

January—February, 1933

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

An International Record of Single Tax Progress Founded in 1901

Technocracy—Oh, Shades of Malthus!

The Relation of
Single Tax to Other Reforms

Chester C. Platt

Three Men in a Boat

J. Archer

The Mad Hatter Again

John Paul

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No. 1

Comment and Reflection

SUPPOSING it were true that the average legislator in national, state and local bodies was as stupid as people, subconsciously, are beginning to believe he is, would it not seem that even then one or more would awaken to a realization of certain obvious relationships affecting the problem of unemployment. Apparently our legislators are not even able to define "unemployment," which is but the failure of the cooperation of two factors, Land and Labor. If they think at all of land they think of it as a medium for raising cabbages, never as a basis for the erection and a source for extracting material for houses, skyscrapers, factories and department stores. They think of the land only as a farmer and think even in this way in a much restricted sense.

SUPPOSE it is true that our legislators cannot define "land" any more than they can define "unemployment." Suppose they never read a line of Henry George, and know nothing of political economy, yet does it not seem strange that the fact should fail to occur to them that employment is provided by land to all those wanting employment, either in the Garden of Eden or the city of Chicago. Is it true, as Sherlock Holmes says in a recent screen play, "The obvious escapes attention?" It would seem so, for it is perfectly obvious that the way to provide employment is to put men on the land.

SO the legislators whose observation overlooks the obvious might be moved to the consideration that groups of men should be put on the land through any means available, preferably of course by the means of land value taxation, but *any* means that would open land to occupation, any means that would bring together the now dis-united factors of Land and Labor.

IT is for this reason that we venture to hope that something will come out of Abe Waldauer's move for the establishment of a soldier's enclave on Georgist lines in Tennessee. We are wondering, however, if when Waldauer's city grows to a million inhabitants whether the obvious will still escape attention. But we think not. Perhaps we may vision the establishment of a state that might grow out of it in which the obvious relationship of Land and Labor will no longer escape observation. It would be too large a phenomenon to be passed over in silence.

IN the ignoring of the obvious the legislators of all countries are not alike. The lawmakers of Denmark are exceptions. Here is a little country with the lowest tariff in the world; it is probably the most prosperous country in the world. It has made real advances on Henry George lines; that great man is probably better known in Denmark than in the land of his birth. The backbone of the movement there are the working farmers, the husmænd, and we invite the attention of the American farmer to the fact. Here the farmer ignores the obvious, fearing that the taking of the economic rent would put a greater burden upon him. Our Danish brothers know better; they, like nearly all farmers everywhere, have very little economic rent to tax, and they would gladly give it all to have other taxes removed.

AND the Danish people are marching on. In another part of this issue will be found the news of the election of four SingleTax party members to the Danish parliament. This does not mean that they are the only members of the Government who have espoused the doctrines of Henry George, for there are a number of others, but these four are elected as representing a newly constituted political party. Everywhere in Denmark public sentiment is influenced by the fundamental teachings of the great American economist. The Danish people have a genius for the discovery of the obvious.

IN addition to the victory in Denmark for the cause of liberation, this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM bears other testimony to a stirring beneath the surface of things. Certainly the news from Ireland gives promise of what may occur in the Free State. Ireland has a traditional background from the days of the Brehon Code of Saint Patrick down to the notable teachings of Bishop Nulty and Michael Davitt. If this latent spirit can be aroused by such men as Robert Barton a flame may be lit in Ireland that will set all Erin afire.

IT is good news also that Professor Brinsmade reports from Mexico. Here, too, in Spanish America, there is a traditional background in the great figure of Rivadavia that appeals strongly to racial pride. The great Argentine president is known wherever Spanish is spoken in Latin America, and the name of the great American, Henry George, is linked with his in the new history that is now in the making. This movement of ours cannot much longer

be overshadowed by silly and fantastic suggestions to catch the ears of an ignorant public and newspapers eager for sensations.

IN a friendly notice of Henry Ware Allen in the Erie, Pa., *Dispatch-Herald* the columnist of that paper, Charles B. Driscoll, pays a deserved tribute to his friend, the Sage of Wichita. But he says:

"To me it seems unimportant whether anybody is converted to such a theory, whether it be true or false or just merely workable. I do not believe that the human race can be changed in any essential way by the passage of laws. Tax laws, behavior laws or laws against murder will not touch the human soul. If my neighbor is devoted to the true, the good and the beautiful I am his friend forever, whether he believes in one tax or 20, in kings or republics, in astrology or good groceries."

COMMENT on this would be that Mr. Driscoll may select his friends, as we all do, in many cases from among those who believe in many taxes or are ignorantly indifferent to all of them. That is because they have other qualities that appeal to us. We regret their lack of intelligence on the subject, but that does not interfere with long established friendships. Of course, too, laws cannot change human nature, but they may have a great influence upon human conduct. Men may be devoted to the study of the good and beautiful but it will do them very little good if laws are such as to hold them to the level of serfs, or give them no time for the cultivation of such instincts. Laws which rob labor of its reward are vastly more to be considered in their effects than Mr. Driscoll's friendships, however important they may seem to him.

WE print in this issue the address of Chester C. Platt at Memphis because it represents a school of thought among our adherents that is numerically, as well as intellectually, not insignificant. Mr. Platt, the well known Batavia, N. Y. editor and veteran Single Taxer, is as well grounded fundamentally in Henry George's principles as any of us. We print his views without comment, leaving our readers to express themselves in their own way.

FRANCIS W. MAGUIRE, the venerable Assistant Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, attained his eighty-first birthday on Friday, January 31, and in his capacity as Secretary of the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh, was the recipient of many hearty congratulations at the luncheon meeting of the club held on that day. The principal speaker of this meeting was Attorney William N. McNair, who at the suggestion of Mr. Maguire took as his topic, "Collect the Economic Rent and Make Pittsburgh a Tax Free City." Brief tributes were paid to the splendid devotion and effective work done by Mr. Maguire throughout his long years of active service.

Technocracy— Oh Shades of Malthus!

TECHNOCRACY! What a name and what a mouthful. And what a menace—or is it a promise? Human labor multiplied 3,000 times, 9,000 times, 9,000,000 times! Eventually, so the story goes, we may just push a button and be fed and clothed and housed and conveyed, all without human labor, served only by those slaves of iron and steel—the modern machine. Mayhap, we need not even push a button, but just wish and by some automatic thought-reading device have our every whim fully satisfied and no work to do.

Only a hundred years ago the Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus assured us that the human race must starve or die beyond a certain point because it could not produce (and never would produce) the subsistence it needed. That its power to produce food increased in an arithmetic ration (as 1, 2, 3, etc.) while human race reproduction proceeded in a geometric ratio (as 2, 4, 6, etc.) This being so, a knowledge of simple arithmetic should convince us that the race must soon outrun its ability to feed itself, and wars, disease and death must follow unless by abstinence or device we keep population down to its ability to produce. And now come great engineers speaking of production (all kinds of production) in Astronomical ratios! Surely Malthus and the engineer cannot both be right. Is it possible that both may be wrong?

Those who have not read Simeon Strunsky's article, "A Challenge to Technocracy," in the magazine section of the *New York Times*, of Sunday, January 8, are advised to do so if they want a treat. It would seem from this article that the Technocrats are human after all, and that even great engineers can err when they enter fields for which they are not fully prepared. But why spoil your treat?

We always suspected that something was wrong with this civilization. Byron Holt in a lecture at the Henry George School of Social Science recently told us that it has gone techno-crazy, and for want of a better term we accept his characterization as correctly describing its present mental condition.

We must plan, say the Technocrats—that is, *they* must plan. Mere mortals (albeit mortals comprise, among others, economists, sociologists, industrialists and statesmen) are not to be trusted. The planning is to be done by engineers. Thus is our engineering age made complete. Engineers have gotten us into the muddle, engineers must get us out.

Mechanical engineers built our machines, efficiency engineers perfected our production, industrial engineers organized our industry, and isn't it machines and productive perfection that are now producing so much food and clothing and shelter that many of us have not enough to eat and to wear or where to live and to do business?

Who, then, but engineers can lead us out of the mess we are in? Engineers alone know how it was done, and engineers alone know how it can be undone.

Do they now advise breaking up the machines and disorganizing the perfected arrangements that make possible so great a production with so little labor? Do they advise going back to some primitive state in which man-power would take the place of machine-power, a state in which labor would have an opportunity to work every day, and many hours every day? Perish the thought!

We must plan, they tell us—that is, *they* must plan. We must keep the machines and the organization, but we must plan to keep production down to the level of consumption. If people do not want food and clothing and homes and stores and lofts and automobiles and schools and high-class entertainments and trips abroad and other and various things that we know to be superfluous because we have produced all these things and still the people refuse to buy them, then we must stop making these things and turn our machinery and efforts to producing the things the people do want and in the quantities that they can afford to buy.

How this planning is to be done is a secret. We wouldn't know how to handle it if we were told. We are to turn the whole matter over to the engineers who will then go into conference, and we are to put into effect such plan as may come out of such conference. Indeed, Technocracy is to be given the power to put its plan into effect. Is Technocracy then, another name for Mussolini, or does it spell Stalin?

One per cent of the population of the United States own 59 per cent of the wealth of the country and get 59 per cent of the country's annual income; 4 per cent own 80 per cent of the wealth and get 80 per cent of the income; about 5 per cent of the population own 85 per cent of the wealth and get 85 per cent of the income. That leaves 15 per cent of the wealth and income of the country to be divided among 95 per cent of the population.

At best, then, the average of the 95 per cent of the population, who obviously produce all the wealth of the country, do not receive in return for their production more than 15 per cent of their product. \$15.00 for every \$100.00 of wealth they produce! The average person in the country, then, is a producer to the extent of \$100 and a consumer to the extent of \$15. Is it not obvious why we do not consume what we produce?

When it is also considered that this 15 per cent of the country's income includes all the large salaries and incomes in the United States, excepting only the huge incomes of the upper 5 per cent, it becomes clear why the great mass of producers are not also consumers, excepting on starvation basis. The poorest 25 per cent of the population receive (or did receive in 1929) less than 5 per cent of the country's income.

But why obtrude these facts in a discussion on Technocracy? These are not engineering facts, nor do they

argue learnedly about unit-of-energy production nor kilogram-calory consumption and, fortunately or unfortunately, they have no place in modern planning. Neither, and this quite unfortunately, have the Margin of Production or the Rent of Land any place in industrial engineering nor in modern planning, and yet the outstanding effect of labor-saving machinery, as observed in fundamental economics, is the depressing of the margin with the consequent reduction of wages, and increase of rent.

Increasing population with no place to go excepting on land already privately owned and held for speculation (investment, perhaps, would be a more polite term) sends the margin of production down, thus reducing wages and interest, and increasing land rent. Labor-saving machinery, enabling greater production with less labor has the same effect on the margin and therefore the same effect on wages, interest and rent.

Henry George in "Progress and Poverty" showed clearly that every improvement in government and transportation; every advance in the arts, in learning, in civilization; every labor-saving device that made wealth more plentiful; every saving in the expenditure of labor and capital, in a civilization where land is privately owned and held for speculation, tends to depress the margin of production, send wages down and increase the rent of land, thus enriching the few and impoverishing the many.

In view of this fact and the fact that 5 per cent of the population of the United States own all the land and all the natural resources of the country, does it require a mathematician or an economist to understand why 5 per cent of the population own 85 per cent of the wealth of the country and get 85 per cent of its total income or to know that the 5 per cent who get the 85 per cent of the wealth are the 5 per cent who own the land?

Also one need not be a "Technocrat" to know that if 95 per cent of the population have only 15 per cent of the income of the country to divide among them, 85 per cent of the product must be left unpurchased, unconsumed, "overproduced," excepting as it is *appropriated* by the 5 per cent. Mayhap Technocracy in its planning will not confine itself to engineering; mayhap it will also use a modicum of fundamental reasoning interspersed with a little common sense. But would it, then, remain Technocracy?

