

Manhattan Single Tax Club

PRESIDENT Ingersoll addressed the Philadelphia Georgeists on April 22, at their clubrooms in the Community Center. About sixty were present and listened attentively to the speaker's favorite subject of "simplifying economics for teaching." This theme stimulated a discussion of about two hours, in which most of the students and old-timers participated.

Mr. Ingersoll's adaptation of his broadcasts to a weekly reprint under the title *democracy* (small "d" to represent non-partisanship) is being perfected—the format of the paper has recently been improved. With the paper, Mr. Ingersoll proposes to reach all the teaching units of the Georgean movement, to spread his conception of the intimate relation of simple economics to everyday events and eminent persons.

Following are excerpts from his current radio talks:

WON'T THE OIL COMPANIES BE THE ONES TO SETTLE THE OIL monopoly question? And this simply because governments do not have statesmen educated in scientific economics and therefore capable of settling such problems. Sinclair has made his peace with Mexico, and, it is intimated, has paved the way for other expropriated American producers. If one of them hits on the simple formula of a royalty to cover the natural value of the oil, leaving to the producer the untaxed rewards of investment in production, it will be a real victory for business sense in its capacity to solve economic problems.

A BIG LAND GRAFT IS NOW PROPOSED BY THE CHAMBER OF Commerce of Bergen County, N. J., and is being carried to the U. S. Senate by Senator Barbour. The proposal is to get Uncle Sam to help "redeem" 27,000 acres of Hackensack meadows. One would think—even without all the publicity recently given to land racketeering in New Jersey—that such a raw proposition would awaken some statesman into asking, "Whose land?" But this proposal is soberly made by a sober Senator—not long after a six-month trial of thirty officials for selling \$13,000 of this same muck to Newark for \$190,000.

THURMAN ARNOLD IS WORRIED ABOUT THE LACK OF LAWYERS AND detectives to find and formulate monopoly in business. His real trouble is due to his seeing only the flourishing branches of monopoly, and not seeing its roots. A practical examination of the monopoly question would start with basic and fundamental monopoly about which there can be no dispute—such as franchises, ownership of natural resources, and economic rents. Half of our "wealth" is in such monopoly. Yet it gets no attention from the department of government devoted mainly to monopoly prosecution!

League for Freedom

REPORT OF JOHN P. FINNERTY, SECRETARY

At a recent meeting, officers were elected to the League. Henry J. Foley was elected Chairman; Grace Isabel Colbron, Vice-Chairman; and Louis Taylor, Treasurer. Mrs. Anna George de Mille attended one of the meetings, and we are happy to have her words of encouragement. We take our responsibility all the more seriously because of her very welcome moral support.

Progress has been made towards organizing Chapters of the League in various localities. A geographical

method of starting Chapters has been adopted. The organizer is sent the names and addresses of known Georgeists in his immediate neighborhood, whom he is to solicit for membership. The nucleus thus started, the members cooperate in spreading the Georgeist philosophy in that neighborhood, through lectures, classes, pamphleteering, etc. As the group grows, the member living furthest away from the center of the neighborhood is urged to start a Chapter of his own. The question of close cooperation of all the Chapters, while preserving local freedom, is being studied. Miss Colbron has undertaken to investigate the technique of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, in London. That body is affiliated with various Georgeist leagues throughout England which all seem to function together smoothly.

We are glad to report that active cooperation and offers of cooperation have already been received from many Georgeist groups and individuals throughout the country. Among the groups are: the Henry George Fellowships; the Benjamin Franklin Research Society; the Society for Long Island Georgeists; the Manhattan Single Tax Club; the Henry George Free Tract Society; "We, The Citizens" School of Economics; and "Cause and Effect." Among those assisting with literature are: Louis Wallis, Ellen Winsor (author of "A Bedtime Story on the Land Question"), R. Clancy and W. Newcomb (co-authors of "You and America's Future"), Peter Schwander (poet under the name of "Horatio") and Harold S. Bittenheim.

We who are newly entered in the Cause of Freedom, salute those who have been working for it these many years. We wish to remind old and new workers in the Cause that all are welcome to join the League for Freedom. Address the Secretary, League for Freedom, 1351 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y.

Benjamin Franklin Research Society

This Society will be remembered for its publication last year of an attractive brochure, discussing the Brookings Institution research reports, comparing totalitarianism with democracy, and quoting famous statesmen and thinkers on the land question. The Society has just published another pamphlet, generous in size and containing 24 pages. It is entitled "The Ben. Franklin Plan." This plan, the pamphlet explains, is a Community Service Charge in place of the present load of taxes. Present conditions and the proposed system are made vivid in abundant illustrations, charts, and sets of figures. Other subjects are also discussed, such as rural electrification.

