

To have a great literature there must be an audience. The opportunities for culture must be sufficient to create a receptive intelligence, a wide spread taste for things of the imagination. A civilization that spends so much of its energies in the pursuit of wealth spurred on by the fear of falling below their fellows in equality of possessions, cannot hope to call forth the higher messages of the written word. And so our creative literature is at a low ebb.

Does this statement require confirmation when if challenged to cite one great name in the American literature of today we should be obliged to fall back upon Edith Wharton, or possibly Theodore Dreiser, as worthy to survive the slow alembic of the years that separates the alloy from the gold. If we are considering England we would be forced to name Bernard Shaw, but who else? Not Wells, little removed from the host of very clever men like Gilbert Chesterton and Hillaire Belloc. In this country we have a lot of second rate but very admirable essayists like Katherine Fullerton Gerould—though her nose is perpetually turned up—Mencken, with his sneering superficial cleverness, and so the list would run. But never a Charles Lamb, nor a Maccauley, nor a Hazlitt. Smart, very smart these essayists are—with their eternal striving for the astonishing twist or turn of phrase, which while it astounds is seen to be like the murmur of shallow waters. But everywhere the great deeps are dumb.

Some day some one will write a great book on Economic Determinism in the character of our literature, or something like that. Perhaps something on the order of Taine's English Literature—and, *en passant*, with all its faults have we any literary criticism today like the work of the great Frenchman. Or Sainte Beuve, or Matthew Arnold?

And what this work which we have anticipated will prove will be that liberty is the atmosphere in which the spirit of literary and artistic creation thrives best. It will prove that great literature is obedient to the law which Henry George has declared to be the law of human progress: "Association in Equality." For this provides both the leisure and the call for its creation and the audience to welcome the artist.

Greek Government Appoints Its Official Delegate to Single Tax Conference

THE Greek delegate to the Single Tax Conference at Copenhagen, Mr. Pavlos Giannelia, on his return to his post of duty at Vienna, learned of his official appointment by his government to the Conference. So not only were many nations represented but at least *one government*. Taking this with the tender by the Danish government of the free use of its Parliament buildings for the Conference, we may well regard such official recognition as significant.

The Henry George Congress at Philadelphia

THE HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION BEGINS
UNDER SPLENDID AUSPICES

IT was a great Conference that assembled at Philadelphia, September 2, 3 and 4. It was characterized throughout by a dignity and earnestness befitting the occasion. It seems possible now that the disciples of Henry George in this country may be brought together for effective work, and that the Foundation, now organized and chartered under the laws of Pennsylvania, may indeed be a "clearing house" for Single Tax activities.

Differing as many of those present do in their opinions as to methods, it is doubtful whether any differ in their interpretation of the great Message. And where the differing terminology of groups seem to have erected temporary barriers between them, there was for the first time an inclination to bridge them, to seek for points of reconciliation rather than to accentuate differences. There was no need to repeat Emerson's caustic phrase over the squabbles of his fellow abolitionists, "See how these reformers love one another," for there were no squabbles, nothing that could possibly leave any bitterness. Instead, many of those gathered here renewed the old friendships that had been unnecessarily interrupted by differences as to method and recognized for the first time that there is really no difference of aim. Even those who, unconsciously perhaps, have yielded to the temptation to soften or even to attenuate the truth George stood for, may under the new inspiration gather a conviction of the necessity for a bolder emphasis on the fundamental change by which alone civilization may be saved.

And it was this conviction that animated the Congress. Always the applause was greatest that greeted the insistence that what we stand for is a free earth. Mr. Shaffer's assurance at the banquet that there need be no fear on the part of any present of the slightest attempt by the Henry George Foundation to minimize the doctrines, was not the only gratifying utterance of the many speakers during the three days' sessions.

That very efficient and capable young man, Percy R. Williams, secretary of the Foundation and of this Congress, beginning his explanation of the "Pittsburgh Plan" (of which Pittsburgh Single Taxers are not a little proud) said, "I am no mere fiscal reformer," and then proceeded with his very lucid and intelligent analysis of the half rate tax on improvements in that city.

Perhaps the high spots of the Congress were the speech of Charles O'Connor Hennessy on the afternoon of the 2nd, the address of Will Atkinson at the banquet, the talk of Mrs. Ruth White Colton, a plea for the ethical and spiritual values of Henry George's message, at the Educational Building on the Sesqui-Centennial grounds and Mrs. Gaston

Iaxo's (daughter of the late Antonio Molino) spirited yet quietly tempered defence of the government of President Calles of Mexico, in reply to a member who felt aggrieved at the allusion of Mr. Ellery of Erie, Pa., to the Catholic hierarchy of that country.

But the speeches were almost uniformly excellent. From the calling of the Congress to order at 10.30 on the morning of the 2nd, when Mr. Shaffer, of Pittsburgh, made the opening address, and Mr. De Moll, of Philadelphia, as chairman of this session, congratulated those assembled on the attendance, to the close of the afternoon of the 4th when your reporter was obliged to leave, every moment was crowded with interest.

