

not in, like the tribes whom the deserts devoured in their sin."

Who, then, would benefit from the tremendous increase in productivity? The principal beneficiary would be the Peter Minuits who would be able to get not \$500,000,000 a year for permission to use their Island; they would get \$1,000,000,000 a year. Rent would go up and overtake the increase in productivity of both labor and capital, so that the grind of life would continue as of today, the increase in economic rent would forestall and prevent the toiling masses from entering into rest, it would make impossible the lifting of carking care from the hearts of business men.

Now comes the all important question, could this be prevented, and why is it that the selling price of land comes into existence at all, in view of the fact that there is no production cost in land? It is the all important difference between the values attached to the things that men make, and the value that attaches to the thing that God or nature provided, that constitutes the most important of economics.

What is it that gives the selling price to land? It is the failure of our taxing system to collect economic rent, put it in the exchequer of the community and out of that meet the needs of the community, and a generous and an ample amount we would find it would be. Any part of economic rent we fail to collect is capitalized into selling price, so it is the failure of a taxing system to do the obviously natural thing, that is, collect social values for social use, that gives a selling price to land and is the cause of pyramiding of land values, for the higher the social order, the more efficient the government, the greater the service given to human kind through communal powers, the greater the economic rent, and the less we collect of it, the more there will be to capitalize into selling price.

This is the reason the selling price of land on Manhattan Island today, even accepting the figures of the Assessment Department, outstrips by a billion dollars the value of all the improvements that in all these years we have put upon Manhattan Island.

This failure to use properly the taxing power and put publicly created values into the public exchequer and meet public expenses out of them, puts us exactly in the position of an engineer who is making a cut through a hill for the purpose of laying a railroad track, but instead of throwing the dirt to the right or to the left, he throws it in front. Now, when would he get through with that job? Never, because the more he digs the more he has to dig, the more he works the more he will have to work, his efforts through the misplacement of the spare dirt only adds to the difficulties of the task. And so we in our lack of understanding of what economic rent is, in our very foolish treatment of it, that is, in giving it to private individuals who have rendered no service and who have delivered no goods, we artificially create a selling price for land that becomes the greatest liability carried by industry. To put this economic

rent in the exchequer of the community would relieve industry from the enormous payments it now has to make for permission to use the earth to begin with, and in addition to which we come back a second time to industry and ask them to pay for the support of government. Both these burdens have of late years rapidly increased to such a degree that any form of industry, without a monopoly, has indeed a poor outlook, and the cost of living upon the whole, while it should be lower today than in any period of the world's history, because we produce wealth easier today than in any period heretofore, is higher than it ever has been.

We are guilty, through our ignorance, of three wicked things. We have given to some men vast amounts of wealth, for which they have rendered no service and delivered no goods. We have loaded upon the back of industry vast burdens that will result in destroying industry, and we are setting at naught the divine and omnipotent purpose that nature had in giving to man the creative instinct, that enables him to produce things with less and less trouble, that satisfy desire and make for the growth and development of the individual.

## Activities of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF  
PRESIDENT HENNESSY

IT is the duty of your president to summarize a statement of the work of our Foundation since the last annual meeting, and to make recommendations for your consideration as to the general direction that our activities might take during the coming year. I am pleased to believe that in the year that is closing, we have made substantial progress in advancing the principles and purpose for which our organization was formed. Our generous founder aimed at nothing less, to quote the terms of his will, than the "giving of equal opportunity to all," and "the betterment of the individual and of society by the abolition of involuntary poverty and its attendant evils." Therefore, he committed to us, to quote his will.

"the teaching, expounding and propagating of the ideas of Henry George as set forth in his said book (Progress and Poverty) and in his other books, especially what are popularly known as the Single Tax on land values, and international free trade."

In the year ending, as in recent previous years in this country and elsewhere in the world, there have been continued evidences of an extraordinary revival of interest in the teachings of Henry George. We are prepared to contend, and, I believe, to demonstrate that a great part of this revival of interest may be traced to the stimulation of ways and means of publicity and propaganda, originated by this Foundation.

