

than "Progress and Poverty" appears there does not seem to be any reason for even discussing a change.

The suggestion for a change of textbooks comes from those good people who are somewhat impatient. They are looking for a short-cut. It occurs to the writer that short cuts have been sought by Georgeists for the past fifty years. Political activity, street corner speaking, handing out pamphlets, organizing clubs—the writer was himself engaged in these activities for nearly a quarter of a century, and has always found them wanting. The measure of success of any Georgeist activity is the number of new converts that activity can claim. That should be our yardstick.

The School has proven that its method has been quicker, that it has paid more dividends for the effort and expense involved, than any other activity carried on by the Georgeists since the time of Henry George. It is the shortest short-cut that has yet been devised.

If the reader of this article is an old timer, let him ask himself what definite proof has he of the number of converts he has made during the years that he has been talking Henry George. Also, let him ask himself whether any effort he has expended compares with that of the School, in which the teacher takes a group of people thoroughly through "Progress and Poverty" in ten weeks. If every one of this group is not a full fledged convert, in that he is able to argue out every point in economics or social philosophy, is of minor consideration. The fact is that he has become acquainted with Henry George, that his mind is thinking along the lines of a free economy rather than along the lines of monopoly.

The School method is the shortest short-cut of them all.

F. C.

Freedom of Commerce

THE day of internal tolls, called by the English Magna Charta, "evil tolls," has fled. They have been abolished between the Italian states, and our own Constitution forbids them as well. To-day we have free trade within the states over an area as large as Europe. There are no tolls at state boundary lines—no inland tolls, no *octroi*; levied at the cities' gates.

It was freedom of commerce which opened up this country from ocean to ocean; drove its way through the Rocky mountain gorges and held its unconquered march to the stormy Pacific slope. Freedom of trade penetrated to the icebergs of the frozen North, and sailed to the parched lands of the tropics. Before her fell the stake, before her tottered the throne; at her breath sank the secret council and the star chamber; and Freedom roused herself, like a sleeping lion that had dozed away through medieval ages, ere commerce had won its glory, or ships had ploughed the seas for foreign merchandise;—ere the trader had come, who as messenger of peace

was to strike the cutlass from the hand of the pirate and corsair!

When the protectionists of Piedmont invoked the example of the United States, Count Cavour answered, "What does that prove? It proves that these people, though Republicans, know not how to give up personal to public interest, and that Republican forms of government are not sufficient to tear selfishness from the human heart."

When the time comes that the American people would burst these bonds they will find that the great interest, the fearful power they have evoked, will not so easily be destroyed. An Arabian tale relates how a gigantic spirit was prevailed upon to contract himself to small dimensions in order to enter an enchanted vessel, and when his prison had closed upon him he found himself unable to escape from the narrow boundaries to the measure of which he had reduced his stature.—J. D. M.

The Twelfth Henry George Conference

THERE is a new spirit in the Single Tax movement! This was clearly indicated by the Twelfth Annual Henry George Conference held in Detroit, Mich., October 14-18.

There was less discussion of the philosophy itself than at any previous convention, almost the entire subject of the addresses and their debates being devoted to extending a wider public knowledge of economic truth and justice.

There were more young men and women present than ever before and this is due undoubtedly to the Henry George School of Social Science.

It was the consensus of opinion that this last should be continued, enlarged and extended; for it is the educational background for any form that the movement might take in the future.

As one man put it: "This is the strongest element that has come into the movement since the personality of Henry George himself."

The view was also expressed that the Henry George School of Social Science is the only true, formal, organized course in political economy and with anything like a national scope in this and other countries; for true political economy is not taught in the average college or university by reason of offending the source of their endowments and fear of affecting the investments of their endowments.

Obviously, many of the young people at this Detroit Conference were sons and daughters or even grandchildren of original Single Taxers, so that the truth, the belief, the effort of those who are now gone was not buried with their bones.

