

tax being an additional burden upon industry, it is designed for and will have the effect of lightening the burden upon industry. The right hon. Gentleman raised the question that this tax is going to be imposed whether a profit is being made by the business that is on the site of it or not. Is not rent paid? Is not the rent of agricultural land being paid in these times of depression?

The right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Spen Valley (Sir J. Simon) explained what he conceives to be my views upon this question, my purpose and my principles. I take no exception to what he said, but I may remind the House that they are views of which he himself was such an ardent supporter up to a few weeks ago. The right hon. and learned Gentleman said that the Liberal party had never been identified with the principles of Henry George. The English Land Taxation League exists for the purpose of propagating the principles of Henry George, and up to a month ago, when his name was removed from the list, the right hon. Gentleman was a Vice-President.

The principle underlying this Bill is to assert the right of the community to the ownership of the land. I have never made any question about that, nor that that right should be expressed in the form of a rent paid by the occupier or rather the owner of the land to the community. As I said just now, this is only the first step in the reform of our land system. The effect of that system has been to place a burden on industry of hundreds of millions a year. It has crowded our people into pestilential slums, and it has driven hundreds of thousands of people from the land into the towns to compete with the town workers, with the result that wages have been depressed and unemployment has been increased.

I commend the Bill to the House of Commons, not only upon its financial proposals but also upon its land proposals. I think that when they come into operation their social and economic effect will be seen, but it is only the first step.

The party for which I speak have always put the question of land reform in the forefront of their programme. Although I may not live to see the step that we have taken this afternoon advance still further, at any rate I submit this Bill to the House of Commons with the satisfaction that I believe that we have begun a far-reaching reform which some day will liberate the land for the people and abolish once and for all the tyranny under which the people in this country have suffered.

[Editorial Note.—This address is reprinted from *Land and Liberty*, of London, Eng., and the usual English capitalization is retained.]

RUSSIANS of today may not regret the revolution of 1917 but those of a century hence may have to endure an organization to be known as "Daughters of the Soviet Revolution." That will surely subject the reverence to Lenin's memory to a severe strain.

Gold Miners' Philosophy In Early California

GOLD, gold, the lure of gold, made early California the land of romance, tragedy and economic phenomena. Henry George, in his great book, "Progress and Poverty," which he wrote in San Francisco in 1879, after twenty-one years' residence in California, shows that land value—always absorbs most of the value created by labor and capital. My story of the free, gold-mining land in California indicates that his book is a development of the economic history of California. You are now offered a copy of that book free.

The early California miners were orderly men, standing for the square deal, and opposed to monopoly. When a new gold discovery was made, the creek, gulch, flat or river was soon crowded with men. Immediately a meeting would be called, a chairman and secretary elected, and after discussion, laws and regulations adopted for the new mining district.

The first miners' laws in California are said to be those of Wood's Dry Diggings, a mile and a half long (now Auburn), where \$8,000,000 in gold was taken out of the surface dirt. There a claimant had to get on his knees and strike out with his right hand to mark one corner of his claim; then, pivoting on his right knee, he marked the other three corners. When absent, he had to leave his pick, shovel and pan on his claim, or it would be "jumpable." There being no water, the dirt had to be sifted through the fingers. A former Mayor of Virginia City told that he so located and worked his claim at Auburn in 1848. He got nothing, but a man near by found \$10,000 in gold.

The first laws allowed one person to own only one claim in a district; later, one claim by location and any number by purchase, the size then being fixed as ten feet by ten feet; but each had to be worked. Ten days' absence was allowed, if recorded. In case of sickness, each miner aided in working the claim of the afflicted one. All disputes about mining claims had to be settled by a jury of miners, even when rowdies robbed a miner of his claim by force. But the justice of the miners was swift and certain.

Miners always spoke of the gold they got from their claims as their wages. For years they prevented taxation of their claims, asserting, as does Henry George, that it is wrong to tax any one's labor. It was not until mines developed an unearned increment value in excess of their labor value that they were taxed in California.

The mining ground was free to any one who wished to work it, without any restriction except the mining district laws and customs, which made working the land the only title or right to possession. Writers of those days assert that this condition made wages higher, interest on money higher, business men more prosperous, and the cost of living lower or less than anywhere else in the world. They

all agree that California would remain prosperous, with high wages, as long as the land—the opportunity for labor—was free in the mines.