Not long ago, our good friend, William Lloyd Garrison, grandson of the Great Liberator, declared at a meeting of Single Taxers in Boston, that a rediscovery of Henry George by his countrymen was now inevitable. So it seems to those of us who have been in touch with some of the results of our office activities. It seemed, until a few years ago, that there was danger, in this country at least, that the very name of Henry George might fade, for the time being, from the memory of all his fellow countrymen, except for the devoted but dwindling group of the followers, most of whom won the inspiration of a great faith and social vision from the lips of the Great Teacher himself. But since then, our Foundation has been concentrating itself upon enlarged and growing projects for advertising the name of Henry George and his particular books, and for stimulating a demand for those writings, and meeting such demand after it had arisen. Limited in our endeavors, as we have been, by the comparatively small annual fund at our disposal, we have, nevertheless, I believe, attained most gratifying results. Our records and correspondence files and our constantly growing card index of the names and addresses of men and women interested in our work, give ample proof of this. If the occasion would permit, I could quote hundreds of heartening messages expressive of appreciation of our work that have come from all parts of the country. Especially encouraging are the book orders and endorsements that come from economic teachers in the colleges and schools of the country, partly as a result of letters which we sent out in September 1928, January 1929 and again last October, detailing our book services to college professors. A new, and now I believe not uncommon professorial view was expressed in a letter of last December to Mr. Van Veen, from Professor William H. Taylor of the University of California, who wrote:

"I have my own copy of that great work "Progress and Poverty," nor am I unfamiliar with other movements for social reform. All have suffered unjustly at the hands of economists and historians of this country. But the greatest injustice has, perhaps, been in the almost complete ignoring of the works of one who was in many respects greater than they. His name will go down in history while those of many now famous American economists will be forgotten."

Scores of letters of this character from the colleges are in our files. In this particular direction I would not overlook the excellent work accomplished by our Secretary Mr. Fairchild, in visiting scores of educational institutions in the South last Winter, and making friendly personal contacts with economic teachers, with whom, in many cases, we had previously been in correspondence. The Executive Committee provided the funds to meet the expenses of this work.

Detailed reports of the activities of Mr. Fairchild have heretofore been communicated to members of the Board,

who have also been kept fully informed by Mr. James R. Brown of his visits to educational institutions.

Not less valuable and interesting are the letters that come to us from outside the academic field,—from old-timers in the Georgist cause, who, through our work, it would appear, have been born again into a new faith and enthusiasm, and from newcomers who are reading the great truth for the first time. Time will not permit a reading of many of these letters, but this one is typical, from Frank Sheehy, a business man of the Union Trust Building, in Cleveland, who writes:

"I have been a reader of progressive and liberal literature, but "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George, which I have just completed, has immeasurably broadened my social vision. I am enclosing my check for a copy of the new unabridged edition."

Some measure of our activities in the matter of correspondence relating to our work, but particularly respecting the sales of literature, may be estimated from the fact that I find since January 1st of last year, approximately 30,000 letters have been posted from our office, of which two-thirds were in circular form. This work, I should say, was most intelligently directed by our very competent assistant secretary, Miss Kaufmann.

#### GENERAL PUBLICITY

Scrap books are available for the examination of our directors, to show the type and character of purchased advertising publicity which we have been using, and also to illustrate the extent to which we were able to obtain publicity in the leading newspapers for announcements relating to the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of "Progress and Poverty."

The prize essay contests carried on in colleges and high schools by the Annie C. George Prize Essay Committee and the Committee of the Hussey Fund, also received considerable public notice in newspapers. In this connection, we received a notice from Professor E. J. Brierley, one of our English friends, that he was modelling his nationwide prize essay contest over there, after the Annie C. George Contests here.

We have good reason to believe, incidentally, that our advertising campaigns, during which we have stressed the interest and value of Henry George's writings have resulted in considerable sales of books outside of the Foundation. This we know is true particularly of Protection or Free Trade which book we have recently begun to advertise. [In the March-April issue of LAND AND FREEDOM a summary of the circulation of books of Henry George by the Schalkenbach Foundation was printed and therefore details are omitted here.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM].

#### FURTHER PUBLICATION PROJECTS

Nothing that this Foundation could do seems more important to me (and I believe to all of my associates

of the Executive Committee) than, so far as our funds will permit, to continue the preparation, publication and circulation of Henry George's books. I fervently believe that the political and economic conditions that are to be observed not only in this country, but in other parts of the world, now more than ever before, exhibit the need and the opportunity to preach the whole gospel of Henry George as the solvent of the social and economic troubles of the world. We may best sell the simple, beautiful and unanswerable truths of this philosophy to the human family through the minds of people who read—and the ideal, however temporarily unattainable it may seem to be, should be to put forth reading matter carrying the Georgist message in a steady stream, flowing out constantly and made available by serious-minded men and women seeking true correctives for the appalling social and economic evils that are distracting and debasing human society.

