

ness in both the fortunates and the unfortunates has almost ceased. I see that here and it is very manifest in San Diego. The Governor there called a special session of the Legislature, its activities restricted to one matter, the depression or land situation, for that one good thing and adjourned. That was to suspend the statutes that have to do with platting sub-division both in and without the cities. This has halted much of the activities that resulted in the loss of homes and large savings. If possible, I will be at Memphis; if not, anything I can do to promote it you may be sure I will do.

William A. Black, San Antonio, Texas: I am a sadly disappointed man. I hoped until the very last minute that I could be with you. I hope and believe you will have a stimulating and helpful gathering. These occasional meetings are important. To me it would have been an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

Kansas City Single Tax Group: Messrs. Owsley, White, Fuller, Fowler, Rose, Julian, and Clara Ross: Greetings to the Convention. It meets at an auspicious time. The signs are full of hope. It is a time for faith, courage and action. The stars in their courses fight for our cause.

Walter J. Triner, Caldwell, N. J.: Regret my inability to be present. Would suggest Conference adopt resolution that a petition be presented to Federal Congress in December session asking that a tax of two per cent be levied on land values in place of the nuisance taxes passed last session. If all the Georgist organizations get behind this we can muster millions of signatures. I think it is a wonderful opportunity for propaganda and constructive work.

Lincoln Steffens, Carmel, Calif.: There's no chance of my going East in October. I have travelled so much in my funny life-time that I dread all trips now, even short runs, and a tour to Memphis—No, I shall stay at home and watch the world trying to go wrong while I know that it can't, not very wrong, not very long.

L. D. Beckwith, Stockton, Calif.: It is with real regret that I have been compelled to realize that I shall probably miss this convention. I hope it is the last one I shall miss. In addition, I hope to be making two or three other trips a year besides from this time on. I want you to know that I appreciate the courtesy involved in your suggestion as to my place on the programme. I enjoyed the trip last year immensely and prize the contacts extremely. It is impossible to over-estimate their value. My own personal plans call for a number of these trips each year just as soon as I can push this enterprise to that point.

Joseph Martin Klamon, Dept. of Economics, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.: Permit me to thank you for your very kind letter of August 25. I should like very much to go to Memphis for the convention if it were at all possible. However, I hardly see how I could make it.

Convention Notes

JUDGE HARRY ANDERSON told us at the banquet that one of the things holding back the Single Tax was the inordinate love of the average American for what he called "the shot-gun form of taxation."

In our running report of the Memphis Convention mention is omitted of the paper of Dr. Walter Verity of Chicago. Mr. Verity was not present and his paper was read by Dr. Mark Millikin. The subject was "Social Control of Money and Credit Flow." He urged the "stabilization" of the monetary unit.

George C. Olcott, who is an expert on the subject, discussed in some detail the various systems of land valuation for purposes of taxation.

We had no sooner arrived in Memphis, which was on Thursday night of October 6, than we were confronted by a copy of the Memphis Press

Scimitar with a front page story under the heading "Abe Waldauer Colonization Plan Received Warmly by ex-Service Men."

The address of Benjamin W. Burger of New York, "The Single Tax in Perspective," is published in issues of the *Fairhope Courier* of October 20 and 27.

A belated greeting to the Convention from C. LeBaron Goeller, Endwell, N. Y. was received, in which is expressed a wish for the success of the Congress.

One of the most pleasant experiences of the editor's visit to Memphis was the meeting in his room at the Hotel Peabody on the night of October 8, which was prolonged up to midnight. Here were Hon. A. Waldauer, Bob Macauley and Percy Williams. Mr. Waldauer, ever restless and alert, talked with enthusiasm of the enclave. He is altogether a delightful companion.

It was a great pleasure to meet such friends of LAND AND FREEDOM as Miss Joan Chafe, of New Orleans; J. F. Colbert, of Minden, La. and last but not least, G. B. Foster, of Dallas, Texas.

The *Commercial Appeal* of Sunday, October 9, contained pictures of Clayton J. Ewing, Hon. William N. McNair, George E. Evans and Percy R. Williams.

The Burger collection of Henry George Memorabilia was on exhibition in the conference room.

Henry L. Tideman, assistant electrical engineer of Chicago, addressed the Engineers' Club of Memphis at the Hotel Gayosa, his subject being "Natural Taxation." It was the largest meeting of the club during the current year. A. D. McWorter, of the Memphis Street Railway, the president of the club, presided.

In his radio speech Hon. Peter Witt called the tariff "a swindle vocated by knaves and accepted by fools."

Address of Henry L. T. Tideman

AT THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MEMPHIS,
OCTOBER 12, 1932

I BELIEVE that, however beneficent government may be when serving in its proper field, outside of its proper field it is dangerous. Government uses sovereignty. Sovereignty is arbitrary power. There is no peaceful approach possible from the acts of an institution wielding arbitrary power.

