

Thirteenth Annual Henry George Congress

TORONTO, CANADA, SEPTEMBER 7, 8 AND 9

THE Henry George Congress has come and gone, and it is now our pleasant task to report it for the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM.

While the attendance was not large (only 78 registered delegates), it was fairly representative of the movement. Twenty-seven delegates represented Canada; fifty-one came from the United States.

Beside the outstanding officers of our host, The Single Tax Association of Canada, there were among the Canadian delegates, Arthur W. Roebuck, member of the Ontario Legislature, formerly Attorney-General for the Province of Ontario, and a member of the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Company for Ontario; W. C. Good, President of the Cooperative Union of Canada, and former member of Parliament; John Anderson of Montreal, former Vice-President of Standard Brands, Ltd.; Herbert B. Cowan, a delegate from the Canadian Chamber of Agriculture to the Empire Producers Conference held last March in Sidney, Australia; and Prof. S. B. McCready of Toronto, of the Ontario College of Education.

Among the more prominent representatives from the United States were Percy R. Williams, Chief Assessor of the Dept. of Assessors, City of Pittsburgh; Harold R. Buttenheim, Editor of *The American City*; Joseph Dana Miller, Editor of LAND AND FREEDOM; Gilbert M. Tucker, author and writer, and A. Laurence Smith, President, Tax Relief Association, Inc.

The Henry George School of Social Science was represented by three of its six trustees (Mrs. deMille, Joseph Dana Miller and Lancaster Greene), besides its lusty director, Frank Chodorov, and its field director, John Lawrence Monroe.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation was represented by its Executive Secretary, Mrs. John H. Wambough.

Chas. H. Ingersoll, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, also attended.

Two trustees of the Ingram Fund attended, George R. Averill and F. Gordon Pickell.

Miss Bateman's address, "A World's Survey," unquestionably received the most popular response (it is published in full in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM).

Mr. Buttenheim's paper, "Why Handicap Housing by Unwise Taxation?", to be published in the *Yale Law Journal*, in the opinion of this chronicler, at least, was the most meaty.

The Convention was the most successful from still another angle. There was no display of acrimony or hard feelings between the delegates. They expressed

themselves earnestly and sincerely, and the discussions were constructive.

The sessions were late in getting under way, and our only suggestion would be that hereafter we make a more determined effort to begin proceedings at the appointed hour.

It was a stroke of genius on the part of Lt. Col. Rule, at the outset of the Convention, to ask each delegate to rise in turn, announce clearly his name and address, and *in one minute*, explain how he became interested in the movement. The responses were intensely revealing.

The story of Donald MacDonald, an engineer who has roamed around the world on various frontiers from Mexico to Alaska, was especially absorbing.

"I took a course at the University of Arizona in 1905," he said. "I had observed that speculative rent defeats the ultimate purposes of my profession, whose object is to make it easier for men to create wealth. Speculative land values, instead, converted instruments of production into instruments of exploitation, and so distorted engineering projects as to defeat their ultimate purposes.

"I was disturbed to think that my efforts as an engineer were being frustrated. I put this all up to the Professor of Economics at the University and learned of the existence of economic rent.

"I became a whirling dervish and decided to reform the world. I started a Single Tax movement in Everett, Washington in 1912, but failed."

We cannot too earnestly thank our Canadian co-workers for their great efforts to make the Convention the success it was. Quietly but effectively, they exerted themselves to the utmost. At the conclusion of the Thursday afternoon session, under the direction of Mr. Thompson, they provided a free automobile tour of the city. Saturday afternoon, at the conclusion of the Convention, the City of Toronto provided a boat for us to inspect the surrounding waterways.

Toronto has only one morning and two afternoon papers, and the reports of our meetings, while friendly, were not comprehensive. In this field, as well as in the field of radio broadcasting, our movement must bestir itself.

This was the 13th Congress held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation of America and the first to be held outside of the United States. All who attended were amply repaid for their time and effort. The value of these annual assemblies becomes increasingly apparent year by year. No other organization regularly and systematically provides for annual meetings of the workers in our common cause.

As Mr. Williams, the efficient Executive Secretary of the Foundation has written in an article entitled, "Are Conventions Worth While?" (LAND AND FREEDOM), Jan.-Feb., 1935, pp. 25-26), these Congresses are of value "insofar as they serve to educate their participants to develop a greater degree of agreement and cooperation, inspire a new zeal, bring about an improvement in methods of technique, and expand activities which will advance the movement, which they seek to represent and express." . . . "The Henry George Congress was conceived as a means of providing, if nothing more, an open forum of free speech where all of those interested in the philosophy and programme of Henry George, might meet as opportunity affords itself, for earnest discussion and exchange of ideas in the faith that such free discussion would tend to bring about better understanding and a greater degree of united action."

