

The Coming Congress

SENATOR MCKELLAR, OF TENNESSEE, TO ADDRESS THE
MEMPHIS HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

THE Seventh Annual Henry George Congress at Memphis will have as its guest of honor and speaker Tennessee's distinguished senior Senator, Hon. Kenneth D. McKellar, definite assurance having been obtained by Judge A. B. Pittman, chairman of the Convention Committee, who is busily at work as we go to press completing arrangements for the first national Single Tax convention ever held in the South. All indications point to a highly interesting conference, with all sections of the country represented by active Single Tax workers.

Senator McKellar is a native of Alabama, but has long been prominent in public affairs in his adopted State of Tennessee. He served in the lower House of Congress for several terms and was elected to the United States Senate in 1916, now being in the midst of his third term as Senator. He is a member of the Appropriations and Rules Committees of the Senate and has been a prominent figure in that body since the second Wilson administration. Senator McKellar writes to Judge Pittman: "I will be glad to address the convention and suggest the subject of 'Reduction of Federal Taxation.'"

The convention will open on Monday morning, Oct. 10, with an address of welcome by Mayor Watkins Overton, of Memphis, to which a response will be made by George E. Evans, of Pittsburgh, President of the Henry George Foundation. The programme is now almost complete, though a few invited speakers of prominence are yet to be heard from, and others have not yet been assigned specific topics for discussion. Among the principal orators at Memphis will be the Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, of the People's Church of Cincinnati; Hon. Peter Witt, former City Councilman of Cleveland; L. D. Beckwith, editor of *The Forum*, of Stockton, Calif.; Attorney Benjamin W. Burger, of New York City; Hon. J. Edward Jones, recent candidate in the Republican primaries for Governor of Illinois, and Hon. William N. McNair, recent Democratic nominee for United States Senator from Pennsylvania.

Emil O. Jorgensen of Chicago, secretary of the Manufacturers and Merchants' Federal Tax League, will have a very timely address on "Why Unemployment?" Chester C. Platt, publisher of the *Batavia (N. Y.) Times*, who has just returned from a European tour, will discuss "The Relation of the Single Tax to other Reform Movements." George C. Olcott, of Chicago, prominent real estate appraiser, will discuss "Methods of Determining Land Values Under the Single Tax." Henry Ware Allen, veteran Single Tax leader of Wichita, Kan., will speak on "Social Injustice." Ernest B. Gaston, secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Corporation and editor of *The Courier*, will tell of the success of America's leading Single Tax

enclave, and Fiske Warren, of Harvard, Mass., will discuss the enclavial movement from a world-wide viewpoint. Mr. Warren is now traveling in Europe and is timing his return so as to be in the United States for the Memphis convention.

Benjamin W. Burger is preparing another comprehensive and important address dealing with the subject of "Single Tax Movement in Perspective." This will be a continuation and an elaboration of the very able and interesting speech at Baltimore last year, and this address is expected to provoke considerable discussion. Dr. M. Millikin, City Councilman of Hamilton, O., and President of the Ohio State League, will present the novel topic "The Adoption of the Price Index as an Aid to the Single Tax." Dr. Walter Verity, of Chicago, is preparing an address dealing with the money question, a topic of special interest at the present time. R. E. Logsdon, director of the Memphis Convention Bureau and an expert on organization, who has rendered notable service in connection with the preparations for the Memphis convention, will speak "Organized Publicity." Assistant City Attorney A. B. Waldauer, of Memphis; will tell of the successful launch of the new Single Tax enclave, Wall Hill. Oscar H. George, of New York, director of the newly established Henry George School of Social Science, will have a message of special interest for the convention.

Among other speakers who will have prominent places in the convention programme are: Clayton J. Ewin, of Chicago, the very active president of the Single Tax League of Illinois; Charles H. Ingersoll, vice president of the New York City Single Tax Club, who has recently made a remarkable record for "mass production" on the lecture platform; Robert C. Macauley, of Philadelphia, editor of *Pennsylvania Commonwealth* (who has been prominent in the programme at every Henry George Congress since the Foundation was launched in 1926 at Philadelphia); Claude L. Watson, of Chicago, now one of the principal lecturers of the Henry George Lecture Association; J. Dana Miller, vice president of the Foundation and editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM*; Malcolm McDowell, of Sewanee, Tenn., retired cotton manufacturer and Single Tax writer; Bolton Smith, prominent Memphis investment banker and vice president of the National Council of Scouts of America; Andrew P. Canning, of Chicago, popular toastmaster of the 1928 Congress, Mrs. M. Johnson of Fairhope, Ala., superintendent of the School of Organic Education, and Will Atkinson, now of Washington, D. C., who is so widely known for his constant and effective work as an individual propagandist since the days of Henry George.

