenoff is a comparatively new recruit to the ranks but he is an apt scholar and a thorough Georgeist.

He will place copies of this pamphlet to the number of five hundred in the hands of as many secretaries of trade organizations with whom in his professional capacity he maintains contact. For this work undertaken at his own expense he deserves the thanks of the fraternity.—J. D. M.

NATURE'S BUDGET, BY JAMES DUNDAS WHITE

Published by George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., London.

Evidently within the Single Tax groups there has come an increasing demand for a clear and simplified explanation of the land question.

"Nature's Budget" is another such explanation by a well known follower of Henry George. The author gives a most simplified outline of land value taxation or its equivalent, the taking of ground rent in lieu of all taxation.

The early chapters are devoted to a consideration of the technical aspects and his constant effort is to show how the whole incidence of land value taxation by excluding all other taxes, conforms to natural law.

The subtitles will indicate to the layman some interesting phases: Under Economics of Peace he treats of Just Conditions, Good Neighbors, Mutual Interests, Human Relations and Modern War. Under Mile-

stones of Progress he relates the feudal system to its subsequent changes together with some historical data. He quotes from Thos. Paine, John Stuart Hill, Herbert Spencer, Dove and Henry George.

The last thirty pages consist of notes relating to each chapter of the book. These notes are valuable references as in most cases they are quotations, from many sources, on the land question, or they are illustrations of his ideas from reports of actual occurrences, in which cases he gives complete data.—C. H. K.

Correspondence

MR. TIDEMAN DRAWS A DISTINCTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It has become the habit, if not the fashion, to say that "industry is burdened with taxes." This expression is not in accordance with actual fact. Industries are merely collectors for the Government, and get paid for collecting. Taxes on secondary industries are part in the cost of production and go into the price of goods and service with the regular profit added to the whole. At every stopping place in the criss-cross course of material and unfinished goods, at every line of transport, taxes are added on top of taxes with profit as cost of collection, until reaching the consuming public which buys and pays for more taxes than goods. This is the first lesson that should be taught in schools of social economy. When the consuming public tumbles to the trick that is being played on them then look for reforms to commence, and the new generation, once started, will not stop halfway. That the increased price reduces consumption, thus curtailing production and employment, is incidental, demand governing supply.

A very large part of the taxes thus collected are wasted in support of a horde of useless and troublesome political office cats, most of whom had better be discarded and left to find more useful pursuits for their living.

Taxes collected on labor and industry are substitutes for revenue the community earns, and its government does not get, thus shifting the rent into the price of goods. To this extent Mr. E. Jorgensen is perfectly right, and it does not require a whole book, nor two of them, to tell and explain that much.

One other expression that runs outside reason is, "Take the whole rental value of land." In the first place, this is impossible; second, even if it could, it ought not to be done. Speculation should, of course, be taxed out; land held idle or poorly used should yield its share,—pay or quit and leave the chance for better men. But just as a man is making improvements on his land does so on the assumption that it will become worth more to him than its cost, so must public improvements and services be of higher value to the payer than the price asked as otherwise all incentive to social progress would be lost, at least on their part.

Fisk, Mo.

S. TIDEMAN.

THE ECONOMIC MOTIVE IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND HISTORY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Having spent the last year in genealogical work I have found many things of interest besides the facts that may be used in a family tree.

For instance: In "Planters of the Commonwealth," by Charles Edward Banks. In 1621 a letter by William Hilton, a native of Cheshire, England, who emigrated in the *Fortune* to join the Pilgrims at Plymouth, although not one of the Separatist body, in a letter to his kinsman back home, he wrote: "We are all freeholders, the rent day doth not trouble us, and all those good blessings we have." Another, George Cleeves, native of Somersetshire, England, writes: "I would be tenant to never a man in New England." Mr. George Cleeves was the founder of Portland, Maine.

Although we have been taught that our ancestors came to New England to avail themselves of the freedom to worship God as they saw fit, it appears that the economic influence was quite as important. Suffield, Conn. DAD.

JAMES CHARLTON DEAD

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The last of the inner circle (the "Solid Six" we called them) of the old Pastoriza Single Tax Log Cabin Club, of Houston has passed over. The victim of an automobile accident a couple of weeks ago, the shock was too much for a man of his years, and he passed out yesterday morning, at the age of 89.

I remember the first time I met Mr. Charlton. It was in the summer of 1890, and having read something I had written to the *Standard*, he wrote me that a Henry George club was being formed in Houston and invited me to join. I recall that he said H. F. Ring, the author of "The Case Plainly Stated," had been selected to represent Houston at the gathering in New York of the faithful to welcome Mr. George back from his trip around the world. It was not until some years afterwards that Pastoriza was brought into the fold and became a live wire, injecting new life into the club which had almost disintegrated by that time.

