

The Henry George Congress

BY OUR REPORTER

THE Twelfth Annual Henry George Congress convened at Hotel Statler in Detroit on Thursday morning, October 14, and continued until Saturday, October 16.

During those three days Japanese shells shrieked through Shanghai, bombs burst in war-torn Spain, rival labor camps jockeyed for position in the struggle for power in the United States, and President Roosevelt prepared to announce that the budget would not be balanced this year.

Against this background of world and national events Georgeists in Detroit deliberated in their search for a strategy that would bring the adoption of the principles of Henry George so that the headlines of tomorrow might read in a more peaceful, constructive and happy vein.

Among the delegates was Mrs. Anna George deMille, daughter of Henry George and president of the board of the Henry George School of Social Science. There was Charles H. Ingersoll, the man who made the dollar famous and who is now using that fame as president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club organized by Henry George, to broadcast the message of freedom over a dozen radio stations every week. There was Frank Brown who fifty years ago sold Tom L. Johnson the copy of *Social Problems* that was to make Single Tax history. L. D. Beckwith, editor of *No Taxes*, champion of economics as a science "as exact as any"; N. D. Alper, lieutenant of Judge Jackson H. Ralston in his campaign for a constitutional amendment in California; J. B. Ellert and Fred Pease, of Single Tax town, Milk River, Alberta; Enclavialist Fiske Warren; Colonel Victor A. Rule, Rabbi Michael Aaronson—all were there and a host of other Georgeist leaders.

Dozens in New York City, Pittsburgh, Chicago and elsewhere who might otherwise have attended the Congress were unable to because they were busy teaching the Fall classes of the School in their respective cities.

The progress of the past few years since the founding of the School was reviewed. But education, most felt, is not enough. Now, in the words of Colonel Rule, we must organize! And steps were taken toward that end.

Upon one thing all were agreed: The Henry George School of Social Science must go on! The memory of Oscar H. Geiger, founder of the School, was rejoiced in at every session for having given the movement that priceless gift of a way of growth. There can be no substitute, each said, for the study of the writings of Henry George which talk a language at once modern and eternal.

The chairman of the Congress, A. Laurence Smith of Detroit, had his troubles keeping the delegates from veering from the intended subject of each session—Single Taxers do have such a habit of talking Single Tax!—but Mr. Smith and his committee should feel highly rewarded for their labors in arranging the details of the Congress. Some plans were formulated that will bear fruit in a strengthened movement during the months and years to come.

In addition to a wealth of interchanged ideas, out of this Congress came (1) a committee for national organization and action, (2) a committee for the restoration of Henry George's birthplace, and (3) the choice of Toronto for the 1938 Congress.

And now, for the exclusive benefit of its readers who were unable to attend, *LAND AND FREEDOM* presents a play by play description of each session of this memorable Congress:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

MORNING SESSION

A. Laurence Smith, Chairman of the Local Committee, presented Dr. Frank Cody, Superintendent of Schools of Detroit, who gave the

address of welcome. Dr. Cody spoke of the liberal spirit that prevails in the public school system of Detroit and praised the educational purposes of the Henry George Congress.

Percy R. Williams, Chief Assessor of Pittsburgh and Executive Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, responded with an expression of appreciation to Dr. Cody and to the local committee for its arrangements.

SPEAKING ON THE AIMS OF THIS CONVENTION

Henry C. L. Forler, Detroit attorney, said that any progress must come from the bottom up, not from the top down. Consequently, he said, in this convention every means should be considered that may help bring about a more widespread knowledge of the Single Tax and what it will accomplish.

Francis I. Mooney, Baltimore attorney, expressed the belief that there should be an auxiliary organization that would get the attention of the great mass of people who vote.

Edward White, Kansas City, said that since the Congress is not a legislative body it should be treated as a sales convention—a "pep meeting for the salesmen of the Georgeist philosophy." Mr. White analyzed the problem that the individual faces in choosing the field of activity in which to concentrate whether the precinct, ward, city, state or nation. He made clear that the solving of national problems would not solve local problems and vice versa.

Henry H. Hardinge, Chicago, suggested that if the life story of Henry George could be given on the screen as has been done with "Parnell," "Pasteur," and "The Life of Emile Zola," it would be a startling revelation of "a great man, a great period and a great problem." Mrs. Anna George deMille, New York, told of the difficulties that must be faced in inducing producers to launch such a picture. Mr. Smith said that a scenario on the life of Henry George would be of no value unless the producer thought well enough of it to buy it without subsidizing.

