

land ownership innocuous for evil. Certainly, too, the natural right to the use of the earth is, in a sense, a real property in its use. These are some of the subtleties of terminology.

But while bearing all this in mind, let us be careful not to whittle down too finely the teachings of Henry George. We hear too little in these days of those great smashing phrases: Industrial Emancipation, The Land for the People, The Abolition of Poverty, The New Crusade. It is such battle cries as these, with the tremendous spirit behind them, that will have a strange potency in the time when the industrial crash sets in. We are sailing smoother waters now, but the storms are coming. There will be need then for newer and more thrilling words of command and sterner rallying cries.

But, in the meantime, to the Massachusetts League—God Speed!

SINGLE TAX INFORMATION BUREAU.

Believing that the Single Tax movement is still in its educational stage, and that the judicious distribution of literature is therefore one of the most effective methods of propaganda at the present time, a few Single Taxers in Brooklyn established on May 1st, 1908, the Single Tax Information Bureau, with headquarters at 1467 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

During the eight months that the Bureau has been in existence, it has printed and purchased about 60,000 documents, including pamphlets, circular letters and leaflets. Of this amount about 40,000 have been distributed through the mails to specially selected names.

The Bureau advertises in a large number of newspapers and periodicals throughout the country, and up to the present time about twelve hundred applications for literature have been received and supplied. All these names are systematically recorded and from time to time are supplied with additional literature.

The bulk of the literature sent out consists of neat and attractive pamphlets printed specially for the Bureau by Frank Vierth, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Some of the titles are: Single Tax Catechism; Right to the Use of the Earth, by Herbert Spencer; Objections to the Land Tax, by Thomas G. Shearman; A Single Tax View of Trusts, by Louis F. Post; and the following by Henry George: The Single Tax; Cause of Industrial Depressions; Effects of Material Progress; First Principles. The Shortest Road to the Single Tax, also The Story of My Dictatorship and a large quantity of leaflets published by A. G. Beecher of Warren, Pa., are included in the literature for distribution.

It would be a most excellent plan to establish such a Bureau in every State of the Union. One or two "Croasdale" Single

Taxers could volunteer to do the necessary work connected therewith, and by using his own residence as headquarters would avoid the costly and important items of rent and clerk hire, thus using the entire income for postage and the purchase of literature.

If any of the readers of this article desire to establish a Bureau, information as to ways and means will be cheerfully supplied upon application to the Secretary, E. B. Swinney, 1467 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

HENRY H. HARDINGE.

(See Portrait.)

Henry H. Hardinge was born on a farm in Canada in the year of grace 1868. He received a "very common" school education, and has just informed the writer that he is now attending the university of latter-day civilization—post graduate course. He has lived in Chicago for the last sixteen years, and says he can think of no excuse to offer.

Mr. Hardinge is devoted to the mechanic arts. He is an inventor, and one of the most expert workmen in iron and steel in the country. The manufacture of watch-makers' tools for some years received his careful attention, and the business founded by him, because of superior products, now practically controls some lines of this industry. The only perfect chuck known to the watch-making trade is the result of toil during many sleepless nights on the part of Mr. Hardinge.

At present he is engaged in the work of enormously reducing the cost of several branches of the typefounding industry. The results in this direction seem to indicate a fortune for the inventor. In short, Mr. Hardinge is a mechanical engineer of the first order, with the originality of the inventor added.

Several years ago he listened for a few minutes to one of our street speakers, and bought a copy of "The Land Question," which the boys had on sale—and "saw the cat." Since that day political economy has been his hobby, affording, as he says, diversion and relaxation from the arduous duties of a manufacturer who has no legal monopoly.

Mr. Hardinge's style is terse, incisive, epigrammatic. Work in iron and steel requires exactness. His native capacity and training have combined to develop a precision that are exceedingly annoying to those who come into conflict with him. Two parts of an argument that do not agree are to him like two parts of a mechanism that do not fit. The thing will not work, and that is the end of the matter.

