

## Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

IN making his report to the Board of Trustees of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, our president, Mr. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, said:

"In giving some necessarily condensed account of the activities of the Foundation during the last year, I am disposed to emphasize the idea that the chief justification for our existence is such success as we may be able to show in the work of spreading the light of the philosophy and economic teachings of Henry George

"The United States courts have declared us to be an educational institution and nothing else. Judged by that standard, I think our year's work, considering our limited financial resources, has been quite fruitful, in the matter of publicity, directly or indirectly stimulated by our work. I cannot recall any period since Henry George's death during which his name and his teachings have been brought to the eyes and ears of great multitudes of people with more force than in recent months.

"I would refer, for example, to the syndicated articles of Gilbert Seldes, who accomplished in the space of a column an eloquent and accurate explication of the Single Tax philosophy. Two leading editorials by Bernarr MacFadden in *Liberty*, a magazine of more than 2,500,000 circulation, were undoubtedly effective. In line with these events, there has been a tremendous increase in friendly editorial comment upon George's teachings as a possible way out of the world's difficulties, and a great increase of newspaper correspondence along the same line—all of which may be seen by an even casual inspection of our voluminous scrap books of newspaper clippings for the year.

"I should refer also to the obviously tremendous influence of radio publicity on three notable occasions within recent months: once when Bernard Shaw, talking over a nation-wide hook-up to some millions of people, delivered his remarkable eulogy of Henry George as the man who had first turned his thought toward the necessity for social and economic justice. Again when John W. Davis, bidding farewell to Ramsay MacDonald in another nation-wide hook-up, eulogized Henry George as 'that great citizen of New York.' Mr. Davis quoted from 'Progress and Poverty' as follows:

'This we may know certainly; this we may hold to confidently: that which is right can harm no man; that which is wrong can profit no man. Though all other lights swing and circle, this is the pole star by which we may safely steer.'

"Last was the address of Prof. John Dewey over the station WEVD to an undoubtedly large New York audience, when he demonstrated to his hearers that land monopoly and land speculation were the basic causes of the economic prostration of the country, and when he

recommended with great earnestness the reading of the books of Henry George.

"Not the least of the accomplishments of the Foundation during the year has been its part in the publication by the house of Macmillan of that really great book, 'The Philosophy of Henry George,' by Prof. George Raymond Geiger. This is a work that carries on its face not merely the evidences of intensive research and scholarship but much more. It must elevate Henry George in the minds of all who will read the book to a high place as a statesman and teacher of sound and practical policies of government, as well as a most eloquent preacher of righteousness in social relationships. I think it is the most important work published since George's death, with the possible exception of the biography by Henry George, Jr. It must remain for many years, it seems to me, an inspiring 'source book,' not merely for the followers of Henry George, but for all who would seek to understand his teachings.

"Significant and eloquent reviews of this book have appeared in the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *New York Evening Post*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *New Bedford Standard Times*, *Syracuse Post Standard*, etc., and we are assured that other reviews of importance are coming.

"In this connection I would like to quote three significant letters. One is from 'Bob' Davis, eminent American journalist. He writes:

'Dear Mr. Hennessy: 'The Philosophy of Henry George is a magnificent book, and Dr. John Dewey's introduction will be of tremendous value in re-awakening interest in the immortal Henry George. I propose to read the whole volume and again saturate myself with the doctrines of a thinker who will outlive the numerous stuffed shirts elevated to high places in a land supposed to be free. I congratulate you upon the part you played in keeping alive the doctrines of so great a man as The Prophet of San Francisco, who will some day be known as the Prophet of America.'

"Since receiving that letter I have talked with Mr. Davis who again assured me of his enthusiasm about this book. He is going to write about it, and as his column in *The Sun* is syndicated throughout the United States it will have a widespread effect.

"Another letter is from another Davis—John W. Davis, who quoted Henry George to some millions of people over the radio, as explained above, and he writes:

'I acknowledge with great pleasure the receipt from the Foundation of a copy of 'The Philosophy of Henry George.' I am now engaged in perusing it with interest and profit.'

"Among other letters was one from Mr. Grover C. Lond, an editor of the *New York Times*, enclosing \$5 for the purchase of two copies of 'The Philosophy,' and adding:

'One copy is for Robert Winsmore, a financial and economic writer. The other is for myself. Mr. Winsmore will probably write a review for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. I am leaving such a review to the proper department of the *New York Times*. Both of us want to own the book for our own needs. It is a remarkable and timely work.'



