

onvention assembled, do propose as follows:

Section 1. Section twelve of article one of the constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. All lands within this state are declared to be allodial, so that, subject only to the liability to escheat, the entire and absolute property is vested in the owners, according to the nature of their respective estates, *but the value of land exclusive of improvements thereon is declared to be a public asset. It shall be the duty of assessing officers to determine the full value of land as though wholly unimproved and free from any tax. The legislature shall pass such laws so far as possible shall recover the full annual value of the land for the use of the state and its subdivisions.*

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new.

## The Outing at Mahwah River

THE Annual Conference of the Graded Tax Committee was held on June 25 at Fairchild's Landing of the Mahwah River Yacht Club, Suffern, N. Y.

Mr. Walter Fairchild, Chairman, opened the meeting by calling for reports on the two proposals of the Graded Tax Committee presented at the Constitutional Convention now in session at Albany. The first proposal was embodied in a Constitutional Amendment introduced by Mr. Thos. B. Dyatt of Harlem. It permits counties and cities to tax increases in land values in excess of the present 2 per cent limitation. The second proposal, introduced by Wm. S. Bennett of New York City, permits lower rates on improvement values than on land values. Both proposals have been referred to the Committee on Taxation. Mr. Fairchild has addressed this Committee whose chairman is Mr. Martin Saxe.

Then followed speeches by Mr. J. Charles Lane, secretary of the Tax Department in New York City. He outlined two graded tax bills to be introduced in the New York City council by Mr. Charles Mellous of Queens. The first bill requires the council to fix two tax rates instead of one rate as at present, viz., to fix one rate on land values and on one improvement values. The second bill provides that beginning with the second half of the year 1939, the council shall fix these rates so that nine-tenths of the tax raised shall be on land values and one-tenth from improvement values.

Mr. Wm. Exton spoke of the necessity of a positive constructive attitude to obtain legislation. Mr. Lancaster Green spoke about the wide influence of the Henry George School and Mr. Z. K. Green of Middletown, N. Y., reported the introduction of a graded tax to the Middletown Council. Mr. Harry Weinberger made a short address appropriate to the occasion.

Detailed information covering the work of the Graded Tax Committee may be obtained by writing the committee (stamp enclosed), Park Place, Room 205, New York City. It should be noted that the committee has gotten out a stamp to affix to envelopes and correspondence. The stamp is marked "Untax the building, Tax the site," and may be obtained in lots at \$1.00 per hundred.

Previous to the meeting, refreshments were served on a small island near Great Falls, on the western part of the club grounds.

## BOOK REVIEWS

A PROFESSOR'S BALDERDASH

BY ADAM SAVAGE

(A booklet of 40 pages)

This is a criticism of the "Folklore of Capitalism," by Professor Thurman W. Arnold, who has recently accepted a position in the Attorney General's office in Washington.

The critic states at the outset that he has taken the trouble to

review the book because it is an outstanding example of looseness of thought, and that as Professor Arnold has not spared those he criticizes, he has "not the slightest compunction in dealing with him and his book as he has dealt with others."

He then proceeds to deal with both. It is the prettiest piece of dealing that we have ever come across. As a dam Savage he is severe yet kind, fierce yet tolerant, bold yet modest and economically sure of his ground in every word and sentence. The criticism teems with delightful humor throughout, yet replete with seriousness and a wealth of historical reference and sound economics.

Adam Savage must be a very retiring character as he has presented us with one of the finest pamphlets ever written by any Single Taxer, and yet there is nothing to indicate where it may be purchased or the price or even the name of the printer.

We hope this review may be noted by Adam Savage and that, for the good of the cause he will let us know where we may obtain additional copies. Also, if our readers are interested, let us hear from them, because this gem should have wide distribution. Incidentally our best informed Single Taxers will learn much by reading.—C. H. K.

## Correspondence

### SCHOOL GRADUATION DINNER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

A young convert to the philosophy of Henry George has expressed to me his disappointment with some of the speeches delivered at the graduation dinner of the HGSSS on June 13. He had taken a party of his friends to the dinner, promising them an oratorical treat, which fell short of his expectations. His disappointment may be creditable to some degree as indicating an ambition for improvement, but I think it is unjustified.