During that period a big, wholesome meal could be got in any restaurant in California for 25 cents. Antelope, deer and the choicest tenderloin beef steak cost 25 cents; fish, fresh from the river, bay and ocean, was 12 cents; and all other cooked foods at like prices.

A writer in 1858 urged that the government sell the mining land, that if the capitalists owned the mines the miners would have to work for them at low wages, and thus they could get cheap labor to develop California. In proving his point he said that a cook in a restaurant in San Francisco had to be paid \$500 per month, or he would go to the mines, 100 miles away, and easily earn that sum on the free government mining land. In other occupations a like wage would have to be paid, bringing prosperity to every business.

During that period, banks offered and paid 1½ per cent interest on demand deposits monthly; and for six months deposits paid 2 and 3 per cent a month, or from 18 to 36 per cent interest on deposits yearly. Banks charged 4 per cent a month and upward on loans. These rates prevailed for twenty-five years, from the discovery of gold until the '70s, when land monopoly began to develop.

Writers laid the prosperity of the farmer to the fact that all the return for his grain, fruit or cattle went to pay his wages and interest on his investment in home and equipment. His farm land was a free homestead-gift from the government. No speculator exacted from him any tribute for access to the land—the natural opportunity which God has given us for our living.

In 1872 Congress passed the first laws relating to gold mining, and fixed the area of a claim at twenty acres, permitting one person to take up thousands of claims, requiring only \$100 work on each claim annually. As a result of this bad law, speculators now have control of all the mining land in every State. One county recorder told me that out of 1,000 proofs of work on claims filed in his office only twenty were those of genuine miners.

Monopoly also controls all other land in city and country in California, as well as in Chicago and elsewhere in our country. This monopoly of opportunity for labor and capital results in low wages and low interest, high land value and excessive cost of living. If you wish to see these occurrences in California told in an interesting way, and early California's system of free land—free opportunity to labor—proven to be the real remedy for the present depression throughout our country, for both labor and capital, read the free copy of Henry George's great book, "Progress and Poverty."

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UNDER the best possible government there can be neither involuntary unemployment nor forced labor.

Monument to S. Berthelsen

IN connection with the 20th Danish Henry George (High School) conference, to be held at the Small Holders High School in the village of Höng, Denmark, Sunday the 13th and Monday the 14th of September, a ceremony will take place to present a monument for the well-known propagator of the Henry George doctrine in Denmark, Sophus Berthelsen, who passed away in 1930.

The memorial is in the form of a bench and placed in the town center (facing two highways) of the village of Höng, where S. Berthelsen had his home and worked during most of the years of his manhood. It carries the following inscription:

Sophus Berthelsen

in honored memory

The faithful disciple of Henry George
enthusiastic propagator of Single Tax (Grundskyld)
father of the Kjöge Resolution
friend of the Small Holders

The collection to erect the memorial has been sponsored by the Danish Henry George Association and the United Danish Small Holders Association, but contributions have come from other countries also: Great Britain, France, Austria, Sweden, Norway and U. S. A.

These, in their way unique Henry George High School conferences, started 25 years ago, in 1906, in the same village in which the conference is held this year.

Emil Jorgensen's "Road to Better Business"

WE regret that Mr. Jorgensen's recent book should have presented such a vulnerable target for the critical artillery of so expert an economist as Oscar H. Geiger, who in this number of LAND AND FREEDOM (see Book Reviews) lays bare the fundamental errors of the work. Stoughton Cooley in the August issue of *Tax Facts* also levels a lance against Mr. Jorgensen and does it with great effect.

The columns of LAND AND FREEDOM are open to Mr. Jorgensen for a reply, though we do hope that he will see that he has been made a victim of an error which, as Mr. Cooley says, "has trapped many an unwary economist."

REMEMBER when a certain Secretary of Commerce, named Herbert Hoover, said in his annual report, "In the United States unemployment has ceased to be a problem"? Well, he hasn't learned differently yet.

"SATISFACTION of desires with the least exertion is the mainspring of every human action." When conditions make crime the easiest way to satisfy desires, then crime prevails. Anything mysterious about that?