Hon. Thomas W. Davis, the City's Statistician, welcomed the delegates in the name of Mayor Kendrick, and made a short speech in which he handled some figures as statisticians are supposed to do—but without reference to any specific theory. Figures seem to be animated by a kind of inherent impulse to get themselves quoted and so wander around in a detached way waiting to be joined up with some theory to which they will fit. In just what way Mr. Davis fitted any theory to the figures he quoted we have quite forgotten.

George E. Evans, president of the Henry George Foundation of America, explained that this was the Henry George Congress and memorial celebration. He stated the aims of the Henry George Foundation. He deplored the absence of young men in the movement and said it would be the aim of the Foundation to appeal to those groups of young men in liberal organizations and in colleges and universities. The Foundation is designed to be an educational institution. Besides it will act as a "clearing house" for Single Tax activities. It has a special charter which authorizes it to receive bequests. It will have a paid secretary who will give his entire time to the Foundation, and an assistant secretary in the person of F. W. Maguire. He announced that the birthplace of Henry George would be acquired by the Foundation and be restored to its original condition. It will then be a Mecca for Single Taxers all over the world, and it is the hope of the founders to make it the headquarters for Single Tax work.

President Evans now asked Mr. F. W. Maguire to step forward and that veteran in the cause was received with vigorous handclapping. Mr. Evans explained that Mr. Maguire would have charge of the Henry George booth at the Exposition Grounds from now till the close, for the sale and distribution of Single Tax literature.

This booth by the way, which was visited on the afternoon of the 2nd, bears testimony to the artistic hand of Frank Stephens, who designed it. It is simple but impressive in its simplicity. Over the bust of Henry George is this inscription from Themistocles, "I cannot play on any stringed instrument but I can tell you how of a little village to make a great and glorious city," and underneath the bust the words of George, "Property in land is an enormous wrong."

At the luncheon in the afternoon Charles R. Eckert, of Beaver, Pa., presided. Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy spoke, his subject being "International Growth of Geor-gism" with special reference to Denmark. Billy Radcliffe—dear old Billy—Miss Jennie Rogers, of Brooklyn, Will Atkinson and others spoke. Joseph Dana Miller read a poem to Henry George which will appear in a volume of his collected poems soon to appear. At this session a telegram from Dr. Bullard of Schenectady was received and read.

Owing to a heavy downpour of rain the exercises which were to be held at the birthplace of Henry George were added to the speeches made at this session following the luncheon. A number who had braved the elements to visit George's home were absent from this session following the luncheon. To the speakers already named must be added Chas. J. Ogle, of Baltimore, Oliver McKnight, of Centerville, Md., and others. This session turned out to be a sort of experience meeting with reminiscences of Henry George by those who had known him. President Evans read from the Law of Human Progress and the exercises closed.

Hon. Edward Polak, of New York, former Registrar of the Bronx, presided and made the opening address at the auditorium of the Palace of Education on the Exposition Grounds, and was followed by Mr. Sydenham Thompson, of Toronto. This was the public meeting scheduled for this occasion, and it is to be regretted that the rain prevented a larger attendance of the unconverted. The Educational Building was almost deserted. Among other speakers at the public meeting here were George Colburn, of San Diego, California, Mrs. Ruth White Colton, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and E. S. Ross, of Arden, Del. Mr. Shaffer read his "New Declaration of Independence" to which subsequently all those present affixed their signatures.

After dinner at the Alpine Haus on the Exposition Grounds, a replica of one of the eating and beer drinking resorts to be found in Switzerland, the delegates wended their way to the Pittsburgh Building where an animated discussion ensued, on the disputed question of our terminology and whether we should speak of "the taxation of land values" or "the collection of economic rent." In this discussion, carried on in the best of humor, Messrs. Oscar H. Geiger, of New York, Stephens, of Delaware, Le Baron Goeller, of Union, N. Y.; and Chandler, of New Jersey, participated.

This fragmentary report of the proceedings should not fail to include an account of an incident which took place at the Alpine Haus. While we sat at the table waited on by some delightfully Teutonic young women whose English was confined principally to the items on the bill of fare, a band of music broke forth and a parade started at the door. Gertrude Ederle, whose channel swim has made her, for the time being, the best known young woman in America, was being escorted to one of the tables. Gertrude, who is a fair faced, normally behaved girl who takes her fame modest-

ly, appearing indeed to wonder somewhat at her new found notoriety, took her seat to the applause of hundreds eating at the rude wooden tables and high backed seats.

With her was her lawyer and manager, Dudley Field Malone, who, our readers will remember, was one of the delegates to the ill-fated convention of the Committee of 48 in 1920. Catching sight of Frank Stephens and others whom he knew, he greeted them cordially. Being informed of our reason for being in Philadelphia, that we had organized a Henry George Foundation and designed to acquire the birth-place of Henry George, he said, "I want to be in on that," and straightway pledged a contribution of \$250.