DETAILED REPORT

WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPT. 7

Mr. Patterson, President of the Single Tax Association of Canada, in a short felicitous address, opened the proceedings. Mr. Howell, on behalf of the City of Toronto, responded. Mr. Williams announced that the President of the Henry George Foundation was absent owing to a critical illness. Subsequently, resolutions were adopted expressing hope for his speedy recovery as well as the recovery of Walter R. Demmler.

Mr. Williams reported that Henry George's birthplace in Philadelphia, had been acquired free of mortgage, and the next step was to rehabilitate the property. Mr. Burger was added to the committee consisting of Mayor Scully of Pittsburgh, and Mr. Fee, to interest the City of Philadelphia in acquiring the home and surrounding property as a shrine.

A telegram was read from Noah D. Alper of San Francisco, advising that the California courts had finally decided that the Ralston amendment must be submitted to the voters of California at the ensuing election.

Mrs. deMille made an earnest plea for contributions and received about \$200 cash in addition to pledges.

A congratulatory letter was read from Mr. Madsen of *Land and Liberty*.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Tucker read his paper, "Why Have A National Programme?". "We Single Taxers," he said, "are almost too individualistic and must learn to pull together with a greater will, and to integrate our forces." . . . "I think we are agreed that the first step is education, but we must not interpret that word too narrowly. It is fortunate that we have in education—indeed in the whole field of our activities—a veritable Abou ben Adhem which leads all the rest—the Henry George School."

Mrs. deMille spoke on "Working Together For Success."

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Benjamin W. Burger of New York City, spoke on "What to Emphasize In Teaching The Georgeist Philosophy." There are five points, he said, which we must make clear to beginners:—

"First, it seems to me, we must convincingly show that we live on the earth; . . . and that man, in his physical aspects, at least, is a land animal.

Secondly, we must establish that all human beings have an equal right to live on this earth.

The third point, a corollary, flows from the two points I have just discussed. The earth cannot be owned any more than air or sunshine, or the flowing rivers, or the mighty mountains, because it was not produced by human beings.

The fourth point, that rent is a differential which measures the desirability of different locations, presents a problem in inductive reasoning in the Science of Political Economy.

The fifth point, in my opinion the most difficult for beginners to comprehend, follows. Applying rent to our common needs and abolishing taxation, *in effect*, we establish the equal right of every human being to live.

When, and only when, we have convincingly proved each and every one of these five points, have we established our case."

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 8

This morning is remembered for a most comprehensive report entitled, "A World Survey," delivered by Miss Bateman of Montreal. Miss Bateman delivered her paper in effective fashion. She pointed out that in England, three-quarters of all the land is owned by one-tenth of the population, and that in Ireland, one-quarter of the population own every acre. "The private appropriation of rent and the monopoly of this earth's resources, is not an individual wrong, it is an institutional wrong," she said.

When she had concluded, Mrs. McEvoy, on behalf of the Washington, D. C. Single Tax Women's Club, ordered 500 copies of LAND AND FREEDOM containing Miss Bateman's address.

The second address of this morning was delivered by Mr. Bittenheim. While not yet a Georgeist, since he advocates income and inheritance taxes along with the collection of our land rent, Mr. Bittenheim is making progress toward our philosophy. He promised to mail reprints of his paper to all registered delegates after its publication in the *Yale Law Journal*.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

This session was given over to the Henry George Schools. It was presided over by Mrs. deMille in her wistful manner.

Frank Chodorov, director, gave one hour's detailed

account of the work of the School; its problems, hopes and ambitions.

He was followed by Lancaster Greene, who also patiently answered all questions.

John Lawrence Monroe, the energetic field director, reported for the Extension Classes in the United States, and Mr. Farmer explained the problems confronting similar classes in Canada.

The afternoon's session closed with Mrs. Wambough's report on behalf of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. As usual, she acquitted herself ably.

The display of books, pamphlets and circulars which she staged was most illuminating.

THURSDAY EVENING

Mr. Campbell of Ottawa, spoke on "The Canadian Taxation Situation." He explained how the tariff, the income tax, and other taxes had affected his country.

Mr. A. Laurence Smith of Detroit, made his report. He reminded his listeners that at the Detroit Congress in 1937, a committee had been appointed to plan a national programme of action. This committee, Mr. Smith stated, had met in New York and organized the Tax Relief Association, Inc.

