

Louis Jacobs Passes On

THE death of Louis P. Jacobs at Palm Springs, California, where he had gone in search of health after an illness of several months, is a serious loss to the English movement as well as to his many friends the world over. He was accompanied by his son on his trip to the Coast and appeared to be much benefited by the change. But he suffered a relapse and passed away March 8, suddenly, at the age of 67. His body was cremated and the ashes are now on the way to England. He is survived by his widow and five children, now living at home, England.

Mr. Jacobs first became acquainted with the philosophy of Henry George through Max Hirsch, a close friend of his, through whom he met our great philosopher. He read "Progress and Poverty" in the early part of this century, hereafter devoting all his spare time to spreading the gospel.

After his retirement as managing director of the British American Tobacco Company (located in Australia), Mr. Jacobs moved to London, becoming actively interested in the cause. A few years ago he established a fund to organize the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, which is making rapid strides in the printing and circulating of the writings of Henry George.

Mr. Jacobs was much interested in Judaic as well as international economic problems; is the author of "Social Justice and the Jew;" was active in the Fourth International Conference held at Edinburgh in 1929 sponsored by the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Jacobs on two occasions during his visits to this country. An outstanding feature of his personality was a gentle dignity. His devotion to the cause he had espoused found expression in generous gifts to agencies organized to carry on the work. He had many correspondents among his co-religionists and fellow Single Taxers in Great Britain and the United States, and he had friends everywhere who will long cherish the memory of his fine and modest spirit and hopeful example.

Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the Schalkenbach Foundation, has sent the following cable to John Paul concerning our departed friend:

"The passing of Louis Jacobs was a saddening shock to me, as it must have been to many in widely scattered communities throughout the world who enjoyed the rich privilege of his personal friendship, or shared his devoted and unselfish labors for better human relationships. My own sorrow is made more poignant by recent personal association with him. The last message in his handwriting, received but a few weeks ago, was cheery and hopeful of returning health.

"A noble representative of a great race, Louis Jacobs

was a truly good and kindly man; a brother and lover of all human kind and hater of all injustice.

"A believer in mankind's regeneration, he gave freely of himself and his substance that dreams of a higher and happier humanity might be made into reality. His example as well as his good deeds must some day bear fruit abundantly.

"Upon you and your associates with whom we believe he had peculiarly intimate and affectionate relations, we know a great blow has fallen. But we feel that he would wish you to rally, close up your ranks again, and go forward in the great fight that seems to await the Henry George men and women of your country. On behalf of many friends, I beg to convey to the stricken family a respectful assurance of the sympathy and condolence of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and the followers of Henry George in the United States."

National Conference to Meet October 12th-14th

THE dates of October 12th-14th have now been definitely fixed for the Sixth Annual Henry George Congress. While it has always been customary heretofore to hold the Congress some time in the month of September, it has been suggested that October is an ideal month for a convention in Baltimore on account of the delightful weather conditions that then prevail, whereas the summer heat ordinarily continues well into the month of September. The convention will open on Columbus Day, which, being a legal holiday, though not one so much given over to recreation, may enable a goodly number to absent themselves from their places of business with less sacrifice.

Charles G. Baldwin, President of the Maryland Tax Reform Association, has been appointed Chairman of the Convention Committee and is cooperating heartily in plans for a successful convention which is expected to attract larger numbers from the Eastern section than any previous convention held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation. The fact that last year's convention was held on the Pacific Coast prevented many active workers in the East from participating, and after a lapse of two years since the Pittsburgh convention, it is natural to anticipate an especially keen interest in the gathering at Baltimore this fall. The Congress, however, being a national affair, is in no sense intended exclusively for the East, and now that Georgists on the Pacific Coast as well as in the great Middle West have come in closer contact with the Foundation and have participated in one or more sessions of the Henry George Congress, it is hoped that the Baltimore convention will be more truly representative of the various sections than any of its predecessors.