NOW, however, we are coming into collision with facts which there can be no mistaking. From all parts of the civilized world come complaints of industrial depression; of labor condemned to involuntary idleness; of capital massed and wasting; of pecuniary distress among business men; of want and suffering and anxiety among the working classes. All the dull, deadening pain, all the keen, maddening anguish, that to great masses of men are involved in the words "hard times," afflict the world today.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

The Relation of the Single Tax to Other Reforms

CHESTER C. PLATT AT THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE
(Condensed)

TO ask what is the relation of the Single Tax to other reforms, is to raise the question what should be our attitude toward other reforms. On the whole I mistrust that the attitude of some of us is not as friendly and helpful as it ought to be. Mr. Judson King, at the Baltimore Congress, presented what I thought was a most important and convincing paper on public ownership of public utilities, particularly dealing with the electric power monopoly.

Outside of Single Tax ranks, next perhaps to Senator Norris, I think Mr. King, and Dr. Carl D. Thompson of Chicago, are doing work of more importance and value to the people than any other persons in our country.

But Mr. King aroused some rather unfriendly criticism, mainly on the ground that (as one friend wrote to me) every improvement in the condition of the earth, under our present system of monopoly, must accrue eventually and mainly to the owners of the earth. He was treated by some of the critics as though he were making a plea in behalf of landlords.

Some time ago I wrote letters to various friends, sent them a report on the work of the Public Ownership League of America of which Dr. Thompson of Chicago is the Executive Secretary, and asked them to join the organization. Several wrote in reply that they could not join, because the final effect of public ownership would be to raise rent, and also to increase the amount of land held idle for speculative purposes, and *further* to shut out labor from those lands which it might use, and so it would increase unemployment.

ALL ABSORBED BY RENT

"Every improvement in the condition of the earth, under our present system of monopoly," it was said by one person, "must accrue mainly to the owners of the earth."

So they felt not at all attracted to the organization which I asked them to join.

All this is a more or less familiar philosophy to most of you, and some of you will remember the debate, which was just a little bit warm, over Mr. King's paper.

I asked a prominent Single Tax worker if he expected to attend the Memphis Congress and was a bit surprised and disappointed at his saying: "No, those fellows make me tired, with their acrimonious and tedious debates about interest, and about whether the Single Tax should come all at once, (as Mr. Peace of London advocates) or whether it should come bit by bit in a more evolutionary manner."

And I have attended some gatherings of Single Tax men when, in a manner shedding more heat than light, these subjects have been discussed, and also the question,

whether the views of Henry George were socialistic or not.

I have felt that I would like to ask some of the debaters if they had ever read the autobiography of Benjamin Franklin, and what they thought of his views as to the *virtue of humility*. He says:

VIRTUE OF HUMILITY

"I cannot boast of much success in acquiring the *reality* of this virtue, but I had a good deal of success with regard to the *appearance* of it. I made it a rule to forbear all direct contradiction to the sentiments of others, and all positive assertion of my own. I even forbid myself the use of every word or expression in the language that imported a fixed opinion such as, "*certainly*," "*undoubtedly*," etc., and I adopted instead of them, "*I conceive*," "*I apprehend*," or "*I imagine the thing to be so and so*," or "*it appears to me at present*." When another asserted something that I thought an error, I denied myself the pleasure of contradicting him abruptly, and of showing immediately some absurdity in his proposition; and in answering I began by observing that in certain cases or circumstances his opinion would be right, but in the present case there appeared or seemed to be some differences, etc.

"I soon found the advantage of this change in my manner, the conversations I engaged in went on more pleasantly. The modest way in which I proposed my opinions procured for them a readier reception and less contradiction. I had less mortification when I was found to be in the wrong, and I more easily prevailed with others to give up their mistakes, and join with me, when I happened to be right."

In referring to the theory that improvements are absorbed by and added to ground rent, Mr. George said: "It requires reflection to see that manifold effects result from a *single cause* and the remedy for a multitude of evils may lie in *one simple reform*." And yet I must confess that I do not, and indeed I could not, always act *consistently* with this theory. That is to say if every improvement in the condition of society must simply make landlords more prosperous how can one help being rather indifferent to all reforms, save our own major one?

Why might not one be rather cold and indifferent, not only to the cause of public ownership, but to the cause of organized labor, and even to the cause of religion, if every improvement in the condition of the earth must accrue to the benefit of landlords.

REFORMS URGED BY GEORGE

I have quoted Mr. George as saying that the remedy for a multitude of evils may lie in *one simple reform*, and yet here is a queer paradox. Mr. George was a man who was most earnestly and actively and enthusiastically interested in many reforms. He was a pioneer in advocating the Australian ballot, and secrecy in voting. He denounced beaurocracy in government, he was a veritable crusader against corruption in municipal government, and his third

political campaign was one in which the paramount issue was the misgoverned and corruptly governed city in which he lived.

He saw the evils of militarism and advocated the reduction of armaments. He said: "Standing navies and standing armies are inimical to the genius of democracy and we ought to show the world that a great Republic can dispense with them."

He said: "In legal administration there is a large field for radical reform. Here too, we have servilely copied English precedents, and have allowed lawyers to make law in the interest of their class, until justice is a costly gamble, for which a poor man cannot afford to sue."

He saw that with the growth of progress the *functions of government* must inevitably *increase*, as people found that government could do many things for them better and more cheaply than they could do these things for themselves. He said: "It is only in the infancy of society that the functions of government can be properly confined to providing for the common defense, and protecting the weak against the physical power of the strong."

WE MUST INCREASE GOVERNMENT'S FUNCTIONS

He said: "As civilization progresses the concentration which results from the utilization of larger powers and improved processes operates more and more to the restriction and exclusion of competition, and to the establishment of complete monopoly."

"The primary purpose and end of government being to secure the natural rights and equal liberty of each, all businesses that involve monopoly are within the necessary province of governmental *regulation*, and businesses that are in their nature *complete* monopoly become properly functions of the State."

He advocated a reform with regard to the issue of money, claiming that it should be the business of government to issue all money, rather than to guarantee the money issued by the banks, for profit.

He advocated the government ownership of railroads, and denounced the failure of attempted regulation.

He advocated the government ownership of electric power and he also advocated the government ownership of the telegraphs, the telephones, gas, water and electric power.

He even went so far as to advocate that the government itself should print all the books needed for the schools.

WHAT A PARADOX !

And all this, mind you, although he knew that every one of these multitudinous reforms would *improve* the world in which we live, make the locality which had the most of these reforms a more desirable place in which to live, and so redound to the benefit of landlords.

If we are loyal disciples of Henry George why can we not be as paradoxical as he, and follow him in being enthu-

siastic advocates and supporters of all the reforms which I have mentioned.

Some say that the reforms to which Mr. George was committed show that he was essentially himself a Socialist. Not at all. Mr. George recognized that those businesses which in their nature are *public* businesses, should be owned and operated by the *public*. But no other. All business of a *private* nature should be preserved for private initiative and conduct. And competition should be preserved in this field, because of its biological justification and because nothing but competition will arouse the powers of man to their best efforts.

How shall we determine what is private and what is public business? All those businesses which when turned over to private management require a *franchise*, should never have *been* turned over to private management. A franchise is a surrender on the part of the State or the city of natural and proper rights which belong to the State or the city, and they should never be turned over to private corporations, to exploit the people.

Young Men in Memphis Give Five Minute Addresses

FOLLOWING are five minute addresses on the Single Tax given in Memphis over the radio by two young men, both under twenty-five, on November 18, 1932. These addresses were given under the auspices of the American Institute of Banking, and the first is by Mr. Postell Hebert, of the Union Planters National Bank and Trust Company. Both these young men had never read any of the writings of Henry George before preparing for these speeches.

The Memphis Chapter of the American Institute of Banking has been giving much thought to the question of taxation, and they hold meetings among employes of banks, part of the proceedings being broadcast over the radio. They have aroused much interest among the people of Memphis.

The second address is by Mr. P. B. Trotter, of the Union Planters' National Bank.

BY MR. POSTELL HEBERT

In explaining the Single Tax theory it is first necessary to assert the primary principle, that all men are equally entitled to the use of the earth. It is important to note the distinction between the word *use* and *ownership*. Because for this use of land the Single Taxer holds that the community should be paid according to the value of the privilege.

From the funds so collected, all expenses of the government could be met and all other taxation could be abolished, and from this is derived its name—Single Tax.

To quote the Single Taxers themselves:—We propose to abolish all taxes save one Single Tax levied on the value of land irrespective of the value of improvements upon it. From the Single Tax we may expect these advantages:

(1) It would dispense with an entire army of tax gatherers and

other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of the funds taken from the people. By making government simpler and cheaper it would tend to make it purer. It would rid us of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery and corruption, which lead men into temptation and which taxes what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies out of doors and cannot be removed, and its value is most readily ascertainable of all values, the Single Tax can be collected with a minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

(2) It would enormously increase the production of wealth, by the removal of the burdens which now weigh upon industry and thrift. If we tax houses there will be fewer houses; if we tax machinery there will be less machinery; if we tax trade there will be less trade; if we tax capital there will be less capital; if we tax savings there will be less saving. All the taxes, therefore, that we would abolish are taxes that repress industry and lessen wealth. But if we tax land values, there will be no less land.

On the contrary the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available for industry, since it makes it impossible to hold land idle for speculative purposes. Our present system of taxation has caused one class to be idle and wasteful because they are too rich, and another class to be idle and wasteful because they are too poor. Our present general property tax has caused millions to leave the farms and concentrate in the cities where they have become objects of charity. Anyone can look around and see the unused land, the idle labor and poorly employed capital and get some idea of how enormous would be the production of wealth if these forces were once more free to engage in unrestricted production such as the Single Tax would encourage and foster.

Therefore, Ladies and Gentlemen, since the community creates the increased value of land, it, instead of the owner, should reap the reward.

Since our present tax system is cumbersome, inefficient, expensive, and promotes fraud and corruption, our State and national governments should adopt a single system of taxation based on land values which are community-created.

BY MR. P. B. TROTTER

The first speaker for the Single Tax outlined the general theory and some of the benefits to be expected from it. I shall endeavor to show how the plan can be put into practical operation and cite further needs for a change from our present multiple tax system.

At the recent meeting of Single Tax enthusiasts held in Memphis under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation, Henry Hardinge, an eminent tax expert from Chicago, gave the following illustration of how the Single Tax would work if applied in Memphis. The site value of land within the city limits is two hundred and fifty millions of dollars. It must be remembered that it has that value because two hundred and fifty thousand people living in Memphis cause it to have that value. No owner creates that value any more than any other individual in Memphis' quarter million. Therefore, it is only *just* that the community as a whole should share in the values which the community as a whole has created. A six per cent return on this investment, or site value, would return to the city fifteen million dollars a year. The annual budget of the city of Memphis is approximately six million dollars, that of Shelby County two million, and that of the State and national governments about two million more. The revenue so provided by the Single Tax would not only adequately take care of our annual expenses, but would retire the bonded debt of Memphis within a period of five years. In addition to making this local application of the Single Tax principle, it is necessary to state that the plan is in actual operation in a dozen colonies throughout the world. Besides this, there are numerous cities where the plan is being given partial application.

Many people might wonder if present conditions warrant such a fundamental change in our government.

That our present system is causing a more and more inequitable

distribution of wealth, yearly, is evident. Instead of progress in removing poverty from our midst, there is more poverty today than at any time in several generations. There is a growing sentiment for a re-deal and unless this is recognized and handled with justice and promptness, all that has been accomplished by the American people may be lost. *Liberty* magazine, in an editorial a few weeks ago, came out for the Single Tax.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me quote a few words from last year's Commencement Address of Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University. In his address alluding to Henry George he said, "If we are effectively to allay discontent and remove temptation to disorder and rebellion, we dare not to sit idle. The challenge is too peremptory and too ominous—action is essential. We must be broadminded and open-minded to suggestions and change. Today, progressive and enlightened liberalism is everywhere true conservatism."