It decided to concentrate its activities in the State of Michigan. That state was selected because (1) it presents both a manufacturing and agricultural problem:

- (2) Its problems affect similar interests in other states.
- (3) The population is not concentrated in a small area.
- (4) Its total population is not so large that it cannot be reached at a reasonable expense.

Mr. Burger reminded the delegates that similar efforts to concentrate on one state had been made as far back as 1895, when Delaware was selected as the point of attack. Later, similar arguments were used to concentrate our activities on campaigns in Oregon, Missouri, California, and other states.

"In California, we polled 260,000 votes in the Luke North Campaign," he said.

"Why not devote our efforts and give our money to organizations already in existence, instead of repeating the mistakes of the past."

However, the delegates overwhelmingly voted to accept Mr. Smith's report.

The report of Mr. Otto Cullman, Treasurer of the Committee of Organization and Action, showed that between December 10, 1937 and August 31, 1938, he had received from the Ingram Trust the sum of \$2,500 and from other sources, \$803.64.

The disbursements had been:

Salary, Executive Secretary	\$1,550.00
Stenographer	666.00
Rent and light	226.63
Printing	274.23

Equipment	172.50
Postage	145.00
Miscellaneous disbursements	254.80
	Total
	\$3,289.16

FRIDAY MORNING, SEPT. 9

Dr. Mark Millikin spoke on "The Value of Political Contacts." "Extraneous subjects are anathema to Single Taxers according to my observations, but if they expect to make political contacts with men of power, they will have to be proficient advocates of all libertarian measures." . . . "Single Taxers should learn that to effectuate their plans, they must cease working for them alone."

Mr. Chas. H. Ingersoll of New York, then delivered a most interesting address. He reminded his listeners that during the great economic depression of the past few years, many land owners had failed to pay taxes, and that the public authorities now were in the position to redeem this land for the community.

He quoted from two letters he had received from J. Rupert Mason of San Francisco. "Over half the land in one state has paid no taxes at all in over ten years."

In one California county, containing the finest red wood forests in the whole world, over 70 per cent of the land is held by six lumber concerns who have paid no taxes for many years. Over \$700,000 is now past due from holders of these lands."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Thompson in a few well-chosen words, indicated that of the many approaches to the tax problem, the moral approach is one of the most effective.

"The moral sense is higher and truer than the intellectual sense; the moral faculties do more certainly revolt against iniquity than the intellectual faculties against absurdities," he quoted, from Henry George's reply to the Duke of Argyll.

Appropriate resolutions were passed on the deaths of William F. Baxter of Omaha, George W. Schilling and Clarence Darrow of Chicago, and Fiske Warren of Harvard, Mass.

The City of Toronto and our Canadian co-workers also, were recipients of votes of thanks for their many acts of kindness.

THE BANQUET

Mr. Patterson presided in his usual gracious and kindly manner. In a few well-chosen words, he introduced Mr. Peter Witt, who delivered a masterly address.

Then, following a violin solo, the Honorable Arthur W. Roebuck, member of the Ontario Legislature, delivered an address entitled, "Orderly Progress." It was a great treat for the American delegates to listen to the beautiful diction of this polished Canadian orator.

Short addresses were made from the floor, and at 11 P. M., the gathering broke up with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."—B. W. B.

Attendance at the Henry George Congress

CANADIAN DELEGATES

The Province of Alberta: I. F. Goode.

The Province of Quebec: John Anderson, Miss Margaret E. Bateman, Mrs. L. Boudler, Miss Strehel Walton.

The Province of Ontario: Mrs. Wesley E. Barker, A. C. Campbell, Miss Dorothy E. Coate, Mrs. G. M. Coulthard, Herbert B. Cowan, Ernest J. Farmer, Stanley Floyd, A. Herridge, Miss Florence MacDonald, Louisa B. MacDonald, A. I. MacKay, J. A. Martin, S. B. McCready, J. O. McCorquodale, Miss M. Ollerhead, Herbert T. Owens, J. H. L. Patterson, Arthur W. Roebuck, Miss Janet Scott, Miss Margaret Scott, A. C. Thompson, L. B. Walling. Total, 27.

AMERICAN DELEGATES

Alaska: Donald MacDonald.

District of Columbia: Mrs. Helena Mitchell McEvoy.

Illinois: Otto Cullman, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ewing, Miss Dorothy M. Olcott, George C. Olcott, Lt. Col. Victor A. Rule, E. Schentke, George M. Strachan.

Iowa: Mathew Cowden.

Louisiana: Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Cooley.

Massachusetts: W. L. Crosman.