Mr. Smith reviewed briefly the Single Tax legislative progress of recent years. He stressed the significance of the British Petroleum Bill of 1934 which provides that any petroleum found in the British Isles shall belong to the crown.

AFTERNOON SESSION

This session was devoted to reports on the progress of the Henry George School of Social Science and to a discussion of plans to promote the School. Mrs. deMille, president of the Board of Trustees of the School, presided. John Lawrence Monroe, field director, traced the growth of the classes and the development of the teaching and class organizing methods from the time that the School was provisionally chartered by the University of the State of New York in 1932 until the granting of its absolute charter last July 30.

"The growth of the School has been possible only because the graduates themselves are doing more and more of the teaching," Mr. Monroe said. "With the success of the class method firmly established," he continued, "the School turned back to a field abandoned since the passing of Mr. Geiger—the correspondence course. The cost of securing the correspondence enrollments is constantly being lowered through the testing of direct mail and newspaper advertising. To meet the demand of the graduates for additional courses the School now offers a teachers manual using 'Protection or Free Trade' as a textbook and is preparing teachers manuals covering 'Social Problems' and 'The Science of Political Economy.'"

Mrs. deMille announced the publication this month of the first number of *The Freeman* as a monthly critical journal of social and economic affairs designed especially to serve the graduates and teachers of the School.

All delegates took copies of the poster announcing the free cor-

respondence course, to be placed in libraries and book stores. Many plan to underwrite the cost of placing textbooks in lending libraries and bookstores pending rental or sale to prospective students.

Warren S. Blauvelt, Troy, N. Y., reported that he is now teaching his fourth class and that one of his graduates is already teaching another. "The steady growth of the School makes me very much more hopeful for the ultimate success of the Henry George philosophy in something less than a geological period," said Mr. Blauvelt. "The great hurrah and emotional appeal doesn't get anywhere with people who lack understanding. Classes will make the movement certain of the leadership of bell weathers in every community."

Edward White, Kansas City, Mo., told of the live alumni organization in his city which sent him to the Congress as its delegate. He reported the opening of neighborhood classes and the success with which the little Henry George School Bank has been used in raising funds for the classwork.

Robert L. McCaig, formerly of Toledo and now of Erie, Mich., contrasted the success of the class method with the less successful reading circle method.

The question of an abridgement of "Progress and Poverty" to serve as a textbook of the School, as suggested by Professor Harry Gunnison Brown, was brought up by A. Laurence Smith. Some of the reactions were:

William J. Palmer, Detroit: "From our experience with classes using 'Progress and Poverty' is that the book as it now stands is an economic standard. We do not need an abridgment. In no case will the book make an impression unless you can get the student to, dig in and when he does, in the abridged edition he will find that it's all there and simple."

Mrs. deMille: "I wonder whether there is the need for an abridgment now that the book as a whole is finding a wide reading. The abridgment on which I worked with Louis F. Post was not warmly received by publishers. The lesson assignments as prepared by the School serve to abridge the book without requiring the publishing of an abridged edition."

Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany: "There are practical objections to the proposed abridgment. Abridgments are confusing to publishers, bookstores, and readers. There is a feeling of resentment against abridgments."

Mr. Hardinge: "Attempting to improve upon 'Progress and Poverty' by abridgment would be like painting the lily."

Edward White: "With ten weeks given to the study of 'Progress and Poverty' no abridgment is necessary."

J. B. Ellert, Milk River, Canada: "We have had a class a year in Milk River and have found no difficulty in the use of 'Progress and Poverty' with the aid of the teachers manual and lesson assignments."

Mr. Ellert went on to show how Milk River, with no taxes on buildings and with nearly all of the local revenue from the taxation of land values, is a practical demonstration to back up the teachings of "Progress and Poverty." "Land is free," he said, "there is no public debt. The town has been able to provide hospitalization for the sick and relief where necessary for the needy. The streets are improved as in no other cities in southern Alberta."

Mrs. Helena McEvoy, Washington, D. C., reported that some years ago she prepared a complete concordance of "Progress and Poverty." Mrs. McEvoy promised to try to find it for the use of the School.

