

federal government has concerned itself with the problems of home ownership, but again by methods of tinkering that may easily in the long run do more harm than good. The community's acquisition of its own creation, ground-rent value, would both reduce the price of land and entirely eliminate taxes on improvement, thus making ownership easier. And how any one expects to solve the unemployment question by putting the sanction of both legality and high pecuniary reward upon the ability of the few to keep the many from equal access to land and to the raw material, without which labor is impossible, I do not see—and no one else does. For the tinkers assume that unemployment must continue, only with government assistance to those who are necessarily out of work. By all means let us help those that now need it, but for the future let us prevent the cause instead of merely mitigating the effects.

So if there were time, one could go through every one of our problems and show its intimate connection with a just solution of the land problem.

I do not claim that his remedy is panacea that will cure by itself all our ailments. But I do claim that we cannot get rid of our basic troubles without it. I would make exactly the same concession and the same claim that Henry George himself made: "I do not say that in the recognition of the equal and unalienable right of each human being to the natural elements from which life must be supported and wants satisfied, lies the solution of all social problems. I fully recognize that even after we do this, much will remain to do. We might recognize the equal right to land, and yet tyranny and spoliation be continued. But whatever else we do, as long as we fail to recognize the equal right to the elements of nature, nothing will avail to remedy that unnatural inequality in the distribution of wealth which is fraught with so much evil and danger. Reform as we may, until we make this fundamental reform our material progress can but tend to differentiate our people into the monstrously rich and the frightfully poor. Whatever be the increase of wealth, the masses will still be ground toward the point of bare subsistence—we must still have our great criminal classes, our paupers and our tramps, men and women driven to degradation and desperation from inability to make an honest living."

Tax Mania

NO sooner is a tax levied on soap than some professor of political economy advocates a tax on soapsuds; then some expert advocates a tax on soap-bubbles as well.

The latest suggestion is 40 per cent tax on subway fares. Well, it happens that land values in four of the five boroughs are based on a 5 cent fare. Any increase in fares whether called a tax or just a plain increase, will depreciate values to a point where the real estate taxes will produce less revenue, and in all probability offset the amount received from a tax on fares.—JOHN J. EGAN in *World-Telegram*.

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 Jaffery, N. H.
MRS. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, 17 West 67th St., New York City.

LOCAL SPEAKERS

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.
J. D. BRYANT, Albany, Ore.
JOHN S. CODMAN, 20 East St., Boston, Mass.
GRACE ISABEL COLBRON, New Canaan, Conn.
ALEXANDER HAMILTON, Pender Island, B. C.
FREDERIC C. HOWE, Harmon-on-the-Hudson, N. Y.
JAMES P. KOHLER, Congers, N. Y.
FRANK STEPHENS, Arden, Del.
CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, 341 Park St., East Orange, N. J.
WILLIAM MATTHEWS, Spokane, Wash.
RAY BOBSON, 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.
JOSEPH FORSHAW, St. Louis, Mo.

Chicago Ill.:	New York City:
HENRY HARDINGER.	MAX BERKOWITZ.
WILLIAM H. HOLLY.	B. W. BURGER.
THOMAS A. MYER.	BOLTON HALL.
THOMAS RHODUS.	GEORGE LLOYD.
GEORGE M. STRACHAN.	MORRIS VAN VEEN.
HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN.	
CLAYTON J. EWING.	
J. EDWARD JONES.	

* * *

NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE LECTURE ASSOCIATION

John Lawrence Monroe, director, will leave on an Eastern tour, Tuesday, May 30, organizing Henry George Clubs, arranging Henry George Dinners, and speaking in principal cities. His itinerary for June and the first week in July is as follows:

Wednesday, May 31—South Bend, Ind., Rotary Club at noon and labor meeting in the evening. In cooperation with Dr. E. G. Freyer-muth, secretary of the Henry George Club of South Bend.

