

Thus was serfdom abolished in Russia, slavery in the United States and the Corn Laws in England."

EVIDENTLY the kind of economic planning that succeeds is one that follows the natural order, and we are back again to the old laissez faire doctrine which the economic doctors in Washington tell us has broken down, whereas in truth it has never been tried. If the economic planners would settle down to the conviction that what interferes with the plan of nature in production and distribution, are the obstacles surviving from the past that hamper nature's planning, they would discover the limitations imposed upon them and re-assess their whole programme of artificial planning.

WHY have all the Utopias failed, practically as well as theoretically, in books as well as in the many experiments that dot the history of mankind? Because they have all neglected to take into account those economic laws that determine the progress of society, the natural forces at work, the real and wholesome lure of private property, the acquisitive nature of the individual, the cooperative spirit that cannot succeed without a universal or very general cooperation of the larger elements of human society. In other words, the seeds of their dissolution lie in their artificiality. Nothing in the economic world can succeed that is built up by artificial means, that is remote from the great social current of mankind. This is why colonies function for a time and die. Some, like our own Single Tax enclaves, have a modicum of principle that assure a longer life and a certain degree of successful operation.

WHAT we are trying to say, and what we are conscious of having said very feebly, is that all planning, on a large or small scale, must in its operation obtain general assent, must move in accordance with the progress of mankind, must leave the economic man free to cooperate with those impulses that are at the basis of the great social advance. And this expressly or by implication excludes any rule by force, but involves the principle of individual freedom. Nothing less than this can be permanent or enduring.

OF what interferes with this advance Henry George men are fully cognizant. It is true that liberty is forever being lost and forever being found again, but constantly renewing itself like the eagle. If we must abandon the idea of progress as a continuous and uninterrupted evolution from one eminence to another, ever upward and onward, a concept familiar enough in the eighties, we need not reject a theory of progress that, despite interruptions, points to a golden age as the ultimate goal. We know that God has not blundered, we know that there is a purpose in nature, that the garnered store of knowledge, ever increasing, is being harvested for the better

and fuller use of the coming man. To doubt this is atheism of a sort, as profoundly at variance with an intelligent conception of creation as the atheism that cannot divine an intelligent creator of the universe. And any one who divines a maker of the universe must also divine, though things be seen as through a glass darkly, a purpose at the end of the journey, a culmination in the rapt splendor of an age of which poets and prophets have sung.

HOW short is time in the years behind and the year that stretch before us! How many years of martyrdom extend from the advent of man on the globe and the years in which he shall come into his own, in which the forces for his deliverance shall be finally loosened and he shall read, with eyes no longer blinded, the enigma of man's presence on the earth! Back of all that the followers of Henry George work for is this vision of the world to come, of which this strange man in his strange book "Progress and Poverty," had divine glimpses!

American Single Taxers Gather at Chicago

ON the eve of the Ninth Annual Henry George Congress, the officers and convention committee of the Henry George Foundation are anticipating one of the biggest and best conventions ever held by American Single Taxers. From all sections come reports of lively interest and plans for representation at the gathering, which will convene for the usual three-day period on Monday, October 8, at the Congress Hotel, Chicago. More than two thousand invitations have been mailed and acceptances and reservations are being received daily at the Pittsburgh headquarters.

The programme this year is an unusually attractive one with a number of prominent figures in the movement scheduled for discussions covering a wide range. The possibilities of Single Tax progress through political action and the power and prestige of public office will be brought out in connection with the address by Mayor William N. McNair of Pittsburgh on the theme "Economic Policies of the New City Administration," Mr. McNair a life-long Single Taxer and a very popular speaker and propagandist, having assumed office last January as the first Democratic Mayor to be elected in Pittsburgh in a quarter of a century.

Several speakers will bring special reports from the European scene. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, who is fully posted on the English situation, will discuss "Tories vs. Georgists in Great Britain." President George E. Evans of the Henry George Foundation, now Superintendent of the Bureau of Building Inspection in Pittsburgh, has just returned from a visit to England and Scotland and will discuss "Economic

nd Politics at Home and Abroad" with particular reference to housing and taxation, Mr. Evans being actively engaged in promoting better housing conditions. Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh is now touring France and Italy, and will doubtless have some interesting reports of the latest developments in those countries, which will add to the interest of his appearance at the convention this year. Fiske Warren of Tahanto, Mass., also recently returned from his annual visit abroad, will bring the latest reports concerning Single Tax enclaves and other economic developments of interest.