Michigan: George R. Averill, F. Gordon Pickell, A. Laurence Smith.

Missouri: Mr. and Mrs. C. Fuller.

Nebraska: Harold W. Becker.

New York: Benjamin W. Burger, Harold S. Bутtenheim, Frank Chodorov, Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Clark, Clyde Dart, Mrs. Anna George deMille, Lancaster M. Greene, Ross C. Holley, Charles H. Ingersoll, C. A. Lingham, Sidney Manster, Joseph Dana Miller, John Lawrence Monroe, William W. Newcomb, Harvey H. Newcomb, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hiram Newman, William S. O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wambough, Gilbert M. Tucker, Miss Margery Warriner.

Ohio: Peter Witt, Dr. Mark Millikin.

Pennsylvania: Francis J. Fee, C. V. Horne, Capt. Lester A. Jenks, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Smith, Percy R. Williams.

Total 51.

In addition, the following attended the Banquet, although not registered as delegates:

Thomas Bengough, Mrs. Francis J. Fee, Miss Jeffrey, Frank Johnston, Charles Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Longstaff, Mrs. Arthur W. Roebuck, Arthur Seale, Miss Daisy Seale, Dr. W. M. Sivers, Miss D. M. Smellie, Miss Edith Thompson, Dr. and Mrs. F. W. Wilkinson, W. R. Williams.

Total 16.

Convention Notes

"WHAT are you coming to Canada for?" "How long do you expect to stay?" asked the Customs officials at Niagara Falls after inspecting our baggage. When we replied that we were to speak at the Congress they countered, "Are you going to be paid?" Had we answered "Yes," we would have been turned back since we would have been deemed a contract laborer supplanting a "Canuck" from a job. Such is Protection, fifty-two years after Henry George exposed its fallacies.

TORONTO, the Convention City, has a population of 850,000. It is situated on the Northern Shore of Lake Ontario, midway, by rail, between New York and Chicago, and has the tallest office building in the British Empire (475 feet in height). The Royal York Hotel, our meeting place, has 1,200 rooms, and is the largest hotel in the British Empire.

How will Frank Chodorov and Lancaster Greene explain their absence from the Convention Floor on Thursday evening when Messrs. A. Laurence Smith, Lt. Col. Victor A. Rule and Ben. Burger were shooting off the fireworks?

NEVER before at a Henry George Congress were assembled, under one roof, so many Single Taxers of Scotch ancestry.

MR. A. C. CAMPBELL of Ottawa, over eighty years young, is a dead ringer for the late Lord Bryce. In features, stature, and speaking voice he reminds one of the famous British author and diplomat. His mind is as keen, his intellect as brilliant, as that great scholar's. He told how his father gave him "The Condition of Labor" to read, and how, later, he interviewed George.

TORONTO resembles any large American city. It has its Childs Restaurants, General Motors Corporation, Shredded Wheat Company, and many other American firms. We even observed in the business section, this sign on an abandoned bank building, "For Sale, \$100,000. Assessed \$193,750." It reminded us of our own depressed real estate markets.

ONE of the outstanding personalities of the Convention, Donald McDonald, traveled 5,000 miles from Fairbanks, Alaska. No taxes are paid by Alaskan landlords outside of the cities, he said. American consumers of Alaskan fish support the government.

IF Peter Witt had not referred to his seventy years at the Banquet, no one would have guessed his age. Georgeists make excellent insurance risks.

MR. EWING of Chicago, presided at the annual meeting of the Trustees and Charter Members of the Henry George Foundation held at luncheon on Wednesday. Among other things, it was voted to hold the next Congress in New York City between Wednesday, August 30 and Monday, September 4, 1939. (Labor Day.) Special exercises will be held Saturday, September 2, 1939, the 100th Anniversary of Henry George's birth.

How many speakers, Col. Rule, almost took more than one minute to relate how they joined the movement?

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL left Toronto 7:30 A. M. Saturday. He drove 550 miles to New York City, stopping only long enough to view Niagara Falls and to deliver Mrs. deMille at Merriewold Park. Arriving in Manhattan twenty hours later he was ready for his Sunday

evening broadcast over station WBIL. All this at seventy-three years.

WE missed Mr. Hardinge of Chicago, Abe Waldauer and Rabbi Aronson of Memphis, Carl D. Smith of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Skeel, Harry Weinberger and the genial Miss Schetter of New York.