EVENING SESSION

Chairman: Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany, N. Y.

In a masterly address on "Slums, Housing and the Single Tax," Colonel Victor A. Rule, Chicago, analyzed the cause of slums and showed how the taxation of land values and the exemption of improvements would solve the problem. Defining the slum as "a piece of city real estate where the improvement is below standard," Colonel Rule showed how this abnormal condition is encouraged by taxes on im-

provements which relieve land values and permit slum area owners to hold on.

"When improvements are taxed," Colonel Rule said, "a person can hold land underdeveloped. Exempt improvements and tax land values: Then your slum owner will not be encouraged to hold his property in slum condition but to improve."

Describing the various paternalistic and charitable housing projects around the world, Colonel Rule censured each one for being no more than "a clean rag on a dirty finger to emphasize the filth of the finger." "It is a bad thing," he said, "for the government to undertake to do for the individual what the individual can do for himself."

Speaking on "Unemployment and the Single Tax," David Gibson, Cleveland, said in part, "I often think that the general public is about as ignorant of economics today as it was of sanitation at the time of cholera. We are doing as foolish things today in combating unemployment as the people of Cincinnati did when fighting cholera. They rang church bells. They held religious parades. They did everything but clean the streets.

"The rich, however, were just as afraid of cholera, typhoid fever, diphtheria, yellow fever and smallpox as the poor, and so something could be done. It is a great deal larger problem to eliminate unemployment. Influential people are benefitting by the fruits of our economic ills.

"Labor troubles are the result of a quarrel between employee and employer as to who should bear the cost of rising land values. County records show that Cleveland with a population of 1,000,000 has a total land value of \$1,000,000,000—\$1,000 per unit of population. The land of Cleveland is held by 86,000 owners, less than 10 per cent of the population. \$500,000,000 (one-half of the total land value) is held by 500 persons. One-third of the land value is held by 125 families. \$50,000,000 rent must be paid each year before anything can be done. This is an absolute debit against producers.

"For mass prosperity you must have mass purchasing power." This is impossible, Mr. Gibson made clear, when public values are privately appropriated.

George C. Olcott, Chicago land values expert, gave figures to show that many governmental housing projects are uneconomic. The Jane Addams housing project in Chicago, he said, is costing \$2,000 a room whereas \$1,000 is considered adequate. The land for the project cost \$140 a foot whereas in the very best residential sections, land does not exceed \$100 a foot.

While agreeing that there can be no final solution of the housing problem until the adoption of the Single Tax, George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, expressed the belief that "We can do something for the people before the adoption of the Single Tax." He cited the Buhl housing project in Pittsburgh as an example of what can be done as a demonstration of better planned housing, financed by private capital.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

MORNING SESSION

Chairman: Edward White, Kansas City.

"The real aim of the Georgeist philosophy," said Warren S. Blauvelt, Troy, N. Y., "is the achievement of freedom based on justice made possible by the apprehension of truth."

"My experience as a very amateur teacher in the Henry George School of Social Science has convinced me that there are a great many people who want to know what, how, and why. It is amazing the interest they show in knowing the truth that will make justice possible. And justice is necessary to make the spirit of man free.

"Every precinct has a few real leaders. Among them are some as conscientious as ourselves. Get hold of more and more of these leaders. As these are gotten, real achievement toward our ends will come."

Making a plea for coordination of activities, Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany, N. Y., suggested the possibility of a federation of existing

Georgeist organizations which would embrace all who believe in the fundamental programme of Henry George. Among the functions of the new organization would be (1) to maintain a complete up-to-date list of those who subscribe to the essentials of our programme; (2) to serve as a clearing house for the ideas of the movement; (3) to secure publicity for the movement; (4) to contact and follow up specific influential individuals; (5) to lend aid and encouragement to the Georgeist publications; (6) to keep new converts busy and interested. Mr. Tucker suggested that the organization have nominal dues for a broad membership with the opportunity for those of means to contribute larger sums. One of the functions of the organization, he said, might be to raise money for all Single Tax organizations.

Francis I. Mooney, Baltimore, said that he would gladly enlist in this organization and give it his support.

In illustrating how such an organization could gain support of business interests, Mr. L. D. Beckwith, Stockton, told of the support given to his local Georgeist paper, *The Forum*, by the oldest and strongest business organization in his city of 55,000 population. This organization bought and paid for 1,015 subscriptions to his paper, "a record," said Mr. Beckwith, "that can't be equaled anywhere." "Don't misunderstand," they said, "We are not sure that we are sold on all that you say but we like the way you play up the rights of the working man and of the employer."

