

addressing a number of recent meetings. In certain sections of Allegheny County there has been a remarkable growth of interest in the movement for taxation of land values and some very large public meetings have been held for the express purpose of advancing this movement and agitating for the extension of the Pittsburgh plan to the outlying territory in the county.

During February the *Post-Gazette*, Pittsburgh's leading daily, published on its editorial page for ten consecutive days a series of articles discussing, pro and con, Pittsburgh's experience under the graded tax law which was enacted twenty years ago. Those contributing to this series were: Councilman Robert Garland, former Mayor William A. Magee, J. Roland Brady, secretary of the Real Estate Board; James W. Bamford, representing the Building Owners and Managers Association; Attorney William N. McNair, Percy R. Williams, Dr. Marion K. McKay of the University of Pittsburgh; William P. Witherow of the Citizens' Tax Commission; Edward F. Daum, realtor; and Thomas C. McMahon, Chief City Assessor.

This symposium attracted wide-spread interest, being the first time since the graded tax law has been in effect that such a public discussion has been sponsored by the editors of a leading daily newspaper, though Pittsburgh papers are constantly publishing Single Tax letters in their readers' columns.

Power of Landlordism

WHEN Bruening dared to suggest that the national problem of unemployment be dealt with by colonizing surplus city population on land taken from the junker estates, he fell. Now von Schleicher, who combined a good deal of social imagination and daring with his belief in the necessity for military rule, having shown a disposition to follow Bruening's lead and break up the subsidized estates, has likewise fallen. The United States knows a little about the difficulty that arises from an attempt to govern without a mandate. But the events of this single day illustrate strikingly the fact that in Europe today no mandate can be guaranteed to last out tomorrow.

The Christian Century, Feb. 8, 1933.

Our Budget Architects

ONE would think that a system of taxation (if it may be honored by such a title) which is absolutely devoid of all sense of justice and proves itself so crooked and shifty as to be used to turn a clever little trick like that on the intelligentsia, diverting a portion of their wages into my pocket (Oh! Let's be honest for a minute or two) on the landlords specious plea for "the poor renters," would cause them to sit up and take notice and inquire into the merits of some of the stuff they are teaching to their classes in Political Economy.

This is destructive talk, therefore unpopular. Space does not permit a constructive thought, but you can't build a skyscraper on a rotten foundation and have it stand, and that is what is puzzling our budget architects today.—Z. K. GREEN in Middletown (N. Y.) *Times-Herald*.

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NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE AND SINGLE TAX CLUBS

Single Tax League, Chicago, Ill.—At the weekly meeting of the Single Tax League on Friday, Feb. 17, Mr. Emil O. Jorgensen gave a stereopticon lecture describing the tax situation in two typical residential blocks of Chicago and showing what the effects would be on the properties in these blocks if the Property Bills of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League should be adopted. The bills provide for the gradual exemption over a period of five years of all taxes on buildings and personal property for local purposes.

Henry George Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.—William N. McNair censured the Allegheny County Commissioners' drive to increase income by subjecting personal property to taxation, in a talk before the Henry George Club on Jan. 13. The *Pittsburgh Press*, in close to a column, reported Mr.

McNair as pointing out that in Kentucky the attempted enforcement of the personal property toll resulted in bank failures when people transferred their accounts to Ohio banks. He condemned the county's policy of assessing large vacant areas at only ten per cent of their value, which "throws the tax burden on the small home owner." He advocated that the county should adopt Pittsburgh's plan of high taxation rates on land and low on buildings.

The Henry George Club honored Mr. Francis W. Maguire, secretary, who celebrated his eighty-first birthday on Jan. 13. Mr. Maguire was born near old Fort Duquesne and is today known as the oldest Single Taxer in Pittsburgh.

Henry George Club, Lansing, Mich.—"Our club is doing a little better this year," writes Mr. Ray Robson, president of the Henry George Club of Lansing. "We are thinking of getting a room at the 'Y' for our meetings because of increasing size and interest. Monday, (Feb. 20), we had an interview with Governor Comstock."

Single Tax League, Dallas Texas.—The *Dallas Times Herald* of Feb. 13, tells us that Wilford B. "Pitchfork" Smith spoke under the auspices of the Dallas Single Tax League before an audience at the City Hall, Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12. John Morrow, league president, presided. The speaker ridiculed the claims of Technocracy, saying of the recent stir over it that: "Our people will become interested in anything sufficiently ridiculous." He said that by applying the Single Tax on land values, the tax burden would be removed from business, land speculation would become virtually impossible, and the depression would be ended. Mr. Smith was introduced by the Rev. Charles J. Murphy, pastor of Holy Trinity Church. Music was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. A. A. DeMond. Mr. Smith, editor of the *Pitchfork*, "An Humble Implement with a Wide Range of Usefulness," is a convert of John Z. White.

