

Third Annual Congress of The Henry George Foundation

CONDENSED FROM STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF MISS MILDRED TIDEMAN

MORNING SESSION, MONDAY, SEPT. 10

THE Third Henry George Congress of the Henry George Foundation held at Congress Hotel, Chicago, Sept. 10, 11 and 12 was a largely successful gathering, characterized by real enthusiasm and a generous tolerance for differences of opinion as to methods.

The Convention is indebted to Messrs. Evans and Williams, president and secretary respectively of the Foundation, to Clayton J. Ewing, the very efficient chairman of the Convention, to Miss Marien Tideman and John Lawrence Monroe, for their labors of registration, and last but not least to Miss Mildred Tideman for her inestimable services in reporting without charge the three days proceedings.

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 by Chairman Ewing who said:

REMARKS OF MR. EWING

"It is the purpose of the Henry George Foundation and of this Congress and of each one of us to grind and pound to pieces the doctrine and practice of the private appropriation of ground rent. At this time I want to thank Mr. Strachan and all the committee chairmen and members who have been so faithful.

"Single Taxers are individualists and thus there are differences of opinion as to methods. Let us be thankful for this. For by different methods our progress will be more rapid. Only let us be tolerant—let us applaud any earnest and sincere worker in the cause even if his way is not our way.

"Our cause is too big for any one man or any one method. It has grown and is now ready for differing methods of appeal suited to differing mental temperaments.

"We will remember that this Congress is not to discuss prohibition, the Republican or Democratic platform, or candidates, or records. The Single Tax cause is not the tail of anybody's kite. To bring in alien or controversial subjects is to serve poorly the objects of this Conference. Let us earnestly strive to hew to the line and to get into no quarrels among ourselves as to outside issues. We have plenty issues of our own to debate and consider here."

Chairman Ewing on concluding his remarks introduced Wiley W. Mills, and said, "Mr. Mills is a member of the Chicago Civic Council and we are proud of him as a fellow Single Taxer."

REMARKS OF MR. MILLS

Mr. Mills said in part:

"If I understand your purpose you would abolish all taxes and have all expenses paid out of the natural public

revenue which goes into private pockets where most of it remains. In rather clumsy efforts to replace this natural public revenue, we endeavor to tax everything and build up all sorts of private monopolies. Moreover, far reaching private monopoly inevitable results from our failures to keep or recapture this natural revenue.

"Ground rent is a product of community growth and enterprise. Its payment is inevitable and justified. Whenever and wherever any man or group is allowed to use any portion of the planet on any better terms than any other man or group is willing to pay, injustice is done. It is necessary and right that all should pay for all they use of the earth.

"This ground or site value rental, being the result of community growth and activity, the desire of many for the same locations or opportunities, is essentially a communal fund and would furnish an adequate revenue for public or common expenses. Of course it is paid out of revenue privately produced. As under our present system it is paid to and kept by other individuals or private corporations, another portion of the wealth produced must be taken to pay public expenses.

"But even this is not all; the producer having twice paid the public revenue must again come forward with an enormous sum to pay tribute to private monopolies in the form of excessive charges for so-called public utility services and increased cost of commodities due to licenses and taxes."

Mr. Mills concluded by saying: "To you I commend the little growing groups of boys and girls who have caught the torch which lights the way to freedom. That is our great work everywhere—to interest the young to carry on."

Other speakers at the morning session of the first day of the Congress were P. R. Williams, secretary of the Henry George Foundation, and George E. Evans, president and F. W. Maguire, the assistant secretary. These addresses appear elsewhere in this issue.

A motion for the appointment of a Resolutions Committee was introduced by Mr. E. J. Batten, of Chicago and seconded by Mr. Frank Stephsen, of Arden and carried. The following Committee on Resolutions was then appointed by the chair:

Mr. Andrew P. Canning, Mr. E. J. Batten, Mr. Frank Stephens, Mr. W. H. Holley, Mr. Jos. Dana Miller, Dr. Mark Milliken and Dr. T. J. Kelly.

MONDAY'S LUNCHEON, SEPT. 10

The assembly was called to order by Joseph Dana Miller whose address is printed elsewhere in this number, after

which Mr. S. H. Thompson, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, made a few remarks.