#### BRILLE EDITION OF "SIGNIFICANT PARAGRAPHS"

Not least among our accomplishments, I would rate the publication, through the Foundation by the Universal Braille Press of Los Angeles, California, of 100 copies of the above book, which has gone to 77 libraries and institutions for the blind, evoking eloquent and grateful response. This enterprise was undertaken by us at the suggestion of our director, Mr. E. Yancey Cohen, Members of the Board are already familiar I think, with the eloquent letter sent to your president in acknowledgment of this work by the most famous blind person in the world, Helen Kellar.

Typical of some of the responses evoked by the gift of these books, was that of Mr. Osborn Glover, an official of the Cincinnati Association for the Welfare of the Blind. Mr. Glover to whom the book was sent at the instance of our director, Mr. Rusby, wrote among other things, this:—

"My gratitude is that of one who has long recognized poverty as a malignant sore in our social body; who has feared that it was incurable and who has now found the true cause and the effective remedy. The clear logic of the author is irresistible and his literary style fascinating."

#### THE FOUNDATION LIBRARY

I should report that during the year, valuable contributions to the Library of the Foundation were made by Mr. E. Stillman Doubleday, Miss Charlotte Schetter, Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, and one of our directors. These contributions include most valuable books, files and pamphlets.

#### FURTHER PUBLICATION SUGGESTIONS

Pertinent to the suggestions that I have referred to as to publication activities of the Foundation is the interesting recent letter of Mrs. Kathleen Norris, the novelist, from which I read this extract:

"DEAR MR. HENNESSY:

"Many thanks for the books you sent me, at Mr. Nye's suggestion. I read Henry George twenty years ago, when the very problems of bread-and-butter his theory solves were absorbing me more intimately than they are today. In all the years—with the travel, study, opportunity for observation of social conditions,—in all these years I have never known his premises to be shaken in the least.

"It delights me to know that there is a Foundation to keep his memory green,—or rather greener, for there are thousands like myself who felt in youth that his book would shake the world, but who had to put it aside for awhile. More honor to Robert Schalkenbach.

"Now to a really important question. Important to me, and a brother or two, and a friend or two.

"Isn't there any hope of a new edition of "Progress and Poverty," in a new type? The present type,—I have several copies, all equally awful—is ruinous to middle-aged eyes, and middle-aged eyes have to read Henry George, if the torch is to be passed on. How about a fine subscription edition, in two volumes, or three, (or one, on fine paper) with big clear print, and some of us helping to pay for it, by subscription, and by advertising, and by every other way we know? Isn't civilization ripe for that now?

"Please consider this, and consider me as eager to help to my little power to give to the rising generation this genuine revelation of a new ideal.

Hopefully,

KATHLEEN NORRIS."

#### IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD

Since the last annual meeting of this body, a splendid conference of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was held at Edinburgh, Scotland. Your President, Vice President, Mrs. de Mille, and the Assistant Secretary were among the Americans in attendance. It was an inspiring gathering that attracted extraordinary attention in the British press. Welcoming messages were received from Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and more than a hundred members of Parliament. The final formal declaration of the Conference received wide publicity. It affirmed that the persistence of poverty and low wages and unemployment in every country and the evil and destructive social phenomena that derived from these conditions are both unnatural and unnecessary; and are due, primarily, to unjust restrictions upon freedom in the production of wealth (involving injustice in its distribution) that arises out of land monopoly.

There can be no doubt that the Edinburgh Conference had a wholesome and helpful influence upon the widespread political agitation carried on by our British friends for land value taxation and free trade. While some of our friends had expressed disappointment that the British Chancellor of the Exchequer did not include in his recent budget a levy upon land values, it is now realized, I believe, that such levy must await the establishment of a scientific system for the valuation of the land of England. The Chancellor has definitely pledged the Labor Govern-

ment in Parliament to the early introduction of a measure for establishing this land valuation and has declared that this is preliminary to the inclusion in the next budget of a taxation and rating of land values in Great Britain.

