

The Henry George Lecture Assn.

(United with the Henry George Foundation of America)
538 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE, Director and Treasurer

STAFF SPEAKERS

- WILLIAM N. MCNAIR, Bakewell Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- CLAUDE L. WATSON, 538 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
- PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, 403 Garth St., Columbia, Mo.
- PERCY R. WILLIAMS, 1310 Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- HON. GEORGE H. DUNCAN, East Jaffrey, N. H.
- MRS. ANNA GEORGE DEMILLE, 17 East 67th St., New York City.

LOCAL SPEAKERS

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| CHARLES G. BALDWIN, Munsey Building, Baltimore, Md. | |
| L. D. BECKWITH, Stockton, Calif. | |
| HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Cincinnati, O. | |
| WILLIAM A. BLACK, San Antonio, Tex. | |
| A. A. BOOTH, Seaboard Building, Seattle, Wash. | |
| JOHN S. CODMAN, 20 East St., Boston, Mass. | |
| GRACE ISABEL COLBRUN, New Canaan, Conn. | |
| FREDERIC C. HOWE, Harmon-on-the-Hudson, N. Y. | |
| CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, 341 Park St., East Orange, N. J. | |
| WILLIAM MATTHEWS, Spokane, Wash. | |
| RAY ROBSON, 608 Chestnut St., Lansing, Mich. | |
| MISS EDITH SEEKEL, 626 Ethel Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich. | |
| ABE D. WALDAUER, Bank of Commerce Building, Memphis, Tenn. | |
| EDWARD WHITE, Kansas City, Mo. | |
| Chicago, Ill.: | New York City: |
| HENRY H. HARDINGE. | MAX BERKOWITZ. |
| WILLIAM H. HOLLY. | B. W. BURGER. |
| THOMAS A. MYER. | OSCAR H. GEIGER. |
| THOMAS RHODUS. | BOLTON HALL. |
| GEORGE M. STRACHAN. | GEORGE LLOYD. |
| HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN. | MORRIS VAN VEEN. |

Solving Unemployment

MAN in River: "Help! Help! Save me! I'm drowning!"
 Man on Bank: "What's your name?"
 Man in River: "Bill Smith, but save me quick! I'm drowning!"
 Man on Bank: "D'ye work round here?"
 Man in River: "Yes, but save me! I'm drowning."
 Man on Bank: "Where d'ye work?"
 Man in River: "Ashley Mill, over yonder, but I'm drowning! Save me! Save me!"
 Man on bank walks away across to mill, knocks on the door and says to caretaker: "D'ye know a chap called Bill Smith, working here?"
 Caretaker: "Yes, I know him."
 Man: "Well, I've come for his job."
 Caretaker: "You're too late. Chap as pushed him in got it!"—*Commonweal*, London, England.

PRIOR to the general election Mr. Snowden estimated that a 3d in the £1 tax on capital value would yield at least sixty millions. Had he adopted that policy in 1929, or even in his 1930 budget, and this year increased the tax, the new revenue raising system, with certain economies, would easily have enabled the Government to balance this year's budget.—*Irish Weekly and Ulster Examiner*.

News of the Henry George Lecture Assn. Speakers

THE Henry George Lecture Association in offering its facilities for making Single Tax lecture appointments is finding many available speakers and a still greater number of eager audiences. The following brief report tells of the recent work of several members of the lecture staff:

William N. McNair, Pittsburgh, Pa.—In completing four weeks of speaking engagements in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Mr. McNair left favorable sentiment in many cities that is still reverberating in the form of letters and newspaper clippings being received at the office headquarters, 538 South Dearborn Street, Chicago.

In many cases the daily newspapers of cities Mr. McNair visited carried a column of advance publicity and another column reporting the talk. Most of the reports carry references to the forum discussion following Mr. McNair's talk, of which the following paragraph is typical:

Agreeing with the speaker in his views, Edwin L. Ashton, of the American Lead Pencil Company, of Hoboken, N. J., brought out that creation of a tax structure on the Pittsburgh Plan would serve to encourage enlargement of business on vacant land and disposal of surplus vacant land to owners who would be willing to improve it.—*Jersey Daily Observer*, 9-30-31.

The first paragraph of a two-column news report of Mr. McNair's address before the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce states:

The solution of the economic depression lies in making more land available, instead of allowing a land monopoly as we do today, members of the Chamber of Commerce were told yesterday by William N. McNair, noted attorney and civic leader of Pittsburgh.—*Staten Island Advance*, 10-6-31.