An American Calendar, 1796

"FEW tradesmen in America, who attend closely to their business, are able to overtake the whole of it in satisfactory time. An English gentleman, who bought a farm some years ago, within twenty miles of Philadelphia, said that when he first came to the country he was surprised to see several of his neighbors in such extreme want of assistance from a shoemaker. At last he found it owing not to inability of buying shoes, but to the difficulty of getting a person to make them. Break the key of your desk, and get an American smith to mend it. You find it cheaper to buy a new lock and key from England. Wages to servants and journeymen of all kinds are, through many States of the Union, higher than in any part of Europe, and after all, hands are sometimes not to be had. The journeyman carpenter, on whose aid his employer depended for the supply of customers, bolts off without warning to Kentucky or St. Domingo, or the Federal City, or sets up a tavern, a stage coach, or a billiard table; or determines to live like a gentleman till his last cent is expended. Before his successor can be found a month elapses. In many parts of the country this case frequently happens. Under such circumstances, to take twenty-five thousand men from the chissel and the plough, unless urged by positive necessity, would be highly absurd. It would tend directly to destroy the resources from which alone a standing army could expect to be paid. In Britain, at the beginning of a war, the public are often glad at the raising of new regiments, as taking off idle or disorderly people. But here the demand for labor is so great, that the least industrious man is generally thought worth his room." *American Annual Register*, Philadelphia, 1796, p. 112.

OUR land system is based on privilege. The landlords who are applauding Mr. Chamberlain and flocking to his platform are wise in their generation, for they realise that his policy will entrench them more strongly than ever. Our present land laws cause a greater drag upon trade, and are a greater peril to the standard of living than all the tariffs of Germany, of America, and of our own Colonies.

—CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (1903).

Edmund Vance Cooke

A TRUE poet, an active Single Taxer, and for many years a lecturer, Edmund Vance Cooke is dead in Cleveland at the age of 66.

He was the author of 24 books of verse, many of them designed for children whom he loved with all the tenderness characteristic of him. Some of his poems were really notable. His masters were James Whitcomb Riley and Eugene Field, but he was not a slavish imitator. Much that he wrote has a real distinction and is in no sense an echo of those who in similar excursions into verse preceded him. The humor that inspired him did not prevent his writing in a strain of solemn dignity those lines to his friend Tom L. Johnson which are engraved on the monument of the former mayor of Cleveland. Perhaps there are no poetic tributes more familiar to Single Taxers than the famous lines of "A Man is Passing," "He left a city with a civic heart," verses singularly apt and felicitous.

John W. Raper, columnist of the *Cleveland Press*, pronounced the funeral oration, for such had been Mr. Cooke's request, and the services were without formalism. Cooke was religious only in the sense that he contemplated the inevitable dissolution with a calm courage and a conviction that it was ordered for the best.

Mr. Cooke was born in Port Dover, Ontario. He leaves a daughter and son, Edmund Vance Cooke, Jr.

He started the fashion of going without a hat until what was looked upon as one of his eccentricities promised to develop into a custom. Then he threw away his hat which he carried on occasions to satisfy his friends, saying, "The world does catch up."

It is of interest to recall that Peter Witt at the conclusion of his radio speech at the Memphis conference recited Cooke's well known poem, "Uncivilized."

Our acquaintance with Mr. Cooke was by correspondence only. He was for many years a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM and was among the first to send for a copy of the editor's collected poems, "Thirty Years of Verse Making."

His verses called forth enthusiastic commendation from such men as Newton Baker, William Allen White, Gamaliel Bradford, and many others. His "Book of Extenuations," which was among his last, was probably his most ambitious work. Of this volume Newton Baker wrote, "We read the Extenuations from cover to cover last night and matched knowledge lingering from childhood about the characters, as forecasts of what you would likely say about them. It was great fun, but you nearly always surprised us with some turn of thought and phrase! Fine, fine!"

Mr. Cooke was a man who radiated something of his influence from a distance. So we always felt that we knew him in a certain mystical sense that overleaps the bounds of space and time.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

FOLLOWING an anniversary advertisement upon the life and work of Henry George in the *New York Times* and *New York Sun*, the Foundation inserted, on November 14, 1932, in the *New York Times*, an advertisement explaining the bequest of Robert Schalkenbach, quoting from his Will, and advertising the book "Progress and Poverty." The advertisement read, in part, as follows:

BEING FIRMLY CONVINCED

"Being firmly convinced that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book "Progress and Poverty" will, if enacted into law, give equal opportunity to all, and tend to the betterment of the individual and of society, by the abolition of involuntary poverty, and its attendant evils. . . ."

So reads the Will of Robert Schalkenbach, whose generous bequest has enabled the trustees to bring the message of Henry George to a new generation.

(Robert Schalkenbach was born in N.Y. City, 1856; obliged to work when twelve years old; read "Progress and Poverty" and met Henry George 1884; built up large printing business; was for many years president of New York Typothetae; died in this city, November 13, 1924—eight years ago.)

This kindly and successful business man was not foiled by the inflated "prosperity" of the past decade, nor misled by those economists who proclaimed that "hard times would come again no more." He knew the inevitability of the recurrence of periods of bad business and unemployment, as long as the causes which George revealed 50 years ago remain unrecognized and untouched. So he directed that his fortune be used to spread a knowledge of the writings of that great American philosopher and economist.

The book which so profoundly influenced this self-made man was

"PROGRESS AND POVERTY"

by Henry George

It contained a picture of Mr. Schalkenbach, and attracted much attention. More than 173 books were sold as a result, and many strangers visited the Foundation. Purchasers of "Progress and Poverty" return to get other Henry George books—an evidence that his books are truly desired for study and careful reading. "Protection or Free Trade" is next to "Progress and Poverty" in popularity; then "Social Problems," and then "The Land Question."

A semi-monthly advertisement in the space of about two inches, is kept, from year to year, in *The Nation*. It is a reminder of Henry George's books. All inquiries received from this source are answered at the Foundation office, and an assortment of literature describing the life and work of Henry George is forwarded to the inquirer, whose name is kept upon our mailing list for future notices.

Advertisements designed to attract the attention of bookdealers, and of librarians, were placed in the leading journals for dealers and for librarians. Many inquiries were received. The *Library Magazine* sent us a letter with a list of names of librarians who wrote to the magazine stating their interest in the books of Henry George.

Mr. Gaston Haxo has rendered a notable service to the Foundation in going the rounds of New York bookshops.

He has persuaded various dealers to place our hand-lettered display card, with portrait of Henry George, in bookshop windows, with four or five copies of the brightly jacketed "Progress and Poverty." As a means of advertising, this method is very helpful and we trust that New York Single Taxers who happen to see our books in bookshop windows, will drop in and either purchase a copy or two or induce their friends to do so. Shops that are displaying the book are as follows:

Abbey Book Co., 61 E. 8th Street; Beacon Book Shop, 43 E. 45th Street; Chelsea Book Shop, 58 W. 8th Street; Cadmus Book Shop, 342 W. 34th Street; Channel Book Shop, 283 Park Avenue; Bernard Crasner, 10 E. 47th Street; Gotham Book Mart, 51 W. 47th Street; Harmony Book Shop, 108 W. 49th Street; Liverright Book Shop, 21 W. 51st Street; University Place Book Shop, 105 University Place; Maurice Marks, 35 W. 44th Street.

During the first week of December a Christmas circular with line drawing of "Progress and Poverty," and photograph of other books available from the Foundation, and offering special prices for Christmas giving, was sent to the Foundation's general list. Each year the Foundation arranges to send books so purchased to any address or list of addresses of friends to whom Christmas presents of Henry George books are to be given. It inserts a Christmas card in the book and sends it along in an attractive carton, and prepays the postage. In addition, for every book order, a free copy of the "Enclaves of Economic Rent" was sent to purchasers. Mr. Henry Ware Allen's Henry George Calendar was also advertised in our circular, and we are glad to say that this little booklet, printed by Mr. Allen in Kansas, but handled by the Foundation at his request, has been popular, filling a need in the field of Henry George literature. Just at present our initial supply has been exhausted. We are ordering additional copies from Mr. Allen, and will soon have them on hand for the filling of future orders. About 350 books, 200 calendars and a number of pamphlets were distributed and sold as a result of the Christmas campaign.

From Prof. W. R. B. Willcox, Dean of Architecture, University of Oregon, we procured a supply of a "Report to the Architects Convention." Some of the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM know of this "Report" prepared by Prof. Willcox, and Mr. John S. Seibert and others, and read to a convention of American Institute Architects in April, 1932. Problems of building, business standards, price of land, rent, labor, land values, etc., were presented in such clear terms that we considered the report of general interest. It was sent to a list of 500 editors and architects.

Mr. Harold Battenheim's interesting article "A Pragmatic Experiment With Taxes," published in the December 1932 *Survey-Graphic*, is being sent to Congressmen, editors and columnists of newspapers. We have a small supply of this article in pamphlet form which may be had by sending ten cents to cover cost of mailing.

Among the interesting letters received is the following

from Prof. A. Velleman of the University of Geneva, who writes as follows:

"In my classes at the University of Geneva, I have repeatedly dealt with Henry George. In the coming winter session I intend to use as a textbook in one of my classes the "Life of Henry George" by his son Henry-George, Jr.

It is more than ever necessary to draw attention to the teachings of the great American reformer, and I therefore apply to you with the request that you be good enough to send me one dozen copies of the said volume at a price as low as possible, to be sold to the poorer section of students. I should also like to obtain, at the same opportunity, a complete set of the writings of Henry George. I would place this set in the Library of the Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences."

Copies of the "Life of Henry George" were immediately shipped, at our best wholesale rate, to Prof. Velleman, and one copy of each Henry George book sent to him for the Library of the University of Geneva, as a gift of the Foundation.

From far off Korea we received the following letter:

"Many years ago I read some of the writings of Henry George and recently, through my colleague here—Dr. O. R. Avison,—I have had the pleasure and profit of re-reading some of them again. As a result I would like to join the Henry George Society and extend, as fully as possible, the wisdom contained in his writings. Please send me a full set of the Henry George books which you publish."

J. W. HIRST, Severance Union Medical College,
Seoul, Korea.

Mr. Stephen Bell met the wave of excitement over Technocracy, in a splendid article written for *Commerce and Finance*, December 21, 1932, in which he pointed out that the answer to Technocracy lies in Henry George's teachings.

Mr. John Millar who sends out a weekly Housing Letter from Chicago, wrote as follows in his November 19, 1932 letter, which is widely circulated:

"The Single Tax, in more or less pure form, is being brought forward as a possible cure for present ills. The theory is that of Henry George, that since society and not the owner of a given site is responsible for the value in that site, society has a right to take all or most of the income that result from the favorable location. The effect of such taxation would be to take land rent in lieu of taxes on land and buildings, to depress land values, and to stimulate building on vacant land. A committee of the American Institute of Architects reported favorably on this type of taxation earlier this year, suggesting further study (apparently not being made). Harold S. Battenheim, editor of *The American City*, suggested in Pittsburgh this week before the assembled city planners that it would be better to have a proper 3-way combination of inheritance taxes, income taxes and the Single Tax, rather than sales taxes and taxes on building and personalty."