Chairman Miller then introduced Charles LeBaron Goeller, of Union, N. Y. and announced that Mr. Goeller would soon start on a lecture tour of the east, speaking for most part in colleges and universities, and that the necessary fund had been supplied by unnamed parties to keep Mr. Goeller in the field for one year. Mr. Goeller's address will appear in coming issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

MONDAY AFTERNOON SEPT. 10

Prof. Aage Moller, President Nysted Peoples College, Dannebrog, Neb., gave a very complete and thorough explanation of the educational system in Denmark, and its results in the way of greater freedom in the educational life of Denmark, since 1788 when the farmer got greater political freedom.

He explained the rural school system in America, and urged that education be directed to the development of individual personalities.

Following the address of Emil O. Jorgensen to be printed later, Mr. Rose, of Kansas City, said:

"Some years ago I was going through this city on my way home. As I stood at the corner was struck by a little boy calling his papers. He said something about Henry George. Three years before I had read his book and had become a Single Taxer. I turned about and asked him "What about Henry George?" "He is dead." A great leader had fallen.

"That winter in Pittsburgh, I heard Father McGlynn for the first time—the only time. Now he is gone. We count those who were in the movement. How many of them have passed away! The grey heads and bald heads are in the majority. The problem that confronts those of us who want the torch held up in the future, is to fill up the ranks. In order to do that many things must be done. But we must not depend on the old or middle-aged. Somehow or other we must devise a way to reach the minds of the young people—when their minds are open, when they are ready for new truths."

Mr. Rose went on to suggest that perhaps essay contests could be started in high schools—a prize to be awarded for the best essay. Said it was a question of salesmanship. If the principal and presidents of the classes could be sold, they in turn could bring pressure to bear on the Board of Education and school superintendents. Convince them of the benefit of such a contest. Have the winning essay printed in the school paper. In this way the minds of young people will be inculcated with the ideas and ideals of Henry George.

Mr. Rose recounted some personal experiences which graphically illustrated that as soon as Henry George is explained to people, they become enthusiastic about it. They do not argue. Also proposed an essay contest among labor unions, the best essay of each union to be printed in that particular union's paper or magazine.

There followed a discussion on other methods of reaching the young in which A. L. Smith, Herman Forel, Prof Moller, Will Atkinson, Dr. Thos. L. Brunk, George E. Evans, Mrs. Anna George de Mille and Dr. Lychenheim took part.

Charles R. Adair, of Flint, Michigan, followed with an address on "What is Wrong with American Agriculture." Following this Dr. Kelly, of Marathon, Iowa, Will Atkinson, Chas. B. Rogers, of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, Edward White, of Kansas City, Billy Radcliffe, of Cleveland, Ohio, discussed the points raised by Mr. Adair.

MONDAY EVENING, SEPT. 10

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow spoke on the Abolition of Poverty. Mr. Bigelow wanted to postpone his speech until the next morning in order to allow time for discussion, but the audience insisted that he speak despite the lateness of the hour. Those present were anxious to hear him and would not hear of any postponement. This address is also reserved for a future issue. This session adjourned at 11.20 P. M.

TUESDAY MORNING SEPT. 11

At nine o'clock a Liturgy prepared by Rev. A. W. Littlefield, of Middleborough, Mass., who was unable to be present, was read, and this was followed by singing by Miss Hallbery of Chicago, who rendered "The Builders" and "If I Could Live." The Liturgy closed with a reading from Henry George by Mr. Strachan, of Chicago.

The morning session was presided over by Mr. Henry L. Tideman, of Chicago, who called attention to the small gavel which he was using, and told the Conference that it had been used by Henry George himself at the Single Tax Conference held at the Art Institute of the City of Chicago in 1893, and was a prized possession of the Single Tax Club of Chicago.

Miss Norma Goedde came forward with a bouquet of roses, which were presented to Mr. Tideman by the Young People's Single Tax group in token of their felicitations upon his birthday.

Motions being in order, Mr. Frank Stephens moved: That the vacancy on the Committee of Resolutions be filled by the election of Miss Marien Tideman. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Chairman then presented Mr. Fiske Warren, the first speaker. Mr. Warren made a brief statement of the Single Tax colony ideal and was followed by E. B. Gaston who talked on "Fairhope and the Progress of the Single Tax."

Rev. Charles E. Snyder, of Sioux City, Iowa, followed with a short address on "The Farmer and the Land Question," and Julius J. Reiter, of Rochester, Minn. spoke on "The Problems That Confront Us."

