

power to repeal the man-made decree that makes the institution of land sharks possible.

How much closer to real justice would our aforesaid Court be, if instead of passing on the guilt or innocence of any individuals in the case, it were possible to hand down a presentment to the people of New Jersey, and elsewhere, as follows:

"We feel it is about time to cease making vain decrees on this vexed subject of land dealing. To this end, we would recommend immediate legislation for handling the cause rather than waste time on the treatment of the effects of speculation in land.

"In her slogan 'Newark Knows How,' we are left to infer that somehow this means progress. But what does it profit a city to rear splendid monuments if they rest on the backs of the people for the enjoyment of a favored few. When Newark first conceived a busy harbor and matchless air field, was that vision? Certainly not, if the effect inevitably tended to make it more difficult to get the necessities of life. And can this be denied in the face of higher and higher taxes together with a greater cost of living in relation to our purchasing power.

"Newark, you are held to ransom, and do not know it. The Port deal tribute you render is but a fraction of what you daily and hourly pay as a result of permitting private individuals to appropriate throughout the entire community the socially created land values which of right belong to all the people.

"You belie your slogan, 'Newark Knows How.' As presently typified, history will record it only as an evidence of membership in those legion states which have spent their substance in the fattening of the ultimate destroyers of all progress. If it is true that Newark Knows How, then remove the scales from your eyes, take up the banner of Henry George, exemplify his teachings, and lead the nation, and the world, to sanity and freedom.

CHARLES JOS. SMITH.

We append to the above the following editorial, taken from the *Newark Evening News*, dated July 2, 1937.

PORT'S FUTURE AND TAXES

Resignation of Newark's Industrial Commission, established to help develop Port Newark, has been ascribed to two causes: First, disagreement with Mayor Ellenstein's leasing policy, and, second, Newark's moronic administration of the personalty tax law. . . .

Of these twin handicaps the gravest, of course, is Newark's tax policy. The commission found it a formidable barrier to industrial expansion. Plants and payrolls naturally gravitate toward communities with a more equitable system, as has been demonstrated by the consistency with which General Motors and other corporations have passed up Newark for Linden, Trenton and other cities in and out of the state. . . .

Other communities, less favorably situated, restrain the impulse to pile up crushing assessments. The inevitable result is that they get the business Newark should get. . . .

Unless Newark gets tax relief it isn't much use to consider the future of the Port.

The Fairchild Picnic

CLOUDY skies threatened on Saturday, June 19, but hearts were light as we climbed aboard a bus chartered by the Henry George School of Social Science and set out for Mr. Fairchild's annual picnic at his home, on the banks of the Mahwah River in Suffern, New York.

Arrived at our destination we found the graduating students of the Sunnyside Extension Class already there. A little later we greeted a large contingent from Middletown, N. Y.

The raising of the flag and singing of the Star Spangled Banner opened the day's activities. After that George-

ists made no secret of the fact that they were hungry and wanted to eat. Charles Homer, of the Sunnyside Extension Class, did an excellent job as chef and it was not long before coffee and frankfurters were being passed around.

Luncheon over, it was time for speeches and the presentation of the diplomas. The rain which we had cheerfully predicted would "hold off" commenced to fall in a dismal drizzle, but we were comfortable in a roofed stand which Mr. Fairchild told us was a new addition to his pleasant estate.

In his address of welcome Mr. Fairchild recalled an earlier picnic at which Oscar Geiger had announced publicly for the first time, his plans for a Henry George School. Speaking of his own work as a class organizer, Mr. Fairchild described groups in Middletown, Suffern, Sunnyside, and Madison Street, New York.

Our next speaker was Dan Beard, who related reminiscently his friendship with Henry George. He told of the gatherings at his studio in New York when Henry George, Father Huntington, Father McGlynn and Hamlin Garland met to discuss the problems of the day. "Henry George," said Dan Beard, "was a delightful companion."

Then we heard Mr. Frank Chodorov of the Henry George School of Social Science, who opened his remarks with a typical Chodorovian sentence—"More important people will speak to you today, but no one represents a more important movement than I do, because I am here to speak to you of the Henry George School." He sketched the history of the School from Mr. Geiger's first class to its latest graduation.

Speeches were made by various students, teachers and workers of the graduating groups. We heard Mr. Z. K. Green and Mr. Clunan, both of Middletown, Mrs. Bitterman, Secretary of the Suffern Class, Gerald Reynolds, Treasurer of the Sunnysiders, and Mr. Garn who conducted a class of fifty young lawyers in Madison Street, New York.

United States Senator Copeland, friend and neighbor of Mr. Fairchild, talked to us. "History," said he, "is filled with a series of revivals. Henry George developed a philosophy which has survived all these years. I am wondering if this may not be the beginning of a new revival. We need to revise our present tax system—we need a simpler plan which will solve the problems of our people, not tax laws which need a Philadelphia lawyer to figure out."

Diplomas were distributed to the graduating students by Mrs. Copeland. A rousing burst of applause greeted the announcement that a graduating student of the Teachers Training Class of Sunnyside was none other than our host—Mr. Walter Fairchild.

With the reading of a poem composed by Mr. Garn, the meeting came to a close.

The only casualty reported involved three unlucky Georgeists whose maritime skill proved inadequate when

it came to piloting the Fairchild raft on the treacherous Mahwah. At the time LAND AND FREEDOM goes to press, we are still uncertain how our wet friends made the journey back to town.

