

## Boston Get-Together Dinner of the Henry George Lecture Assn.

A BANQUET was held in Boston on December 5, for the "purpose of noting the advance of the Single Tax idea."

This dinner marks a new starting point in the New England Henry George movement, with its traditions of such a memorable leader as C. B. Fillebrown. It was arranged by John Lawrence Monroe, president of the Henry George Lecture Association, in honor of George H. Duncan, field lecturer of the association. Mr. Duncan's talk discussed the possibilities of "A Nation-Wide Single Tax Programme." During this season he has been making an extensive tour of New England, meeting with the enthusiastic response of civic leaders and the press wherever he has spoken.

The other speakers on the programme included Frank L. Perrin, editorial writer on the *Christian Science Monitor*, who gave a few reminiscences, and William Lloyd Garrison, who spoke on the "Rediscovery of Henry George." Francis G. Goodale, prominent Boston attorney and U. S. Commissioner for that district, acted as toastmaster.

The tenor of the talks acclaimed the widespread cooperative spirit in the movement, and recognized the need for a close co-ordination of the Single Tax activities of national scope. (Mr. Garrison's address appears elsewhere in this issue.)

In discussing a "Nation-Wide Single Tax Programme," Mr. Duncan called attention to the many able speakers in strategic points throughout the United States who would gladly speak locally if there was a central lecture bureau to get appointments. He pictured the field of thousands of service clubs, churches, schools and colleges with weekly meetings—all glad to hear a real message but with limited resources for such purposes. Urging the raising of funds to make possible a clearing house for Single Tax speakers, Mr. Duncan congratulated the movement in having such a corps of men of legislative and business experience who could effectively meet the public in a popular way.

Termed a "Get-Together Dinner for Massachusetts Single Taxers," and held at the Boston Engineers' Club, the gathering was in the nature of a regional conference, since some attended from points over a hundred miles distant. Frank L. Grant, seventy-nine-year treasurer of the Westfield, Mass., Athenaeum; Louis Fabian Bachrach, of Newton, head of a chain of photographic studios; Fiske Warren, paper magnate and founder of Georgian enclaves; Franklin H. Wentworth, leading insurance man and former president of the Chicago Single Tax Club, (1897); Charles W. Potter, Waltham manufacturer, and Robert A. Bakeman, head of the Norfolk Prison Colony and former mayor of Peabody, Mass., were among the

many prominent persons present. About a third of the audience was composed of young men and women, who appeared greatly interested. Notable among them were John L. Jacobs, research professor at Harvard Medical School; Malcolm R. Leete, and Mr. and Mrs. William C. Ridge. Mrs. Ridge is the daughter of George E. Evans, president of the Henry George Foundation.

Here are a few of the things that were said during the progress of the banquet:

"There used to be a time when a Single Taxer didn't need an introduction; he needed an extinguisher," remarked Mr. Goodale in introducing one of the speakers.

Mr. Garrison reminded the group of the Irishman who declared, "I am an atheist. God forgive me."

It was perhaps the same Irishman, Mr. Goodale said, who proclaimed his countrymen to be half Catholic and half Protestant, adding, "If they were all atheists they'd live together like Christians."

A doctor friend of Mr. Perrin had been speculating as to why most people who die of exhaustion die at 4 or 5 in the morning. Having spent his boyhood on the farm, Mr. Perrin offered the explanation that possibly most people would rather die than get up.

"There are only eight lawyers out of 400 members of the New Hampshire Legislature," said Mr. Goodale in introducing Mr. Duncan. "This certainly is evidence of progress," he added.

All of which reminded Mr. Goodale of the plaintiff who was without a lawyer.

"Don't you want a lawyer?" asked the judge.

"Thanks, your honor," replied the plaintiff, "but I'd rather have a couple of good witnesses if you don't mind, sir."

## West Africa

IN Northern Nigeria, now the Northern Provinces, urban and rural land is let on permits of indefinite term, with reassessment of the full site value for the land tax revenue every few years. There is no little litigation to secure such titles, and multitudes of people live in rapidly increasing comfort as shown by production returns; and the local Treasuries which carry out nearly all Government duties are richly financed with no need of any form of taxation on trade or accumulation.

There must be no misunderstanding on this point; the land value duly confiscated does provide richly for all public needs, no taxes are needed, and would-be producers do get access to any idle land without suffering blackmail for the privilege; there is no land litigation either between persons or tribal or municipal organized groups.

All the facts given above are drawn from West Africa, 1926, by Mr. Ormsby-Gore, late Conservative Under-Secretary for the Colonies.