The morning conference adjourned at 12:15 and was followed by a luncheon of the Trustees and members of

the Advisory Commission of the Foundation. The official proceedings of this meeting appear later.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 11

This session opened at 2 o'clock, Henry H. Hardinge of Chicago in the chair. Mr. Hardinge introduced the first speaker, Dr. Mark Milliken, of Ohio, who talked on "The Ohio Situation."

As Miss Grace Isabel Colbron was unable to be present her address was read by Mr. Williams and will appear in next issue.

Chairman Hardinge said:

"The most appalling poverty is poverty of mind. Compare Miss Colbron's fundamentalism, as set forth in that very able paper, with the fundamentalism, of, for instance, a William Jennings Bryan.

"Our next speaker I first saw thirty years ago. Walking along Madison Street one day, I passed the Old Opera House. Outside was a sign which read, "Good Speeches. Come inside and Listen." I entered. On the platform was John Z. White. He made upon me an imperishable impression. Next on the programme was Clarence Darrow. He also made an imperishable impression upon me. I knew that Darrow would come to outrank White in popularity. But he was a superficial thinker in economics. I said to myself, White knows something. I learned that he was prominent in Chicago Single Tax circles. I saw him there, and have never ceased to admire him."

Mr. White spoke on Democracy and an interesting colloquy ensued:

Mr. Atkinson: "According to Mr. White, there are nine men in Washington who are flouting and destroying our liberty. Is not the remedy to discharge these unfaithful servants, to give the people the right of the recall of judges?"

Mr. White: "I was describing the disease, not prescribing the remedy."

Mr. Atkinson: "But I am used to having Mr. White prescribe the remedy after he has finished describing the disease, and I am disappointed when he does not."

Mr. White: "The President names these men. We, the People, have nothing to do with it. This is not a democracy, it only has some of the features of a democracy. We must complete it—then we'll have the power over our officials. We have delegated certain features of our sovereignty to our governments, the agents of the people's sovereignty. Get the machinery straight. We are in a legal tangle. The people must understand the nature of the machinery and the tangle or they will never control it."

Doctor Lychenheim:

"Is economic necessity the mother of reform?"

Mr. White: "No, but it is the mother of the people who make reform possible.

The Chairman: "Henry George says, the only enemy of the human race is ignorance. No statesman has ever been able to make a speech such as this we have just heard.

Slow and tortuous is the road to freedom. Our country is an example of a political republic within an economic despotism.

"Our next speaker is Mr. Robert C. Macaulay, of Philadelphia, editor of the *Pennsylvania Commonwealth*, who will speak on "An Efficient Method of Propaganda." Mr. Macaulay was followed by Mr. Edward White, of Kansas City, on "A Practical Approach to Land Value Taxation," and discussion followed in which the following delegates took part: E. H. Boeck, of St. Louis, Vernon J. Rose, A. S. Thompson, of Toronto, and A. L. Smith, of Detroit took part.

BANQUET, TUESDAY EVENING SEPT. 11

At 6.30 sharp the Congress assembled for the banquet. Beginning with this banquet, the headquarters of the Congress had been moved to the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel. This Gold Room is a very beautiful and elaborately decorated room, being a replica of one of the ballrooms at the Louvre. There were tables to accommodate eight persons, and the long table for the speakers on a platform.

We take this occasion to thank the managers of the Congress Hotel for the admirable service and the accommodations and conveniences placed at our disposal. In no respects, not even the smallest, was there the slightest cause for complaint.

President Evans opened the banquet festivities and introduced A. P. Canning, of Chicago, as Toastmaster, who put the audience in good humor by several cleverly told anecdotes. We suggest that Mr. Canning be retained as permanent toastmaster of all Single Tax banquets hereafter wherever held. A Single Tax quartet sung and Mr. Evans read a few congratulatory letters, after which he introduced as the first speaker, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, saying that he would dispense with the usual form of introduction since Mr. Hennessy had far more ably introduced himself at the Monday afternoon session than he (Evans) could hope to do.

Mr. Hennessy spoke of the growth of the Henry George movement in all parts of the world, and what it is accomplishing. The suspicion was almost raised in the minds of American Single Taxers that their cause had perhaps progressed further in some European countries than it had here in the United States, the birthplace of the movement. This suspicion almost became a conviction when the Hon. Hennessy mentioned that at the last Conference of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, at Copenhagen, the Danish government turned over its Parliamentary houses to the Conference. There was a very splendid German delegation at this Conference.

Mr. Hennessy also mentioned that the backbone of the movement in Great Britain, is in Scotland. The latest Scotch joke, fresh from Edinburgh, was also delivered by him. Because this joke was by a Scot, the famous Billy Reid, and not *on* the Scotch, Toastmaster Canning gave Mr. Hennessy permission to tell it.