Friday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 6—Grand Rapids, Mich., and vicinity. In cooperation with Mr. Herman Frederich, secretary of the Henry George Club of Grand Rapids, Miss Edith Seekell of Kalamazoo, Mr. Chester A. Graham, director of Ashland College, Mich., and Mr. J. S. Tindall of Cedar Springs.

Wednesday, June 7 to Sunday, June 11—Lansing, Mich., and vicinity. In cooperation with Mr. W. W. Ross, secretary, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Robson, organizers of the Henry George Club of Lansing.

Monday, June 12 to Sunday, June 25—Detroit and vicinity. To address the Detroit Federation of Labor, Wednesday evening, June 21, on "Why Unemployment?" (a chalk-talk). A Detroit Henry George dinner will probably be held Friday, June 23.

Monday, June 26 to July 8—Ontario and Quebec provinces, Canada. Following this date Mr. Monroe will be in New England, New York State, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Claude L. Watson filled the following appointments on a special trip to Omaha, Nebr.

Monday, April 10—Monthly meeting of the League of Women Voters, appointment arranged by Mrs. Howard J. Bailey; seven classes at the South Omaha High School. appointments arranged by Mr. A. W. Falvey, secretary of the Henry George Club of Omaha.

Tuesday, April 11—Triangle Club luncheon, arranged by Mr. Elmer E. Zimmerman. Another speaker at this meeting was Walter Waters, head of the famous B. E. F. at Washington, who expressed his deep interest in the Single Tax programme as explained by Mr. Watson.

Omaha Municipal University, Prof. Claude W. Stimson's class in taxation.

Wednesday, April 12—Director's meeting of the South Omaha Merchants' Association, Mr. J. P. Watkins, president.

Thursday, April 13—Parlor meeting arranged by Mr. Gilbert Harry of the advertising department of the Union Pacific Railroad.

On Wednesday evening, May 10, Mr. Watson addressed a receptive audience of ninety persons at the Irving Park Christian Church, Chicago.

NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE AND SINGLE TAX CLUBS

Single Tax League, Chicago—The speakers bureau of the League has issued an attractive eight-page leaflet containing an "Announcement of Lectures and Lecturers," with the photographs and speaking titles of seven of Chicago's ablest Single Tax speakers: Henry H. Hardinge, J. Edward Jones, Henry L. T. Tideman, George M. Strachan, Clayton J. Ewing, Thomas Meyer, and Edwin Hamilton. The first speaking title announced for each speaker—whatever other subjects he may treat of—is "The Single Tax." Mr. Nathan Hillman, an attorney and youthful leader in the Chicago movement, is chairman of the speakers' bureau, now an important part of the League's activities.

Henry George Club of Omaha, Nebr.—A special meeting of the Henry George Club was held Thursday evening, April 6, at a dinner at Hotel Conant. Major Rueben N. Perley of the 7th Corps army headquarters spoke on "Valuators." Resolutions were presented against the sales and income tax measures pending in the State Legislature.

Henry George Club of Lansing, Mich.—The *Lansing State Journal* of March 29 tells us that a public hearing in the senate chamber of the Michigan legislature, Tuesday, March 28, "Ray Robson, representing the Henry George Club of Lansing, advocated the Single Tax theory for which the organization stands," and a comment is quoted from Mr. Robson in opposition to the 15-mill tax limitations on real estate.

Members of the club, headed by John J. Richards, president, late in January appeared before Gov. William A. Comstock to appeal "for application of the Single Tax theory as espoused by the late Woodbridge N. Ferris, former governor." The group called the sales tax idea particularly objectionable, and described the tendency to "lower the rate of taxation on all real estate and resorting to some kind of indirect taxation as a substitute."