Miss Alice I. Siddall, Washington, D. C., read the draft of a proposed Congressional act providing for a one per cent tax on the value of all land in the United States, its Territories, Possessions, and the District of Columbia, exclusive of the value of improvements, to be collected by each State, Territory, Possession and the District of Columbia and transmitted to the Treasury of the United States. The proposed act is based upon the authority of the Constitution of the United States, Article I, Section 8, which states that "Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defence and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States." Copies of this proposed act may be obtained from Miss Siddall at 514 19th St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Henry H. Hardinge, Chicago, characterized the proposed act as an "excellent draft."

Edward White, Kansas City, told of an amendment to the constitution of the state of Missouri proposed by Percy Pepon, St. Louis Georgeist and member of the Legislature. This amendment would permit the legislature to classify property for purposes of taxation and to exempt any class or classes in whole or in part. The present constitution of Missouri, Mr. White said, is iron-clad.

Francis I. Mooney, Baltimore, said that Maryland has a similar amendment but that it is not self-executing, "so we can't get anywhere with it."

George C. Olcott, Chicago, said that a federal tax is all right in itself but there would be difficulty in securing a uniform application. There would be a tendency, he predicted, for each state to attempt to under-value its land in order to escape its just share of the taxes.

Mrs. Myron B. Vorce, Detroit, told of her work with the League of Women Voters in Michigan and stated that the strong Leagues were those with members who not only studied theory but who took an active part in putting their theories into practice through political action. She expressed the belief that political action should first be strengthened in the State as a means for showing the necessity of a national move.

LUNCHEON FOR TRUSTEES AND ADVISORY COMMISSION OF THE HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

The following members of the Board of Directors were present: Otto Cullman, Charles R. Eckert, George E. Evans, Clayton J. Ewing, Charles H. Ingersoll, Dr. Mark Millikin, Fiske Warren, and Percy R. Williams.

The following directors were reelected to the Board: Messrs. Cullman, Evans, Carl D. Smith, Dr. Millikin, Hon. Cornelius D. Scully, and Mrs. Roswell Skeel. A. Laurence Smith was elected to the Board to replace William B. Foster whose term had expired.

The following officers were reelected: George E. Evans, President; Joseph Dana Miller, Clayton J. Ewing and Carl D. Smith, Vice-Presidents; Anna George deMille, Honorary Vice-President; William E. Schoyer, Treasurer; Percy R. Williams, Executive Secretary; John Lawrence Monroe, Associate Secretary.

President Evans appointed the following committee to arrange for the restoration of the birthplace of Henry George in Philadelphia: Mrs. Anna George deMille, Hon. Cornelius D. Scully, Clayton J. Ewing, Charles H. Ingersoll, and Harold Sudell. Approximately \$3,000 will be required to restore the birthplace. A little more than \$500 has already been contributed for this purpose.

President Evans appointed the following committee on national organization and action: A. Laurence Smith, Chairman; Colonel Victor A. Rule, David Gibson, Charles R. Eckert, John Lawrence Monroe, Otto Cullman, Noah D. Alper, Gilbert M. Tucker and Mrs. Helena McEvoy. By action of the Congress, Mrs. Anna George deMille was subsequently added to this committee.

The Board of Directors voted to accept the invitation of Allan C. Thompson to hold the next annual Henry George Congress in Toronto, Canada.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman: Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Cincinnati, O.

Speaking on "Plans for Promoting the Single Tax" Edward White, Kansas City, told of many issues that have arisen in his city which have served as pegs on to which to hang the Georgeist story. In Kansas City the Park System is maintained by a $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill rate tax on land values alone. The city charter adopted twelve years ago permits the application of the same principle to other public improvements. Hence every attempt on the part of public utilities and politicians to foist improvements upon the people to be paid for by general property taxation, the sales tax, or bond issues has been countered by Mr. White's proposal to pay for the improvements by land value taxation.

Mrs. Helena McAvoy, President of the Woman's Single Tax Club, Washington, D. C., announced that in the spring "we're going to organize the National Woman's Single Tax League at the home of Mrs. Charles J. Ogle near Baltimore. Women will put this over if you men will let them!"

