

## An Appeal

By HENRY J. FOLEY

**I** APPEAL to land reformers for the formation of clubs or forums to develop elementary thinking in the nation, and through this thinking, to produce action which will end depressions; and I suggest the following programme:

1. Reduce the reform to its elemental facts. The elemental fact of land monopoly is that it bars men from a place to work, reducing them to helplessness; and those who find employment must compete for wages against millions of starving other men, hammering wages down to the minimum.

2. Ignore fine spun theories, elaborate proofs, and side issues. The fact that men are reduced to unemployment or low wages should be enough to damn the land monopoly system.

3. Land reformers should organize to form a nucleus, to spread their gospel and to leaven the mass. At the beginning, the literature should be of the most elementary kind.

4. If men can be convinced that land monopoly is the cause of their wretchedness there should be a ready response to calls for funds necessary for the work. If the hearers can not be brought to this point it is conclusive evidence that the work has been defective. The financing of land reform in a nation by the contributions of a few enthusiasts is an impossible task.

5. The natural ally of any reformer is the man who is suffering for the reform. The ally of the land reformer is the man out of work, the man on low wages, the taxed-to-death manufacturer and business man, and every man who is living by his work instead of by privilege. In an autocracy, the poor are helpless to effect a reform, and reform is almost impossible. In a democracy these men could effect a reform at the next election if they understood the facts—if they could be induced to think. And they are the only ones who can effect a thorough-going and permanent reform. If a reform could be effected by a few men through some lucky accident without the cooperation and thinking of the majority it would be speedily upset by the next demagogue with a silver tongue. The only possible hope of permanent reform is in elemental and widespread thinking.

6. From this forum work there should be a rigid exclusion of side issues, learned excursions into higher economics, and anything beyond the facts which the people already know but have neglected to apply. There is ample room for economics and the philosophies of land reform in the colleges, and in the "land reform" schools.

7. If people are properly interested in land reform they will speedily get into action, and the nucleus of land reformers should take steps toward a broader organization. Men who are convinced that they have been banished from the earth will not be slow to advise their legis-

lators that they want their rights in the earth, not doles, relief, and regimentation.

8. Once a solidified interest has been enlisted it will be possible to have legislative bills introduced. If such bills fail of passage, a huge amount of publicity will be secured, and land reform will become a live issue.

## From Editor Beckwith's *Forum*

JULY 6, 1939

### ROBSON PUTS HIS WORST FOOT FORWARD AND SO LOSES CREDIT

His article in *LAND AND FREEDOM* is a much better article than appears on its face.

**A** CORRESPONDENT writes to ask what the editor makes of the article by Ray Robson, entitled "The Paramount Issue," pages 92 and 93 of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, for May and June.

He quoted Robson's statement:

Land is but one of the factors of production and the interference with economic freedom caused by the private appropriation of rent is but one of such interferences. Other interferences are equally unjustified and may at times be even more harmful.

He then lists the hampering of Capital by discriminatory laws, the interference with labor by ill-advised labor laws, and concludes:

Our country and the world have suffered long enough from attempts to prevent the operation of economic law, attempts made alike by the so-called friends of Labor and by the so-called, rather the self-styled economists, whose knowledge of economics is limited to a knowledge of some of the details of that science based upon no comprehension of its fundamental principles.

Those who truly understand economics know that the efforts of this class of political leaders to lead the way to a better life have only resulted in leading us into a deeper mire of depression, and that these so-called friends of Labor are really the worst enemies of the laborers as well as of society in general.

This is the first article by Robson that has come to the notice of this office. It has some splendid material. His discussion of Labor, of relief, and of natural law in the economic realm is excellent.

But that introductory paragraph alarmed the correspondent referred to; for this correspondent could see how that paragraph could derail the thought of many—perhaps of the majority of his readers.

He was completely up-set by the statement that the private appropriation of rent is "but one" of the interferences with our freedom, and that "other interferences may at times be even more harmful."

He could see that this is like saying that Atlas, the giant who stands on a turtle and carries the world on his shoulders, carries more weight than the turtle.

That reference to other interferences is most unfortunate; and the comparison of the harmful effects is a compound misfortune.

The fact of the matter is that neither Labor nor Capital would be hampered by restrictive laws, if it were not for the private appropriation of rent; nor would Labor be organized for collective bargaining if it were not for this private appropriation; nor would there be any need for relief.

It is true that the Unions and the Relief fiasco and the meddling with business by legislators and by Congress are more in evidence than the private appropriation of rent, just as Atlas might be easily seen by some who would entirely overlook the turtle on which he stands.

And, while it is true that alert students would understand Robson, it is also true that others might be misled by his statement.

Had Robson pointed out the connection between the private appro-



priation of rent and shown that these more conspicuous and more talked-of interferences with freedom are themselves the result of the private appropriation, his article would have been a gem.

Unfortunately, the uninitiated have to have these connections pointed out. They cannot be trusted to discover them for themselves.