I have a lively memory of dinners of long ago, when we used to ransack the country for the best oratorical talent to voice our sentiments. We took our friends to these dinners in the hope that eloquent speakers like Henry George, Father McGlynn, Frank Stephens, Charles Frederick Adams, H. V. Hetzel and many others, would either convert them or at least inspire them to study our philosophy. These dinners doubtless had a very real value. We thoroughly enjoyed them, and at their conclusion we went home in a fine state of exaltation that sometimes lasted for several days. In results, however, they fell far short of our high hopes.

We also went into politics. We sought to take the kingdom of heaven by storm. In this, too, we were disappointed. The Nazarene had said nineteen centuries ago that the kingdom of heaven is not to be taken by storm, and we found that He was right.

Personally, I was delighted with the dinner of the New York School, and with the speeches that followed, as I was with the dinner of the Newark School held the preceding evening, where Frederick Leubuscher, Mrs. Anna George deMille, George Rusby, some half a dozen students and I were the speakers. Certainly the speeches of some of the students who have just finished the first course in our economic philosophy lack the grace and polish of the best after-dinner speakers. There were no flights of oratory, and no attempts thereat, but they were better music to my old ears than any of our old-time speakers can now furnish, and the youthful and enthusiastic faces of the new generation of Georgeists are good for the eyes of those who but a few years ago were wont to gather in small groups—elderly people with silvering hair who bemoaned the apparent fact that Henry George was being forgotten by a crazy world.

What a change has come since Robert Schalkenbach set up his Foundation for the republication of Henry George's books, long out of print, without which Oscar Geiger probably could not have started his School of Social Science, having no text-books! And as I look into these young and eager faces I realize that, even though they cannot yet speak with the eloquence of a George or a McGlynn, wisdom is not going to die with us—that a new force, one that we oldsters have lost to a large degree, has come into the movement



and that the work will be carried on to ultimate success after we are gone.

These young souls who have "seen the cat," that picture of a possible civilization that is hidden under the hideous overlay of disorder and conflict with which our "safe and sane" leaders have concealed it, have absorbed a philosophy that will be of inexpressible comfort and consolation in the stormy years that lie ahead, for they have learned, beyond any possibility of doubt, that there *is* a way by which the nations may escape from the horrid entanglement of economic lies in which they have enmeshed themselves, and establish a civilization that will not be a mockery of the word. They have learned what we graybeards learned long ago,—that it is not human nature, human cussedness, not even human selfishness, that has placed the world in its present miserable situation, but merely human ignorance, which can be remedied by the right kind of education.

"Education," forsooth. Get out the dictionary and look up the word "educē," from which the word "education" is derived, and learn that it is not a filling up of youthful minds with so-called knowledge as we fill a jug with water, but a bringing out and developing of mental capacities, of the cultivating the power to think straight and truly on matters that come before us. It is the developing of the understanding, the cultivation of wisdom.

At the funeral of Henry George more than forty years ago the late Willis Abbott, who I believe was a Harvard man, gave me forceful instruction in what "mis-education" has done and is doing to the world. I had said to him, mournfully:

"What a pity it is that Henry George did not have a college or university education, so that the scholastic economist might hold his philosophy in higher respect and esteem!"

Mr. Abbott looked at me, pityingly, and then ejaculated with a heat that was unusual for him:

"For God's sake, never say it. If Henry George had ever gone through a university, all that marvellous philosophy would have been educated out of him!"

Yes, these efforts of our economic amateurs to tell us what they have learned in our School of Social Science are sweet music to me and inspire me with a desire to sing, "Tell me the old, old, story." They will soon acquire the poise of old campaigners and the power to think on their feet, and will cultivate more successfully the soil which we oldsters have been preparing for cultivation. As I listened to them I thought of that line beginning, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic": "Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

So let not our new recruits be discouraged if their first efforts to express the truth that is destined to make men free are not faultless. "Practice makes perfect," and practice they must have. The ability to speak well in public, it seems to me, depends chiefly on the ability to think on one's feet to which I have just alluded. It is an ability in which I, to my grief, am sadly lacking.

