

the situation and the community in general seems very well satisfied with the Graded Tax System. No recent suggestion of its repeal has come from any responsible source but Mayor Charles H. Kline, taking his cue evidently from the Real Estate Board, has proposed that a tax commission be appointed to study the question of other sources of revenue for the City. However, such a commission was appointed some years ago during the administration of Mayor Armstrong and nothing came of their labor and deliberations, for personal property taxes are not popular with Pittsburghers.

PERCY R. WILLIAMS.

Prize Essay Contest in Great Britain

FROM Mr. E. J. Brierley, Secretary of the Prize Essay Competition lately inaugurated by the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, comes the news that prizes in the sum of 200 pounds will be offered to senior and junior students, beginning next July, 1930, as follows:

Group 1. Seniors: Students attending Universities, Extension Classes, Workers Educational Associations, Cooperative Guilds, Social Study Circles, Societies, Associations, or organizations interested in Social Problems, and also private persons.

Essay Subject for 1930: THE LAW OF RENT AND ITS RELATION TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH: Essays not to exceed 4,000 words in length.

Group II. Juniors: Students in secondary schools, intermediate and higher elementary, Junior Technical, Private Schools, or other educational institutions not comprised in Group I.

Essay subject for 1930: ECONOMICAL AND MORAL TEACHING OF HENRY GEORGE: Essays not to exceed 2,000 words.

The competitions commence next summer, prospectuses being mailed by the Foundation in July, 1930. The essays, due March 24, 1931, will be judged by the Trustees of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, and the results communicated by circular to each competitor and announced in *The Times*, first week of June, 1931, and in the June, 1931, issue of *Land and Liberty*.

Mr. Brierley attended the Edinburgh Conference last August and was greatly interested in Mrs. deMille's account of essay contest work in the United States. At Mrs. deMille's instance Professor Brierley corresponded with the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation for particulars concerning the recent Annie C. George Prize Essay Contest. Professor Brierley expresses the hope, in a letter to the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, that an international competition along similar lines might some day be held.—ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN.

Alexander Hamilton Recalls Land Tax Campaign

THE *Victoria Daily Colonist* gives a quite lengthy report of an address delivered in that city before the Henry George Association of Victoria by Alexander Hamilton. His talk dwelt chiefly on the career of John Cunningham Brown.

Mr. Brown, said Mr. Hamilton, built up a distinguished career as a journalist, a postmaster and warden of the penitentiary at New Westminster, apart from municipal politics. As soon as the people of New Westminster saw his efficiency in the city council they elected him to the Legislature of the province. He was instrumental in altering taxation so that high-priced land should pay the highest taxes, and he further managed to secure a \$500 exemption on improvements upon each pre-emption, which exemption was afterwards increased by the Oliver Government to \$1,500.

"No matter what party is in power," Mr. Hamilton concluded, "the Single Tax is an economic necessity. His colleagues were amateurs, but Brown was armed and equipped with the irresistible logic of Henry George."

Back in 1889 three workingmen, W. W. Forrester, Thomas Turnbull and Alexander Hamilton, published the *Single Tax Advocate*, which continued publication for three years. John Cunningham Brown read the first issue and then read "Progress and Poverty." He went into politics and put the province of British Columbia on the Single Tax map. Two Single Taxers were elected to office in the elections that ensued, Thomas Forrester and Robert McPherson, but Brown was the most influential of the group. The work they accomplished was in the teeth of a hostile majority, and it stands today in the law of the province with very slight backward steps.

Alexander Hamilton is still active in the work. He lives on Pender Island. Here amid a population of only a few hundred is an active Single Tax club which meets at the members' houses and in which Mr. Hamilton is a moving spirit.

Progress in New Jersey

THE Federation of Taxpayers and Civic Associations of Bergen County is to consider the Henry George theory of Single Tax which would remove the tax from industry and place it on unproductive and unimproved land, was instanced Monday night when James J. Cunningham of Bergenfield, president of the association, gave notice that he will move such a resolution at the January meeting of the organization.

Declaring that the personal property tax was driving industry from the state and that some other system was necessary if it were to be retained, he called upon the representatives present to give consideration to the matter and report the attitude of their respective associations at the next meeting.

Urging them to go slowly, however, he pointed out that