

have to changing these conditions. If the school at Fairhope could be made a permanent center for the demonstration of equality of opportunity in growth and education, no doubt all public and private schools would eventually accept these principles. They would see the evil of any system in which one child may languish and another flourish.

When the grading marking system is eliminated and the schools concentrate on the task of preserving the open mind throughout the growing years, and when all children experience equality of opportunity in growth, we may be sure the fundamental injustice of our economic system will be readily recognized.

—MARIETTA JOHNSON.

Lecture Tour of G. H. Duncan

DURING November and December George H. Duncan, field lecturer for the Henry George Lecture Association, has filled fifty-one engagements in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, the audiences comprising seventeen clubs, eighteen schools and colleges and fifteen churches, forum and special meetings and numbering over fourteen thousand.

In the Twin Cities, Minnesota, Mr. S. A. Stockwell, of Minneapolis, was exceedingly helpful in making arrangements, his long experience in public service causing people to give courteous and interested attention to a speaker for whom he vouched. It was also a pleasure to meet such Single Tax veterans as Robert Seibert, St. Paul, and Dr. Leonard, Minneapolis.

The tax system of Minnesota, although the usual conglomeration of unreasonable tax principles, contains several rays of light. Most Single Taxers are familiar with the 6 per cent ore and royalty tax, the result chiefly of the work of the late Carl Buell; also the assessment of various classes of property at different rates recognizes the restrictive effect of wrongly imposed taxes, while economic pressure forced the recent Legislature to exempt growing timber from taxation under certain circumstances.

In Wisconsin it was a pleasure to learn of the organization of the State League of Single Taxers, with Herman Reel, president, and Cornelius Leenhouts, secretary, both of Milwaukee. Former Judge Charles B. Rogers, Fort Atkinson, is also an interested worker.

A visit to Fairhope, Alabama, afforded an opportunity for a close investigation of this Single Tax experiment station, and an opportunity to become acquainted with such patriots as E. B. Gaston, A. E. Schalkenbach, Emil Knips, Fred T. Burnham and others. The experience of Fairhope reveals some aspects of the practical operation of the Single Tax which never occur to us who have been concerned chiefly with the theoretical side. To the shrewd, good-natured common-sense of Mr. Gaston and those associated with him we owe a debt which can hardly be appreciated.

The Texas Single Tax League, with Mr. William A. Black, San Antonio, as secretary, is doing a state-wide work for the cause second to none in the country except that of the Henry George Foundation in Pennsylvania. There has been built up a favorable public sentiment which, with a reasonable expense fund, could be translated into legislative enactments which would give Texas the largest measure of Single Tax of any state. Unfortunately however, here as elsewhere, the movement is cramped for lack of available funds. Already there are in effect a series of occupational taxes in such form as to closely approach the true Single Tax principles embodied in the Minnesota ore and royalty tax. A slight change would result in vast relief to active industry.

Activities of the Henry George Foundation

THE lecture service of the Henry George Foundation is being rapidly extended and promises to become an important department of its educational work. Secretary P. R. Williams, and William M. McNair, the latter of whom is both a zealous worker and an effective speaker, are now engaged in lecture tours that will cover every corner of Pennsylvania, and the campaign will probably be carried into neighboring states as soon as the present speaking schedule is completed. The significance of Pittsburgh's practical experience in land value taxation is being featured by the speakers in many of their addresses, but the "unadulterated" gospel of Henry George is presented where the opportunity is afforded.

During recent weeks Secretary Williams has addressed the Kiwanis Clubs of Altoona, Erie, Corry and Titusville, the Lions Clubs of Warren and Erie, and the Rotary Club of Titusville. Usually these meetings are attended by city or county officials interested in the taxation problem and everywhere the newspapers have given generous publicity to reports of the addresses.

Keen interest in land value taxation is now in evidence in Erie, where James B. Ellery is cooperating actively in arranging meetings, and is now planning to revive the Erie Single Tax Club. In this city officers and members of the Lions Club are seriously studying the tax problem and, in addition to their regular luncheon meeting, devoted an entire evening to round-table discussion with the speaker, following a dinner at the Shrine Club. In Warren, A. G. Beecher, veteran Single Tax worker and publisher of "Truth Seeker" literature, has been fighting the battle alone for many years, and is encouraged to see evidence of interest on the part of local newspapers and civic organizations.