A tireless worker on behalf of economic truth, which has its expression in the Single Tax movement, finding his forum in halls, in shops, on the corner, on the street car, in fact wherever men may be met,

Henry H. Hardinge will make his mark in whatever field of endeavor may secure his attention. His fund of illustrations and swift apprehension of the essential features of any matter under consideration make him one to be feared by enemies and prized by friends. With him patriotism is resistance to tyranny.

News—Domestic.

CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES.—(Special Correspondence.—Ralph Hoyt.) The few Single Taxers in this city continue true to the fundamental principles of our cause, despite the result of the Ohio election and some other incidents of more recent date. We see no reason for discouragement, but feel sure that out of the apparent darkness there will come, in due time, a light that will illuminate this monopoly-ridden country and bring eventual harmony between elements which now are warring with each other, though really desiring to accomplish the same object—equal rights for all, with special privileges to none.

We are now viewing with deep interest the great real estate boom in this city, which has been going on for several years, and growing in size, fierceness and absurdity. The daily, weekly and monthly sales of city lots not only increase in numbers, but they show a continuous creeping up of what are universally considered land values. In one sense they are such. At least they are land PRICES; and the amount of pure speculative "business" prevailing here creates a fiercer demand for real estate as the days go by. True there is and for sometime has been a vast amount of building going on within the city limits, and in various contiguous little cities; but the figures to which prices of small spots of God's earth have attained are beyond what they should be for the permanent good of the people interested in healthy expansion. Sooner or later there must be a reaction. The engine can not much longer bear such a pressure without having an explosion. No two men, or larger number of men, can earn a living by perpetual swapping of horses. Neither can a community always prosper, or even live comfortably, by depending mainly on mere land speculation.

Well do I remember the great boom of 1886, '87 and '88. For two years Los Angeles, was "booming." Real estate agencies were thicker than mosquitos. Nearly every available business structure downtown was subdivided into small compartments, and used as real estate offices, for which the occupants paid enormous rentals, and charged enormous prices for every small patch of earth offered for sale. The agents using those little high-priced pens evidently agreed with the sentiment expressed by Bulwer when he declared that "The pen is mightier than the sword." Agents and

sub-agents were almost as thick in the streets as ever were grasshoppers in the fields of Kansas. And every such agent was constantly looking or running after a buyer. Each agent presented somewhat the appearance of a shipwrecked mariner floating on a log in mid-ocean—he was straining his eyes to discover a sale!

The boom continued two years or more, and then collapsed. Then came a reaction all over the city and county. For several years thereafter there was only one mechanical line in which men found satisfactory employment here, and that was carpenter work. Every carpenter was kept busy making signs for buildings in the town, the signs reading either "FOR SALE" or "TO LET."

There may not be a set-back in the growth of this queer city for a year or more to come; though there is reason to believe the change may occur within the ensuing ten months. When it does come, many people who are now economically blind may get their eyes open and begin to learn the important lesson that we have been working on a wrong basis. That land speculation is not an industry, but a game of chance. That monopoly of natural resources is a special privilege, for which every person indulging in it should pay a reasonable sum into the public treasury for public purposes. That the natural right to the use of the earth and all that the individual honestly produces is as sacred as any moral right in the category. That any state, or municipality which disregards such natural rights is sure to reap a whirlwind.

Meanwhile, we Single Taxers are still the same firm believers in the ultimate triumph of our principles.

"For ever the Right comes uppermost,
And ever is Justice done."

Applications for Single Tax literature are becoming more and more frequent, and I have the pleasure of giving out much of it to persons who apparently are interested in the great problem which we know can never be settled till it is settled as Henry George proposed. Any Single Taxer who may have such literature on hand, will do a good service by mailing some of it to me, as I can place it, free in the hands of every applicant.

COLORADO, DENVER.—(Special Correspondence.—E. O. Bailey.)—The effects of the campaign for Local Option a year ago, are still discernible.

With the exception of individual action, and that largely confined to Denver, little is being done to restore the influence and the organization which that campaign—with its final defeat—cost us.

The causes are apparent. Reaction from its high tension was inevitable, and recovery from its sacrifices necessary.

Denver has been convulsed with the birth agonies of a new charter in which Single