In Mr. B. W. Dennis, the Lansing Club has found a valuable member. He first became interested in the Single Tax upon hearing Ray Robson speak on the subject before the Y. M. C. A. He is writing letters for the newspapers, and in one of them he says; "Last Saturday evening I visited the fortnightly meeting of the 'Single Tax Club' and I was agreeably surprised at this public discussion to hear the great possi-

bilities shown of an entirely new deck (not only a new deal) through Single Tax methods."

Here are two stanzas from a satirical poem by Mr. Robson appearing in the *Capitol Review*:

"Tax? Tax? Must we then pay a tax
On beef and bones, on stocks and stones, on stores and mills and shacks
While 'neath the weight the Ship of State is bending till it cracks?
And sink it will unless we kill this
Tax, Tax, Tax!

"Nol Let us vow right here and now that from an early date
No power shall take what man may make from early morn till late;
For we demand that rent of land, which we do all create,
No man of wealth shall take by stealth, but it shall serve the State."

Henry George No Tax League, Peoria, Ill.—Mr. Clayton J. Ewing, president of the Single Tax League of Chicago, was the speaker at a public meeting of the Peoria League on Sunday afternoon, April 30. The Henry George No Tax League is affiliated with the Henry George Foundation of America and with the Commonwealth Land Party of England. Its officers are: president, Dr. Canada Wendell; secretary-treasurer, R. E. Green; and directors, Dr. Wendell, Fred J. Bahni, Charles J. Kalb, Albert Henniges, and Mr. Green. *The Commonwealth* London, Eng., says of this organization: "Starting without compromise, the League has laid its foundations securely and with commendable forthrightness."

League to Popularize the Study of Economics, St. Louis, Mo.—Under this temporary name a group of St. Louis Single Taxers including Joseph Forshaw, chairman, Erwin Kauffmann, Charles Lischer, and N. D. Alper is carrying on an educational programme to popularize the teachings of Henry George. Mr. Forshaw spoke Thursday evening, May 11, at the Young Men's Hebrew Association on the subject, "Fair Play in the Olympics of Life." A good many letters "to the editor" are appearing in the St. Louis papers from the pens of members of this group. *The Modern View*, a Weekly Journal of Modern Jewish Life and Thought, April 6, featured a full page article by N. D. Alper on "Economics as a Tool for Religion." The article closes with this paragraph:

"Taxation, as indicated in 'Progress and Poverty' is the lever by which the greatest dislocation in human affairs may be easily restored. Fairly applied, taking ample time, no one with a single title need be disturbed. In time land speculation, the first great speculation, would cease, and man would have his heritage in the Land for all generations."

"THE YOUTH OF AMERICA"

The manifesto of the Youth of America, a growing organization of young men and women, was presented to the people for the first time, in Chicago, May 19. It makes the following demands:

First: That all persons of the age of eighteen years be permitted to vote and hold office.

Second: That the products of labor shall be free from taxation.

Third: That the natural resources of the country be restored to the ownership of the people.

Fourth: That there shall exist the utmost freedom of exchange of the products of labor between our citizens and those of every other land.

Fifth: That there shall be no more wars.

Sixth: That there shall be unlimited educational opportunities for all.

Seventh: That each citizen shall be protected in his individual rights, as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of our constitution.

In explanation of the third demand, the manifesto says, "We claim for all people a common right in our land. . . . As a practical method of asserting this right, we propose using our present power of taxation to obtain revenues from land values alone, thereby collecting from the

holders of our natural resources and valuable city lands the rent they owe society. The method is one which experience has shown to be just, practical and economical. For comparison of the value of our land sites and natural resources with our necessary public expenses shows that their rental value is more than ample for the support of our government."

The Chairman of the Central Council of the Youth of America is Walter Hecht, and secretary, Marian Mills, 3009 Narragansett Avenue, Chicago.

"Fixing the Price of Wheat"

IT has just cost the American people some 184 million dollars to learn two simple economic truths, first, that you cannot fix the domestic price of any commodity which is produced by the entire world; secondly, that the Law of Supply and Demand is still working.