Mr. Charlton was one of the very few men who could preach the gospel of Henry George in season and out of season without giving offence to the House of Have. Was popular with all classes and was never defeated during his whole political career, which extended over thirty years.

Houston, Texas.

P. W. SCHWANDER.

WANTS AN ACTIVE ORGANIZATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We are interested in the result of the International Conference in London and are proud of the fact that our Charles O'Connor Hennessy is president of that august body.

That League was organized in 1926 in Copenhagen, Denmark. I had the good fortune to attend the second conference held in Edinburgh in 1929. It was most inspiring to meet so many men and women workers of many lands for they were there from all over the world; all earnestly working to establish a social system that would bring peace and prosperity.

I am sure we all recognize the great value of these international gatherings, but would we not materially strengthen our international organization if we had a National Single Tax League. There are thousands of Single Taxers who have no opportunity to do anything for the cause just because we have no national organization through which to work. I feel sure that the silent majority would not only welcome such an organization but would contribute to its support. I am sure that we could collect sufficient funds to carry on and pay a salary to an active working secretary who would give his entire time to the work, organizing the states, forums and local study groups, and filling lecture dates.

The last number of LAND AND FREEDOM had an account of the annual picnic of the Single Tax organization in Washington at which Representative Charles R. Eckert was the principle speaker. He said: "I used to urge that the Single Tax movement should have a national headquarters in Washington, because here is the seat of government; we find here a different atmosphere from what prevails in many other communities, and I rather regret that that dream was never fulfilled. I felt then and I feel now that the movement would be stimulated if we had a national organization with headquarters here to act as a clearing house for all activities in which Single Taxers are engaged."

I am sure we are all in accord with Mr. Eckert's point of view and that now is the time to act. I hope that the suggestion will be taken up at the annual meeting of the Henry George Foundation.

"There is plenty of free land in the United States now, you can get to it by motor, train or air more rapidly than the early Americans could go from Boston to New York."

Mr. Brisbane, like many others, evidently does not know that our New Deal President has nullified the federal homestead law. This he accomplished by issuing two proclamations, one in November, 1934, and the other in January, 1935, withdrawing from homestead entry the last vestige of our public domain, embracing over 173,000,000 acres in eleven public land states.

Thus, for the first time in our history, there is not an acre of free land in the United States today, on which a family may settle, and by its own labor, produce food and shelter for its own use.

The enactment of the homestead law in 1862, was a declaration by the federal government that the head of every family was a legitimate heir of Uncle Sam; and to claim his heritage was a very simple matter under the provisions of the Act, namely, to occupy and use the land.

This action of the President in nullifying a law which has been a veritable "life-saver" for millions of American families, is regarded by many as the meanest blow ever aimed at American liberty. No former President has ever dreamed of trampling on the sacred right of a citizen to build a cabin and raise food for himself and family on idle government land.

Note: If the reader wishes a literary treat, go to the public library and get Volume 10, of "Great Debates in American History," by Marion Mills Miller, and read the great speeches in Congress on the federal homestead law in 1852. You will also find letters written by the first Single Taxer, Edwin Burgess, of Wisconsin, twenty years before Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty."

Seattle, Wash.

EUGENE W. WAY.

A CORRECTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I was sorry to see three crucial misprints in my letter in the July-August issue and ask leave to point them out. Page 107, fourth paragraph, "process" should be *progress*; page 108, second line from top, "+" (the plus symbol) should be - (the minus symbol); 6th line from the bottom, "distinction" should be *distribution*.

It would be a relief if these errors could be righted for although none too knowing in Single Tax theory I am loath to appear so careless; and especially in the dreadful error of the symbols.

Waterbury, Conn.

ROYAL E. S. HAYES, M.D.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

LINCOLN STEFFENS, famous as a writer and worker for social reform, passed away in Carmel, California, of a heart attack on August 7. He was prominent as one of the early muckrakers who in magazine articles exposed the corruption of cities. He was educated in a military academy in San Mateo, California. His first journalistic experience was as a reporter for the *New York Evening Post*. He graduated from his job as reporter to write a series of articles for *McClure's Magazine* on the Shame of Cities. In 1902 he became managing editor of *McClure's*. From 1906 to 1911 he was associate editor of the *American and Everybody's*. In 1931 appeared his Autobiography and on this his fame may be said to rest. Steffens was a great reporter. But it is doubtful if his philosophy was proof against disillusionment. We doubt if he ever found a firm foundation for his feet. He described himself as "a philosophical communist," whatever that is. He was a member of the Fels Fund Commission. He ended his career not without leaving an impress upon his time but failing to build for himself a social philosophy that would stand the test of experience. He is supposed to have been a believer in Henry George's teachings but left little to reinforce the faith of those who are to come after. Commentators will consult his "Shame of Cities," and above all his

remarkable Autobiography. But these who would seek for useful hints will find little real inspiration.

