

coming that it is interesting an increasing number of readers. The comments are admirable in tone and temper, and are provocative of further inquiry on the part of the readers.

Our purpose in calling attention to it is that it is a form of propaganda worthy of imitation. Not many may be able to equal Mr. Caffall in writing suggestive paragraphs. But this gentleman is not a newspaper man by profession, and what he is doing others may be able to do. Editors of town weeklies, and even of the smaller dailies, will welcome the contributing editor who will dress his thoughts in attractive newspaper setting, make it topical, give it a local interest, and supply the matter with some sort of regularity.

That many of our readers can do this we believe, and in this way the editors as well as their readers may be educated. It will be found that habit in this sort of composition will give unexpected proficiency in expression, and that many who doubt their ability to do this sort of work will be surprised how easy it will become after a time.

## A Victory for Oscar Geiger's Son

**G**EORGE RAYMOND GEIGER, son of Oscar H. Geiger, won the Gold Medal First Prize at DeWitt Clinton High School last week in the Metz Medal Debate.

Their medals, gold, silver and bronze, are awarded each year by Herman A. Metz, former Comptroller of New York, to the best debates in "Clinton."

The subject this year was "Compulsory Arbitration of Labor Disputes," George Geiger being on the affirmative and his side winning the decision over the negative.

The judges in their award, declared this year's debate to have been the most masterfully handled and the most closely contested debate of any ever held in the High School, each argument advanced being taken up and squarely met by the opposing side instead of each debater making individual orations that pass each other as the "Ships that pass in the night."

The judges paid George the compliment of stating in their award that in all but the first prize they were divided in their opinions as to the relative merit of the prize winners, but that in their award of the gold medal to him as both the best debater and the winner for his side, their choice was unanimous.

George Geiger is a member of the Round Table Club, a class of ten boys, pupils of Oscar Geiger, whom he has developed to a high state of proficiency as public speakers and experts on economic and political subjects. The debates in which these boys have taken part have attracted large audiences and much flattering comment.

ALL the sufferings against which the civilized nations have to struggle may be referred to the exclusive right of property in the soil as their source.—PROF. LACHARIE.

## A Stirring Appeal

**T**HE following stirring appeal has been sent out by Gerrit Johnson to many thousands of sympathizers with the California movement for the emancipation of the people of that State:

"There is every indication that kind Providence has set the stage so as to free the State of California from the curse of landlordism. Rents are soaring sky high, and the question is seeping through the minds of those who have to pay high rents—why all this vacant land?"

The Los Angeles daily papers of February 6th made the announcement that there would be two mass meetings that evening by the homeless people, to protest against high rents. In these same papers were still larger announcements that a man by the name of Clark had placed an order for a magnificent marble tomb to cost \$250,000, which was to be placed in one of our local cemeteries. What a lesson! One man spends a fortune for a marble hall to lay his useless bones, while thousands are protesting because they have no place to lay their heads.

Our present civilization is much like a soap bubble; it looks beautiful while it is afloat, but pick it with a pin and it bursts; there is nothing to it. It is hollow and has no soul. But why blame the rich? They are simply a product of our making. We cannot change the nature of man until we give the soul and not the hog in him a chance for full expression.

Single Tax is the only safe and sane solution for our economic and moral problems. It is not only a political measure, but a moral issue. It is a real religious movement, with the God of justice back of it. Single Taxers have heard the voice of God, telling them to strike the shackles off the earth and free the land.

Los Angeles is a city of many churches. A great many of them draw beautiful pictures representing Jesus with outstretched arms, saying: "Suffer little children to come unto me." Yet, if we want to rent an apartment or bungalow from one of the members, you are usually met with the words, "No kids wanted!"

The Los Angeles *Examiner* of January 25th contained a picture of a woman with her two children. She was publicly offering her unborn babe to anyone who could properly take care of it. Her mother love was great, but the demand of the profiteer was greater. In all our display of wealth such sights are common.

Los Angeles also has 29 dog hospitals with full-fledged doctors and graduate nurses. See them operate on a dog, so carefully and tenderly; and then see the hundreds—yes, thousands of human beings who are supposed to be made in the image of their Creator, struggling for an existence. Is it any wonder we sometimes feel the earth tremble? Some may call it an earthquake, but who knows. It may be the mysterious warning of a just God. The Anti-Single Taxers seem perfectly contented with these conditions. They are the ones who own the unused land. Their leaders live in the millionaire rows. See them with their millions.