"When I was in Edinborough," began Mr. Hennessy, "Billy Reid took me around Edinborough to show me the sights in a very beautiful new car (I don't know where he got it), and came to stop in front of a very old small house. He told me that was the home of John Knox. I of course expressed mild interest. He then asked me—'Do you know what the last Irishman whom I took around to show the sights of Edinborough said when I told him that was the home of John Knox? He said (Irishmen not being gifted with brains anyway), "And who the hell was John Knox?" And what do you think I answered him? I said, *My God, man, don't you read your bible.*"

Mr. Hennessy concluded by cordially inviting each and every person present to the International Conference which will be held at Edinborough, next summer (1929).

Then Mr. Evans introduced the next speaker to whom he paid high compliment. But no words could have equalled the silent tribute which was paid to the daughter of Henry George, when the audience acting as one person, stood up as Mrs. De Mille began to speak. Her talk, which was on the subject of the Prize Essay Contest for pupils of high schools and colleges, will be noted at another time.

Among other speakers at the Banquet were Dr. Frederick W. Roman and Dr. Preston Bradley, of the Peoples Church of Chicago. Dr. Roman gave a very interesting speech on "Modern Educational Thought in its Relation to the Social Philosophy of Henry George," and also explained the Parliament of Man, an organization which he is sponsoring. He traced the evolution and development of education from the Greeks to the philosophy of Henry George.

Dr. Preston Bradley, Chicago, who addresses an audience of 6,000 every Sunday morning at the People's Church, and who reaches a great many hundred thousands more through the radio, gave a very entertaining and highly amusing conclusion to the evening's entertainment. He defended the "fair city of Chicago," and remarked that "We have not killed a decent man in Chicago in 25 years. We have 75,000 students of the fine arts. Last year there were 1,800,000 books in circulation from the public library. No library in the world, has or ever has had that many books in circulation." Dr. Bradley also told how Mr. Hardinge gave him Progress and Poverty to read ten years ago. He also told the things that he is trying to do in the way of inculcating in the minds of people that it is not so much the hereafter and the preparations for it that counts, but the present, and its immediate problems of poverty, sickness and suffering.

WEDNESDAY, A. M., SEPT. 12.

The morning session was called to order by Mr. Williams who read extracts from communications received.

Mr. Chas. B. Rogers, of Wisconsin, acted as Chairman of this session and Rev. Ambrose Griffin, of Hillside, Illinois, gave the invocation for which he chose the Lords Prayer.

Chairman Rogers then addressed the meeting in a few words:

"Nothing could be a more appropriate invocation than the Lord's Prayer. He recalled a meeting opened by McGlynn with that Prayer, and at the words, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, the audience rose and cheered."

He spoke of the splendid sanity of Henry George, and read from his diary of the year 1893 his impressions of the Conference and the people who attended it.

Dr. T. J. Kelly, of Marathon, Iowa, then spoke on "A Question of Method."

Mr. Luis Lupian, Mexican Consul at Chicago, spoke in part as follows:

"I thank you for the kind invitation to speak to your Congress, and for this kind reception.

"No doubt you are acquainted with the present situation in Mexico. An agrarian policy had become a prime necessity.

"When this continent was discovered, an army was sent to take possession in the name of the rulers of Spain. The conquest of Mexico was a business proposition. The lands were given to the conquerors in large tracts, were held by individuals, and were passed down to the heirs. Thus the land was monopolized.

"The Church was the largest land owner. Prior to the revolution, the Church held more than one-third of the land. It controlled land and business, and through this monopoly controlled the people.

"The Church was also the only institution that fostered public education such as it was. After three hundred years only one-half of one per cent. of the people could read or write. This illustrates the complete failure of the Church in that field.

"It was clear that some change was necessary, if Mexico desired to continue its existence as an independent nation.

"After the declaration of independence in 1810 there were many problems that had to be solved politically. It was hard to know how to do it. We had no leaders, and all the educated classes were opposed to us. It is of interest to note that our liberators were all from the ranks of the Church. We started and intended to use political methods. For a hundred years we were struggling to meet these problems. Since 1910 a new generation has been dealing with them. Mexico has come to realize that a new economic change is necessary. From ten to fifteen years ago a series of measures which changed the structure of the country were passed. We needed a substitute for the feudal system which prevailed. For example of conditions in the central states, there was Morelos, which was owned by seven families. It is a wonder that the revolution did not break out before. The Mexican people have been patient as no others in such condition would have been. Due to the influence of the Church, they suppressed their aspiration toward liberty.