The Foundation had been in touch with Mr. Millar for some time, and had sent him Georgist literature. He became interested and carries mention of the Single Tax and Henry George from time to time in his Housing Letters which are widely circulated. The *Boston Post* on January 1, ran an article in which Mr. Millar's references to Henry George were quoted. The *Boston Globe* on January 8, in an article explaining Technocracy, featured, among others, a picture of Henry George, and said:

"Technocracy builds its platform on the paradox of 'poverty in the midst of plenty.' This paradox in other crises in America has produced

prophecies of social change. In the deep depression of the '70s, Henry George wrote 'Progress and Poverty,' setting forth the principles which were to crystallize in the practical programme of the Single Tax."

The *Commonweal* (Catholic magazine) of January 4, carried an article by John A. Ryan entitled "Must Unemployment Continue?" In discussing Prof. Graham's new book, "The Abolition of Unemployment," Dr. Ryan said: "It exhibits greater feeling than I have found in any other economic work since I first came upon Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty.'"

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary

Mr. Ingersoll's Lecture Work

MY trip was not properly rounded out, because of the interruption of the annual meeting and events connected therewith. The securing of appointments, as well as my work, were involved. However, as stated in No. 10 of the *Ingersoll Bulletin*, the total of talks was 90, to audiences of 16,732.

Nov. 28—South Bridge, Mass. Merchants and Manufacturers Asso., Columbia Hotel; luncheon; 60 present, business men; 40 minute talk, and informal quiz afterwards. This is a very important manufacturing place, the principal industry being the American Optical Co., whose president, Mr. Wells, was chairman. Also woolen and paper mills officials present.

Nov. 29—Falmouth Rotary and Kiwanis combined; Hotel Henley, 6:15 p. m.; 75 present. This is what I call a successful meeting, because after my talk of 45 minutes most of these men stayed two and a half hours in a heckling bee, and, I believe, were largely converted.

Dec. 13—Holyoke, Mass., Lions Club; Hotel Nonotuck; 120 present; 30 minute talk; very fine crowd of men, but failed on quiz, except half an hour with a small group.

Dec. 14—Lions Club, Elizabeth N. J.; Elks Club luncheon; 25 present; 30 minute talk, and one hour quiz, of most intensive kind.

Dec. 15—Little Falls Chamber of Commerce Dinner; evening; 20 present, and very important meeting, because of quiz lasting until nearly midnight after 30 minute talk, and the fine character of the men.

Jan. 3—Chamber of Commerce, Northampton, Pa., Town Hall, 8:15 p. m. This was another very successful meeting, apart from the attendance, which was 75 of the best people in this fine cement town of 10,000. The talk was 45 minutes, but the quiz lasted until 11:30, after which I drove home 80 miles.

Jan. 12—Lions Club, Plainfield; N. J.; dinner, evening. Came as a result of the Elizabeth meeting.

Jan. 12—Rotary Club, Jersey City; luncheon. This comes from Mr. John H. Allen.

Jan 16—Michael Men's Club, Weehawken N. J.; Monday, 8:00 p. m. Through Mr. Chandler.

Jan. 17—WHAM Radio Station, Journal Square, Jersey City. This comes through my friend Mr. T. Lane.

I am preparing the organization on a National scale, of the Tax Relief Association and expect to immediately take up organizing Pennsylvania, beginning at Pittsburgh.

CHAS. H. INGERSOLL,
President Mahnattan Single Tax Club.

The Henry George Lecture Assn.

(United with the Henry George Foundation of America)
538 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE Director and Treasurer

STAFF SPEAKERS

WILLIAM N. MCNAIR, Bakewell Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.
CLAUDE L. WATSON, 538 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, 403 Garth St. Columbia Mo.
PERCY R. WILLIAMS, 1310 Berger Building, Pittsburgh Pa.
HON. GEORGE H. DUNCAN, East Jaffery, N. H.
MRS. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, 17 East 67th St., New York City.

LOCAL SPEAKERS

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L. D. BECKWITH, Stockton Calif.
HERBERT S. BIGELOW, Cincinnati O.
WILLIAM A. BLACK San Antonio Tex.
A. A. BOOTH Seaboard Building Seattle Wash.
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JOSEPH FORSHAW, St. Louis, Mo.
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BOLTON HALL.
GEORGE LLOYD.
MORRIS VAN VEEN.

* * *

NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE AND SINGLE TAX CLUBS

Single Tax League, Chicago, Ill.—Recent speakers at the weekly meetings of the League were Jacob Don, a Korean and graduate of the University of Michigan, who spoke on "The Situation in the Far East;" William Ellis, enthusiastic Single Taxer and graduate of the University of Missouri, "Encouragement for the Single Tax Movement;" Maurice Welty, youthful and able young Single Taxer, particularly active in the Chicago work of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, "The Single Tax;" and Prof. Leavell of the Hyde Park High School, "The School Plight." Over twelve hundred copies of the League's new edition of its pamphlet, "Jobs for All," were distributed at a mass meeting of the Chicago teachers on Friday, January 6. Thousands of copies of this pamphlet are being sent through the mails, and among these over

500 are going to members of both houses of Congress. Thanks are due Mr. Thomas Rhodus for this continued valuable educational work.

Henry George Club, Lansing, Mich.—After telling of the unfortunate adoption of a constitutional amendment limiting the tax rate on real estate to one and one-half per cent at the election on November 8, Mr. Ray Robson, president of the Lansing Club says, in a letter of November 14, "We hope to begin our Henry George Club meetings next week." If all the voting citizens of Michigan could have been acquainted with Mr. Robson's arguments against the amendment it would not have carried. In his speeches, and in his letters to the press Mr. Robson pointed out that, "What we need is not higher prices for land, but higher wages for labor. The land speculators are back of these amendments. If they are carried, the vacant land held for speculation in every city can be unloaded at higher prices." Evidently there will have to be more than one "repeal" movement if amendments restricting the liberty of the people are to be removed.

Henry George Club, Omaha, Neb.—The December meeting of the Omaha Club was pleasantly surprised by a visit from the veteran August Willeges of Sioux City, Iowa, who left a message of courage and hope. He admonished his listeners to become militant in their efforts to gain the public ear and to warn the people of the dangers of the sales tax. "Do not fear if you clash with the propagandists of the sales tax," he said, "You have an answer for them—the *truth*. As Henry George said to me during the campaign of 1886, 'I shall tell the *truth*, regardless of the loss of votes.'" A committee to formulate a membership campaign and programme of activity was appointed to act immediately. Letters were read from Mr. Larry Quinby of Los Angeles, formerly of Omaha, and also from Mr. A. G. Chapman of Lincoln, Neb. The Club is asking the support of all Single Taxers in the vicinity of Omaha to help combat the propaganda of an organization recently incorporated for the purpose of placing sales tax legislation on the statute books. In a letter of December 9 to interested persons, the Henry George Club states, "The Sales Tax will not help the farmers. In Nebraska they will have most of it to pay. More than half of them are tenants, and would have to pay increased rents. Their market would be impaired by the reduced purchasing power of those who consume their products." The letter was signed by a committee consisting of Mr. Howard J. Bailey, vice-president of the Baker Mfg. Co., Mr. Paul K. Harlan, Superintendent of the Bell Telephone Co., Omaha, and Mr. L. S. Herron, editor of the *Nebraska Union Farmer*.

Henry George Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.—The Friday noon meetings of the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh in the Downtown Y. M. C. A. are continuing every week, Dr. Francis D. Tyson, Professor of Economics at the Univer-

sity of Pittsburgh, having spoken on January 6, on "What About the Technocrats?"—an up-to-date subject.

Woman's Single Tax Club, Washington, D. C.—The opening meeting of the Capitol's Club for this season was held on October 3 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter I. Swanton. A paper on "How We Learn" was read by Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips, inventor of the famous Landlord's Game now being used by Single Taxers to advance their cause in popular fashion.

NEWS OF SINGLE TAX SPEAKERS

Henry H. Hardinge, Chicago, Ill.—Mr. Hardinge's recent appointments included the Evanston, Ill., Kiwanis Club, Tuesday noon, December 13; the Crane College Forum, Wednesday evening, December 14; the Illinois Home Guard Association, Friday, December 16; the West Side Forum, Friday evening, January 6; and numerous others before churches, schools and civic clubs.

William H. Holly and Henry L. T. Tideman, Chicago.—The Junior Western Society of Engineers liked Mr. Tideman's talk on "Natural Taxation" so well that he was asked to pick another speaker for them on a related theme. His choice was William H. Holly, law partner of Clarence Darrow and drafter of the Prosperity Tax Bills for Cook County being sponsored by the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League. Mr. Holly spoke on "Modern Problems" before the Society at its December meeting, Mr. Tideman having addressed it in November.

Claude L. Watson, Chicago.—Mr. Watson addressed over 100 members of the Milwaukee Theosophical Society on "Creating a Cooperative Democracy," Sunday, January 8. He showed this to be the ideal toward which Henry George pointed the way.

NEWS NOTES

The first of a series of meetings of the Chicago Division of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League was held at the Palmer House, Friday evening, January 6. Over two hundred influential business leaders attended the meeting to hear Emil O. Jorgensen, director of the League, explain the importance of the bills providing for the gradual abolition of all local taxes on improvements and personal property in Chicago and Cook County and for the raising of the public revenue from the value of the land alone. Gerhardt F. Meyne, president of the Gerhardt F. Meyne Co., contractors, was chairman of the meeting. Mr. Jorgensen's forceful address was made more convincing by the use of stereopticon slides with charts and illustrations demonstrating his points. Mr. Jorgensen's lecture will be given weekly.

Those who had the pleasure of meeting James Abbott at the Henry George Congress in Memphis last October, will regret learning of his death on Sunday, November 20. Although in his eightieth year, Mr. Abbott joined his fellow members of the Chicago Single Tax League, Mr. Henry L. T. Tideman and Mr. George Strachan, in driving to the Congress. He spoke as a pinch hitter at the evening meeting of the Southern Tax Conference when there was some delay in the arrival of Senator McKeller, the speaker of the evening. Mr. Abbott was born in New York City, December 12, 1852, near 152d Street and Amsterdam Avenue, "which was then a garden patch, and considered out in the suburbs of the city," as he himself told. He remembered the stirring campaign of 1860, and saw Lincoln and heard him speak as he passed through Hudson, Ohio, on his way to Washington to be inaugurated president. He had seen all the presidents from Lincoln down to Coolidge, and reported all from Grant to Coolidge. He traveled all over the world several times and was widely known as a writer and lecturer.

Robert L. McCaig, active Single Taxer of Toledo, Ohio, is the

inventor of a modern steel home, factory-fabricated so that it can be erected quickly by unskilled labor and easily moved from city to country or back again. An illustrated article in the Toledo *Sunday Times* of September 25, emphasizes the idea that was in the back of Mr. McCaig's mind when he began developing the invention. He wanted to make it easy for people to get back on the land. A portable house would make it possible to lease land instead of buying it outright and it would be treated as personal property and not as an improvement—so he conjectures, and this would ease the transition period from our present land and tax conditions to those ideal conditions in which land would be free and labor untaxed. Mr. McCaig believes that workmen must be able to change quickly from labor in shops to self-support on the land.

George J. Knapp writes from Pueblo, Colo., "Pueblo is hard hit by the depression, but many here know the remedy. I have not found one here who voted for Single Tax in 1913 who will not vote for it again. Hon. John A. Martin, in whose care I am getting my mail here, was a member of Congress in 1913, when I passed the Single Tax amendment in this city. At that time he came out publicly for it in a big hand-bill with his signature on it. He urged all to vote for the Single Tax amendment. Mr. Martin has just been elected to Congress again in the last election, after he had been out of politics for years. His views of Single Tax have not changed and he is the type of man who doesn't play politics. I expect Mr. Martin to introduce some Single Tax legislation in the new Congress."

On Saturday, January 21, a public meeting is to be held in honor of Hon. George A. Schilling, Labor Commissioner under Governor John P. Altgeld, 1892-1896, and former Commissioner of Public Works in Chicago. He is eighty-two years old and active continually in the Single Tax cause. The meeting will take place in the Central Y. M. C. A. Building. Margaret Haley, Clarence Darrow, and Carl D. Thompson are among those who are expected to be present.