The booklet describes the purpose of the Society:

"This association was formed by leading citizens who are interested in the welfare of our country. Believing

that the world's troubles are economic and realizing that there has been too much generalizing and not enough study of facts, it is hoped that support will be found, making possible the conducting of a survey in some state where conditions are most favorable for a tryout of this Plan. . . .

"The association is organized for study and research and under no circumstances is it to take part in political discussions. It will make its researches and get the facts and then allow business men, industrialists, statesmen and labor leaders, to draw their conclusions."

The price of the booklet is fifteen cents, and it may be obtained from the Ben. Franklin Research Society, 511 Gravier Street, New Orleans, La.

Canada

A NEW NAME—At the annual meeting of the Single Tax Association of Canada, on March 30, it was decided to change the name of that body to the Henry George Society. This is the Society's third name during a career of sixty years. The first name was the Anti-Poverty Society. During its long career, it has accomplished important work in furthering the Georgeist cause in Canada. Several years ago, when a land grant of 10,000,000 acres to the Grand Trunk Railway was proposed for the building of a road, the Society urged the Government to build the road as a national undertaking, using the resulting rise in land values to pay its way. As a result, the land grant was refused, and instead the land was rented out to the Grand Trunk. One of the latest activities of the Society was in procuring one hundred French translations of "Progress and Poverty," and sending one to each member of the Quebec Legislature.

PROTESTING SPECULATION—Several Georgeist groups in Canada have adopted resolutions condemning the practice of speculating in timber during the present emergency situation. The particular cause of protest was the recent sale of a Vancouver Island timber limit for \$2,000,000.

THE FAME OF MILK RIVER—J. B. Ellert, Georgeist leader of Milk River, which is operated on the Single Tax principle, reports that it is working so well that neighboring towns in Southern Alberta are investigating the system. Two towns have invited the Milk River Councilmen to explain the application of the reform. One of the towns is Picture Butte, which possesses the largest sugar factory in western Canada. This town is planning to adopt the system.

GEORGEIST ELECTED—Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, active Canadian Georgeist, was elected, on March 26, to the House of Commons for Toronto-Trinity, with a majority of about 3,500 votes. Mr. Roebuck is Honorary President of the Henry George Society.

Great Britain

ANOTHER VICTORIOUS GEORGEIST—In a by-election held April 17, F. C. R. Douglas, Georgeist leader of London, was elected Member of Parliament, for North Battersea, on the Labor Party ticket. Mr. Douglas had been Mayor of Battersea, and member of the London County Council.

The vacancy in Parliament had been created by the retirement of William S. Sanders, also a Labor M.P., who was a Fabian Socialist. Mr. Douglas received the support of Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P., leader of the L. C. C., and the unstinted support of the North Battersea Labor Party. The competing candidate was E. Joyce, who put forward an anti-war front, under the apparent inspiration of the Communist Party. Previous experience with Communist Members from Battersea, such as Saklatvala and Strauss, doubtlessly convinced the electors that the experience should not be repeated.

Mr. Douglas was born in Canada and raised in Scotland. He has been long active in the Georgeist cause and is the author of several books and pamphlets. He is the Assistant Editor of *Land and Liberty*. At the Henry George Centenary, which he attended, Americans were favorably impressed by his cogent talks and dignified appearance. In Battersea and in the L. C. C., he has been active in many progressive reforms, and has introduced Rating Reform Bills.

P. F. T. INVADERS PARLIAMENT—The Henry George Foundation presented Members of Parliament and candidates with complimentary copies of Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade." The gift also included the pamphlet "The Real Meaning of Free Trade," and extracts from Mr. Neville Chamberlain's speeches, wherein he declared that "there can be no lasting peace unless there is a full and constant flow of trade between the nations concerned." Many of the M.P.'s and candidates replied, acknowledging the gift, and endorsing George's views. Following are some of their remarks, as quoted in *Land and Liberty*:

From a Conservative M.P.: "I desire most cordially to thank you for that book. I have read the original edition and have a very large measure of agreement. You can count me in general a supporter."

From a Liberal Candidate: "I read George's 'Protection or Free Trade' many years ago. I know of no better presentation of the Free Trade case and I will read it again."

From a Labor Candidate: "I sincerely hope that we may be able to secure economic sanity and truth after this mad war is over. Anything which can be done to extend the knowledge of and truth about economic problems is well worth doing, and it is tragically true that a continuance of national economic systems based on a false idea of national sufficiency and the domination of selfish economic groups will always lead to recurring wars."