

that the Single Taxers of America are heartily in accord with this sentiment, the Henry George Foundation is planning to acquire the birthplace property, restore it to its approximate original condition, and erect a fitting bronze tablet to mark it as the birthplace of the great prophet of a better and brighter social order that is to come when freedom shall have been attained and involuntary poverty abolished. It is hoped to assemble in the old George home many of the most interesting mementoes of his life work. Mrs. Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George, has expressed a keen interest in the project and is being consulted in the plans for the restoration of the old home, which, while happily preserved from destruction, has been somewhat neglected, but which it is hoped will soon be added to Philadelphia's other notable places of historic interest and sacred memory.

## Henry George Congress To Be Held At Philadelphia Sesqui-Centennial

A FITTING tribute is to be paid to the memory of Henry George, founder of the Single Tax movement, on the occasion of the celebration of the eighty-seventh anniversary of his birth and an invitation is being extended to the Single-Taxers of America to come to Philadelphia to participate in the Henry George Congress, which is being arranged both as a memorial celebration and as an inspiration for an awakening of renewed interest in the national movement to advance the Georcean economic philosophy.

The Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition will be in complete operation in September and will be attracting many thousands of people to Philadelphia. The Exposition authorities have offered to cooperate in giving a cordial welcome to the delegates to the Henry George Congress who will assemble from various sections of the country to visit the city which gave birth to the philosopher who has come to be recognized as one of the world's truly great men.

The Benjamin Franklin Hotel has been selected as the convention headquarters, where the banquet, luncheons and conferences will be held.

There is expected to be a large representation from those sections convenient to Philadelphia, such as New York, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia. Special railroad rates to Philadelphia now prevailing will considerably reduce the traveling expenses of those who will come from more distant points.

The Congress will be held under the auspices of the newly-organized Henry George Foundation of America. A three day programme is being arranged beginning with Thursday, September 2, the birthday of Henry George, and closing

on Saturday, September 4th. There will be public meetings at the Exposition and conferences and dinners at the headquarters hotel. While the programme is at present in tentative form, among those who have been invited to address the Congress are Hon. W. N. Ferris, United States Senator from Michigan, Hon. Gifford Pinchot, Governor of Pennsylvania, Fiske Warren, of Harvard, Mass., former Congressman Warren Worth Bailey, of Johnstown, Joseph Dana Miller, editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, Honorary President of the recent International Single Tax Conference at Copenhagen, Will Atkinson, of Capon Springs, W. Va., John J. White, of Chicago, Ill., Frank Stephens, of Arden, Delaware, Hon. Louis F. Post, former Assistant Secretary of Labor, Grace Isabel Colbron, of New York, J. H. Barry and Dr. W. G. Eggleston, of San Francisco, Mrs. Mary Fels, of New York, Dr. Walter Mendelson, of Philadelphia, Prof. Earl Barnes of Philadelphia, Charles H. Ingersoll, of Newark, N. J., J. C. Lincoln, Henry P. Boynton, of Cleveland, Bolton Smith, of Memphis, Tenn., Bolton Hall, Hamlin Garland, Benjamin W. Burger, Frederick C. Leubuscher and Edwin Markham, of New York City, Prof. Lewis Jerome Johnson, of Cambridge, Mass., George White, of Long Branch, N. J., Harry H. Willock and George E. Evans, of Pittsburgh.

United States Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, of Michigan, writes that he would be more than delighted to be present at the Henry George Memorial Celebration, and that while his plans for September were made long ago, he will make an effort to be there if possible. He says in closing "I am still interested in the Single Tax movement."

The Philadelphia committee on arrangements, headed by Attorney Paul de Moll, includes a number of active Single Taxers who are planning to give a cordial reception to the delegates and are anticipating a large attendance for this notable occasion. Special memorial exercises will be held at the birthplace of Henry George.

In addition to the opportunity that will be afforded to fraternize with the loyal friends of the cause from all parts of the country and to give public recognition of the eminent service rendered to humanity by Henry George, delegates will have the inducement to come to Philadelphia to see one of the world's great expositions. They will also have an opportunity to visit one of the noted Single Tax enclaves, beautiful Arden, situated in Delaware within easy access of Philadelphia, and the convention programme includes an outing-trip to Arden on Saturday, September 4th. Doubtless, a great many will include the Philadelphia celebration in their summer vacation plans en route to and from seashore resorts, while others, conveniently located in the East, can readily take two or three days from business to meet old friends and renew valued associations.