Percy R. Williams, executive secretary, and John Monroe, associate secretary, will present reports of organization activities of the past year, and a number of representatives of newly organized Henry George Clubs in various sections are expected to be present with

reports of the activities and plans of these local organizations. President Evans, of the Foundation, has just recently returned from a visit to Russia and Germany and may touch incidentally upon social, economic and political conditions in these countries.

Secretary A. W. Madsen, of the British Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, has cabled Secretary Williams from London to the effect that he now finds it impossible to make the trip to America this fall and therefore cannot accept the invitation to address the Memphis convention. He is, however, preparing a special message dealing with recent activities and developments in the movement in Great Britain. Mr. Madsen expresses keen regret and hopes to pay us a visit next year. The invitation has been renewed, with the suggestion that next year's convention will probably be held in Chicago during the the World's Fair and is likely to be the largest and most representative Henry George Congress yet held, though Memphis is striving hard to make a unique record this year, with every promise of success.

All convention sessions will be held at the Hotel Peabody, which has admirable facilities and is one of the finest hotels in the South, though offering very moderate rates for delegates. Here the annual banquet, always a red-letter event, will be held on the evening of Oct. 11. Generous provision is being made for broadcasting the principal speeches over the local radio stations, and the Memphis Convention Bureau has placed the services of its staff at the disposal of the Congress. Delegates and visitors will be welcomed with true Southern hospitality. The various features of the local work have been delegated to competent hands, with the following assignments to sub-committees: Programme, P. M. Birmingham; Entertainment, L. D. Bejach; Reception and Registration, Dr. W. D. Gaither; Ladies' Reception and Entertainment, Mrs. Alex. Y. Scott; Attendance Building, Albert G. Riley. A publicity committee is also being formed and the local newspapers are giving good notice of the approaching event.

Many delegates will probably be able to take advantage of the very liberal week-end railroad rates in effect at that time from practically all points in the South and Middle West to Memphis. These excursions permit starting on the preceding Friday and do not require departure from Memphis until Tuesday night, and there is a possibility of a special extension to Wednesday being granted by the Illinois Central and other railroads. Motor parties are also being arranged from Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh and various other points. Fairhope expects to send a good delegation this year, and New Orleans and other Southern cities will be represented for the first time.

Secretary Williams is arranging to spend some time in Chicago during September, conferring and working with Associate Secretary Monroe, who is directing the lecture work and other field activities, and will also meet Single Taxers there who may be interested in the Memphis

convention and other activities. President Ewing, of the Single Tax League in Chicago, recently spent a day in Pittsburgh in conference with Foundation officers, and on his trip East addressed Single Tax dinner meetings in Philadelphia and Washington, D. C., and made a visit to New York, contacting active workers and calling particular attention to the importance of the approaching Memphis convention.

It is suggested that every town and city within a radius of 800 miles of Memphis should send at least one delegate to the Henry George Congress.

The Pittsburgh headquarters of the Henry George Foundation is now located at 238 Fourth Avenue, and all convention reservations or inquiries should be directed to the Executive Secretary at that address.

Southern Tax Conference

VEXING problems of taxation are disturbing the minds of officials, high and low, as well as the rank and file of the taxpayers, in all parts of the country, and the South is having its full share of difficulties in trying to raise needed public revenues and balancing budgets in these times of depression; while some are beginning to see something of the intimate relation of taxation to basic economic problems.

Having this situation in mind and desiring to reach the general public in an effective manner, a Southern Tax Conference has been called to meet in Memphis Oct. 10, simultaneously with the regular sessions of the Henry George Congress but maintaining a separate identity, with full freedom of expression and action. The newly organized Memphis Single Tax Club and the Convention Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce are cooperating with the Henry George Foundation in calling this conference, and they expect to take advantage of the presence in Memphis of prominent visiting speakers who are qualified to present the Georgist tax programme in its various aspects.

The Southern Tax Conference will be a voluntary association of those interested in taxation matters of all kinds and may be continued after the Henry George Congress. It will be given wide publicity through the South, and the Governors of States, Mayors of cities, and chambers of commerce in all cities will be invited to send delegates; also taxpayers' organizations in the various States and communities.