Clayton J. Ewing, President of the Single Tax League of Illinois, will be the toastmaster at the annual Henry George Foundation banquet at the Congress Hotel on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 9, and will speak on "The Psychology of Success." Speakers on this occasion will be Charles O'Connor Hennessy of New York; State Senator Marvin C. Harrison of Cleveland, who will discuss "The Single Tax and the Problem of Ownership Income;" Hon. Walter R. Demmler, a member of the Pittsburgh City Council, who will speak on "Pittsburgh's Progress in Tax Reform;" and Andrew P. Canning, well known Chicago Single Taxer, who will undertake to answer the question "What is our Responsibility in the Present Crisis?"

Federal Judge William H. Holley of Chicago will deliver the address of welcome at the opening session on the morning of Oct. 8, and will be followed by former Councilman Peter Witt of Cleveland, O., who will deliver a keynote address on the topic, "What Price Economic Prosperity?" Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh will be the guest of honor and only speaker at the opening luncheon at the Congress Hotel on Oct. 8.

Harold S. Bутtenheim, editor *The American City*, will be one of the new figures at the convention this year and will discuss the very interesting question "If Henry George Were Writing Today." Councilman Mark Millikin of Hamilton, O., will explain how "A Biologist Looks at the Single Tax." Attorney Benjamin W. Burger of New York City will again present a careful analysis of "The Single Tax in Perspective," bringing up to date his survey of the status of the Single Tax movement in the United States.

At the public meeting on the evening of Oct. 8, Clarence Darrow is scheduled to discuss "The Darrow Report on the N.R.A.," and David Gibson, editor of the *Lorain Journal*, will deal with that vital question, "The Cause of Economic Depressions and Unemployment." Abe Waldauer of Memphis will undertake to answer the question of greatest interest to all delegates, "How Will We Get the Single Tax?" while Colonel Victor A. Rule of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, will deal with "The American in 1934."

That veteran of many battles, Frank Stephens of Arden, N.C., will be the speaker at the Wednesday luncheon,

speaking on the question "What Shall We Do to be Saved?" Frank Chodorov of New York City will tell of the progress of the Henry George School of Social Science.

Among the speakers from the West will be Dr. Charles Lavery of Aberdeen, S.D., who has made an interesting analysis of the farm situation and will speak on the theme, "Un-Tax the 'Forgotten Man'—the Consumer."

Mayor Fred Pease and H. C. Moir of Milk River, Alberta, will be the principal Canadian orators, heading another large delegation from that section, and their addresses will deal with progress of the Single Tax movement in Western Canada.

Among other well known speakers who will appear before the convention are Attorney Charles G. Baldwin of Baltimore, who will discuss public utility charges and their relation to taxes; Will Atkinson, now of Bolar, Va., who will advocate the abolition of all taxes; Harry Weinberger of New York City will speak on the theme, "Dictatorship or Single Tax;" and Harry H. Hardinge of Chicago will tell us "What the Average American Believes."

One of the most important features of the convention from a practical viewpoint will be the report to be submitted by Arthur W. Falvey of Omaha, Nebr., assigned to this task at last year's convention, on the subject of organization. Mr. Falvey and his associates on this committee have given the subject a great deal of thought and there will be a keen interest in hearing their conclusions and recommendations.

John Lawrence Monroe, Field Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, has just returned from an extended tour of the West and will discuss "The New Frontier," and among other things will have a very interesting report to make concerning the present situation in California and the prospects for success in the campaign for Jackson H. Ralston's Single Tax amendment, which has attracted widespread support.

One of the most notable members of the Old Guard, John Z. White of Chicago, is scheduled for a message to the convention under the title "Retrospect and Prospect," and there is a probability of certain other prominent speakers being added to the list before the official programme goes to press.

The Chicago World's Fair, which proved such a great success last year, is now in the midst of a second successful season with many new attractions. The Exposition management has designated Thursday, Oct. 11, as Henry George Day and special exercises at the Illinois Host House will be held under the auspices of the Single Tax League of Illinois.

Chairman Ewing has appointed several sub-committees to take care of local arrangements. George M. Strachan, Vice Chairman of the Committee, is as usual taking a very active part in convention arrangements. Claude L. Watson will again serve as Chairman of the Registration

Committee. Newstad Epstein will be Chairman of the Committee on Pamphlet Literature. Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenback Foundation, is expected to be present to have charge of the book exhibit of that organization.