The importance of the land question is indicated by the following editorial from the New York *Evening Post*, reproduced in the Chicago *Daily News*, December 21, 1932:

HOMESTEADING AGAIN

Further evidence of the drift of population back to the soil comes from the annual report of the United States land office, one of the few government bureaus that show a profit for the year. According to Commissioner Charles C. Moore, 4,551,774 acres of public land were taken up as homesteads during the fiscal year that ended last June 30. During the previous ten years the total acreage homesteaded was only about 4,000,000. In one depression year, therefore, more persons filed claims to available homestead lands than in the preceding decade. This is all the more remarkable in consideration of the fact that virtually all the really desirable homestead land was taken up before the war and that the remaining desirable acreage was largely claimed immediately thereafter, when the returning soldiers applied their war service to their homestead rights.

SOUTHERN SINGLE TAX NEWS ITEMS

Fairhope, Ala.—The School of Organic Education at Fairhope, Alabama, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on Friday, November 4. In so doing it paid tribute to the idealism and inspiring leadership of its founder and director, Mrs. Marietta Johnson.

The Organic School is more than a school—it is a living expression of the principles of creative freedom in education, as the Fairhope Single Tax Colony is an expression of those principles in economic life.

Houston, Tex.—Houston continues to honor the memory of its great assessor and mayor of fifteen years ago, Joseph Pastoriza. It is now the second largest city in the South and few would question that its progress has been largely due to the impetus given by Pastoriza's policy of extra-legally taxing improvements less and land values more. While the exemption of improvements is not as great now as it was under Pastoriza, the extra-legal discrimination in favor of improvements has not been totally abandoned. In 1931 improve-

ments paid 38 per cent of the taxes, land values 49 per cent and personal property 13 per cent.

Mrs. H. F. Ring, widow of the late "anonymous author" of "The Problem of the Unemployed," is living with her son, Robert Ring, attorney, in Houston.

San Antonio, Tex.—Against what would seem overwhelming odds to most people, William A. Black has kept the Single Tax before the people of Texas for sixteen years without a let up. The Single Tax League of Texas was organized at a State convention in Dallas, March 16 and 17, 1916. Mr. Black was elected secretary and as such he has served since that time.

For four years, 1918-1922, Mr. Black served as a member of the Texas legislature. He knows his Texas—its history, its industries, its problems, and its people. His weekly letter-articles to the country newspapers are printed in all parts of the State. His visits in the principal cities are watched for by all who know him and appreciate his vast and accurate fund of information and the greatness of his work.

Mr. Black is engaged in making Texas Single Tax-minded. The Single Tax League of Texas numbers among its supporting members not only individual Single Taxers but some of the leading industries and public utilities of the State that see in the Single Tax more business for all.

Mr. Black celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday on November 8. Mrs. Black is a close co-worker with him in the offices of the League which are beautifully situated in the Smith-Young Tower, a modern, centrally-located office building.

Mr. H. E. Kincaid, city planner of San Antonio, is a new recruit to the Texas Single Tax ranks. He sees in the elimination of land speculation one of the benefits to the city beautiful. Furthermore he points out that land values are the logical and just source of revenue for city planning projects.

Dallas, Texas.—"The Pitchfork—An Humble Implement with a Wide Range of Usefulness" is a monthly magazine in its 26th year with a circulation of 16,000, edited and published in Dallas by a dynamic Single Taxer, Wilford B. "Pitchfork" Smith. Resembling John Z. White in many ways, Pitchfork Smith was converted to the Single Tax by Mr. White in Kansas City some thirty years ago. And we use the word, converted, advisedly. Pitchfork Smith says that to be a Single Taxer you've got to have "religion on the land question." Accept that religion and the fiscal method of applying it will be readily grasped. The Single Tax is a by-product, he says, of the realization that "to be disassociated from the land is disaster. Man is a land animal—an economic relationship exists there that must not be tampered with by landlords, politicians, or others."

A SINGLE TAX MARRIAGE

Miss Helen Seevers and J. Edward Jones, prominent young Single Taxers of Chicago, were married on Wednesday evening, November 30. Mr. Jones's father, Rev. Charles A. Jones, officiated at the ceremony which took place in the home of the bride's brother, Arthur Grant Turner. Miss Dora Green sang. Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. T. Tideman, Mr. Henry H. Hardinge, Mr. George M. Strachan, Mrs. Dora Welty, Mr. Maurice Welty, Mrs. Maybelle Brooks, and Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence Monroe were among the fifty friends present who joined in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Jones a long and happy life together.

ELECTION OF SINGLE TAXERS NOVEMBER 8

The Single Tax movement extends congratulations to James Pinkney Pope upon his recent election to the United States Senate from Idaho on the Democratic ticket. A member of the Henry George Lecture Association since 1916, Senator Pope has served as assistant Attorney-General of Idaho and as Mayor of Boise.

Senator Pope was born on a farm in central Louisiana, near Jones-

ville, and attended the public schools there. Ambitious, he surmounted difficulties to continue his studies at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute in Ruston, and later at the University of Chicago. He went to Idaho to carve out his career and by outstanding ability won success.

From that ardent and able young Single Taxer of Seattle, Washington, C. Arlin Nave, we learn of election victories in his State that bid well for the success of the Single Tax movement. Among the elected is Mr. Louis Nash, a thoroughly versed Single Taxer, as County Commissioner. The other elected County Commissioner, John C. Stevenson, is a fighter, too, and judging from his talks and paper, the *Weekly Broadcast*, which he publishes, he is the next thing to being a Single Taxer. The same is true of Senator-elect Homer T. Bone, of Tacoma, who quoted Henry George in his address at the Democratic Banquet, November 12. Hon. Marion Zioncheck, Congressman-elect from the first district, campaigned along with Nash and Stevenson. All these men received a large majority in spite of the fact that Mayor Dore classed them as radicals and hired a radio each day to speak against them. Mr. Morrow of the forty-fifth district, a Single Taxer, was elected State Senator. He is a live wire and has a son in the twenties who is active also.

Hon. Robert Crosser, Single Taxer, was reelected to Congress from Cleveland as a Democrat. Ed. F. Alexander, Cincinnati attorney and Single Taxer, appears to have been defeated in his attempt to be elected to Congress on the Democratic ticket.

JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE.

An Important Move Defeated

PORTLAND, Ore. has over 9,000 lots that it has had to take over due to delinquent taxes and assessments. The city of Portland has been unable to sell these lots, but in order to get them back on the tax roll, the city council submitted a charter amendment, November 8, 1932, to the voters of Portland, which would have given the city council authority to lease for any number of years not exceeding 99 years, such parcels of land as were not needed for public use.

The proposed amendment was lost by a majority of 4,353, the vote being 44,773 for, and 49,126 against.

This amendment left the details of the leasing of this land to the city council, but there were a few conditions required in the amendment. Here are the principal ones:

The lessee was to pay all taxes and assessments levied against the property, the same as any other property owner. In case of releasing, the lessee was to have preference. This provision would protect the lessee who had improved the land. This procedure, as a general rule, is followed in private leases.

This amendment provided for three appraisers; one appointed by the city council, another appointed by the lessee, and the third by the first two appraisers.

All expense incurred in connection with carrying out the provisions of the amendment was to be paid out of the assessment collection fund or such fund as might be designated by the city council. Thus any real estate man who leased land for the city would have been paid a commission for his services.

This amendment also gave the city council authority to

enact such ordinances as might be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of the amendment.

This amendment gave the city council the authority to make leases for any number of years not exceeding 99 years. There were specifications for the valuation on which land rent would be based for 7 year, 35 year, and 99 year leases. A 35 year lease to be revalued every 7 years, a 99 year lease to be revalued at the end of each 10 year period; the rent of a 7 year lease to be based on the initial valuation. Land bought for future use was to have paid 6 per cent rent of its valuation.

There was opposition from three principal sources; real estate men, the *Oregon Voter*, and the Portland City Club. The *Oregon Voter*, a weekly magazine, published by C. C. Chapman, who keeps the business people in the Pacific Northwest posted on economics, finances, taxation, and all public matters, whether local, state, or federal. Mr. Chapman may not admit it, but he represents special privilege. The study of this leasing amendment by the Portland City Club was made by two real estate men, one lawyer, and the editor of a banking publication. The recommendation by the above committee against this amendment was made at the regular luncheon at the end of the speaker's talk and was rushed through without any discussion so that the city club might adjourn on time. The Portland City Club, as a general rule, is very progressive, tolerant, and thoughtful. It is a powerful influence in the community. Other recommendation by this club this year were against the oleomargarine tax (10c per pound), the increase on the State income tax, and the chain store tax. It seems to me if the Portland City Club had had the time to discuss this leasing amendment, or had had a different kind of a study committee, its decision might have been different.

The day before election real estate men demanded that the Portland City Council withdraw this charter amendment, but the council stood firmly on its own ground.

The amendment, if passed, would have approximately collected the gross ground rent from the 9,000 vacant lots. That is the ground rent collected from taxes on land values plus the ground rent collected by the City of Portland on its leases would have been a sum equal to the gross ground rent.

I haven't the inside dope on the framing of this amendment; so I do not know if there were those that really knew what they were about, or if the city council unwittingly planned this leasing amendment to get the vacant land back on the tax duplicate.—EDNA LASKEY.

ENDING June 30, 1932, 1,200 overseas vessels entered Sydney Harbor, compared with 1,367 during the previous twelve months; a diminution of nearly half a million net tons. Extinction is our fate unless we unshackle our trade.—*Progress*, Melbourne, Aus.

Henry George School of Social Science

THE mail should bring to every reader of LAND AND FREEDOM a facsimile copy of the Charter issued to the Henry George School of Social Science by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York, Education Department.

The facsimile is beautifully done, gold seal and all, and is suitable for framing. If your copy of this historic document has not yet reached you, write to the School or to LAND AND FREEDOM and a copy will be mailed to you at once.

Along with the facsimile has been mailed Oscar Geiger's address written for the Seventh Henry George Congress, held at Memphis last October and read at the Congress by Joseph Dana Miller, editor of LAND AND FREEDOM. A short prospectus of the work of the School is also enclosed with the facsimile, which gives in brief an outline of its work during its 1932-33 Fall and Winter sessions.

Perhaps a mention of its Class and Forum Topics may prove interesting to those who have not yet received the announcements.

FORUM TOPICS (partial list)

Ethics of Democracy.
Human Rights and Governmental Duties.
Natural Law in the Economic World.
The Biologist and the Land Question.
Fundamental vs. Superficial Economics.
Industrial Depressions and How to Prevent Them.
The Future—What Can We Do About It?
A Pragmatic Experiment with Taxation.
Trade Barriers—Their Evil Effects.
The New Morality.
The Money Complex.

Unemployment—Its Cause and Cure.
Population and Land Value.
Hard Times in the Face of Abundance.
The Birthright of Mankind.
The Cardinal Sin of Government.
Can This Civilization Be Saved?
Taxation—What It Is and How It Should Be Applied.
The Single Tax—What It Is and What It Will Do.
Governmental Self Destruction.

TOPICAL CLASS OUTLINE

Origin and Genesis of Civilization. The Elements of Political Economy. The Fundamental Laws of Political Economy. The Physiocrats and L'Impot Unique. Adam Smith and "The Wealth of Nations." The Classical Economists. Herbert Spencer's "Social Statics." The Functions of Government. The Malthusian Theory Analyzed. Population and Subsistence. Canons of Taxation. Incidence of Taxation. The Nature of Wealth. The Production of Wealth. The Law of Supply and Demand. The Laws of Distribution. The Law of Rent and Wages. The Law of Interest. Machinery—Its Purposes and Effects. Technology and Over-production. Trade and Tariffs. Money and Its Functions. Ethical Considerations in Economics. The Law of Human Progress.