Secretary Williams of the Henry George Foundation recently visited Baltimore to look over the situation there and confer with Single Taxers in that vicinity, and met

with a very cordial welcome. Maryland is one of the few states in the Union which has throughout a period of many years maintained an active state association for the advancement of land value taxation, and important forward steps have been achieved in Maryland from time to time under the early leadership of Jackson H. Ralston, and also in more recent times under the guiding hand of his worthy successors in the movement. For many years, Charles J. Ogle has been actively engaged as Secretary of the Association and has kept a close watch upon all matters of legislation of interest to Single Taxers. All of the officers of the Maryland Tax Reform Association, including Samuel Danziger, its Assistant Secretary, are prepared to exert their best efforts with a view to making the Congress a highly profitable as well as an enjoyable occasion.

The Lord Baltimore Hotel, the city's finest convention hotel, erected two years ago, has been secured as the official headquarters of the Henry George Congress. As an added inducement for all delegates to make the Lord Baltimore their home during the convention sessions, special rates have been given the Henry George Foundation, which are as reasonable as those offered by any modern hotel in the city.

While programme-making and other convention details are not being allowed to engross the attention of the Foundation officers thus early, assurances have already been received of the participation of a number of prominent speakers and a programme of a high order this year is a reasonable certainty.

Lecture Tour of Percy R. Williams

DURING March, Percy R. Williams, Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, made an extended tour through Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey. One of the largest and most interesting meetings was that of the Northeast Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, which is displaying a keen interest in land value taxation and improved methods of real estate assessment, a matter in which the great city of Philadelphia has been lagging sadly behind. Mr. Williams's address to this organization was one of a series of three recently carried out, Lawson Purdy, former President of the Tax Commission of New York City, being the first speaker in the series. The meeting received considerable publicity, and the discussion following the address indicated a keen and friendly interest in the lessons to be learned from Pittsburgh's policy of concentrating the principal burden of taxation upon the land values rather than upon improvements or personal property.

In Wilmington, Delaware, where Frank T. Stirlith is pushing vigorously forward with a promising legislative campaign, Mr. Williams addressed the Real Estate Board, and the realtors in that community displayed such a deep

and friendly interest that the discussion period lasted fully an hour. The same evening the speaker addressed a radio audience over Station WDEL on "Taxation and Prosperity." In New Jersey, the organization operating under the name of Industrial Tax Relief, Inc., had arranged evening meetings in Elizabeth, Paterson and Newark. Charles H. Ingersoll, President of the New Jersey organization, presided at each of these meetings, which were attended by representative audiences consisting largely of business and professional men, and public officials, though organized labor was represented at the Elizabeth meeting by a prominent spokesman who is working consistently and actively to promote the idea of land value taxation among labor groups in that state. Alfred N. Chandler, the active executive officer of Industrial Tax Relief, Inc., who has been carrying on a valiant fight and doing very efficient work for more than fifteen years, spoke at each of the three meetings and was ably supported by James F. Morton at the Paterson meeting, by John F. Allen at Newark, and by L. R. Bonta at Elizabeth.

The New Jersey workers are striving very earnestly to secure the enactment of a measure drafted by Attorney George L. Record, of Jersey City, which would permit a taxing district within the state to completely exempt improvements and personal property and place the entire local tax burden upon land values. The bill, presented at the present session of the Legislature, provides that when this option is exercised the process of shifting shall be accomplished by gradual steps within five years. The New Jersey leaders have made very effective use of Pittsburgh's successful experience with land value taxation and at each of these meetings Mr. Williams told the story of the Pittsburgh plan and explained how this unique and somewhat radical idea had steadily grown in the esteem of the business element as well as maintaining consistent the whole-hearted support of public officials, newspaper editors, civic clubs and labor organizations and the unit building and loan associations representing, the large organized body of home owners.

In Philadelphia, Mr. Williams attended an informal Single Tax dinner at the Venture Cafe, at which he reported concerning activities and plans of the Henry George Foundation. Among others participating actively in the discussion at this meeting were Frank Stephens, of Ardmore, Delaware, and Harold Sudell, Robert C. Macauley, a Francis I. duPont of Philadelphia. A brief visit to Washington was also made for purpose of conference with prominent Single Taxers there, including Harry W. Olin and Will Atkinson. In New York City he conferred with Joseph Dana Miller, Frederick C. Leubuscher and Edward Polak concerning various phases of the work in which they were particularly interested. Mr. Polak is giving earnest study to the question of the feasibility of erecting in the near future a Henry George Memorial Building, either in New York City or in Washington, the seat of the national government, and will be glad to have any practical s