Our Danish friends inform us that continued progress is being made in that country, thanks to the existence of a progressive government in which the Finance Minister, Mr. Bransnaes, is an acknowledged Georgist.

Just here I may mention the revival of activities in Spain by our devoted friend, Antonio Albendin, translator into Spanish of "Progress and Poverty," who is now located at Cadiz. He sends us regular copies of a newspaper that seems to be under his editorial direction, in the advocacy of the Single Tax. Also a copy of an address before the Spanish Association for Scientific Progress. At a recent congress of this scientific body, at Cadiz, Mr. Albendin read a paper in explanation of the Single Tax.

It is not out of place to mention that from India, which is filling the newspapers these days, comes a fine review of our Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of "Progress and Poverty," printed in English in the publication entitled "United India," and in a recent issue of the *Hindustan Review* published in Calcutta, is also a generous review of the book.

It may also be of interest to learn that Dr. S. Y. Wu, who, with Mr. Sun Fo, a son of Sun Yat Sen, is enrolled in our International Union, has written to say that the land laws of the new Chinese Republic are to be drafted by a committee of which he is Chairman. This work, it is assumed, has been unfortunately suspended by the Civil War in China.

## Annual Meeting of Woman's Single Tax Club of Washington

ON Sunday, June 1, nearly sixty Single Taxers and their friends held their nineteenth annual meeting at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. James Hugh Keeley, in Riverdale, Maryland, under the auspices of the Woman's Single Tax Club of Washington, D. C.

After a picnic luncheon, the guests distributed themselves about the lawn and porch to enjoy a programme of brief addresses.

Before the speaking began, Mrs. Jesse Lane Keeley, Vice-President of the Woman's Single Tax Club, read two letters. The first letter was from Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, widow of the former Assistant Secretary of Labor, Louis F. Post, expressing her regret at not being able to be present, and announcing the death of Alice George, niece of Henry George, a former resident of Washington and first woman to hold the position of secretary to a district commissioner. The second letter was from Spencer M. DeGolier, Mayor of Bradford, Pa., who had accepted an invitation to be one of the speakers but had been unexpectedly called back home; his letter however

declared his adherence to the principles of Henry George and stated that he had endeavored to put them into practice as opportunity offered, during his three terms as Mayor.

First on the list of speakers introduced by Mr. Keeley as chairman of the programme was Miss Jeanette Rankin, gratefully remembered by peace lovers for her memorable declaration in Congress on that fateful April 6, 1917, "I love my country, but I cannot vote for war." Miss Rankin analyzed the Kellogg Peace Pact, which, now that it had, under the provisions of the Constitution, become the law of the land, had made it patriotic instead of treasonable to work for peace, and she urged that all make use of this opportunity to impress upon our representatives in Congress the fact that compulsory military training and the continued construction of armaments, whether permitted by the Naval Conference or not, were in direct violation of the treaty which the United States has signed renouncing war as a means of settling any and all international disputes.

Francis I. Mooney, an attorney of Baltimore, expressed his regret that in so many gatherings of that nature, no explanation of the Single Tax was made, it being taken for granted that all present were followers of Henry George and therefore familiar with the simple principle, as expounded in his "Progress and Poverty," of shifting the burden of taxation from labor to privilege by taxing into the public treasury the rental value which the public had created, instead of allowing it to go into the pockets of private owners and speculators as is done today.

Howard T. Colvin, President of the Central Labor Union of Washington, D. C., spoke on "The Golden Age of Labor," which he showed could not come in reality, however much gilding there might be on the surface, until there was free land upon which the worker could employ himself, with taxes removed from industry and its products, when wages would automatically rise with increased demand for labor and a decrease in the army of the unemployed, now numbering millions in this country alone.

Linn A. E. Gale, President of the Washington Open Forum, spoke on the necessity for all branches of the army of progress, both economic and religious, to work together without faltering, remembering that the minority of today may be the majority of tomorrow, and closed his talk by the reading of an original poem entitled "Pitiless Progress."

Joseph B. Chamberlain, of Kensington, Md., long an active worker for the cause, advocated a headquarters in Washington, D. C., which should serve, among other purposes, as a central clearing house for Single Tax activities throughout the country.

Daniel O'Brien, "King of the Hoboes," related personal experiences in various cities, expressed his regret that such a large majority of people in comfortable circumstances became content and indifferent to the misery of