

rents and royalties received from State lands as given above amounts to \$421,656.78.

This sum total of annual rentals is more than double the amount paid and pledged from sales of State lands. The sales are made at mere nominal sums. In other words, these lands, belonging to State School Department and institutions, the birth-right of the people, are being sold for a mess of pottage. Undoubtedly, if the school teachers and others interested could have their attention drawn to these facts, they would bring about a change in the laws that would prevent the sale of any more State lands. Otherwise in a few years there will be no land to lease and bring income to the different permanent funds.

Unlike the unfair method used in Arizona, Colorado's Land Commissioners will not sell land rented after the tenant has developed it; but grants "immunity" leases, under which agricultural and grazing land is withheld from sale during the term of the lease, most of the leases being of this character. The leases are generally granted for a term of five years, and the lessee is permitted to cut timber on the land for building fences and for fuel. The term of other leases is often for a greater number of years.

In all grazing and agricultural leases, the Board reserves the right to lease the land for mining purposes, and to sell the timber on it. Likewise, in all sales of land, the right is reserved to the State of Colorado to all rights to all minerals, ores, and metals of every kind, and all coal, asphaltum, oil, gas, and other substances in the land, and the right of way for mining, and enough of the surface to conveniently work it for minerals.

—EDWARD P. E. TROY.

Pennsylvania

THE annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Committee of the Commonwealth Land party met June 9, at which time the following officers were elected: John W. Dix, Chairman; Frederick E. Mayer, Treasurer, and Julian P. Hickok, Secretary. As this is not a state year the party will make no effort to get on the ballot, but will take some action on referendums to be submitted at the polls this Fall for public improvements, etc.

Several resolutions were passed at this meeting, the following being the one of general interest, and others covering the Philadelphia franchise situation:

WHEREAS public improvements are a positive factor in the creation of land values: it is

RESOLVED that the proper construction and use of public improvements and justice to industry and commerce depend upon the financing of all public improvements whatsoever by a direct assessment upon all land benefited in proportion to benefits received rather than upon financing through general property taxation.

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Queensland

PERHAPS readers of LAND AND FREEDOM may like to read a few notes from this corner of the earth. A general election has just been held in this state and has resulted in a change of government. The Labor Party which has held the reins of power for fourteen years has been overthrown and a coalition government—Nationalist and Country Party—has come into power with a good working majority.

The reason for the Labor defeat can be attributed to the fact that its rule has not resulted in the improvement in the condition of the people that was promised and fondly hoped for; and the disappointed people have concluded to try a new broom. Georgian Single Taxers are now in a position to say to their Socialist friends, "I told you so."

Queensland at the moment is crying out for somebody to show the way to abolish unemployment, and there are signs that in some quarters Henry George is more likely to get a hearing than has been the case for many years.

It is deplorable to find the subject of unemployment treated by members of Parliament, in letters to the press, and in the sermons of the clergy as if it were a natural phenomenon instead of the result of human folly.

From a Single Tax viewpoint there is not much hope of any permanent general improvement since the present government has pledged itself to reduce the tax on land values. In the last session members of the opposition moved in that direction, claiming that the land value tax fell upon the farmers. When the other side of the house replied that it fell most heavily on city land they were informed that in that case it was added to the price of things made in the city and sold to the farmers. This led to some newspaper correspondence in which the present scribe argued that if ploughs, for instance, were made on land of varying degrees of value they were all sold at the same price. And that a good site for manufacturing or other purposes was an advantage, and did not add to the cost of production but the reverse.

The Queensland Henry George League, which came into existence last September, is doing its best to encourage the study of the works of the great leader and kindred literature. They meet once a month in the city, when a paper is read or an address given which is thoroughly discussed. The May meeting was notable for an able paper read by William Kearney, in which he advocated free railways, which he claimed would so increase the value of land that a tax on this value would pay the cost of railroad operation. He claimed that as the land belongs equally to all men it is not right for some men to own land near the center while others must be content to live miles away from anywhere, and that a free railway would put a far-away man on more of an equality with the near-by man. He showed that under present conditions the distant producer is handicapped by fares and freights both

in sending his goods to market and in getting his supplies from market.