The following lines are typical of letter responses to Mr. McNair's talks:

In behalf of the Pittsfield, Mass., Kiwanis Club I wish to thank you for sending Mr. McNair to us. He gave us a fine talk containing much to think about. We had as guests to hear Mr. McNair our mayor, two ex-mayors, the board of assessors, the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Mr. McNair has a charming personality, held his audience well, and answered many questions.—Mr. G. N. Willis, Pittsfield, Mass., 9-16-31.

We wish to express our gratitude for your time and for the worthwhile message which you presented before our club at our meeting yesterday. It was a great pleasure to receive your views, and certainly you have started a storm of healthy discussion on this very live question. It is our hope that we will again have the pleasure of hearing from you in the near future.—Mr. Hugh S. Fifield, Treasurer, Kiwanis Club of Boston, Mass., 9-9-31.

From what the writer could gather after the meeting our membership was very much impressed in regard to your plan of taxation and wish that you might have had more time to have given us further information. Possibly at some later date it may be convenient for you to return to us, and I know that our members would be happy for your doing so.—Mr. A. L. Harbourt, Kiwanis Club of Trenton, N. J., 9-28-31.

Permit me to thank you for your very interesting presentation on the Pittsburgh Plan of Taxation at our meeting today. I can assure you that it was enjoyed by everyone present.—Sol Berla, Kiwanis Club of Newark, N. J., 10-1-31.

As you could judge for yourself, the topic was very well received and I believe that the ideas you advocate will find a favorable response in our local communities.—Mr. Marcel Villanueva, East Orange Lions' Club, N. J., 9-30-31.

Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, Columbia, Mo.—While Professor Brown's available time for outside lectures is limited, parts of his vaca-

tions for the past two years have been used to excellent advantage. In June of 1930 he spoke in Wisconsin and Minnesota. In June of this year he filled engagements in Michigan and Eastern Canada. His appointments in Ontario were arranged through cooperation with the Single Tax League of Ontario, of which Mr. L. B. Walling is secretary, with offices in Toronto.

Mr. Walling writes us that "Prof. Brown made an exceedingly good impression on this his first visit to Ontario. His addresses on the taxation question, and his showing up of the fallacies of socialism, were among the best we had heard."

The following are quotations from some of the news reports:

In addition to being an interesting speaker and able debater, Prof. Brown is a gentleman of winning personality, and made many friends during his short visit to our province. Should he come again, which we hope he will, we bespeak for him a most hearty welcome.—*Square Deal*, Toronto, July, 1931.

His address on "Incomes" was most appreciated by the numbers present. Prof. Brown has given a great deal of time and thought on the question as it affects the Socialist and the ultra-Conservative, and how best to effect a compromise.—*Belleville, Ont., Intelligencer*, 6-24-31.

John S. Codman, Boston, Mass.—Mr. Codman, known to Single Taxers throughout the country for his many active years in the movement and for his book, "Unemployment and Our Revenue Problem," filled a number of Massachusetts engagements during August, September and October on that very topic. At the meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Worcester on Oct. 2, 175 men were present in the ballroom of the Baneroff Hotel and all were very much interested. Newspaper publicity was excellent, the Worcester *Sunday Telegram* of Oct. 4 carrying quite a long account and stating that there were "knots of Kiwanians holding after-meetings in the lobby and on the street, discussing the pros and cons of the George plan." Notices were also carried in the Worcester *Evening Gazette* and in the *Boston Globe*. Mr. Codman writes the Lecture Association: "I like to get opportunities of this kind, especially in these days when I feel that I am working in conjunction with others so that what I do counts for more."

Mr. Claude L. Watson, Chicago, Ill.—The Miami (Fla.) *Daily News* made this statement in regard to Mr. Watson: "Claude L. Watson has spoken before religious, scientific and business organizations in almost every State in the Union during the last fifteen years. He is a speaker of exceptional power and fluency, to which is joined a breadth of knowledge and a keenness of intellect that command the attention of his audiences."

Mr. Watson has three principal lectures on the Single Tax—"Real Tax Relief for Industry," "Prosperity Through Purchasing Power" and "Why Poverty Amidst Plenty."

