

Coming Baltimore Convention

THE challenge which world-wide industrial depression and unemployment present to Single Taxers will be one of the leading topics of discussion at the Sixth Annual Henry George Congress to be held in Baltimore, October 12th-14th, and several of the speakers will deal with this theme. In view of the general recognition of the grave economic problems now demanding attention since the breakdown of America's boasted prosperity, there exists an atmosphere particularly favorable for bringing fundamental reforms to public attention and there will doubtless be considerable discussion as to how Georgists may most effectively meet their responsibility and take full advantage of the opportunity now afforded for promoting sound economic education.

Recent events in Great Britain, where Chancellor Philip Snowden has made land values taxation a live issue, have served to direct attention more forcibly to the question of stimulating political activities in the United States, and since the Henry George Foundation has decided to sponsor a practical programme of political action, this topic is sure to occupy a prominent place at Baltimore. As a result of the announcement made a few months ago, the officers of the Foundation have received numerous communications expressing the opinion that the time is at hand for a revival of concrete legislative undertakings which will serve to disabuse the public mind of the notion that the Single Tax is merely a matter for academic discussion. A number of very interesting suggestions have been offered and are receiving the earnest consideration of the Foundation officials with a view to fuller discussion at Baltimore and an early decision on campaign plans.

Charles G. Baldwin, President of the Maryland Tax Reform Association and Chairman of the Baltimore Convention Committee, recently visited Pittsburgh to confer with Secretary Williams of the Henry George Foundation with relation to the Congress. Mr. Baldwin expressed himself as especially pleased with the arrangements that the Lord Baltimore Hotel is making for the accommodation of the delegates and with the splendid facilities which will be available for the convention sessions.

In connection with the convention, Chairman Baldwin is planning to send a communication to the clergymen, physicians and lawyers of Baltimore, calling special attention to the relation between economics and religion, health and justice. Mr. Baldwin uses the expression "public economics" rather than "taxes" because it emphasizes the social aspect of the Single Tax.

The committee is already in communication with a number of prominent speakers and a programme of exceptionally strong appeal is being formulated in anticipation of one of the most largely attended conventions ever held.

ENGLAND seems to be drifting toward Single Tax. Over here we are going in for universal tax.

Argus Press, Owosso, Mich.

The Britannica Unreliable?

CALLING attention to the absurd mistatement in the article on the Single Tax in the Encyclopædia Britannica that the rental value of British land is but one-eighth of the cost of government, Samuel Danziger writes a forceful letter to the American editor, F. H. Hooper. Mr. Danziger wants to know why this article is unsigned.

Replying to a second letter from Mr. Hooper, Mr. Danziger says:

"If I understand yours of the 1st correctly, the writer of the article on the Single Tax in the fourteenth edition of the Britannica is an anonymous individual who asks the public to accept on faith incredible statements contrary to common sense. He offers no authority for his statements, gives no hint as to where statistics or other data furnished by responsible persons may be found to confirm what he asks the public to believe, and the Britannica offers this as scientific information. Is it possible that you do not realize that any superstition or fallacy can be put over in the same way? Then you offer as a guaranty of the writer's accuracy confirmation received from 'the best of authorities.' When asked to name some of these authorities you reply that 'you do not wish their names to appear'. I wonder why Dr. Cook, when he claimed the discovery of the North Pole, did not withhold all data and merely state that it had been referred to 'the best authorities', and that all authorities were in accord that the statement was quite correct. He could have added to this the assurance that 'the authorities consulted were above any suspicion of partisanship'. Unfortunately for Cook, he was a little more frank than that, so the results proved disastrous.

"Of course, I do not want this statement to be understood as reflecting upon you. It is obvious that you know no more of the identity of the writer than I do. I wonder though, at your naivete in asking others to accept anonymous information as reliable. It looks to me that this insistence on anonymity strengthens the suspicion of the writer's partisan motive, a suspicion not lessened by your statement that he may be a high government or financial expert."

Personal Property Tax

THE legislature has discussed variously the personal property tax. Several bills deal with it. One proposes to abolish the tax on automobiles. The automobile being much on the move, easily escapes the assessor.

It hasn't occurred to any legislator, apparently, that the tax might be abolished wholly, and the county revenue be none the worse off, and the morals of the people improved. The tax long ago ceased to be useful. It produced little revenue. But it makes liars of otherwise veracious men.—*Evening Express, Los Angeles, Calif.*

WE have always argued that Free Trade is a moral question, indeed, almost a religious issue, because we believe that Protection leads to the corruption of Parliaments, and is always a menace to that international goodwill which is the best insurance for world peace.

—*Christian World, London.*