The purpose of the Federal Farm Board Act passed in 1929 was to "peg" the price of wheat and certain other commodities so that the American farmer could be guaranteed "reasonable" profits. The Farm Board, during its stormy career, purchased about 908 million bushels of wheat at about ninety cents a bushel and attempted to hold it off the market to create an artificial scarcity and boost prices to the American consumer. The carrying charges on this wheat, at one time, were estimated at four million dollars a month. Thus were our farmers to be enriched at the expense of our entire population!

That forgotten man, ex-President Hoover, described the law creating the Farm Board as

"The most important measure ever passed by Congress in aid (sic) of a single industry."

The price of wheat in June, 1929, when the law was passed was \$1.22 a bushel; the price in April 1933, when the Farm Board, thoroughly discredited, ceased its activities had descended to 25 cents a bushel or about one half the cost of production.

This was not the first attempt by Congress to fix the price of a commodity. In 1890 it sought to "peg" the price of silver by buying and hoarding vast quantities of that metal. That experiment helped to bring on the panic of 1893.

Is it any wonder that the Senate of the State of Texas on January 12 last

"Resolved, that we implore our Representatives and Senators in Congress to desist from further attempting to interfere with natural economic laws and further meddlesome efforts to control production and price-fixing and urge especially upon Congressmen and Senators to oppose the passage of this bill and take from the neck of the producers of this nation the yoke of governmental control and dictation."

Between 1900 and 1914 the world produced an average of three and one-half billion bushels of wheat annually. The Great War virtually ended the production in Europe, particularly in Russia. Prices shot up, stimulating pro-

duction everywhere. Canada doubled its production in five years; the United States increased its wheat crop about 100 per cent, from 522 million in 1900 to one billion bushels in 1915. Argentine and Australia likewise multiplied their wheat acreage. In short, in all nations marginal land was brought into intense cultivation.

With the termination of the War in November, 1918, the Central Powers and Russia again began to raise wheat. But these newer countries which had profited enormously when wheat was relatively scarce and selling around \$2.00 a bushel, could not, overnight, cease producing wheat. As a result, production continued to soar. In 1930 for example, it reached almost 5 billion bushels.

Demand, on the other hand, progressively declined. This was due to two causes, namely, that during the war years the world had been forced to use substitutes, and to the inability of 35 million unemployed men to buy the wheat they so sadly needed.

Countries not producing sufficient wheat for their own needs raised their tariffs to encourage home production and shut out competition from the United States and other great wheat-exporting nations. These duties amount, in the case of Italy, to \$1.07 a bushel, France, \$1.71; Germany, \$1.60. Moreover each of these countries limits imports to specific quotas. The countries just named, for example, forbid the importation of more than three per cent of their domestic requirements and stimulate production of the remaining ninety-seven per cent by their own farmers. Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Spain and other countries, where comparatively little grain is grown, followed in the footsteps of the larger nations. The consequence was that the unnatural high prices prevailing within the restricted countries unduly stimulated production of wheat within those countries and inevitably led to price crashes.

In the face of increasing "surpluses" all over the world the American farmer kept on producing more and more wheat, being encouraged in the belief that through the Farm Board, the Government, somehow, would rescue him from the consequences of the inevitable "surplus." (We know of course that there is no real "surplus" so long as millions lack wheat, as they do).

Prices in the United States tumbled, as I have said, from \$2.20 to 25 cents a bushel, the lowest since the days of Queen Elizabeth, over four hundred years ago. Canada, Australia, Argentine, and the United States, on December 1 last "carried over" 745 million bushels surplus for export. Of this vast quantity the United States, alone, held 416 million bushels where normally we carry only one-quarter of that amount.

Despite mounting surpluses the Federal Farm Board attempted to lift prices by absorbing the comparatively small domestic surplus. When its attempts to regulate price failed, Congress learned, what any economist worth his salt could have told it in the beginning, that not even