A DEER hunting preserve of 17,000 acres in Texas was sold recently at a reported price of \$11.25 an acre. The ranch is rich in fish and wild turkey.

The Woman's Wear Daily says all indications point to a stiffening of rentals this Fall in the garment, fur-handling and undergarment districts. "The outlook for higher rentals is very promising," says the same paper. But promising to whom? Not, demonstrably, to those who sell furs nor to those who buy them. Who is the third party whom high rentals benefit?

We regret to learn of the death of Samuel Danziger on July 11 at Baltimore, Maryland, while on a visit to his son Dr. Louis Danziger. He died of congestive heart failure. He seemed to be in good health, though for a number of years he had suffered from high blood pressure. His work will be long remembered. He was associate editor of the *Public* and for many years up to the very time of his death has sent out to Single Tax papers and others his comments on current happenings. We learned to look for these and have used many with and without credit as specifically granted. They were keen and cutting reflections and were widely printed. Mr. Danziger was a member of the Fels Fund Commission. His death deprives the movement of another useful and devoted servant.

F. J. EDDY of Chicago contributes an excellent letter to the *Wheaton, Ill. Journal* and says: "We cannot continue to tax (penalize) production for the benefit of land monopoly and continue to designate ourselves as a Christian brotherhood."

HON. GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY writes us in a recent letter: "I hope that your paragraph on page 100 of July-August LAND AND FREEDOM, the real solution, etc., may be widely quoted. I hope that the good work I hear of the Henry George School in the outreach of its word may mean that the younger generation now coming on will do more for the generation which succeeded Mr. George and his fine group of supporters."

REV. HAROLD RYLETT died at Ballygowan, near Belfast, Ireland, on August 9 at the age of 85. He had been a member of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values for many years. He had been a Unitarian minister in London and Kent, and for a time edited the *Democrat* founded by William Saunders. Nearly fifty years ago he gave evidence before the House of Lords Select Committee on the sweating system and on the condition of the chain and nail makers in the Black County. In his advanced years he maintained his interest in the affairs of the League.

GUSTAVE BASSLER of Brooklyn, N. Y., died of heart disease on September 3. He passed away in his sleep. Mr. Bassler was known to local Henry George men. He was not a Single Taxer though he believed in the taxation of land values. So believing he was a contributor to all activities organized to further the cause. He was present at all dinners and meetings. One of his chief activities was the Brotherhood of the Commonwealth of which he was one of the trustees at the time of his death. He brought in more members than any one save the late Joseph McGuinness. He was well liked and will be sorely missed. He was seventy-five years of age, but looked much younger.

JAMES B. ELLERY of Gloucester, Mass., has a letter in the *Times* of that city which is an admirable statement of our principles addressed to Mr. Landon.

If you had one million dollars to give to your community how would you wish it spent, is the question propounded in the *Atlantic Monthly* by a retired business man. He has the money to give so the question is not a hypothetical one. He has authorized the *Atlantic* to award a prize of one thousand dollars for an article of not more than a thousand words embodying the best suggestion or plan for the disposal of this million dollar gift. Many Henry George men have competed.

BENJAMIN DOBLIN of this city who died on July 4 was a devoted follower of Henry George. It was Morris Van Veen who in the early days of 1886 presented him with a copy of "Progress and Poverty." From that time until 1916 the records of the Manhattan Single Tax Club will give evidence of his varied activities. From 1890 to 1897 he made all the clothes that Henry George wore. The latter was a frequent visitor to Mr. Doblin's store at 842 Broadway, near 14th street, and it was there that we first met Mr. George. Mr. Doblin took an active part in securing the present blanket ballot and was one of the committee to present Governor David B. Hill with the thousands of signatures secured by the Manhattan Single Tax Club to induce the governor to sign the bill. On the attainment of his fiftieth birthday he was presented with a large photograph of himself signed by F. C. Leubuscher, Joe Newmann, Joe Fink, Robert Baker, John J. Murphy, A. Weymann, Lawson Purdy and Oscar Geiger. He was born in 1864. He delivered one of the notable speeches before the Committee on Taxation appointed by John Purroy Mitchell, and this argument might well form a valuable and effective pamphlet at this time. At the nominating convention he presented the name of Samuel Seabury for City Court Judge. Seabury was elected and was the youngest man ever to attain to this position.