Speaking on "Shall We Try to Concentrate All the Single Tax Activities in One State?" Colonel Victor A. Rule, Chicago, said, "My answer to the question must be no. Not because I do not think that this is what we will ultimately come to but because I believe there is a prior act necessary. Some day we will have to do just what this question suggests but that day has not yet arrived. Our next step must be National Organization and the development of a directive plan for this Movement.

"This work must have four and possibly more major divisions. There must be national organization for (A) Propaganda, (B) Education of a more formal nature, (C) Financing, (D) Future political action. This organization can be accomplished regionally without disturbing any present activity and without increasing the burden borne by those interested in the movement."

(A complete copy of Colonel Rule's address may be secured by writing to LAND AND FREEDOM.

Robert L. McCaig, Erie, Michigan, told of his experiences which lead him to believe that the demountable house on leased land will do more than all efforts to educate people on the land question and the relation of taxation to it. "When we can get people out of the cities they will be better able to see the land question," said Mr. McCaig. "Ninety-nine per cent of the people don't know they use land. With the demountable structure the home owner would not be subject to the will of the landowner as he is today. When the

rent became too high he could pack up his house and go elsewhere."

Mrs. Gertrude E. Mackenzie, Washington, D. C., suggested the following ideas for active work:

Letters to the editor.

Enclosing Single Tax literature in your personal and business letters and in reply to appeals from charitable and peace organizations.

Placing Single Tax billboards on vacant lots.

Arranging poster and book displays in vacant store windows.

Placing metal literature holders in Y. M. C. A.'s and other public places and keeping the holders filled with Single Tax pamphlets and magazines.

"We have been too much concerned with what the Single Tax is and how to get it, and not enough attention has been given to what it will do," in the opinion of Allan C. Thompson, Toronto. "Let us promise \$5,000 a year—we can deliver the goods!"

ANNUAL HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION BANQUET

Toastmaster: A. Laurence Smith, Detroit.

In an inspiring, brief talk Mrs. Anna George deMille reaffirmed her faith in the future of the movement and in the work of the Henry George School of Social Science as the "way out of war, race hatreds and the misunderstandings of the world."

Pleading for Single Taxers to define their attitude on every subject before the American people and to set up a research laboratory in Washington, D. C., to serve the nation's leaders, Congressman Charles R. Eckert declared that it is the lack of a formulated policy and necessary data that are responsible for the slow progress that Single Tax has made in a practical way. "We must formulate a comprehensive programme to fit the national and state governments," he said, "so that every one of us may know what to labor for."

"I think Single Taxers ought to take an active part in politics," Congressman Eckert continued. "Politics is corrupt and it is vulgar. But politics can be put on a plane so that every campaign can be turned into an educational enterprise. If we had a group of Single Taxers in Congress—say 45 or 50—it would be possible to bring pressure upon those who direct the public affairs of the nation. Because the New Deal is the dominant thought of the day despite its inconsistencies it is up to us to reform it. I have the faith and hope that Single Tax will become formidable enough so that the course of the New Deal will have to be changed, so that the principles of the institutions upon which the American Republic was founded may be saved."

Denying that the labor problem, crooked politics, commercialized vice, the race problem or war have anything to do with man's morality or immorality, L. D. Beckwith, editor of *No Taxes* and the *Forum*, Stockton, California, demonstrated how each of these problems can be solved by the one stroke of publicly appropriating rent in lieu of all taxes.

"Love or hate has no more to do with economics than it has with mathematics, chemistry or physics," said Mr. Beckwith. "We have rights that go as far as the equal rights of others. Nature prevents us from going farther. There are only three ways to get income—from rent, wages and interest. Just take away your opportunity of getting rent and you are at once limited to wages and interest. The only way to get more wages and interest will then be to make yourself more useful."

J. B. Ellert, Milk River, expressed his belief that the moral law and the scientific law are inseparable, but that whether the individual is moral or immoral has nothing to do with the moral law. Taking rent for public purposes, he said, equalizes the advantages to the use of the earth and is fair and just to all. "We are therefore in accord with the moral law. Can we apply that principle without also being scientific? 'Justice is the supreme law of the land.'"

Greetings from Nathan Hillman, president of the Federated Chapters of the Henry George Fellowship, were read by Noah D. Alper, vice-president.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16

MORNING SESSION

Chairman: Ray Robson, Lansing, Michigan.