There was an incident of historical interest at this Conference: Frank Brown, now a prosperous coffee merchant of Indianapolis, was in attendance. He has long been known as a Single Taxer and a worker in the cause.

Some one remarked at one of the meetings that it was not how many were converted to the Georgian philosophy, but that it was more a matter as to whom we converted; that the late Tom L. Johnson became a Single Taxer in 1888 by a train boy laying a copy of Henry George's "Social Problems" in his lap while going from Indianapolis to Cleveland that he afterwards devoted his life and fortune to the cause.

"Yes," said Frank Brown, "I was that train boy!"

"I had read the book a few months before," Mr. Brown went on, "had been convinced of its social truth and had bought a few copies at wholesale as an addition to my train boy stock.

"When I first laid the book in Mr. Johnson's lap he seemed to think that it pertained to a sex social problem and handed it back to me saying that he was not interested.

"But I got the train conductor, who had also read the book and who knew Mr. Johnson, to urge it upon him and which he did by guaranteeing the price, 50 cents, if he was not interested.

One of the interesting men at the Detroit Conference was J. B. Ellert, Milk River, Alberta, Canada, the only 100 per cent Single Tax community on the North American continent.

Mr. Ellert is relatively young and a real pitchfork farmer. He instigated the pure land tax in Milk River and has maintained it in the face of all land speculator opposition, including single handed combat with the political lawyers of the C. P. R.

In narrating his experiences before the Conference and in his discussion of other addresses, he indicated a very high order of plain common sense.

He dresses well and is well groomed, but still looks like a farmer and can talk to farmers in their own language with a clear and practical working knowledge of land value taxation of his own community always before him, and which he pictures in no uncertain terms.

Mr. Ellert should be financed in a lecture tour of the United States, particularly before farmer granges of the east and central west.

He is a born teacher to his fellow farmers.

The best proposal and discussion of this Detroit Henry George Conference was a move towards a national organization to sell the Georgian principle of taxation to the public.

This may not in all cases take the form of direct politi-

cal action, but it will include economic education to political influence.

The fact was clearly brought out on the floor of the Conference and in committee discussion that the main weakness of the Single Tax cause is that it has no national organization like that of many political and industrial organizations now seeking and obtaining state and federal legislation.

The concerted conclusion of the Conference was that there are now enough men interested and active in the movement who have solved large problems in their own industries to the national sale of honest goods and services; that these same principles will serve in selling a sound economic philosophy to the nation—proof against depression and unemployment, and for continued purchasing power and prosperity.

A large committee representing varying phases of the movement and location was appointed. A small sub-committee was directed to become active to prepare and file a report of recommendations to the larger committee as to a name, policy and general activity of such a national organization.

The active man in this sub-committee is Mr. A. Laurence Smith, 2460 East Grand Blvd., Detroit, who will welcome suggestions and lists of names of Single Taxers in various locations.—DAVID GIBSON.

I AM a Single Taxer. . . . The Single Tax would be the means of bringing about the sanitary conditions I so much desire.—GENERAL WILLIAM C. GORGAS.

ALL the country needs is a new and sincere thought in politics; coherently, distinctly, and boldly uttered by men who are sure of their ground. The power of men like Henry George seems to me to mean that.

WOODROW WILSON.

LET us take time by the forelock and make sure the unearned increment of land shall belong to the people and not to private individuals who happen to be the owners of the soil."

DR. SUN YAT SEN,

First President of the Chinese Republic.

APPROPRIATE rent in the way I propose, and speculative rent would be at once destroyed. The dogs in the manger who are now holding so much land they have no use for, in order to extract a high price from those who do want to use it, would be at once choked off, and land from which labor and capital are now debarred under penalty of a heavy fine would be thrown open to improvement and use. The incentive to land monopoly would be gone. Population would spread where it is now too dense, and become denser where it is now too sparse.

THE LAND QUESTION, BY HENRY GEORGE.