On Thursday, Sept. 24, Mr. Watson spoke before the South Bend Kiwanis Club at noon on "Real Tax Relief for Industry." About fifty were present and there was much favorable comment after the meeting, though no open-forum discussion was possible. In the evening of the same day Mr. Watson spoke before the newly organized Henry George Club of South Bend, at which about 100 were present, including Congressman Samuel Pettingill and Dr. Elmer Ward Cole of the Christian Church, Dr. Cole serving as chairman. Dr. E. G. Freyer-muth is to be most heartily congratulated on his achievement in so rapidly organizing the Henry George Club and arranging this meeting. Mr. Watson is scheduled to speak in Milwaukee, Wis., and Elgin, Ill., during November.

Responses to the work of the Henry George Press Bureau, which Mr. Watson is co-directing with Mr. John C. Rose, of Pittsburgh, have been gratifying and helpful.

Edward P. E. Troy, San Francisco, Calif.—During his visit in Minneapolis early in September, Mr. Troy addressed meetings of the Cheese Club and of another Progressive Club. More than 100 persons were present at the latter meeting, including the mayor of Minneapolis and his secretary, the vice president of the Great Northern Railway, a representative of the American Electric Railway Association, and

many other influential people. Mr. Troy visited with Senator S. A. Stockwell during his stay in Minneapolis.

John Lawrence Monroe, Chicago, Ill.—Speaking on "Restoring Prosperity by Rational Taxation," Mr. Monroe filled some of Mr. McNair's "overflow" engagements in Lawrence, Taunton, Lowell, Athol and Chicopee, Mass.; in East Hampton, N. Y., and in Newark and Penns Grove, N. J. As a result of these talks a known 134 inches of newspaper publicity was received for the Single Tax in ten different papers, seven being dailies and three weeklies, an average of over a half-column to each paper.

BOOK REVIEW

ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER THE GUISE OF FICTION.*

For a single tax "for revenue only," but for distribution of excess profits to the workers, this not uninteresting story by Test Dalton (Lowe Shearon) is written.

We cannot be expected to endorse its political economy, but it is ingeniously presented and it had the endorsement of the late president of Yale University, Arthur T. Hadley. "Profits" is always a vague term, and as a matter of fact inseparable from wages. Indeed profits, are wages where they are not monopoly returns.

We can at least commend the humanitarian spirit in which the book is written, and the enthusiasm with which the proposal is set forth is not a little infectious.

CORRESPONDENCE

WHY PAY GRANDPAPA'S GAMBLING DEBTS?

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Judge Jackson H. Ralston is troubled lest we charge the payment of war debts to land values. He need not be, as, both by precept and example, it is becoming daily more evident that hardly any of the war bonds will ever be paid, even if they could be, which is not likely. Why should we pay grandpapa's gambling debts? BOLTON HALL.

MR. RALSTON ADDS TO THE DISCUSSION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

May I say a few words with regard to two letters appearing in the September-October issue of LAND AND FREEDOM relative to a letter of my own pointing out that Massachusetts offers the best opportunity in the United States for a vigorous campaign looking to the ultimate adoption of the Single Tax?

Reading the letter of Mr. Thomas N. Ashton I am compelled to conclude with regret that I did not make my position entirely clear. I am prepared to believe that any application to the Legislature in Massachusetts would be barren of results. The fact is that in Massachusetts, because of the overwhelming power of the country districts, the Legislature cannot with success be asked to do anything of a radical nature. The Legislature is as to its majority elected by and represents a minority of the people. Our appeal must be to the majority of the people—not the majority of the Legislature.

The appeal the Single Taxers must make, therefore, is to the people, and this can be readily made through the Initiative, as I pointed out. There is no State in the Union where it can be so easily and so successfully made. There must be put forward a constitutional amendment. That this is first submitted to the Legislature is a matter of no moment. Whatever the Legislature may or may not do of its own volition, the measure ultimately goes to the people.

I do not in any respect ask that Massachusetts should launch "a programme for legislative amendments on tax laws," as Mr. Ashton seems to suggest is my proposition.

The essential point of Mr. Byington's article seems to be that he thinks that Vermont offers a better field for action than Massachusetts. In a fashion I would think that he answers himself when he points

*The Richest Man on Earth, by Test Dalton. Cloth, 256 pp. Price \$2. Lowe Shearon, Publisher, 359 Front Street, N. Y. City.