They are the ones who so largely support the million dollar churches and the dog hospitals.

The Anti-Single Taxers have a powerful organization. They have money to burn. They know that money largely controls the avenues of thought. They know that lies become as living truth, if often told. If you doubt this statement, just look the world over. They know that the Single Taxers have the best of the argument. They dare no longer stand up before the ballot box, which is the American bar of justice. They have evolved a new scheme. They would destroy the power of the initiative and referendum by changing the law so that it will take 25 per cent. instead of 8 per cent. of the total votes cast to place the amendment on the ballot. They would thereby make any change in tax law prohibitive, and by so doing they would make themselves safe with their idle land. No, don't blame the rich; even though we could reverse the conditions between the struggling mothers and the patrons of the dog hospitals, these conditions would remain the same. Struggling mothers and dog lovers must both be given an equal opportunity.

If you have had just a little glimpse of that beautiful vision held by Henry George, you will realize that there is only one way out—with the ballot we must free the land, and let human beings have the same privilege as the birds of the air, to build their nests in any place not in use.

California Single Taxers are standing shoulder to shoulder. The line of cleavage is sharply drawn between them and the Anti's. It will be a battle royal until the votes are counted in November.

Single Taxers are fighting for the landless people; for the young men and women who want to live clean lives; for the mother who wants to raise her own children. Single Taxers would be good to dogs, but they believe in children first. In this struggle to emancipate ourselves from hypocrisy and landlordism, what will you do? Go look into the glass and ask yourself: "What should I do?" Go into communion with yourself, with the God that is within you, and then let your conscience dictate the amount.

Yours for a better world,

GERRIT J. JOHNSON.

**W**E gather from the *Revista del Impuesto Unico*, of Buenos Aires, news of Dr. Octavio de Souza Caneiro, mayor of Nichteroy, capital of the State of Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Souza Caneiro is an enthusiastic Georgist and succeeded in establishing the Single Tax for revenue purposes in his city. In other ways he was a conspicuous figure in his country, occupying the post of technical director of the great Brazilian steamship line, the Lloyd Nacional.

THE necessary relation between labor and land, the absolute power which the ownership of land gives over men who cannot live but by using it, explains what is otherwise inexplicable—the growth and persistence of institutions, manners, and ideas so utterly repugnant to the natural sense of liberty and equality.—HENRY GEORGE.

## The Law of Rent and The Law of Wages

(ADDRESS BY ROY R. WATERBURY BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL AT BAKERSFIELD, MARCH 18.)

**I**N San Francisco there is a live Men's Club for the discussion of present-day problems, known as the Commonwealth Club. Labor leaders are among its principal speakers. Much research work is done through committees, which in turn report periodically to the Club. Some time ago the writer was asked by the president to designate the committee to which he would rather belong. He replied, "To the Committee on Industrial Relations," giving as his reason that he was a Single Taxer. He received a reply that he had better change his preference to that of the committee on taxation or the agriculture committee, as there seemed to be but a remote relation between the land question and the wage question.

Strangely enough, at a previous time I had received an almost similar reply from the secretary of the law and legislative committee of the Central Labor Council of San Francisco in response to a request of the writer asking for a hearing by their committee on the form the next Single Tax measure should assume, he writing me "there were other things of much greater importance to which organized labor must give its attention."

Now, is there only a remote relation between the land question and the wage question?—and is there anything of more fundamental importance to labor than the land question?

To each of these propositions my answer is an emphatic "No!" It is what one can produce on land at the margin of cultivation which determines the prevailing wage in the cities as well as in the rural communities.

The land question is at the bottom of the wage question. It is what labor can make employing itself on a piece of land which determines what it will obtain in the form of wages elsewhere.

What one can make for himself on a piece of land after paying rent determines the going wage not only for the farm hand, but for the laborer in the city as well.

The law of rent and the law of wages are therefore complements of each other. Labor gets what it produces less what is absorbed in the form of ground rent. If the basis for ground rent is two-fifths of the amount of wealth produced (as it is in many rural communities) it means that labor is getting but three-fifths of what it produces. This approximates the extent of the robbery to which labor is subjected today. In other words, the man getting \$6.00 today should get \$10.00, and the man getting \$10.00 should receive \$16.00. He should get this without experiencing a diminution in the purchasing power of the dollar he receives.

But to attempt to get such an increase without putting a stop to unearned incomes flowing into the pockets of