The prospectus also contains excerpts from the address of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University at the 177th Commencement of Columbia University, and from the foreword to Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown's "Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty" by Dr. John Dewey.

You surely will want these three documents if you have not already received them, and a word from you will bring them to you as fast as the United States mail can carry them.

Three Men in a Boat A Fable and a Moral

THREE men went out in a boat. They were men of high spirit and of devil-may-care dispositions, whose names were Tom, Wilfred and Earl.

They had not been long in the boat when something happened to cause a great hilarity among them. This hilarity caused Tom to become somewhat obstreperous, and his antics made the boat rock so violently that the oars—which had laid idle because they were allowing the boat to float with the tide—were lost in the waters.

Thus they were left to the mercy of the tides which carried them out into the open sea. After some two or three days, during which they suffered heavily and prayed mightily, they found themselves drifting towards the shores of a small island, which again caused them to pray with much fervor.

Finally they alighted, and of course their first search

was for food. This they found in great abundance, for the island was rich in nuts and fruits of various kinds.

When they had refreshed themselves they "prospected" the island. It was a land flowing with milk and honey, and there were no others to share the good things with themselves.

So Tom said to the other two, "Well, here we are on an island which we may call our very own. We will therefore divide it into three equal parts and thus each will have no better rights than his neighbor."

The other two agreed, and it was so, for there was none to say otherwise.

So Tom took the tract of land which included the coastline and harbor, Earl took the midlands, and Wilfred took the interior, which culminated in high hills, the outside face of which constituted the opposite coast and which were so jagged with rock as to make impossible any attempt to get in or out of the island on that side.

Thus the three were well satisfied with the arrangements

they had made for themselves, and all went as merrily as marriage bells, for the climate was genial and sunny, food was so plentiful that they had little need of exertion, and for shelter they had each several dry caves and abundance of dry grass for bedding.

Weeks passed by and month was added to month and never a ship hove in sight. Yet they lacked not of all the good things which were necessary to healthy and complete happiness—save the fact that they had not their wives, families and friends with them to share in their good fortune.

One day a ship hove in sight, and mightily they strove to make their presence known to its crew. They succeeded, and the ship drew nigh unto the island and a boat was put down and sent into the harbor.

The ship proved to be an English Trading Ship out on a trip from port to port in various foreign lands, and would therefore not return home for some two or three years.

So Tom, Wilfred and Earl decided they would stay on at the island if the Ship's captain would cable the news of their safety to their people, furnish particulars of the glorious country they had found, and extend a warm invitation to all their friends to come out to them with any other who might wish to join them.

Thus the news in due course reached Kirkburton and great was the excitement caused.

Now trade was bad and conditions of life unsettled, and many there were who were far from being averse to a change of home and country. Thus did many decide to accompany the wives and families of the three men when they should sail for the new home land. Indeed, so many did so decide that a full ship's load was recorded as ready for the venture. Some of the more far-seeing of these called a meeting of the intending emigrants, and proposed, in view of the fact that they were going out to a new country, that, inasmuch as money would be of no use, they should convert all their savings into goods and tools of the kinds which would be most needed in a new land.

Thus the cargo of the vessel was composed for the most part of blacksmiths', joiners', carpenters', and plumbers' tools, etc., along with household linens, tea, sugar, coffee, wines, medicines, etc., etc., and the ship set out on its journey.

The pilgrims disembarked and made their way to a crude poster which had been set up on the fore-shore, and great was their astonishment to read the words on the poster—written in crude lettering with some horrible pigment—"The Fallas Estate, all Harbor Rights Reserved. For permission to use, apply to Tom Fallas, Transport Mansions." On the other side of the poster they read, "Plots to suit Settlers on easy terms; apply at the same address."

Bursting with indignation two of the emigrants, by name of Petts and Hobson, went forward inland and walked on and on until they reached a primitive sort of fence, on the other side of which was another notice board which read: "The Matthews Estate—Plots to Suit Settlers on easy terms

but all Mineral Rights reserved. For particulars apply to Earl Matthews, Blackrock House."

On reading this notice Petts was nigh unto having a fit of apoplexy, and Hobson gnashed his teeth most wolfishly, but each not daring to speak to the other. Once more they resumed their walk further inland, and eventually they reached a second fence, on the other side of which was another poster—"The Sykes Estate, Plots to suit Settlers on favorable terms up to within a mile of the Mountain, which is absolutely reserved, and trespassers will be prosecuted. For terms apply to Wilfred Sykes, Co'op Palace."

Petts was the first to speak. "Well," said he, "this licks all. I've left a land of lunatics (he had been a steward at Storths Hall Asylum) to come to a land of thieves an' I thowt we were all pals."

"Pals"—snorted Hobson—"they're economic cannibals, and we're helpless, 'cos they've put themselves under t' protection av t' British Government, who will enforce the so-called rights of private property."

So they wended their way back to the other emigrants and called a meeting whereat they explained how every inch of the country's soil had been claimed and portioned out among the first finders.

Then up spake Tom Fallas. "What crime have we committed? We sent you word we had discovered an island and that we had claimed it for ourselves. We invited you to come but we did not promise to give you any portion of our discovery. We are willing to bargain with you, and since there are three of us all anxious to have you settle on our respective estates, the competition between us to secure you will ensure very easy terms for all of you"—and Matthews and Sykes said "Amen."

So forthwith they began to bargain and barter for plots on which they might settle. Thus did Messrs. Fallas, Matthews and Sykes levy tribute in the shape of ground rent upon the lives and labors of the settlers and upon the household linens, tools, foodstuffs and medicines they had brought with them. And to pay such annual ground rents some of the settlers built houses for the landlords, and furnished and replenished the same. Yet withal, their lines were cast in pleasant places, and they wrote home glowing letters of their new homeland with its perpetual sunshine, its equable climate, its wonderful wealth of flowers, fruits and meats, so that many others did say, "Yea, and to this land of promise we also will come."

Thus the population grew by leaps and bounds and Tom Fallas waxed mightily rich. For the coast-line was of exceeding beauty and fish abounded in the waters of the lovely bay. The harbor rights and the coast-line tribute reaped handsome income to the house of Fallas, whose head now assumed an almost hereditary claim to Kingship of the Island. He was now no longer proud of having once been Station-Master at Kirkburton, and the new home which had come to him via the tribute he had levied upon the labors of the people and upon the goods they

had brought with them, he called not "Transport Mansions" but "Buckingham Palace."

Matthews also had prospered beyond the dreams of avarice. As a miner his instinct for Black Diamonds had revealed itself when he named his cave-home Blackrock House. With the incoming of labor and tools he had been enabled to bargain with the emigrants for the use of same as payment for ground rents by those settling on his estate. So he prospected for coal and success had attended his efforts. Thus in addition to ground rents he was reaping lavishly from coal royalties and way-leaves. He too, therefore, had built a palatial residence, and not to be outdone by Fallas he had named his new home "Windsor Castle."

Sykes had not kept pace with the other two. He was certainly very "comfortably off," for not a few of the emigrants had come to terms with him for the use of his land. He went his way and said "nowt" as was his wont, for he was ever a man of few words, and when people asked him why he was building a huge wall at the inland end of a mighty ravine in his mountain he just replied that he was "making a bed for his marrows," and resumed his overseeing of his laborers.

Then a day came when the wall was completed and all the inhabitants suddenly found that all the sources of fresh water supplies had dried up. From the shore lands right through the Fallas and Matthews Estates they traced the watercourses to the mountain to find that the wee-little Wilfred had cunningly diverted the running waters from their original courses into the glen, which, by the aid of the wall he had built, was now filling up into a mighty reservoir.

My Lord Fallas looked at the Earl Matthews and the Earl looked at my Lord and both exclaimed, "Here, Wilf, what art ta trying on?" and Wilf replied, "Just bottling up mi watters, lads, that's all."

"But hang it," said Lord Fallas, "and dash it," said Earl Matthews, in unison—"that watter belongs as much ta us as it does ta thee."

"Does thy fishing rights belong as much ta me as they do ta thee, Tom? Does thy mining royalties belong ta me as much as they do ta thee, Matthews?" asked Wilfred of each, and they both replied, "Do they heck as like, they're on our land, not on thine."

"Aye, and t' watter's on my land and not on yours," retorted Wilfred, "and it's stopping there till yoh pay me for it, just t' same as I pay yoh for coile an' fish befoor they leave yore lands for mine."

"Good lad, Wilf, thar't a match for boarh on 'em," exclaimed Petts who stood close by.

"Howd on a bit, lad," exclaimed Fallas, "if we have ta pay him yoh will have ta pay us—ay, and pay us for t' trouble he's putting us to." "They will that," exclaimed the Prince of Black Diamonds.

"My God," exclaimed Petts, who was a Theosophist. "All the evil spirits of rapacious English Landlordism

have taken possession of the three of you. You are indeed evidence of the truth of the reincarnation of souls, and pretty rotten evidence it is."

Wilfred smiled and said, "Sexpence per one thousand gallons at the reservoir, and one penny per foot per annum for piping through my land—take it or leave it."

"But watter is the gift of God to all," said Matthews. "Well, collect as much as tha needs when he sends it," replied Wilf.

"But God created the mountain to store it for the free use of all," retorted Fallas.

"Doesn't that apply to coile an' fish?" asked Wilfred of the twain.

"Aye, an' doesn't that apply ta land and all that land implies?" asked Petts.

"Look here, we're giving us-sens away fratching like this in t' front of all these folks," said Matthews. "Let's goa inside an' talk things over quietly."

Now Matthews had two daughters whilst Fallas and Sykes had each a son. So Matthews said, "Look here, we're all in the same boat." ("We wor at t' beginning," interrupted Fallas.) "Aye, an' we are yet; if one falls we shall all fall. Now listen—let our children inter-marry, and we shall thereby create a Trades-Union to conserve our mutual interests. I will marry one of my daughters to your son, my Lord Fallas, and I will marry my other daughter to your son, my honorable. Wilfred," said Matthews—and it was so.

Thus did the waters of the sea, and the air and the sunshine of the heavens with the moisture thereof converge with the minerals of the earth into one interest with the face of all the land for the exploitation of the people, who, up to this time, had enjoyed great happiness and prosperity, for the toil upon them had been light and their earning power great.

Now about this time the community had developed so rapidly that suggestions had been made for erecting a small factory for the making of cloth, which was most difficult to procure from the homeland. Many also pleaded for a Church, but so many were the different faiths that it was decided such Church should be free from sectarian creeds and dogmas.

On the advice of old Burtonians the community sent a warm invitation to Percy Douglas and Abe Crabtree to come out and start the woollen factory, and bidding them to buy such machinery as would be needed and to engage such workpeople to come out with them as would be wanted for the making and finishing of stout wool fabrics. And at the same time an invitation was sent to Mitchell Kilner to become the unordained Pastor of the Undenomination Church. These three men, finding so much of their interests in life now located in the land overseas, decided to accept the invitations given them, and, after making the necessary preparations, set out with the textile workers who had consented to join them.

A warm welcome was accorded them on their arrival.

No Church had as yet been built for Kilner's ministry, and no site decided upon for the factory, these matters having been left in abeyance until the arrival of the men who were to manage and minister respectively these new enterprises.

So after a short period for rest and reunions, Messrs. Crabtree, Douglas & Kilner prospected the land for suitable sites for Church and factory.

Crabtree & Douglas, as joint managers of the proposed factory, chose a site near the coal mines, and Kilner selected a Church-site on the Harbor-front.

But all three were paralyzed with astonishment when they came to bargain with the ground-holders.

My Lord Fallas claimed that the site for the Church was the most valuable on the whole island and must be paid for accordingly, and Messrs. Crabtree & Douglas were informed that the price for the factory-site would be ten shillings per square foot inclusive of way-leaves for coal and water.