"I may add that among others who have purchased the book is the Rev. Charles C. Coughlin, the famous Catholic priest of Michigan, whose radio messages have made him so well known.

"Forty-eight reviewers in magazines and newspapers received a copy of the book with accompanying literature to help them in any reviews that they might be able to prepare.

"Orders are being filled at the Foundation office and the books are sent promptly, postage paid, upon the receipt of check or money order for \$2.50.

"Incidentally during the year a number of prominent public men have, in response to a letter of mine, written some observations about Henry George, among them being Governor Pinchot of Pennsylvania; Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, U. S. Senator Dill, Oswald Garrison Villard, Prof. John Erskine, Prof. John R. Commons, and Norman Thomas.

"During the budget year two new printings of 'Progress and Poverty' have been ordered. In August, 1932, 2,696 copies of a fourth printing of the Fiftieth Anniversary unabridged edition were ordered, and appropriate jackets designed for the book to aid in bookstore distribution. As this supply is to be exhausted within a few weeks a new order has been placed for 2,500 additional copies. This will represent a fifth printing of the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition which was originally prepared and launched in August 1929, and of which 10,587 copies have now been distributed.

"Two hundred copies of 'What Is the Single Tax?' by L. F. Post were reprinted during the year. Two hundred copies of 'The Science of Political Economy' were purchased from the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain; and 400 Henry George Calendars were purchased from Henry Ware Allen of Wichita, Kan.

"Since May 1932, the Foundation has distributed by sale and otherwise, 5,353 books, 11,201 Single Tax pamphlets, and 266 Henry George Calendars.

"In summing up the number of printed pieces edited, prepared and sent out from the office during the year we find a total of 136,000 pieces consisting of reprints of editorials and special articles and advertising booklets and circulars. This may give some idea of the use that is made of our small advertising and direct mail appropriation.

"This work has been done despite a year during which it was practically impossible to plan successful advertising activities, due to the unusual financial situation that the country was passing through. On the other hand, the opportunities for interesting the public were never so great, and the advertising and free literature distribution attempted to take full advantage of this interest.

"An average of fifteen books per day go out of the office and since most of the orders are for one book at a time, it may be assumed that an equal number of letters per day come to the desk for answer and disposal. The mail-

ing list comprises more than 8,000 names and some of the people on the list are always in correspondence with the office on one matter or another, so that there is an exceedingly active correspondence throughout the year. There are also over 200 consignment accounts with book firms and individuals that necessitate bookkeeping and a careful billing system at the end of each month.

"Three hundred books were donated during the year, and the following were among the recipients: Library of Warsaw, Library of Geneva, New York Public Library, League for Independent Democracy, Friends' School, American Institute of Roumania, 115 Georgia libraries; economics department libraries in several schools and colleges.

"In closing I might quote from some letters received from new friends made through our advertising and direct mail activities:

"A student in Culver High School writes:

"Your pamphlets received, and I certainly appreciate the time and effort you have taken to send me this literature which is very valuable as it will make my paper more interesting. If it is satisfactory to you I have taken the books for the library and placed them in our school library where I think they will be of more value to the students. Our school issues a weekly paper and I shall make note to mention the donation of these books in the paper."

"From Mr. Edwin J. Jones, Westfield, N. J., who wrote a good letter to the *New York Times* on March 13 entitled 'Changing Our Tax Systems':

"I desire to extend warmest thanks for your letter of March 13, in which the Foundation management commends my letter on the taxation of land values as printed in the *New York Times*. Your gift of pamphlets is appreciated, and I shall make good use of them. I quite agree with Mr. Hennessy who stresses the importance of letters to the newspapers on putting the George philosophy into practice. I was in the newspaper business 37 years and know what an engine for good will newspaper publicity is."

"From Mrs. L. Maxwell, whose husband is a teacher in Ethical Culture School. (Mr. Maxwell bought a 'Progress and Poverty' in a bookstore, and some of our printed advertising literature was in the book. This led Mrs. Maxwell to visit the Foundation office.)

"Until six weeks ago I had only heard of Single Tax; but since I have read 'Progress and Poverty,' I am convinced this is the way out for us—the real 'new deal.' I think the majority of voters in this nation under 50 years of age only need to learn of this, as I did, to be convinced of the soundness of a book that is truer now than when written. From now on I shall teach it in every way I can. Already I have interested some thirty or more people in reading it."