The Congregational Church of Australia has been having a congress here, and delegates, lay and clerical, have come from six Australian states, and from the dominion of New Zealand. Among them were a few Single Taxers. From New Zealand we got Sir George Fowlds, known the world over for his consistent and persistent advocacy of our principles. From Sydney came Mr. P. J. Firth who addressed the Congress on "Peace in Industry." He told them that any peace worth while must be founded on justice, that if industrial peace involved injustice between employer and employee, a conspiracy between them to rob the consumer, then strikes, lock-outs, and unrest were inevitable.

He showed the object lesson that Australia had given to the world of a series of wonderful and expensive devices for the preservation of industrial peace which had not tended to invite imitation, for the results were anything but satisfactory. He attributed the dissatisfaction of the Australian workers to the fact that nearly thirty years ago they were fooled by promises that if they would adopt a high tariff policy they would have high wages all the year round, and that internal competition would give them cheap living. Always when the promises failed to materialize they were advised to increase the tariff. But unemployment is still with us and internal competition has not reduced prices. Neither had the tariff succeeded in keeping out imports to the encouragement of home manufacture. "In fact," said Mr. Firth, "after 28 years of Industrial Legislation the workers feel that they have been fooled by industrial courts and fixation of wages, just as they were fooled by the high tariff and the promises of its advocates."

Mr. Firth found another reason for disappointment and dissatisfaction in the fact that though Australia had applied in small part the principles of Henry George, involuntary poverty has not disappeared because such partial application as has been made of these principles has been largely and perniciously discounted by taxation robbery. Referring to the church idea that a meeting of employers and employed in the Christian spirit of give and take would go far toward solving the trouble, Mr. Firth said though he sympathized with that spirit it involved a wrong diagnosis; men did not strike because they were unfriendly to their employers, but because they hoped to better their condition, and employers did not shut down owing to any unfriendly spirit, but because they knew they would lose more by keeping open.

After clearly expounding the beneficent effects that the Single Tax would bring about in the production and distribution of wealth, Mr. Firth urged his audience to consider if our industrial problems are not due to the failure to recognize the economic laws which a benevolent heavenly father has framed for our guidance. He concluded by

urging that if his hearers were in earnest about industrial peace they retrace the steps taken during the last three decades, abolish all their custom houses, open their ports to the good things of the world and raise their federal, states and local revenues as does the city of Brisbane.

I might add for the information of readers of LAND AND FREEDOM that improvements are not taxed in Brisbane, but though unimproved land values bear the burden of municipal expenses, we have a very hap-hazard method of valuation. Very much land is under-valued and rates therefore appear to be immoderately high. Also there are some charges that fall on the users of public utilities and not on land served by them. But there is no doubt that if the measure of Single Tax enjoyed in Queensland were abolished our industrial troubles would be even greater than they are.

EDWIN I. S. HARDING.

More Bunk for the Farmer

SINCE the Democrats have become protectionists their support of the debenture clause in the farm relief bill is at least consistent, regardless of how wide a departure it marks from the historic tenets and traditions of that party. By the same token those Republicans who denounced the debenture plan as socialistic and paternalistic, which it is, are open to the charge of inconsistency in view of their historic support of the tariff demands of the textile manufacturers of New England and the steel manufacturers of Pennsylvania and Ohio.

To our way of thinking the debenture scheme of the farm relief bill is a preferable plan of plunder to the tariff. In economics both are indefensible. But the debenture clause in the farm relief bill is at least definite and direct. The tariff has always been indirect and insidious. The one openly and frankly makes a raid on the federal treasury for a particular class, the farmers, but the amount is fixed and comes directly out of federal funds. The tariff is less honest in that it amounts to an unconstitutional sale of the tax powers of the nation to a particular class, the manufacturers, and the enormous amounts it extracts from the consuming masses are only conjectural, but admittedly mount into the millions annually.

Just how the farmers divide numerically on the debenture plan cannot, of course, be accurately ascertained. Its rooters among farm leaders make enough noise to indicate that they are in the majority. And yet we can scarcely believe that a majority of the real, thinking, dirt farmers of the United States can be deceived into the belief that they will actually profit financially by this debenture scheme in the way and to the extent the protected manufacturers have profited the last sixty years. If they are so deceived they can have only themselves to blame during the long and painful process of debunking thru which they must inevitably go if their proposed raid on the treasury receives the sanction of law.