Crabtree fumed and swore, and Douglas protested that such charges would make the price of cloth prohibitive—whilst Kilner, like his Lord and Master, went up into the mountain to pray.

He came down with a light upon his face and called the people together for a religious service in the open air. And all the people responded willingly save Hobson, and he had opposed the call to Kilner with all the stubbornness which characterizes a mule.

The service went with a swinging heartiness, for the people evidently revelled in once again gathering together for worship of the Giver of all Good.

The sermon was reached and Kilner gave out his text—"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fruits thereof hath he given to *all* the children of men."

My Lord Fallas opened his wide eyes still wider, my noble Earl Matthews puckered his heavy black eyebrows until he looked quite ferocious, and the silent little Wilfred crossed his legs and threw out his chest with great defiance as Kilner paused after giving out his text.

Then Kilner opened his mouth to denounce the Land-lords' Trades Union as the greatest offense to God and the most cruel weapon of oppression against the people.

Religion, he declared, should furnish men with a right mental attitude not merely to life but also to all the relationships of life. If God was the Creator of all life and the Author of all law, then it was futile to pray "Thy will be done on Earth as it is done in Heaven" unless we were prepared to accept His Sovereignty and obey His decrees.

And God decreed that all His children were all equally the Co-heirs of His Providence, and God's Providence was wholly embraced in Land. It ought to be obvious to any sane and honest thinker, therefore, that to lift land out of its natural setting of the equal Co-heirship of all was to deny God's Sovereignty, and there could be no basis for deciding any principles of justice and honesty between

man and man when a Lie was controlling the physical foundations of life instead of the Truth of God.

And as the Preacher with fiery passion laid bare the Divine Plan for controlling God's Providence to His Children—Fallas fumed, Matthews fretted, and Sykes snorted angry anathemas.

As soon as the service was ended they went up to him. "Call this religion?" they cried in unison. "It is revolution. This is not Christianity, it is confiscation and anarchy."

"Not a foot of my land either for a Church or a house," cried Fallas, shaking his fist in Kilner's face.

"Never an ounce of coal or a foot of land from me either," cried Matthews.

"I'll see religion where it never snows and Kilner dying of thirst rather than supply him either with water or land," hissed Sykes.

Then up jumps Abe Crabtree yelling, "Methodists, Trades Unionists and Co-operators, listen to me. These men at home were your Leaders and Standard-Bearers—what are they now?"

"Fallas has swopped his Methodism, Matthew has swopped his Trades Unionism, and Sykes has swopped his Co-operationism—for what? For power to compel you to buy the right to obey the decrees of God from them. For Shakespeare spoke a great truth when he said, 'You take my life when you take the means whereby I live,' and these men, by possessing God's earth as their private property, have secured such power over you.

"Rip up their fences and pull down their notice-boards, but not until you have invested yourselves with legal as well as moral power.

"Elect yourselves into a proper constitution by a referendum. Then establish your Parliament, and authorize your representatives to enact a measure for the taxation and rating of Land Values.

"By so doing you will establish a moral economic basis of life which will ensure to the community and to individuals alike that which sacredly belongs to each. Then shall ye be free and your children shall be free to secure each his and her own highest self-expression. For justice shall then operate, and the license of legal privilege shall be unknown and none shall be able to exploit another."

And Kilner, aided by Crabtree, taught the people how to save themselves by making their statutes the agencies of the laws of the living God—and Fallas, Matthews and Sykes saw that the tide was against them, and their better natures asserting themselves they yielded up the lands they had fenced in.

Thus they shared in the joys of a people who, rid of the license of parasitism, made the whole world ring with that joy and music of life which ever outflows from divinely ordained conditions when such are allowed to operate.

Thus endeth another epistle of John to the Burtonians

J. ARCHER.

Free State Ireland and Henry George's Philosophy

MR. J. O'D. DERRICK, a resident of Glasgow for twenty-eight years, has written newsy and critical "North and South of the Clyde" articles for *The Irish Weekly*, taking advantage of every opportunity to expound Henry George's views.

The following is culled from the issue of November 19, 1932.

A NEW LEAD IN THE FREE STATE

The ideas of Bishop Nulty, Henry George, Michael Davitt, and John Ferguson, propagated in reference to ground values, are beginning to emerge in the public life of the Irish Free State. A letter last month, sent to the Irish Press, of Dublin from the Henry George angle of thought, was suppressed. A change came by the publication on Monday of last week of a brilliant exposition of Henry George doctrines in a special article by Mr. Robert C. Barton, written in crisp literary style, evidencing full grasp of the philosophy, and of its bearing on social conditions in the Free State. On Wednesday the topic of the breaking up of the grass ranches and of taxation of ground rents figured prominently at the Ard Feis of Fianna Fail, and complaints were made of high rents in cities. What are these problems but ones akin to those in Scotland? For instance, a resolution was submitted from Roscommon, and passed, urging

"That the Government should hasten the division of grass ranches, and give the Minister for Lands sufficient power to ensure that in future the prices paid for these lands will be such that tenants placed on them can afford to pay the rents fixed."

This resolution shows Landlordism in the same way as in Scotland—ransom prices for land. Mr. M. J. Kennedy, T. D., thought the Government would have to adopt a different policy to the landlord's policy carried on by the previous Government. Mr. Kennedy ought to get out advocating the taxation of land values, which would break high prices for the ranches. Mr. Traynor, of Clonsilla, Dublin, revealed that so far as that county was concerned there had been practically no land divided in the past ten years, and that "in his area there were ten or twelve big ranches, consisting of anything from 200 to 500 acres of grass land, and they were going to ask Ard Feis to demand of the Government when they were going to break up these lands."

It is to be hoped the Free State Government will go in for no more land-buying jobs, but immediately go in for Budget imposition of a stiff tax on land values, as that policy will quickly break up all the big grazing ranches and estates, and soon make plenty of land available for all who seek it. Land-buying jobs play the landowners' game, and in most cases the land is owned by Britishers.

The Dail has full power to enact the collection of land values for public purposes.

JOYFUL NEWS FROM THE FREE STATE

Our readers will be delighted with the old ideas now breaking forth into public expression in Ireland. The Harold's Cross Cumann, Dublin, got a resolution adopted at the Feis drawing attention to "high rents charged in towns and cities." The Mallow delegate, however, made a mistake in urging that tenants be "given power to purchase the interests of the ground landlords,"

Not in that direction lies the welfare of the Free State, but in extinguishing the power of the ground owner by collecting values for local and State purposes, and untaxing all improvements.

Several resolutions, it appears, were sent in to the Feis, demanding the taxation of ground values. Mr. Byrne, of North Dublin, has a glimmer of a truth not fully realized in the Free State, when he said: "he thought that there was more money going out of the country in

the way of ground rents than was going out in the way of Land Annuities."

That point ought to be fully looked into, and it will likely be found that the ground of most Irish cities and towns is owned by Britishers, and to Britain the ground rents filter.

In any case the value of Free State land, apart from improvements, belongs to all the people of the Free State. No person should be allowed to pocket any of that value, which, Bishop Nulty declared, seemed destined by God for public purposes.

When a Free State Government has the wisdom to untax all products of Free State industry, as far as possible, and substitute the collection of the economic value of land, it will find there will soon be none of the useful natural resources in that area idle, and that the problem of the jobless man will soon have disappeared.

The Free State Government could easily make a start by the Budget imposition of threepence in the £ tax on the capital value of all land—except ground owned by religious institutions.

The money realized would provide a great fund wherewith to relieve Free State industry, and help in the fight against Britain's Tariff war.

During the past few days there has been a procession of Free State exiles to the Glasgow office of the *Irish Weekly*, drawing attention to Mr. Barton's splendid article and to the expressions of opinion at the Ard Feis of Fianna Fail, and asking for something on the subject in these notes.

The danger of the situation is that the big graziers will begin to croak, all the ground landowning and reactionary interests will begin to squeal and try to get the Government to go in for a policy of buying out the owners of ground rents. To do so would substitute an intolerable burden of interest on the Free State. Don't kick or buy the ground owners out. Tax them out. There is no compensation payable for taxation.

Ground owners have been holding the Free State Government and Dublin Corporation to ransom by high prices for ground. That is unchallengeable.

It is time this legalized system of blackmail foisted on Ireland by England was ended. The Free State Parliament has adequate power to do so. That State is young in the art of governing, but once her sons and daughters see the justice of the new revenue raising system they will act quickly. There are thousands of Irishmen in the Henry George movement all over the world, men like Mr. P. J. O'Regan in New Zealand, Mr. Maguire in Pittsburgh, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, and J. J. Murphy in New York, and many in Liverpool. How they will rejoice at the new development in the Free State. It is a beginning only, those expressions of thought. It will be glorious if Free State Ireland set an example to the world by untaxing her native industrial products and took economic rent instead for public purposes, for Ireland would soon become a beacon light to the world for her solution of revenue raising and social and labor problems, for under that policy everyone in the Free State wanting land would easily obtain it, and involuntary poverty would soon disappear.

Those Free State exiles sought impressions. They are fully supplied. A few men of Mr. Robert Barton's type are needed in the Free State. An organization ought to be formed in Dublin devoting itself solely to advocating the new revenue raising system. A Michael Davitt is needed to lead the crusade. There is an old Irish priest in the Free State, Father Thomas Dawson, O. M. I., a personal friend of the late Henry George and of his family, whose heart will be gladdened at the new trend of thought in Erin.

A PERSONAL NOTE

Mr. Barton resides in County Wicklow. He was educated at Rugby and Oxford. He successfully contested West Wicklow as a Sinn Féiner in 1918. He was arrested in February, 1919, and escaped from Mountjoy Gaol in March of that year to be rearrested in 1920. He was court-martialed and sentenced to ten years penal servitude which was reduced to three years. He served seventeen months and was released in June of 1921.

He was one of the Envoys Plenipotentiaries with Messrs. Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Edmond J. Duggan and George Gavan Duffy in October, 1921, that signed the Treaty of Peace with the British Government in London out of which has sprung the modern Irish Free State.

After signing the Treaty Mr. Barton returned to his agricultural pursuits in County Wicklow, where he has a large farm.

He is highly cultured, well read, a man of strong convictions and ready to face any odds in their defence. His emergence again into public life and now as a protagonist of the philosophy of Henry George has attracted wide-spread attention.

Mexico

AN important item of news is that the "Union de Veteranos de la Revolucion" has just been formed here by prominent Mexican intellectuals, including editors, authors, lawyers, engineers, doctors and generals. They plan a nation-wide propaganda along strictly liberal lines. Their political proposals include proportional representation and their economic programme advocates Georgism pure and simple. It is proposed to follow the idea of the Commonwealth Land Party of England for attaining the latter system. i. e., economic rent will be socialized and taxation abolished, but an important modification will be that the change will be spread over four years, or one presidential term, instead of being done at once by parliamentary decree.

This is the first time in twenty-two years of this long, tiresome and destructive revolution that Georgism has been demanded by any political party here, and denotes that Mexican leaders have at last found out what is the matter with civilization and how to prescribe a remedy. Apparently the economic disasters produced by the unfair syndicalism of Article 123 and the agrarian communism of Article 27 of the Constitution of 1917 have led the way to these new and more radical but more rational proposals.

R. B. BRINSMADE.

San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Bulgaria

WE are happy to record that a Bulgarian translation of "Progress and Poverty" has probably by this time appeared. Mr. Madsen, of *Land and Liberty*, of London, informs us that such a translation is due in January of this year. The translation has been made after the Russian version by S. D. Nicolaev, checked against the French translation as well as the English version.

Mr. B. Guduleff, of Sofia, is one of the active Henry George men in Bulgaria. He tells us that this translation is being done by Yordan Kovatcheff, who has already translated "Social Problems and the Land Question."