A group of Single Taxers are planning to go to the Sconset Moors owned by Frederic C. Howe on Nantucket Island, Mass., for a few weeks outing on the sea and the moors and to attend the School of Opinion. This is an informal



gathering place of authors, writers, editors and professional people. Some of the delegates will join Mr. Howe on his island immediately following the Philadelphia convention and thus have an opportunity for some further discussion of an informal nature.

Complete information, including a more detailed outline of the programme of the Henry George Congress, will be available after August 1st, and will be sent by mail, upon application to Secretary P. R. Williams at the Philadelphia headquarters of the Foundation, 1306 Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

## How Ohio "Helps" the Home-seeker

**H**APPENING to glance into a waste-paper basket, I saw a large book of uninviting appearance. I experienced the kind, if not the same degree, of emotion that normal persons feel on seeing a neglected or mistreated child or dog. I hastily rescued the volume. Its title: Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Building and Loan Associations of the State of Ohio for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1924.

The Legislature requires that a copy of this book be sent to the secretary of each of the 880 building and loan associations in the State. It is admitted that the 10,000 directors "seldom see the annual report," and that "if it has anything of value, they never read it." Another significant admission is made as follows: "The annual reports of the State Building and Loan Department, like the annual reports of most state officials, have been of little value to the general public. The publication is so long delayed, and is so voluminous, dry and uninteresting, that few patrons of associations ever read it. Even the officers of the associations, aside from the secretary, seldom see a copy."

The student of government must conclude that the publication of this book is a costly mistake. It comprises 477 pages, nearly all statistical matter in fine type.

Perhaps the business of loaning money and soliciting deposits needs state regulation. Let us waive that point. Remains the consideration that one bureau should be enough. Why have a separate bureau for building and loan associations?

Although the report acknowledges that it is seldom seen by the building and loan directors, Superintendent Tannehill makes the further humble admission that "these capable and efficient directors know far more as to methods of successful operation than any Superintendent can possibly know." Here a state official confesses that he knows less than do the people whom he is paid to watch and regulate.

Although Ohio's government has had a special bureau for 36 years to regulate building and loan associations,

Superintendent Tannehill declares that more laws are needed to protect the public from them. For one thing, the associations may legally loan as much as they please to their own officers and directors. "I found," writes Mr. Tannehill, "that the Municipal Savings and Loan Company had over 80 per cent of its assets loaned to its officers and directors who were connected with subsidiary realty companies. It was impossible to bring these eggs back into their proper basket without a catastrophe."

This ugly smash of a Cleveland building and loan company caused the State large expense for criminal prosecutions, but no building and loan officer has been sent to prison. It is unreasonable if skepticism is felt regarding state regulation? If, after 36 years of experience, such elementary principles of banking are not required by the law, what good does this governmental "protection" do?

One reading Superintendent Tannehill's comments must gain the impression that he is too modest regarding his knowledge of the building and loan business. He knows much; for here is what he says:

"I trust the day will soon arrive in Ohio when every patron of every building and loan association will know, before he enters the office of the association, the actual interest rate he will be required to pay for the loan he seeks, and what rate he will receive on his deposits, and that all loan business and unnecessary fines, commissions, charges and surcharges, and all fees for profit, will be banished forever from the plan of operation of all such institutions."

In 1924, Superintendent Tannehill had a deputy, an auditor, a statistician, an assistant statistician, a private secretary, and 18 examiners. They collected \$105,854.96 in fees and percentages on business from the building and loan associations, spent \$72,022.63 for salaries, traveling, printing and other expenses, and turned \$33,832.33 into the General Revenue Fund. Rent and janitor service are not mentioned, and are probably paid from another fund, serving to conceal the actual cost of the bureau. This system of collecting money is one of the one hundred or more bad methods of providing revenue for Ohio's state government. It is bad, because it is an indirect tax, passed on by the building and loan associations to their customers. It increases the cost of making loans to those who are trying to own homes. If the bureau is performing a necessary governmental function, its expenses should be met wholly from the general fund. When will that obviously sound business principle get into the heads of legislators? The cost of collecting this \$105,854.96 from 880 associations is, manifestly, pure waste.

And the report, if one is needed annually, should be put into a small, readable pamphlet.

Mr. Tannehill claims that his bureau has crushed out wildcat building and loan stock promotion sales, and lotteries calling themselves building and loan associations, but Ohio has another and special bureau to protect the