Henry George Club, Kansas City, Mo.—On Lincoln's birthday, Mr. James C. Fuller, secretary of the Henry George Club of Kansas City, issued a striking leaflet picturing Lincoln's adherence to the fundamental principles of economic freedom. "Like Moses, that other great leader out of bondage," says Mr. Fuller, "Lincoln recognized that men are land animals, who must have free and equal access to Mother Earth in order to be really free. . . . He decried land monopoly and refused to be a party to land speculation schemes." "Let us quit our blindness and meanness," urges Mr. Fuller, "and work to make possible prosperity that will be real and lasting for all and make Kansas City tax free!"

NEWS OF SINGLE TAX SPEAKERS

Joseph Forshaw, St. Louis, Mo.—"Forshaw of St. Louis" stands for integrity in business, fair play in sports and sportsmanship in economics. Son of the late Joseph Forshaw, who was a great skater and walker in England, founder of a successful business in St. Louis, and an unflinching Single Taxer, the present Joseph Forshaw has a heritage of athletic ability, business acumen, and Henry George idealism.

Twenty-five years ago "Joseph Forshaw of St. Louis" was a fleet

youth in the lineup of three great Olympic teams. Today he is one of the Single Tax movement's most eloquent and ardent exponents. Here are some of his recent speaking appointments:

In January: Mr. Forshaw had a fine audience before the St. Louis Women's Chamber of Commerce. He talked straight Single Tax and the Pittsburgh Plan.

Wednesday, February 22.—Mr. Forshaw addressed the Alumni Club of Washington University. Through the efforts of Mr. Erwin Kauffmann and Mr. Alper this engagement was secured, and the topic given Mr. Forshaw was "Sportsmanship and Fair Play." Under this topic he gave ten minutes on his sport and Olympic team experience, and twenty minutes on sportsmanship and fair play for every man, woman and child in the daily contest of life—which meant a good Single Tax talk!

Friday, March 3.—The Fred W. Strocham Post of the American Legion gave Mr. Forshaw a very fine audience of about 200 at the American Annex Hotel. He talked somewhat along the lines of his Alumni luncheon speech, and wedged in twenty minutes of straight Single Tax.

Sunday, March 5.—Mr. Forshaw was scheduled to address Mr. Thomas Q. Dix's Forum on "Depression: Cause and Cure," to close with a rousing espousal of the Single Tax. Mr. Dix is a firm believer in the Single Tax.

Saturday, March 11.—Again through the efforts of Mr. Alper, a comparatively recent convert of Mr. Kauffmann, Mr. Forshaw was to address a large and representative meeting including a good many young men ripe for the truth. This meeting was to take place at the Y. M. H. A. (This article is written before these latter two appointments are filled).

Mr. Forshaw writes, "Perhaps in the years to come, because of the results it attains, we may all proclaim this depression one of the greatest blessings of all time."

Andrew P. Canning, Chicago, Ill.—On a tour of the southwest with Mrs. Canning for her health, Mr. Canning has found the public's desire so great to know the basic causes of our economic troubles, that he has been given numerous opportunities to address local organizations. On Feb. 3, he spoke before the Las Vegas (New Mexico) Rotary Club. "The audience received me and the message very sympathetically," writes Mr. Canning, "and invited me to stay longer or meet with them again on my return." The Las Vegas *Daily Optic* gave a column interview with Mr. Canning. In this it quoted Mr. Canning as saying:

"In 100 years the world has made more progress under a partially developed democracy than it did in 1,000 years of aristocratic regulation. Our need in the present crisis is not a new imported scheme of government, but a fair field in which to develop our own. This can be done through improvement of an inherited aristocratic revenue system which now permits and encourages wild speculation in public property and confiscates private property through taxation."

George M. Strachan, Chicago, Ill.—Norman B. Barr, superintendent of the Olivet Institute of Chicago, writes Mr. Strachan in regard to one of his recent engagements, "Our Forum was delighted to hear you last Sunday. You entertained as well as interested and enlightened them to an unusual degree. You will always be welcome at the Forum to address us on any subject dear to your heart," that subject of course being the Single Tax.

Henry H. Hardinge, Chicago, Ill.—On Jan. 1, Mr. Hardinge addressed 250 Legionnaires at a Legion Post meeting in Chase Park. The appointment was arranged by George Tideman.

Pearl S. Buck, author of "The Good Earth," writes, "I knew Dr. Macklin very well and I know, too, his enthusiasm for Henry George. I believe he named one of his