Hon. A. B. Pittman, Judge of the Circuit Court of Shelby County, will preside over the sessions of the Southern Tax Conference, which will occupy one full day and possibly longer, with discussions of the theory and practice of federal, State, county and municipal taxation, and also taking up questions of the taxation of railroads and other public utilities and special sales taxes which have been introduced in some Southern States. It is expected that the Pittsburgh Plan will receive some special attention as an

outstanding example of the policy of concentrating the principal burden of local taxation on land values.

This special conference programme will be separate and distinct from the activities of the Henry George Foundation. It is intended as an open forum for the expression of opinion on all forms of taxation and their social consequences.

Manhattan Single Tax Club

THE Single Tax conference which was held at the Mahwah River Yacht Club on Saturday, June 28, created an interest in land-value taxation among the local people of Rockland County, N. Y. To satisfy their desire for information, another conference was called for the same place on Saturday afternoon, July 16. A representative number of Single Taxers and their friends attended and a goodly number of local people came to hear about Single Tax. Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll, who had recently returned from a six months' cross-country lecture tour, was guest of the day. The meeting opened at 3:00 p. m., with Mr. Walter Fairchild, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and host of the Mahwah River Yacht Club, in the chair. Mr. Ingersoll devoted about one hour to an explanation of the Single Tax, dispersed with interesting reminiscences of his trip. Mr. Oscar H. Geiger, director of the Henry George School of Social Science, also devoted a half hour to an explanation of the Single Tax, and the meeting was then thrown open for discussion. Several questions were asked by the guests, which were ably and intelligently answered by Mr. Geiger. Mr. Joseph Dana Miller gave a short address, and Mr. H. C. Maguire submitted figures of the Township of Ramapo in Rockland County, which were very appropriate to the occasion. After the meeting was adjourned the courtesies of the grounds of the Mahwah River Yacht Club were at the disposal of all.

Active work is going forward on the Henry George Educational Board.

At an informal dinner held at Miller's Restaurant, 115 Nassau Street, New York City, on Wednesday, Aug. 24, plans for the formation of an Ingersoll Lecture Committee were discussed. The purpose of this committee will be to sponsor lecture tours by Mr. Ingersoll. The committee will assume responsibility for financing these tours and the publicity activities. The Manhattan Single Tax Club will lend its name, influence and facilities, contributing the services of its office force and the overhead expenses of management and date making. Mr. Ingersoll gave a very fine resume of his cross-country trip. During the six months he delivered 233 talks to 36,270 people, about one-third each to business clubs, social clubs and educational institutions. The publicity aggregates 233 articles in 121 of the best papers in 66 cities and 18 States en route, amounting to over 30,000 agate lines, quoted at \$9,894 by the publishers. The aggregate circulation of these

papers is 6,799,032, which multiplies Mr. Ingersoll's audiences by 184. Mr. Ingersoll presented a scrap book containing copies of these 233 clippings.

Mr. Ingersoll is planning to start from Newburgh, N. Y., about Sept. 15, spending approximately one month touring New York State and another two months through Canada and the New England States. We are now busy arranging engagements.

We are planning another informal dinner for Mr. Ingersoll on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 14, before he leaves for his upstate tour.

Plans for further activities of the Manhattan Single Tax Club are also being discussed. As soon as the summer season is over and members of the Board are again permanently in the city, the club will resume its regular board meetings, and we hope for a very busy fall and winter.

MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB
(Beatrice Cohen Assistant Secretary).

THAT justice is the highest quality in the moral hierarchy I do not say; but that it is the first. That which is above justice must be based on justice, and include justice, and be reached through justice. . . . As the individual must be just before he can be truly generous, so must society be based upon justice before it can be based on benevolence.—HENRY GEORGE.

MANKIND'S behavior during the last two years could be shown to point to a perceptible loss of that admirable quality—sense of humor. . . . Do not accept the dictum that the world's troubles can only be set right by each country redressing its unfavorable balance of trade by drastically curtailing imports and fostering exports, without stopping to inquire who would be buying those universally fostered exports in a world which is universally curtailing imports?—SIR HENRY STRAKOSCH.

FFIFTY MILLION Americans can easily be wrong without half trying. They will probably demonstrate this in November. They will get all worked up about the depression and then throw their votes away by casting them for the successful candidate. This candidate will almost certainly be one who has not the faintest idea of the cause of depressions or who, if he knows, will be strongly opposed to removal of the cause.

MR. WILLIAM A. BRADY, theatrical producer, suggests that Congress substitute a government lottery for the proposed tax on theatergoers. Not a bad suggestion since the government already runs a lottery known as land speculation. All that it need do is tax the proceeds instead of industry.

LET no one imagine that he has no influence. Wherever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power.—HENRY GEORGE.