Subject: What State Offers the Most Promising Opportunity?

"New Jersey," said Charles H. Ingersoll, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, New York. During the past four years Mr. Ingersoll has delivered over 600 radio broadcasts a year on free time donated by the smaller stations in the East from Wilmington, Del., to Bridgeport, Conn. He believes that New Jersey is the state on which to concentrate because the taxation of land values can be increased without constitutional amendment and because the ground has been plowed by the faithful efforts of Alfred N. Chandler, secretary of the Henry George League of New Jersey. Over a long period of years Mr. Chandler has had the interested cooperation of numerous merchants and manufacturers throughout the state. Legislative bills for increasing the taxation of land values have met with wide favor.

"Pennsylvania," was the answer of Percy R. Williams, chief assessor of Pittsburgh, to the question of where to concentrate. Observing that the referendum method of securing adoption of Single Tax legislation has failed in every instance to date, Mr. Williams believes that the most promising opportunity lies in such a state as Pennsylvania where progress can be made through legislative bodies.

"The reason the legislative body offers a better opportunity for a minority group," declared Mr. Williams, "is because it is not necessary to obtain a majority vote of all the people. You only need their acquiescence. Retain unity and you can hope to get results. This method has won something in Pennsylvania and there are prospects of winning more." Mr. Williams made clear that he did not believe in the geographical concentration of educational work except in so far as related to the legislative campaign. He pointed out that all teachers and students can't be put into one city or state.

"California!" If any concentrating is to be done there is no question in the mind of N. D. Alper where it should be—California, where a campaign is now in progress. Mr. Alper reviewed the history of legislative campaigns in California and the present chances of success for the Ralston amendment which in nine years would wipe out taxes on buildings and tangible personal property and which would at once repeal the onerous sales tax. Petitions are now being signed which will put the amendment before the people in November, 1938. 187,000 signatures are needed.

Dr. Mark Millikin, Hamilton, Ohio, suggested that Ohio has possibilities as a state in which to concentrate because "the people are beginning to see the evils of the sales tax."

Ray Robson, Lansing, Michigan, presented the case for Michigan where a sales tax and a tax limitation amendment are evils to be removed.

"I think concentration in any state fruitless," said David Gibson, Cleveland. "There is no answer except education. The Henry George School of Social Science should be kept up."

Mr. Williams suggested that the logical place of concentration would be a substantial city rather than a whole state, though he recognized that if California can win along the lines followed in the Ralston campaign it would be a much greater achievement.

Edward White, Kansas City, Mo., was one native son who did not want concentration on his state. "I'd rather develop our own campaign. The smear of 'outsiders running our affairs' is a powerful weapon in the hands of the opposition," Mr. White said.

A resolution introduced by Edward White was adopted approving the Ralston amendment campaign as a movement to collect a larger part of the ground rent for the benefit of the public. Mr. White was appointed chairman of a committee to aid in securing support for the campaign.

L. D. Beckwith, Stockton, Calif., said that he could not support

the Ralston campaign because he is a scientist and "a scientist can't trade." "A scientist," he said, "is for 2 by 2 equals 4. He is opposed to all other answers."

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman: Dr. Mark Millikin, Hamilton, Ohio.

Subject: Organization for Action.

"Whether you're trying to promote a new commodity or an economic truth, you won't get anywhere unless you adopt modern merchandising methods," challenged George R. Averill, publisher of the Birmingham (Mich.) *Eccentric*.

He suggested a three-day institute for business and banking leaders. "Lock the doors on them and immerse them in the philosophy of Henry George," he suggested. "Tell them that only this philosophy can protect them from fascism, communism and taxation. Sell these leaders on the fact that this is the last bulwark of private property.

"These same men who have done such a wonderful job of production can do the same with distribution when they put their minds to it. Top-notchers in production know nothing of the laws of distribution.

"We have got to carry on our programme of education. We must raise the economic literacy of the people. And yet I've had enough contact with government to know that all need not be economists in order that we may elect economists to office."

William H. Backman, St. Claire Shores, Mich., countered with the suggestion that efforts should be directed toward capturing the working man. "There is a certain point at which the capitalist stops being a capitalist," he said. "It is hard for him to tell whether he represents 75 per cent spurious capital or just the 25 per cent real capital."