After reading the above report to the Board, Mr. Hennessy stated that he had been president since 1927 but that he felt he must now relinquish the presidency to some other member. The members urged Mr. Hennessy to reconsider his resignation but after further explanation of personal and business reasons why he felt it necessary to resign, his resignation was accepted. He stated



however, that he would still serve upon the Executive Committee. Mr. John J. Murphy was re-elected vice-president; Mr. Holt, treasurer; Miss Kaufmann, secretary, and Mr. Rusby and Mr. Hennessy together with the officers will serve upon the executive committee.

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary.

## World's Fair and Chicago Single Tax Convention

WITH the opening on May 17 of Chicago's Century Progress Exposition, active Single Taxers in all parts of the country are giving evidences of their purpose to so time their travels as to combine in one trip their visit to the World's Fair and attendance at the Eighth Annual Henry George Congress, to be held September 18, 19 and 20, when climatic conditions in Chicago will be ideal and circumstances favorable for seeing the exposition to the best advantage. It is evident from the money invested and the elaborate preparations made that the Century of Progress will prove to be a truly great spectacle and will attract great crowds, thus providing a most favorable setting for a record-breaking gathering of the disciples of Henry George at a time when the whole world is awake to the vital importance of economic problems.

Considerable progress has already been made on the formation of a strong programme. The convention committee is getting its forces well organized under the able leadership of Clayton J. Ewing, chairman and George M. Strachan, vice-chairman, and Secretary Williams at the Pittsburgh headquarters is also on the lookout for strong features for the Chicago gathering. Indications are that an exceptionally fine array of speaking talent will be available this year, which will give the committee a considerable range of choice and permit of a more deliberate planning of topics and discussion than has been possible in recent conventions.

With the country still in the throes of an unparalleled industrial depression, the Single Taxers of America will make exceptional efforts at Chicago to direct public attention to the Single Tax as a great fundamental remedy. Movements in behalf of definite legislation or constitutional amendments having recently been launched in a number of states, there will be up-to-the-minute reports of the latest developments from all sections. Among the topics which will be featured at Chicago will be the relationship of proper land utilization to national prosperity with particular reference to the possibilities of making large areas of land that have recently reverted to the states for non-payment of taxes, available for the unemployed on an enclavial basis or otherwise.

In order to stimulate interest and foster a wholesome rivalry, Chairman Ewing is arranging for an Attendance Contest between the States to determine which will have the honor of bringing the largest number to the convention

of 1933, when for the first time the Henry George Foundation is paying a return visit to a convention city. Illinois as the convention host will refrain from participation in this contest, but the Chicago Single Tax Club is already prepared to guarantee a big local attendance as a nucleus on which to build. In order to be fair to all participants, the rules of the contest will provide for due consideration to be given to the population of the respective states and the mileage distance from Chicago traveled by the various delegates. The winning State will be accorded due honors either through the presentation of some trophy to the Single Tax League or Club represented by the largest number under the rules, or by individual prizes if a suitable distribution can be arranged.

The Medinah Athletic Club, one of the world's most magnificent club buildings, heretofore reserved for private use but now open to the public, has been chosen as the official convention headquarters. It is situated at 505 North Michigan Avenue, close to the heart of Chicago, and has every facility and convenience, yet offers very moderate rates. Its tower reaches 42 stories above the ground and the club contains 442 guest rooms, all with private bath; rates at \$3.00 per day, single, and \$5.00 per day, double rooms.

Chairman Ewing is enlisting a strong corps of able assistants to man each of the several sub-committees who will have charge of the various duties incident to the convention. Associate Secretary John Lawrence Monroe is contacting the numerous Henry George Clubs throughout the country, including those recently organized, with a view to securing representation from every organization if possible, and is also giving special attention to enlisting greater representation from the youth of the Single Tax movement.

All persons interested, and particularly Single Taxers representing other nations who plan to visit Chicago this year, are urged to promptly communicate with the headquarters of the Henry George Foundation, 238 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**"I**F a tax interferes with business let business stop," says the sales tax legislator.

**T**O accomplish a worthy object by stealing is not commendable, not even if the object is to balance the budget.

**H**AVING taxed industry into a depression Congress aims to relieve the situation by putting more taxes on industry.

**A** GOOD president is one who will aim to put more land value taxes into the treasury and fewer taxes on labor. Let's see, who was our last good president?

POVERTY is a disgrace—to the nation where it exists.