At the Friday morning session Mr. Harold Sudell presided. Mr. Macauley, of Philadelphia, made an impressive talk and took occasion to outline the plan of publication of the *Pennsylvania Commonwealth*. He took many bulk subscriptions from those present. Mr. Stephens followed with a strong commendation of Mr. Macaulay's work and urged support of the paper. President Evans of the Foundation also commended the work, as did Chairman Sudell. During this session Mr. Stephens spoke of the Schalkenbach Foundation and paid an eloquent tribute to the late Robert Schalkenbach.

Mr. Polak, of New York, now presented a resolution addressed to the President and Congress of the United States. Mr. Ryan, of Staten Island, N. Y., suggested that all resolutions be referred to a Committee on Resolutions. Mr. Miller, of New York, asked that the assembly act directly on this resolution without reference to any committee. This was agreed to and Mr. Polak's resolution was carried unanimously. It appears elsewhere in these pages. Copies were sent to President Coolidge, U. S. Senators Brookhart, Borah, LaFollette, Frazier, and Congressman Griffin.

Later a committee on resolutions was appointed, as follows: Joseph Dana Miller of New York, Chairman, Wm. Ryan, of New York and Chas. R. Eckert, of Beaver, Pa

Following a luncheon of the trustees of the Foundation and members of the advisory council, Mr. Fiske Warren, of Harvard, Mass., spoke interestingly on Single Tax colonies or "enclaves," as he prefers to call them, and was followed in a talk on the same topic by Frank Stephens. Mr. Chandler, of New Jersey, told of the work of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' League in that state. George H. Hallett, Executive Secretary of the Proportional Representation League, spoke on "What Proportional Representation offers for the Progress of the Single Tax Movement." Miss Garvin, of Arden, daughter of the late Lucius F. C. Garvin, twice governor of Rhode Island, spoke on Free Trade, and Mr. P. R. Williams on the "Pittsburgh Plan."

The assembly was saddened on this afternoon by the receipt of a telegram announcing the death of Henry J. O'Neill, of Allentown, Pa., who was planning to attend the conference. Mr. O'Neill has been a subscriber to this paper from the beginning and we sincerely regret this passing of an old friend.

On Friday night came the banquet which was largely attended. The speakers were Messrs Atkinson and Miller, of New York, whose addresses appear in this issue, Mr. Robert D. Towne, of Philadelphia, and Messrs. Shaffer and Evans.

The spirit of the occasion could not have been better. The generous responses to President Evans' call for contributions and pledges are especially deserving of mention. The amounts subscribed at the banquet with sums already pledged and announced by Secretary Williams total nearly \$30,000. One man who desires that his name be not disclosed pledges \$15,000 in sums of \$3,000 a year for five years. In addition to these contributions Mr. Benjamin W. Burger, of New York, announced that he would present to the Foundation his collection of George Memorabilia—now perhaps the most noteworthy collection of its kind in the world, not excepting that in possession of the New York Public Library presented by Mrs. Anna George de Mille.

On Saturday morning Mr. August Willeges, of Sioux City, Iowa, presided at a session at which Henry W. Hetzel, Samuel Danziger and others spoke.

This concludes our report from observation. We must not omit, however, mention of the fact that Mr. Geiger at one session read the platform of the Commonwealth Land Party, prefacing it with a few introductory remarks. Mr. Stephens had spoken of this platform, which is largely the work of Mr. Geiger, as "the best statement of our principles since Henry George." Nor must we fail to chronicle the telegram of greetings sent on motion of Mr. Colburn to another Henry George birthday celebration in far off San Diego, California, on Sunday, Sept. 5.

At the luncheon on Sept. 4th, ex-Congressman Lentz, of Columbus, Ohio, spoke, as did Mr. Swan, of Philadelphia, the only colored delegate at the Conference. It will be recalled that one of the eloquent adherents of Henry George in the early days was Frank Farrell, an Afro-American of more than usual ability. Mr. Swan informed those present that Mr. Farrell is still living and resides in Philadelphia.

A visit to Arden, the Single Tax colony in Delaware, by those remaining in Philadelphia, concluded a memorable Congress in celebration of the 87th anniversary of the birth of a man whose teachings are destined to remould civilization. Born in Philadelphia, his home shall vie in public interest as time goes on with the home of another, who though not born in Philadelphia as Henry George was, is Philadelphia's patron saint, Benjamin Franklin. Franklin saw something of what Henry George was destined to see later, glimpses at least of the great truth dimly vouchsafed to the French physiocrats and caught by Franklin's keen intelligence in scattered lights, the meaning of which he partly apprehended.

"THE land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me. And in all the land of your possession ye shall grant a redemption for the land."—Leviticus xxv, 23-34.