ANOTHER old and valued member of the Manhattan Tax Club to pass away was Cornelius Donovan, long an active worker in the cause. His store on Broadway was also a meeting place for the friends of the movement where they were always sure of a hearty greeting. We have no details of his passing.

AND yet another. A frequent visitor to this office and a contributor to the up-keep of LAND AND FREEDOM was John H. Scully of this city. His death is a real loss to the movement for in his quiet way he did much to advance the cause among his co-religionists, he being a devout Catholic. We have several hundred copies of a pamphlet by Laurie J. Quinby which he printed and which we will be glad to supply on application. We had known him for many years and he was a familiar figure at Single Tax functions.

IN the July issue of *The Canadian Unionist* A. C. Campbell of Ottawa, has another of his interesting and important articles from which we have from time to time made selections. The title of his contribution to the July *Unionist* is "Poverty in the Midst of Plenty."

OUR old friend Waldo J. Wernicke of Los Angeles in the *Hollywood Citizen News* comments from a news note in a recent issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, which tells of the formation of a party in South Africa which aims at the total abolition of all taxes. Mr. Wernicke says: "The enforcement of this plan would result in opportunities and revenue, prosperity and progress."

A RECENT survey reveals that every loaf of bread conceals fifty-two taxes.

EMIL KNIPS, of Fairhope, Alabama, writes commending B. W. Burger's review of Mr. Foley's writings in July-August number of LAND AND FREEDOM.

"NATION Watches California Fight for Single Tax," was the large

type heading of a very fair report of the California campaign in the *Albany (N. Y.) News* of July 30.

VERNON J. ROSE of Kansas City, Mo., writes: "Edward White is doing splendid work with his classes. J. C. Fuller, A. E. Swearingen, Frank J. Englesman and Walter H. Wright are helping in this work. My business keeps me away a great deal, though I attend the classes as often as possible and find them very interesting and helpful."

W. E. ALEXANDER, of Ethridge, Tenn., whose articles in the *Labor Advocate* treating of our principles have attracted general attention, passed away on August 11. He had been in failing health for about a year but had been in bed for only a few weeks. A short time before his death he wrote a letter to the *Labor Advocate* explaining that he was unable to continue his contributions. He said: "Of course I hope to recover soon, but I am past seventy years, and there is no telling." Almost to the last he kept up his good work and there is a note of pathos in his letter to the *Labor Advocate* in which he told of his illness which had interrupted his useful activities. His press contributions were many in number and were always fundamentally sound. On what proved to be his deathbed he conveyed a message of encouragement to L. D. Beckwith, editor of *The Forum* and *No Taxes*.

AN invitation has been extended through LAND AND FREEDOM to members of the Henry George Congress which meets in Cincinnati in November to visit the Taft Museum on Fourth and Pike streets. This museum was opened to the public in 1932. Among the artists represented in the Taft Museum are Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Hals, Turner, Gainsborough and many others. There is also an interesting collection of watches dating from the 16th century. It is one of most famous small museums in the world.

IN the *Providence Journal* of Sunday, Sept. 6, John T. Giddings has an excellent and rather lengthy letter headed "The Henry George Theory."

THE *Commonweal* of Wellington, New Zealand, has an appreciative review of Col. Rule's "Chain the War God."

MR. BOLTON HALL sent a summary of our principles printed on a postal card to Walter Lippman asking him if he agreed with it, and Mr. Lippman answered: "On the whole, yes."

F. C. LEUBUSCHER appears with a letter in the *New York Times* headed "A Voter in Distress." Mr. Leubuscher sees six socialist tickets and cannot decide.

THE *Saratogian* congratulates George Foster Peabody on the attainment of his 84th birthday and pays him a deserved tribute.

GEORGE E. SOKOLSKY in the *New York Herald Tribune* says: "Why do the Spanish revolutionists despoil the churches of Spain? Many of them love the art of these churches. Some may even be artists. But the old Spanish church is a symbol of landlordism and they must break something that belongs to a landlord to relieve their wrath."

"PROGRESS Toward Land Value Taxation Throughout the World," by Bolton Hall is an admirable article in the *American City* for August. Mr. Hall acknowledges his indebtedness for the excellent summary to A. W. Madsen of *Land and Liberty* and Joseph Dana Miller of LAND AND FREEDOM. We hope to have space for reprinting this article in some future issue of this journal.

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