Mr. Averill clarified his suggestion by saying that he was not opposed to organized labor but was interested only in enlisting leaders of influence.

David Gibson, Cleveland, said, "We have now perfected a programme by which a national organization is to be formed. It will take some months to get it functioning. But even after that, individual effort is still going to be necessary." Mr. Gibson recounted his own success in placing "Progress and Poverty" in bookstores and libraries.

"But above all things," concluded Mr. Gibson, "keep up the Henry George School of Social Science. That is getting young people into the movement."

Harold S. Bутtenheim, New York, editor of the *American City*, gave three encouraging reports. First, the Natural Resources Committee, Washington, D. C., has recently published a booklet in which state and local housing authorities are urged to consider reduction of rates on buildings and a corresponding increase on land values. Second, a recent survey taken by the Tax Policy League of New York showed that 28 out of 54 professors of public finance favored reducing taxes on buildings and increasing them on land values. Twenty were opposed, however, and six were non-committal. Third, Mr. Bутtenheim has been invited to address the chief assessors of cities of the United States on the subject, "Should Land and Buildings be Taxed at Different Rates?"

How the small cardboard replica of the little red schoolhouse can be used effectively for raising funds for the local extensions of the Henry George School was described by James C. Fuller, Kansas City, Mo.

Introduced to the Congress at this session was Frank Brown, Indianapolis, who as a newsboy nearly fifty years ago sold Tom L. Johnson the copy of "Social Problems" which was to lead to his meeting Henry George and becoming mayor of Cleveland as a Single Tax advocate.

A resolution was adopted commending Congressman Herbert Bigelow, Cincinnati, for his part in securing a Congressional vote on the

bill providing for a one per cent tax on the value of land in the District of Columbia.

On the motion of Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn, Cincinnati, a vote of thanks was tendered to A. Laurence Smith and his committee for the success of the Congress.

COMMITTEE ON ORGANIZATION

The Congress definitely decided that Single Taxers should go into action and that we should begin to do something more than talk, and the following Committee was appointed for the purpose of "organizing for action":

Hon. Chas. R. Eckert, Beaver, Pa.; Mrs. Anna George deMille, New York; Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany, N. Y.; Col. Victor A. Rule, Chicago; Otto Cullman, Chicago; Mrs. Helen Mitchell McEvoy, Washington, D. C.; David Gibson, Cleveland; N. D. Alper, San Francisco; John Lawrence Monroe, New York; Geo. E. Evans, Pittsburgh, Pa.; A. Laurence Smith, Chairman, 2460 E. Grand Blvd., Detroit.

A Sub-Committee consisting of Otto Cullman, Gilbert M. Tucker, Hon. Charles R. Eckert was appointed to draft a plan for organization.

Resolutions

WHEREAS: Land values are social values and the profit arising therefrom belong to the people and the application of these profits by private individuals or corporations is the principle and primary cause of hard times, unemployment and poverty.

The function of government is to devise ways and means for the collection of the income of land values for the benefit of all the people in lieu of the depression-breeding taxes on the products of labor. Therefore, the Henry George Congress assembled in the City of Detroit, October 14, 15 and 16, 1937, views with interest and approval the efforts of Representative Herbert S. Bigelow to levy a tax on the \$1,000,000,000 of land values in the District of Columbia and extend hearty congratulations to him and the twenty other Representatives who supported the Bigelow Amendment, their pioneer efforts in behalf of needless depression and ring down the ages as an act of true and honest statesmanship.

CALIFORNIA CAMPAIGN APPROVED

WHEREAS: The followers of Henry George favor every possible application of the principles taught by Henry George; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That this Twelfth Annual Henry George Congress hereby approve the movement now under way in California to obtain a larger measure of land value taxation in that State; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a committee be appointed to assist the Tax Relief Association of California in carrying on this work.

Edward White, Kansas City, was appointed Chairman of this Committee, with instructions to appoint two additional members.

Excellent Statement Accompanying Invitation to Henry George Congress

SINGLE TAXERS form the only group, not only in the United States but in the world, so far as it is known, that is using every effort to maintain and promote what we are pleased to think of as the American ideals of Freedom and Independence.

It is hardly necessary to point out that all other organized groups and movements have as their background plans to arbitrarily confiscate and redistribute wealth.