Clifton, N. J.

STEPHEN BELL.

### THE INTEREST QUESTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

There are some people who think it is a waste of time to discuss what is to happen to interest incomes under the Henry George policy. One of your correspondents regards the discussion between L. D. Beckwith and Allan C. Thompson as a matter that need concern these two, only. Nothing, I think, could be farther from the truth. Henry George and those who have followed him have not been content to merely point to the remedy for our economic ills, but have been at pains to show the various effects that would follow the adoption of his plan. Why then should we not be at equal pains to show what would be the effect on investments? Supposing that the earnings of the people increased to such an extent that everyone became a capitalist, with ample funds to supply his needs; supposing that businesses, large and small, would be capitalized by those employed within them; and that in consequence there would be little or no demand for "loans," and that interest rates would go to zero, would

it not be well for us to enlighten the people accordingly? There are large numbers who claim that our policy "does not go far enough." They assert that, while we would effectively deal with landowner we would leave untouched other parasites, e.g., the drawers of interest and they ask, "Why not socialize everything and cut out all parasitism?" These people are electors and we must get their votes before we can hope to bring in our policy. I, for one, believe that so long as we preach (with Beckwith) that, under free conditions, wages will double or treble, and that "interest and wages rise together," so long will we fail to put our plan over. I contend, therefore, that it is of the utmost importance that we make up our minds on this point and the only way we can arrive at a decision is by free and open discussion. If we decide that interest (under free conditions) will be eliminated, and can prove this, the objection that we "do not go far enough" will be completely answered.

112 Yorkshire House, Auckland, New Zealand. C. H. NIGHTINGALE.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

IN a letter to the Schalkenbach Foundation secretary, J. Rupe Mason gives the following interesting summary of the situation in California:

"Between now and November 8 there is certain to be fought one of the most spirited campaigns anywhere, and every Single Taxer of the world over ought to get in it.

Already the California Irrigation, Drainage, Reclamation and other similar districts borrow money for improvements, which is repaid from assessments on taxes on the land. Neither buildings nor improvements of any kind are taxed for any purpose by these districts. They include the land that is producing about 80 per cent in value of the agricultural crops grown in California, which state leads the nation in value of crops now grown. But speculators have learned from dear experience that they simply cannot afford to hold land idle in these districts; that they must improve or sell to someone that will. And that is enough to sour them on Single Tax or any thing like it. Judge Ralston's amendment will be as viciously fought and lied about as though it came direct from Moscow, and enemies will spare no expense nor effort to overwhelm the voters. Experienced speakers are going to be muchly needed and any friends of Henry George who can afford to do so should plan to come here, take their coats and lend a hand, as they feel qualified and able. It is an opportunity that may not come again, during our lifetime, and with reasonable help, I honestly feel we have a better than even chance to win. California people are so bitterly against sales taxes which this would abolish that they would prefer most any other kind of tax."

It is a painful duty to chronicle the deaths of a number of active Single Taxers. Among them is Lincoln Crowell of Sandwich, Mass., who was killed by a train. Details are lacking. He was long a friend and correspondent of LAND AND FREEDOM. Thomas Forster, a Georgianist for more than half a century, died at his farm in the Frazer River Valley, B. C., in his eighty-first year. He was elected three times to the legislature of British Columbia, and was speaker of the House from 1898 to 1900. Another to pass away is C. E. Cartwright, also of British Columbia. William F. Baxter of Omaha, has died. He was a merchant of that city and a friend of LAND AND FREEDOM for many years. He was an earnest advocate of the Henry George School and made liberal contributions to the local classes as well as to the main headquarters. His death will be sorely felt. In addition to this list of those who have passed on we should mention William Munro of Schenectady, N. Y. This news is conveyed by card from the Post Office of that city. We have received no other confirmation. Mr. Munro was the author and publisher of a number of pamphlets dealing with taxation from the Georgian standpoint and was lately engaged on a revision of one of these booklets.

HENRY WARE ALLEN writes suggesting that a volume should