William N. McNair, for years a prominent figure in political campaigns, both local and state, recently addressed the Lions Clubs of Reading, Lancaster and Pottsville and the Rotary Clubs of Slatington and Mahanoy City, on the

Pittsburgh tax plan. He also spoke to the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club of Pittsburgh on "Peace and Freedom" and gave his lecture on "The Land Laws of Moses" before the leading Jewish congregation of Johnstown.

Interest is growing in the idea of extending to the other cities of Pennsylvania the Pittsburgh policy of concentrating the principal burden of municipal taxation upon land values. The success of this policy to the degree that it has been applied in Pittsburgh seems to carry much weight and is influencing citizens and public officials of other communities to take up the question as a practical issue. Following a conference with the mayor and Council of Erie, Secretary Williams was assured by Mayor Joseph C. Williams that Erie would support a bill in the next session of the Legislature to extend the application of the graded tax system to cities of the third class.

In Reading, Mr. McNair found the new Socialist administration very sympathetic and eager to take early steps to better the tax situation in that city, where tax reform had been made a prominent issue in the recent municipal campaign that led to a rather startling Socialist victory. Mayor J. Henry Stump declares himself to be an old-time Single Taxer and in full accord with any movement in that direction, and the Socialist members of Council and the Chief Assessor are also disposed to co-operate. The newspapers of Reading and Lancaster gave very prominent space to interviews and reports of addresses made by Mr. McNair. Attorney Walter G. Stewart, of Reading, has long been active in the movement and is continuing to give his strong support.

In Lancaster where the Mayor and Councilmen were interested listeners to a recent address by Mr. Williams, the present administration trebled the assessed real estate valuations of the city in one year, reducing the tax rate, of course, but increasing land assessments very materially in the process of revision, and the Chief Assessor is very sympathetic to the Pittsburgh graded tax system.

Secretary Williams is now planning another trip, having accepted invitations to visit Bethlehem, Reading and Harrisburg. In Philadelphia Henry B. Tawresey and Harold Sudell are among those taking an active interest and a number of addresses will probably be scheduled for clubs and civic organizations.

TO POPULARIZE ECONOMIC EDUCATION

A committee of the Henry George Foundation is now studying the problem of popularizing economic education and considering ways and means of interesting the younger generation in the great truths taught by Henry George. As an immediate practical step, which it is hoped may lead to more important developments, a class for the study of economic and political science is now being organized in Pittsburgh, with the cooperation of interested members

of the local Henry George Club and under the direction of Secretary P. R. Williams. The class will meet at regular intervals in the rooms of the Foundation in the Berger Building. A corps of able lecturers is being provided from available local talent and a comprehensive course of study is being outlined. The works of Henry George will be used as text books and Progress and Poverty will be thoroughly treated. A number have expressed an interest in this opportunity to study the true science of social economy and the course is being planned both for the benefit of Single Taxers desiring a fuller mastery of economics and to attract the uninitiated, particularly to enlist recruits from the younger element in the community.

The Henry George Club continues to maintain a weekly programme of a high order and has been favored with the presence this season of many able and interesting speakers. Frederick H. Monroe, of the Henry George Lecture Association, who is in unusually close touch with Single Tax activities throughout the country, visited the club in December and expressed himself very enthusiastically as to the success of the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh. He believes that this club has set a fine example and serves to demonstrate what might be done in other cities to keep the Single Tax fires burning and bring Single Taxers together for fellowship and service.

MRS. BJORNER VISITING PACIFIC COAST

Mrs. Signe Bjorner, of Copenhagen, Denmark, has been on the Pacific Coast during the past two months, and has met the active Georgists wherever she has gone, either in public gatherings or private conferences as well as keeping in touch with her fellow countrymen and women in various colleges and societies. She has addressed audiences in a number of towns, including Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, Portland, Oregon and San Diego and Los Angeles, California, and is scheduled for several addresses in the San Francisco district on her return north.

She reports many interesting observations and impressions as the result of her transcontinental tour and the office of the Henry George Foundation has received enthusiastic expressions from those who have had the opportunity to meet and hear her. Henry Ware Allen, of Wichita, reports that Mrs. Bjorner spoke to an unusually large number of people at several meetings there and with splendid effect. "Her charming personality won immediate favor wherever she appeared and her plea for social justice was made much more effective by her statement of progress actually made in Denmark."

Mrs. Bjorner is soon to return from the coast and will probably fill a number of engagements in the central and eastern states before sailing for Denmark. She is greatly interested in ideas for promoting more effective organization of the Henry George movement in America, as well as in the international field, and is eager to aid in this great work.