"What has been done lately regarding the agrarian policy?

The Government sought through an agrarian policy to solve the difficulties of the masses. The Agrarian Laws have been working since 1915. In 1927, 68,837 families were given possession of 717,968 hectares. (A hectare equals approximately 2½ acres.) Communal lands, in the use of which 7,938 families participated, were given to 38 towns.

"The people have organized cooperative agricultural societies. Six new agrarian banks have been organized for loans to small farms. The most recent, the agrarian bank of the State of Mexico, has a capital of 110,000,000 pesos (equal to about half that amount in American money).

"We are hopeful that in from five to ten years we will change entirely the economic structure of the Republic. In the last four years great irrigation projects have been begun. President Calles realized the necessity of irrigation, and the fact that it would have to be undertaken by the government. A nation-wide movement was initiated and successfully carried out. Two projects have been finished, at considerable cost and effort. We have gone as fast as our resources permitted.

"We have been fortunate in having energetic, forceful men like Calles and Obregon, to resist opposition from within and without.

"We will continue to struggle to free the peasant from the economic burden; to return the land to them; to aid in restoring their economic independence; to promote a better environment for them; to educate the children; to increase their efforts to create new necessities; to give real progress. In the future, our supreme aspiration, a finer and better people, will be realized."

Questions were asked by members in the audience, and Mr. Lupian replied.

"In the division of land, do the new owners have a chance to sell at increased value?"

"No. The land may be passed on to the heirs, but there is a provision in the Agrarian Laws against selling it at increased value."

Remark—"It would be best if the Mexican peasant would be left alone and not taxed."

Answer—"Real estate has always been very lightly taxed in Mexico. The new owners have been brought up in that tradition, and the land is still lightly taxed. There has been a revision in the assessments, and the owners pay in proportion to their holdings."

Question—"Are not the Mexican agrarian laws similar to out laws for the protection of the Indians?"

Answer—"It is the same principle."

The meeting then passed a motion that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Lupian for his kindness in addressing the Conference on a subject that was of great interest.

The Chairman:

"I spent five weeks in California, studying the Mexican land laws, and I wish to say that we don't need to ask Mexico any questions about the treatment of the peasants. They show a better conception of the rights of the people

than do the United States. And they don't need to learn anything from our treatment of the Indians.

"They hold that Diaz had no right to alienate the possession of the land and the oil under the land.

"The United States has been upheld in her claims on this subject, but in the agrarian question Mexico's sovereignty is questioned.

"But if Mexico had applied the principle of taxation of land values until the rental value of the oil lands had been absorbed, the United States could not have protested, for the rights of a Government to use the power of taxation are absolute."

Mr. Rogers then offered Mr. Lupian a copy of "Progress and Poverty." Mr. Lupian thanked him, replying that he already possessed one in English. He accepted the offer of a copy in Spanish.

Mr. Joseph Dana Miller then stated that fifty copies of the book in English had been sent by LAND AND FREEDOM to as many distinguished Mexicans occupying high official or educational positions and all but two had replied with certain favorable opinions.

The next speaker was Charles H. Ciliske of Chicago, whose topic was "Can We Promote Prosperity?"

LUNCHEON, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12

Mrs. Emily E. F. Skeel presided at this session and introduced Mr. Lucien Victor LaTaste, of Dallas, Texas, whose address was entitled "Brother or Victim, Which." Mr. LaTaste is Director of the Texas School Guild. He was followed by S. Warriner representing the Commonwealth Land Party of England, whose subject was "The Land Question in British Politics." The addresses will be printed in LAND AND FREEDOM.

CLOSING SESSION, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 12.

This session was called to order at 2:30, Henry H. Hardinge of Chicago, presiding.

Mr. Williams read letters and telegrams from Edmund Vance Cooke, of Cleveland, Ohio; Norman Thomas, James F. Morton, of Patterson, New Jersey.

The Committee on Resolutions withdrew to prepare the Resolutions for presentation to the Congress.

Mr. Hardinge spoke on "The Natural Law of Distribution," Miss Marien Tideman on "Young Single Taxers," and John Lawrence Monroe on "Our Common Cause." Mr. Stephens gave his opinion as to various methods of work that had been suggested to the Congress. He felt that it was an error in our work that the wisdom and devotion of Single Tax women has not been sufficiently utilized. He added that a division between the emotional and intellectual was impossible. His closing remark was that we should not quibble over the word tax, but each work for the advancement of the movement in his own way.