HERE is a complete list of the Henry George Congresses:

YEAR	CITY
1926.....	Philadelphia
1927.....	New York
1928.....	Chicago
1929.....	Pittsburgh
1930.....	San Francisco
1931.....	Baltimore
1932.....	Memphis
1933.....	Chicago
1934.....	Chicago
1935.....	New York
1936.....	Cincinnati
1937.....	Detroit
1938.....	Toronto

Farewell,—Co-workers of Canada,
Good bye, lovely land of the maple leaf.

We hope that the impulse to advance and pride of achievement which you will carry away from the 1939 Convention will be as vivid as those which you generated in us.—B. W. B.

The Editor Comments

THESE annual gatherings of the Henry George Congress serve one important purpose if no other. They enable us to meet face to face with those who have been working in collaboration in the interchange of views and ideas. They furnish inspiration for the year to come. They enable us to understand one another better. They cement lasting friendships. Therefore our thanks are due to Secretary Williams for his earnest work in sponsoring these Congresses with the equally valuable cooperation of President Evans and other officers of the Henry George Foundation.

WE differ from some of our friends in their curious opposition to organization. Whether the Tax Relief Association now started on its career has the most desirable set-up, or whether the name is the best that might have been selected, we can afford to disregard for the moment and await results. It is at least up to us to cast no stone in its path. It is patent disloyalty not to wish it all possible success. Organization of some kind we must have and will have despite our predilections. It is a reflection on our ability for team work that we are without some form of national organization.

WHAT a pleasure it was to meet our Canadian friends with whom we have corresponded these many years. And some of the people from our home-land like Crosman of Revere, Mass., and Donald MacDonald of Alaska, Lingham of Lockport, the indefatigable and efficient Clayton J. Ewing of Chicago, and Mrs. Ewing, whose sense of humor enabled her to enjoy some of the proceedings which may have been lost on the others.

WE were delighted to meet Mrs. Christine Ross Barker, mentally alert as ever. How well we remember those brilliant shafts of wit which in the old days she carried in her quiver. Her jests were scintillating but even her victims were amused, for these were rarely ill-natured. Nevertheless we feared her!

At the banquet two great speeches were made by Peter Witt and

A. W. Roebuck, the latter a member of the Ontario Legislature. Never in the years we have been connected with the movement have we been privileged to listen to two greater speeches. One could not help being thrilled by them. Oratory has not yet lost its great masters.

THE Henry George School was well represented at the Congress with Frank Chodorov the director and three of the trustees, Mrs. Anna George deMille and Messrs. Greene and Miller. Messrs. Madster and O'Connor appeared unofficially for the New York teachers and Captain Jenks and Mr. Fee represented Philadelphia. Miss Bateman of Montreal in her able paper on the progress of the movement made a signal contribution to the proceedings. As a graduate of the School Miss Bateman is a witness to the value of its teaching methods. Through the kindness of Mrs. McAvoy five hundred copies of this issue are to be circulated among the members of the House of Representatives and Senators and others, or mailed as Mrs. McAvoy directs.

MRS. MCAVOY contributed some fireworks to the Convention. She always does. She is a very useful member of any convention and we are sure that her criticisms were taken in good part. We are disposed to think they were needed. Just now Mrs. McAvoy is engaged in the preparation of a concordance to "Progress and Poverty," a work which our friend Arthur C. Pleydell, once had in contemplation. We wish Mrs. McAvoy all the success in the unselfish work she has undertaken.

MANY churches nowadays have bulletin boards outside the edifice with biblical and other quotations on display. An interesting coincidence should be reported. During the week of the conference a Toronto church had one of these "wayside pulpit" bulletins which read: "We must conform to the Golden Rule if we could secure the abundance of peace.—Henry George. "It may interest Torontonians to know that this was displayed by the First Unitarian Church on Jarvis near Dundas street in that city.—J. D. M.

And the Fruits Thereof

A READING PLAY IN ONE ACT

BY NORMA COOLEY

Characters:

The Recording Angel
Steven Braswell - a Baptist Minister
Thomas Barcklay - a Methodist Minister
Jonathon Downs - a Presbyterian Minister
A Messenger
Prophet Isaiah

Scene: A well-lighted, spacious room with windows overlooking a garden. Walls are hung with large, astronomical maps. In center of room, a white-clad figure is writing at a flat-topped desk, bearing two small signs, "Recording Angel" and "Information." Half a dozen comfortable-looking chairs are placed near the desk.

(Enter three middle-aged gentlemen, dressed in clerical clothes. The Recording Angel looks up inquiringly. The central figure advances diffidently.)

Clergyman: Pardon me, sir, perhaps you can help us. We have been commissioned by our respective congregations—that is, by our religious organizations—to petition, or to appeal to—(he hesitates).