Government is dangerous. It has a natural tendency to extend itself. If our people do not realize this fact and accordingly, government, by extending its functions, will gradually take over their whole life. Further, the greater the power that we permit our governments to exercise the more intense becomes the temptation to special interests and groups in society to reach out for the control of government.

Our early American ideal was "Self Government." The apparent necessities of the situation placed the emphasis on the word "government." Every time that an abuse became apparent the cry went up that "there ought to be a law." We have become so enmeshed in law that it is extremely difficult ever to get rid of this nuisance or even to amend our Constitutions. It is high time that we promote the idea of "Self-Government" and work toward

limitation of the sphere of public bodies to the administration of purely public matters.

Our people must be made to realize that the land of our country is our common estate. Part of this land is public property; as our roads, our parks and forest preserves, and the land that has not yet been allocated to private holding and that which has been resumed from private holding. These lands are properly subject to public administration in the common interest. But that portion of our land that has been given over to private holding and administration, though no longer a part of our public property, still remains a part of our common estate.

When government gives title to some people of parts of the common estate it cannot and does not divest the remainder of the people of their interest in it as part of the common estate. And our law recognizes this fact. Every landholder holds his land subject to law and subject to taxation. I seem to remember having read a quotation from a decision of one of our courts to the effect that "The rent of the land is a reserved condition of every deed." I may not have this quotation verbally correct, but I have its meaning.

When government fails to collect the rent of land from its landholders, the taxation of private property becomes necessary. The taxation of private property is tribute taxation. It is of the order that might be established by conquest. It places the industrious portion of the community in the position of paying tribute to Government in order to leave as a graft to its landholders the rent that they collect as administrators of the part of the common estate to which they hold title. This is the absurd position in which we are placed by our present unscientific mess of multiple taxation.

It divides society which should be a unit into two opposing groups: one living upon unearned incomes resulting from the guarantees of government supported largely by tribute levied upon our industrious people, and another growing ever more bewildered and helpless by reason of the burden of the tribute-taxation and the denial of access to the common estate, our land, except upon terms dictated by the first group; whose landholdings increase in value as the result of every effort of the industrious portion of society to deliver itself from poverty by its industry.

The Single Tax advocate proposes that all tribute-taxation be discontinued, and that instead of this, every landholder called upon to pay a tax in proportion to the value of that part of the common estate that he holds; that is, upon the value of the land to which he holds title. Such a tax would be in effect "the rent that is a reserved condition of every deed"

If this were done, land speculation would cease, land monopoly would be automatically abolished; every one who wanted land for use could hold as much as he could profitably use, but no one would hold a piece of land except for use. We would no longer be afflicted with the condition in which millions of potentially industrious

people suffer want, deprivation and uncertainty in the presence of millions of valuable acres that might support them, and which do not because of the price for its use that stands a barrier between them and those acres. The tribute-taxation that now is levied, and which acts as a limitation upon their success abolished, most of them could become really prosperous.

The abolition of tribute-taxation together with the imposition of a proper taxation of land values is the most important and beneficent duty that our public administration can perform. If it will do this, then we can look forward to a day when every man will be a "self"-governing being and this eternally obnoxious policing, regulation and control that is ever associated with what we call government can and will be reduced to laws actually necessary to preserve order in a prosperous society, instead of laws tending to buttress the privileges of aristocracy founded upon unearned income and devoted to the control of the power of government in order to preserve and extend their privilege.

Activity in Missouri

THE Missouri Single Tax League in regular session assembled at the Barr Branch Library on October 6, 1932, unanimously adopted the following resolution proposed by Willis Malone and addressed to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of St. Louis:

"Whereas the City of St. Louis, Mo., finds it necessary to raise funds for the relief of destitution; and

Whereas, although said City of St. Louis has already resorted to "extra-legal" (not to say *illegal*) means of raising such funds, it now finds itself under the necessity of raising additional revenue over a prolonged period for relief purposes; and

Whereas, the legal rights of the people of St. Louis and the public generally in the Municipal Free Bridge are being jeopardized by the course pursued by St. Louis City officials in their attempts to find sources of revenue from which to draw said relief funds, now therefore,

Be it resolved:

1. That the unemployed and distressed people of St. Louis need help and must be provided for;

2. That we heartily approve a bond issue in the amount of \$4,600,000, or more if necessary, to provide adequate relief, but we do NOT approve the proposed method of raising the funds for the payment of the obligation, for the following reasons:

a. That the taxes already levied, and those which it is proposed to levy or to continue over a prolonged period, fall wholly on the products of labor and on the business interests of the city, which in every instance creates and aggravates a tendency to curtail the use of such products, thereby causing increased idleness and unemployment; a consequent reduction in purchasing power, less business for every business man in the city, and increasing cost of