Some of these groups have definite plans to confiscate from the

poor and redistribute to the rich; others to confiscate from the poor and distribute to other poor; and others to confiscate from the rich and redistribute to the poor.

Single Taxers, on the contrary, believe that prosperity and wealth, individual and national, can result only from work and production; that the worker is entitled to the full return from his labor; and that the government has no right to confiscate any of his earnings and redistribute them to either rich or poor.

Ground rent is a social product which belongs to all the people and should be taken by the government for the payment of all public expenses, and this automatically would leave earnings untaxed in the hands of those who earn.

When Single Taxers speak of workers, earners, and producers, they mean not only the laboring man who works with his hands but the white collar worker, the professional man, and the proprietor as well. They believe that it is respectable for the individual to work and earn money with his own hands, or his own head, and that it is equally respectable for those who have saved a little money to combine their savings and engage in public enterprise for profit and that those profits are as fully entitled to protection from confiscation by government as are the earnings of the daily wage worker.

The Single Tax idea is the last stronghold and, in fact, the only bulwark remaining to protect the American Institutions of Enterprise, Prosperity, and Freedom.

Colonel Victor A. Rule at the Henry George Congress

IN 1933 the Henry George Convention, held at Chicago, did me the honor of appointing me, along with others on a committee to study organization. That committee has long since expired having failed, even among its members, to come to any sort of agreement as to a basis for report.

However, the desire, arising out of need, has not expired and the intervening years, with their wealth of missed opportunities, have added to both the desire and the need.

The Single Tax movement—the No-Tax movement, the Georgeist movement—sadly needs organization and on the lack of it, not on any fundamental error or any lack of ability on the part of the general public to understand, I repeat, on the lack of organization this movement wrecks its opportunities.

I am not insensible to the modicum of truth in the ancient quib that the way to kill a thing is to organize it, but, with all the earnestness of my mind which is intellectually persuaded of the correctness of our position, with all fervor of my emotions which erupt at the continuance of social injustice, I wish to insist—*We Must Organize*:

Let us come to the record. With one shining exception our movement is a motly aggregation of sporadic, diversified, uncoordinated, divergent, individualistic efforts having but one basic element in common, namely, a desire to bring about a better social state founded on economic justice. And it has always been so. You can read its history—a sad story of stullified effort checkmating itself

and doing the work of its enemies because of a lack of organized effort. From the earliest records of man—on to the birth and work of Henry George himself through Johnson, Shearman, Brown, Ingersoll, Monroe and down until today, with the exception of Geiger, it has been a lack of organization which has brought defeat, not the lack of brainy leaders, gifted disciples, fervent appeals, adequate finance, but lack of organization and programme continuity.

I am supposed to speak on the proposition "Shall We Try to Concentrate All The Single Tax Activities in One State?" But what are these activities? Concentrate our internecine wordy wars, our individualistic efforts? Even if you concentrate them you'll do no good without organization and plan.

The military man says "do not deploy in front but deploy in depth," or as the man in the street says, "don't spread yourself out too thin." But this is no argument against, rather it is for the proposition that our next step must be National Organization and the development of a directive plan for this Movement. My answer to the question then must be no. Not because I do not think that this is what we will ultimately come to but because I believe there is a prior act necessary. Someday we will have to do just what this question suggests, but that day has not yet arrived.

The military maxim quoted has to do with a principle of attack—it is not at all related to the prior question of training, of getting ready for the attack. Now it would seem abundantly evident that before we attack the privilege which we believe to be at the basis of most, if not all our major social ills, we must educate the people on whose lack of information or social lethargy this privilege so largely endures. It might be objected that this question which I am called upon to discuss relates only to an attack upon such ignorance or lethargy. Possibly that is so although I doubt that as the interpretation most people would place on it. But even if it were the only interpretation my answer would still be as it is. *A prior step must be taken!*

I make this answer because were we to do as is suggested by this question, or rather by such an interpretation of this question, we would be doing an injustice to every other state. There are two principles involved in our Movement of which political action is just one. Political action arises more soundly from education rather than education flowing from political action. Let others play the "if at first you don't succeed, try, try again" game. We have already been enlightened about the inexorable inevitability of right action following right thought. No state in this union can hope to isolate itself from the thought and education of other states while each state can assert its own sovereignty in political affairs.

It would not be proper for me to advocate merely a