Washington Letter

THE twenty-sixth annual gathering of Single Taxers was held on Sunday, June 6, at the home of Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley in Riverdale, Maryland, with about forty present.

Following the usual generous luncheon, the friends assembled in the living room, with the overflow on the piazza by the windows.

Mrs. Helene H. McEvoy as presiding officer, announced that at a meeting of the executive committee of the Woman's Single Tax Club, it had been voted to take steps toward a tentative effort to bring to life the National Woman's Single Tax League of somewhat more than a quarter of a century ago, the object of which step will be to help hold together and coordinate the activities of the hundreds of young women who are being graduated from the Henry George classes all over the country each year. Clarence Darrow was quoted as declaring that 94 per cent of crimes are committed as a result of poverty, and if Single Taxers could abolish this root evil, we should be doing a good work for the human race.

Messages of regret at their inability to be present were sent by Representatives Eckert and Bigelow, who had been called out of the city, and by Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, who was not well enough to come. Mr. Western Starr was reported as being in the hospital, and Mrs. Marie H. Heath is spending about a fortnight with her daughters in Winchester, Virginia, following a serious operation on her eye.

The programmes at these annual gatherings are always informal, with impromptu talks by the members, which usually bring up animated discussions after adjournment.

Mr. Walter I. Swanton called attention to an article by John Lear, Associated Press Staff writer, in the *Washington Post* of Sunday, May 23, entitled "Awakened Single Taxers to Face Test in 1938," which article he understood had been run in some 1,200 or more papers throughout the country. Reference was also made to President Roosevelt's efforts to prevent land speculation in the 1,200,000 acres in the region of the Coulee Dam. The civil war in Spain has its roots in the land question, Mr. Swanton declared, and distributed notices of a meeting of the Friends of Spanish Democracy to be held the following Tuesday, and also copies of Herbert S. Bigelow's bill HR 6872 "to provide in the District of Columbia, for the gradual abolition of the taxation of improvements upon land."

Mr. Francis J. Mooney of Baltimore, Maryland, declared one of Henry George's greatest statements to be that "nothing is property except that which is made by labor." And what is not made by man, must be made by God. Yet this annual profit on Nature amounts to something over \$20,000,000,000 per year and our object is to try to get rid of this handicap on labor. The way to bring about world peace is to give everybody an opportunity, but governments stand in the way of this. Thomas Jefferson said, "That government is best which governs least" and that "The earth belongs to the living." We ought to have a national organization, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., announcing our one object to be the abolition of monopoly, and ask all those who are in sympathy with this, to join us; then, after discussing tariff monopoly, patent monopoly, etc., we should show land monopoly to be the worst evil of all, and the remedy. Wayne B. Wheeler's tactics in the prohibition movement were cited as furnishing a good example for other organizations to follow.

Dr. Morton G. Lloyd called attention to the work of the People's Lobby, whose monthly luncheon programmes are broadcast over a coast-to-coast hook-up, and said that their principles were similar to those of the organization suggested by Mr. Mooney.

Mr. Joseph Danziger paid tribute to the heroism of Colonel H. Martin Williams, who had not hesitated to raise his voice in protest against our entrance into the World War in 1917, which fearless courage had led to the loss of his position as Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Mr. John F. Du Comb compared the simplicity and accuracy in the matter of assessment and collection of a land-value tax, with our present cumbersome and expensive method which places a premium on dishonesty.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips told of her latest game, which she regards as an improvement on the principles which formed the basis of her "Monopoly" and "Landlord" games, and after the completion of this latest game, she hopes to resume the teaching of a Henry George class.

Mr. A. L. Colton said that the one phrase which had had the most influence in making him see the light, was that about "taking community value for the use of the community which produced it." The two pamphlets which he regarded as being the best for lending to friends whom he wanted to help "see the cat," are "The Story of My Dictatorship" and "Plain Talk on Taxation." The situation developing between capital and labor reminded him, he said, of the old question as to what would happen when an irresistible force meets an immovable object.

Mr. Henry W. Selah expressed approval of the principle of the land value tax, including the five billion dollars' worth of property held by the churches, but he believed that other taxes should also be included, as he doubted that the former alone would be sufficient to run the government, which objection was answered by Mr. Mooney with facts and figures to show that this revenue would more than meet the demand, if administered without waste.

Mr. Cyrus E. Cook, a graduate of the District Henry George class, declared himself in favor of a national headquarters in Washington. He believed in neighborhood gatherings at which members would bring in new friends and encourage free discussion and the answering of questions regarding the Single Tax, or objections that might be raised to it.

Among those who spoke briefly were Mrs. Minnie L. White, Mrs. Miriam M. Goodwin, Mrs. Jennie Knight, and Mrs. Joseph Danziger.

After a rising vote of thanks to our hostess for her generous hospitality not only on this occasion but for the preceding quarter of a century, the meeting adjourned, but the discussion was still going strong when this scribe left the scene at nearly six o'clock.

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

The California Campaign

SINCE last reporting to your readers I have to note a decided improvement in the California situation. The legislature has adjourned. In the matter of the sales tax, its various positions were negative and will work to make the tax more odious than ever. While the lower house voted to reduce the tax and also to take the tax off foodstuffs sold in restaurants, the Senate took the opposite position and both propositions were rejected by a large majority. The truth must be recognized that in practically every state in the Union popular government is nullified to a great extent, because the country rules the city as to the Senate, and in no state is this more decidedly so than in California.

Thus we have to thank the enemies of our movement for resisting the slightest move to relieve the people from the payment of an odious tax and making them the more ready to accept our way out.