There was some discussion of the work of the Commonwealth Land Party and of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. Some people felt that there

was not enough difference in their views and aims to warrant the separation.

Miss Charlotte Schetter, of New York, then rose to say that there was a real difference; that the Commonwealth Land Party believes the question should be put before the voters at the polls now, while the United Committee still works on a programme of education only.

After this discussion the invitations to the next Congress were presented. Mr. LaTaste, of Dallas, Texas, offered the invitation of the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce of that City to the Congress for the meeting in 1929. Mr. Gaston invited the Congress to Fairhope. A personal representative of the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce of Saint Louis extended a most urgent request that the Congress meet there. Mr. Carl D. Smith put forward the offer of Pittsburgh. Mr. Atkinson here made a motion that at the next Congress Marien Tideman and John Monroe should be the first speakers on the programme, as none had better sounded the keynote of the spirit of the work than they. Mr. White seconded this motion, and added that Kansas City be the seat of next years Congress. Mr. Evans announced that all these invitations would be considered carefully.

The motion made by Mr. Atkinson was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams then presented the resolutions, which were read, debated, amended and voted upon as they appear in this issue.

The Third Annual Congress of the Henry George Foundation had come to an end and all those who participated were enthusiastic over the three days' proceedings. Every minute of the time had been enjoyable; the East had met West; the union was cemented, and the great army for emancipation will now move forward to occupy an advanced post a little nearer the enemy's breastworks.

Protecting the House Owner

FOUR HUNDRED mortgages were foreclosed in Baltimore during the months of June and July. This was no more than the normal number. There are more to come. Taxes on improvements, exorbitant ground rents and inflated prices make the burden too heavy for many home owners to bear. Abolition of taxes on improvements and on all other labor products would relieve the situation but since this would give offense to the gentlemen in charge of the Real Estate Board the legislature has so far refused to act. Consequently the foreclosures will continue. Every time the Real Estate Board has succeeded in preventing ameliorative legislation of this kind it has proudly announced in its organ that it is "protecting the home owner."

WHATEVER one may think of the Interstate Commerce Commission it cannot be denied that it tries to make each decision more fare.—*Commonwealth*, Ardmore, Pa.

Honest Farm Relief and Fair Taxation

PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

THE economic system under which we live, as contrasted with a caste system and with various proposed systems of communism and socialism, is a system of freedom of choice for each person as to lines of industrial activity. The needs of the community are supplied because the demand for the goods wanted keeps up their price and makes it profitable for some to choose each necessary industry. If any one industry is, for a while, much more profitable than others, more people go into it and their competition cuts down wages and profits. If any industry is, for a time, much less profitable than others, because it is supplying more goods than the public is willing to pay for at a profitable price, some of those who are in it become dissatisfied and withdraw, competition becomes less intense, and an approximate equality with other industries is restored. Meanwhile, whether in the temporarily, more or less temporarily, profitable industries, the efficient, hardworking and thrifty gain most and the inefficient, lazy and thriftless gain least.

This is what our economic system is supposed to be, by its conservative defenders. This, in part, is what it is. But the qualifications are numerous and important. The system is full of imperfections that make it rob some persons to profit others. And while a few of these imperfections may be the result of historical accident, involving no purposeful chicanery, others are the consequence, in some degree, of deliberately selfish political machinations. That is to say, one group or another uses its votes or political influence to work the economic structure to its own supposed advantage. Most of us, the farmers included, suffer from these imperfections and warpings, with the consequent unfair advantage or special privilege of the favored groups.

All such special privilege, whether accidental or otherwise, should be abated as inconsistent with our professed ideals of equality of opportunity, as contrary to the ideals of democracy, as alien elements in an economic system which exists to reward service. Legislative relief of any class, and perhaps of farmers most of all, should be directed to the abolition of all those forms of privilege which abstract from them their hard-earned wealth, to the correction of all those imperfections in our economic system which enable some to profit at the expense of others.

But what, in fact, do we find? Those who are most vocal in the movement for alleged farm relief are, almost without exception, advocates not of the abolition of privilege but of its further extension. Not only is it a fact that the farmers of the great grain-growing states, who are now said to suffer from but in no way to be benefited by the high tariff, have, in effect, voted for that and similar