Percy R. Williams, now serving as Chief Assessor of Pittsburgh, is continuing to function as Secretary of the Henry George Foundation and has been conducting all correspondence from Pittsburgh headquarters and formulating the programme in cooperation with the Convention Committee, and will, as heretofore, be active in the conduct of affairs at the convention in Chicago.

The Henry George School

FRRIENDS and students of the Henry George School of Social Science are actively at work in preparation for its re-opening during the week of September 24, under the directorship of Mr. Norman C. B. Fowles, with Mr. George R. Geiger, son of Oscar H. Geiger, beloved founder of the School, as Associate Director.

Amongst those who will conduct classes as they are needed are Mr. Stephen Bell, Mr. Will Lissner, John Luxton, Otto K. Dorn and Mr. Charles Joseph Smith. The Correspondence Courses will be in charge of Mr. William W. Moore.

The School is most fortunate in having, thus far, 230 Free Scholarships to offer to unemployed teachers, college students, or ministers.

The members of the Student-Alumni Council have been requested to send in names of persons eligible for these scholarships.

Mr. Spencer Heath will officially represent the School in personally visiting the heads of the economics and allied departments of colleges in and near New York City, to present to them an opportunity of offering courses at our School to those whom they consider eligible. Some of the Welfare Agencies of the city have been notified of the availability of these free scholarships for social workers.

Announcements and regular registration blanks have been sent to 5,000 teachers at present employed in the the New York City service, and a special "Please Post" circular announcing the regular courses has gone to the head of every New York City Public School.

At the Chicago Convention in October Mr. Frank Chodorov will address the convention on behalf of the School.

May we not hope that more and more of the followers of Henry George will come to realize with one who lately sent a donation to the School that—"It seems the most hopeful work yet undertaken for our Cause." That, we know, is Mr. Chodorov's conviction.

A few days before his passing, Oscar Geiger said, "I believe our movement needs a spiritual home, and I believe that home should be the School."

This we would make it.

The Henry George Fellowship, lately established, will be the great family sharing that 'spiritual home'. Have we *your* name?

HELEN D. DENBIGH, President Student Alumni Council, Henry George School, 211 West 79th Street, New York City.

Petroleum Royalties

HOW THE LAND LORDS WERE BAULKED OF THEIR PRE

THE passing into law of what is now the Petroleum (Production) Act, 1934, may recall some of the events that prepared the way for the declaration with which it begins, that "The property in petroleum existing in its natural condition in strata in Great Britain is hereby vested in His Majesty, and His Majesty shall have the exclusive right of searching and boring for and getting such petroleum."

In 1917 the Coalition Government introduced the first Petroleum (Production) Bill, which treated such petroleum as the property of the local Land Lords, and provided for royalties on it being shared between them. Some of us who were then in the House of Commons challenged this proposal from the outset, and succeeded in defeating it in the Division of October 25 of that year on the preliminary Payment and Expenses Resolution, which led to the Government dropping the Bill. In the following year they brought in another, which became the Petroleum (Production) Act, 1918; it resembled its predecessor in some respects, but had nothing about petroleum royalties for Land Lords, and left the question of the ownership of ungotten petroleum to stand over.

In that Division of 1917 the tellers against the Government proposal were Mr. Denman and myself, and the present Prime Minister among those who voted against petroleum royalties for Land Lords. Not content with a negative attitude, some of us also placed on a Notice Paper of the House of Commons for "an early day" the following Resolution:—

"Petroleum.—That, in the opinion of this House, all Petroleum under the soil of the United Kingdom should be treated as belonging to the Crown; that the Crown should have the exclusive right of boring for and getting it and should have power to enter on and use any land for these purposes; that full compensation should be paid for any resulting loss or damage to property; but that no payment should be made in respect of the Petroleum."

It is satisfactory to see that our successful stand against the proposals of 1917—though it laid us open to the charge of outvoting Government during the War—has prevented the creation of a new and detrimental vested interest, and that the principles set out in the Resolution—though we had no opportunities of debating it—are carried into effect. The difference between the 1917 proposals treating ungotten petroleum as the property of the Land Lords and the present plan of treating it as the property of the Crown indicates the advance of public opinion. It also suggests that similar principles may yet be applied to other things which Nature herself has provided and points in the direction of requiring those who hold the natural resources of the country to make appropriate payments for them to the Crown, and of relieving improvements and industry from taxation.

JAMES DUNDAS WHITE in London *Commonweal*

TO attempt to apply the Single Tax would be for many statesmen to risk political death. To gain economic liberty at the risk of political death does not appeal to the statesman who said "give me liberty or give me death" long ago and was not a practical politician anyway.