## Henry George School of Social Science

THE able and energetic Society for Long Island Georgeists, of which Dr. S. A. Schneidmann is moving spirit, gave another graduate dinner in Jamaica on Friday, June 23. Several of the graduates made very fine speeches. It was a pleasure to hear them state that what they had learned in the classes was of such value to them in their business life that they knew they could "carry on" and show others the fundamental truths expounded by Henry George.

Besides the graduates, Charles Johnson Post, Spencer Heath and Frank Chodorov also spoke. The Long Island Georgeists' classes are held under the auspices of the New York School and are arousing considerable interest in that part of the country. The speeches of the graduates showed an encouraging enthusiasm to spread the gospel further, and to be of use in interesting others, not merely to learn but to carry out as far as possible, in their public, community and business life, the principles laid down by Henry George.

The final commencement exercises of the Henry George School of Social Science in Greater Boston were held on the estate of John S. Codman, 57 Quail Street, West Roxbury, Mass., on the evening of June 22. The affair was conducted as a garden party.

## Activities of The Manhattan Single Tax Club

PRESIDENT CHARLES H. INGERSOLL has had his sixth call as guest-speaker at Commencement Exercises of major Henry George School extensions:—Philadelphia, Hudson, N. Y., Hartford, Waterbury, Jamaica and Pittsburgh.

Mr. Ingersoll's original and simple methods of presenting Georgeian economics is particularly welcome to the student-graduate whose academic training needs an abundance of ways to apply economics.

It has been Mr. Ingersoll's aim for over five years in his current events economic broadcasts (of which there have been over 4,000) to utilize things that happen every day and familiar personalities, to give point to simple basic economic truths.

### PITTSBURGH HGSSS COMMENCEMENT, JULY 7

Graduating over 100 students from the half dozen classes in the city attracted all the latent interest from every quarter to the Banquet and Commencement Exercises, over 200 being present. Mayor McNair presided and engaged in many good-natured altercations with the guest-of-honor. Besides many short speeches from graduates and teachers, several prominent Georgeists addressed the grad-

uates. Mr. Ingersoll besides his inspiring talk gave many illustrations of his unique radio messages, and answered questions for nearly an hour.

### FOURTH OF JULY BROADCAST, STATION WMBW

This was a very unusual thirty-minute broadcast in which Robt. C. Bowers and J. C. Weaver interviewed Mr. Ingersoll. First on his personal and business achievements; second, they led him into an exposition of his Georgeist current events; and finally they heckled him on a wide range of Single Tax theory and practice. Much comment was heard on this broadcast at Mr. Ingersoll's subsequent five meetings.

### EVANS CITY KIWANIS CLUB, JULY 5,

Mayor McNair arranged meeting; 60 present; double the expected number due to interest in the guest-speaker. Mr. Ingersoll's presentation to business men is most effective, as proven by one and one-half hour's quiz in which nearly everyone took part.

### ELLWOOD CITY ROTARY, JULY 6

Mr. Weaver arranged this dinner-meeting which duplicated yesterday's in large attendance (about 85), close attention and intensive questions, which Mr. Ingersoll is a past master in answering.

By the way, he says a meeting is not one without plenty of questions. Then these, in and around Pittsburgh, must have pleased him.

Here less than an hour was available after his effective half-hour talk, as he had to be hustled to his next meeting.

### MEETING EX-CONGRESSMAN ECKERT'S FRIENDS, JULY 6

At Beaver, Pa., 9 P. M. The Congressman was chairman and led both the speaker and audience into very intimate discussion of many phases of economics. About 60 present. A happy combination of laymen and students that speaker Ingersoll expertly assimilated.

### HENRY GEORGE CLUB LUNCHEON, JULY 7

Arranged by Secretary Percy Williams. Chairman was Hon. Geo. E. Evans. Though club closed for the season, this announcement brought out double the usual crowd—about 60—including three representatives of Mayor Scully whom Mr. Ingersoll called on in the morning. The speaker's admirable address to this unusual audience was well received, and especially the forthright answers to an hour's questioning.

### MR. INGERSOLL'S BROADCASTS

#### WEEKLY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Sunday, 3:15 P. M., WOV (1000 watts 1100 KC); 8:45 P. M., WBIL (5000 watts 1100 KC) *Public Service Forum Hour. President Ingersoll, Chairman Director.*

Monday, 10:30 A. M., WWR. Thursday, 8:15 A. M., WLTH. Friday, 12:45 P. M., WDAS (Philadelphia); 3:15 P. M., WSNJ (Bridgeton); 7 P. M., WTNJ (Trenton).

### EXCERPTS FROM RECENT INGERSOLL BROADCASTS

BASIC MONOPOLY IS PLAINLY DISTINGUISHABLE AND NOT TO BE DENIED. Can anyone deny that the earth was designed—no matter how created—for the use of those living on it? Can anyone deny that those living on it give it all its value? Can it be denied that these values—equalling all labor-capital-created-wealth—are the only right source of taxation? Can it be denied that taxing of labor-capital products makes their cost high, production low and hence disemploys millions? Can anyone deny that we have such taxes only because basic monopoly is largely untaxed? Therefore, is it not obvious that attacking basic monopoly—by shifting all taxes to it—would not only disturb a negligible number, whose major