The following list of books have already been published in the Bulgarian language. In addition to those named: "The Labor Question," "The Crime of Poverty," and "Thy Kingdom Come," have appeared. Bulgaria also

has a book entitled "Henry George, His Life and Ideas," with a supplement, this being an article by Mr. Nicolaev on the teachings of Henry George, also a book entitled "Land Value," translated from the French. And in addition to this literature our comrades in Bulgaria publish a paper *Svoboda*, (Freedom.)

Denmark

FOUR seats in the Danish Folksting or parliament were won at the election on November 16 by the Single Tax party in a straight out, independent contest. A Copenhagen dispatch to the *Baltimore Sun*, of November 18, gives complete results: Labor party 62, Liberals 38, Conservatives 27, Independent Liberals 14, Single Tax party 4, Communists 2, No party having a clear majority it is possible that the Single Tax party will have a part in the coalition necessary to form a government. The Labor party is in power at present, has been most friendly to the taxation of land values and free trade, though it does not advocate anything like a thorough Single Tax programme, and looks on the result as a victory. Its popular vote increased considerably, which is an unusual thing for a party holding power during a depression. Probably there are many thorough Single Taxers in its ranks.

Spain

MR. JOHN C. ROSE, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has received the following letter from President Zamora, of the Spanish Republic. The letter is in his own handwriting.

Dear Sir:—Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the great work of Henry George, "Progress and Poverty." At (to) the science of this great work we had already devoted the greatest part of the discussion in the Academy de Ciencias Morales y Politicas (in one year). As you take great interest in this problem I send you the text of the last Spanish Law, which, as you see, extends only to agricultural lands."

ELBERT HUBBARD, in "Little Journeys to Great Reformers": "All for which Henry George strived and struggled will yet come true—his prayer will be answered.

"Of all modern prophets and reformers Henry George is the only one whose arguments are absolutely unanswerable and whose forecast was sure."

ABOLISH special privileges and Government interference in industry. Give to all equal natural opportunities—equal rights to the inexhaustible storehouse of Nature—and wealth will distribute itself in exact accordance with justice. This, the ideal of Henry George, is what I would place before our people instead of the will-o'-the-wisp of socialistic despotism.—MAX HIRSCH.

Chicago to Entertain Eighth Annual Henry George Congress

THE executive committee of the Henry George Foundation has unanimously agreed that Chicago is the logical meeting place for the Eighth Annual Henry George Congress and the preliminary arrangements are now being made in the confidence that the central location of Chicago, combined with the attractions of the World's Fair of 1933 and the splendid local cooperation that may be anticipated, will give virtual assurance in advance of producing the biggest Single Tax convention yet held in the United States, despite any handicaps incident to the long continued depression, and especially in view of the rapidly growing interest in fundamental economic problems.

This will be the first return engagement for an annual convention since the inception of the Henry George Foundation in 1926. While Toronto, St. Louis and other American cities sought the privilege of entertaining the Single Taxers this year, the popularity of Chicago as a convention city, particularly during the celebration of its "Century of Progress," was such as to outweigh for the present at least, the desire to inspire renewed interest in new territory, especially as all the principal sections of the country have been covered to a degree by the national conventions previously in the North, East, South and West.

President George E. Evans has appointed Clayton J. Ewing of Chicago, now first Vice-President of the Foundation, as well as President of the Single Tax League of Illinois, as Chairman of the Convention Committee. It will be remembered that Mr. Ewing was the able chairman of the committee which had charge of the very successful convention held in Chicago in 1928. He is already planning the appointment of the various sub-committees and will have the hearty cooperation of the rank and file of the Chicago Single Tax Club, including a very active group of young people.

The dates fixed for the Henry George Congress are September 18, 19 and 20, and Chairman Ewing desires to have wide publicity given both the time and place of meeting so that visitors not only from all parts of the United States, but from abroad may plan their contemplated trip to the World's Fair or make summer vacation arrangements so as to insure their presence in Chicago at the time when their friends and associates in the Single Tax movement will be holding their annual rally. A special effort will be made to give this year's convention an international aspect and the programme committee is inviting several prominent Georgists from other countries. Weather conditions in Chicago should be delightful for visitors during mid-September and an attendance of 500 has been set as the goal, which the officers of the Foundation believe will prove quite possible of attainment.

Tax Consciousness

IT is doubtful if any man knows, even approximately, what he pays in taxes for the support of government. It is true he has tax receipts to show moneys paid over to properly authorized government officials, but these moneys in large measure represent what has been collected from consumers.

The consumer has paid the tax, and most so-called taxpayers are in the fast-analysis tax collectors, acting as intermediaries between the consumer and the government. To illustrate, an automobile owner pays a tax when he buys gasoline, not directly to the government, but to the seller of the gasoline who collects it from the automobile owner. The seller of the gasoline pays the government official the taxes collected and although he may be called a tax payer, he is in reality a tax collector rather than a tax payer.

If the automobile owner is driving a pleasure car, then he is the real tax payer and the tax must come from his earnings, but if the car is being used for business purposes the owner is also a tax collector for he charges its cost as one of the expenses of doing business, like rent, insurance, etc., it is added to the cost of goods or service he is another intermediary like the gasoline seller between the government and the consumer, for ultimately the consumers of those goods or recipients of that service must pay the tax.

The larger part of the taxes paid for the support of government are collected in this indirect way. It is true of the tariff tax; in many instances, the tariff on imported goods is more than the original cost of the goods. It is true of the income tax, the taxes on business, corporations, and public utilities. The consumer pays the tax.

In an excellent article which is published as an advertisement in the August 6 issue of the "*Literary Digest*" Benjamin Rush, President of Insurance Company of America, says of "The average person"—"If he lives in a house, wears clothes, eats food, travels from one place to another, buys a newspaper, goes to the movies, in fact, spends money in any way he cannot help paying his share of the taxes which Government lays on property and industry (and by Government I mean all Government—National, State and Local)." I would recommend to all the reading of President Rush's article in full and where he attributes "Hard Times" to "Excessive Taxation." I am inclined to believe that they are caused by unequal taxation. The burden falling more and more upon those least able to carry it, that is the large body of average consumers, who through increasing taxes and high prices are forced to cut down consumption.

It is a very encouraging sign of the times when so many agencies are striving to arouse the average man to a sense of tax consciousness.

Many of the public utilities are sending to their customers with their bills, valuable statistical and other information concerning taxes. It may seem strange that public utilities which are tax collectors and not strictly speaking tax payers, should so interest themselves, but they suffer loss of profit in their business because taxes added to the cost of their service make high prices which reduce the volume of their business as they do of any other industry or service.

The enormous increase in the cost of government, which is given as \$30.24 per capita in 1913 and \$110.00 per capita in 1931 is due more to an extension of government service than to the cost of war. The larger part of it is for State and Local Governments. For Federal 31.50 per cent, State 14.50 per cent and Local 54 per cent.

We have not only demanded of our Federal, State, and Local Governments large increase in the service rendered, but interested groups, many of them well-intentioned and representing worthy causes, have induced our legislators through powerful and influential political pressure, to undertake services that are not properly functions of government and should be performed by private organizations.

We have forced business into Government that has greatly reduced in efficiency and value the business of government.

Government should not undertake to give any service that can be

given by private individuals or organizations, unless it is necessary to establish some new department or extend the service of those already established there would not be the large increase in paternal government that we have had, nor any such expanded expenditure as during the past fifteen or twenty years.

When it is proposed to issue bonds for some new public improvement or extension of public service, the "average citizen" does not consider that it has much to do with his welfare, but it has a widespread influence on his Nation, State or Community aside from any small sum it takes from his earnings. Our relations are so interwoven in these days of advance civilization that the prosperity of others materially influences the welfare of each and every one of us. This is being forcibly impressed upon our minds in these days of depression and it is hoped it will find lodgment there: that we may recognize our responsibility and duty to carefully scrutinize any proposal that will increase cost of government. This is particularly true of State and Municipal expenditures. When protesting against high taxation most persons refer to the National Government, but the percentage of National expenditure is less than one-third of the total, more than two-thirds are State and Local. The old adage "Economy begins at home" is true of taxation.

When we consider per capita tax, we are likely to be misled and think the majority of our citizens pay something approximating that amount, say \$110.00 per annum as given for 1931, or for \$440.00 per annum for a family of four, but, as most all our taxes are ultimately paid by the consumer, it is manifest that the large majority of our citizens pay very much more than this average, while those of great wealth pay very much less in proportion to their ability to pay, but ability to pay is not a fair method of taxation. "Soak the rich" is a demand that is very difficult to satisfy. Under the ability to pay theory of taxation every sort of method from torture to persuasion has been tried during the past two thousand years and without success. Neither should it be done, for that which a man honestly earned whether he be rich or poor should not be taken by government so long as there exists a fund which rightfully belongs to the public and should be used for governmental purposes.

The fund referred to is the land value of the United States. It was not created by any individual: it belongs to the people and it is the first duty of government to collect it. There would be little need for any other form of taxation as the annual ground rent amounts to thirteen and a half billion dollars, considerably more than the cost of National, State and Local Government in anything approaching normal conditions.

It would take nothing from those who produce goods or furnish service to their fellowmen. It would be taken only from those who now give us the privilege of staying on God's earth and using its resources to satisfy our human desires. Furthermore, it would open up for use a vast amount of land now held by speculators awaiting the increase in value that comes as a result of the industry and growth of the population, thus solving the unemployment problem. Fifty per cent of the land within our cities is either unused or unimproved. A tax that would make it unprofitable to hold for speculative purposes would bring it into use.

It would so simplify taxation that every man could know who and what was paying the cost of government, something impossible to determine under the heterogeneous variations of the present tax system.

—FRANK H. HOWE in *Bulletin* of the Ornamental Iron, Bronze, and Wire Manufacturers for November.

WE think of modern industry in terms of huge manufacturing plants, but the average factory in the United States employs only 42 persons. The U. S. Chamber of Commerce tells us that this is only seven more than the average of twenty-five years ago. The small factory may be passing, but it is taking its time about it.—NEWS NOTE.

Successors to Malthus

ONLY about a century and a third has passed since Malthus, the English economist, wrote his "Essay on the Principles of Population." That essay was destined for a hundred years to bedevil and mislead economists and statesmen and serve as a cloak for evil thinking and wicked practices. The author's thesis was that while population tends to increase at a geometrical ratio, the production of food can increase at only an arithmetical ratio. Therefore, because of the growth of population beyond its power to feed itself, hunger and poverty were the inescapable lot of multitudes of humanity. And the salvation of the race from ultimate extinction lay in the very evils, such as war and pestilence, which most oppressed it. Only by such means could the pressure of population on subsistence be held within bounds.

A hundred years later Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty," which was to become equally famous with the Malthusian essay. In it, with sound and brilliant reasoning, abundantly fortified, he effectively knocked the skids from under the pernicious theory of the British economist. Since then the progress of events has conclusively sustained George, and proved the Malthusian doctrine to be but one of the numerous and costly errors of which great thinkers are capable.

Now other great or near-great thinkers—the technocrats—are assailing us with their gospel of gloom. It isn't a new gospel. Indeed it is centuries old. The machine is putting man out of business. It means immense production with no mass-earning power to consume and enjoy the product. For how can the man made jobless by the machine buy? Ultimate starvation is the destined common lot, therefore, in the midst of a fantastic over-plenty. Unless, that is, we demolish the present system and substitute for it—the technocrats know not what.

* * *

The trouble with the theory was the trouble with Malthus' theory. It does not mesh with the facts. As Prof. James E. Thomas writes, in *Nation's Business*: "That the machine 'throws men out of work' is one of those 'perfectly self-evident propositions' which does not happen to be true."

Prof. Thomas turns to England, "where the figures have been carefully recorded for more than a hundred years." Arkwright invented the first spinning machine in 1769. By 1855 that machine was doing the work of 700 men, "throwing 699 out of work." But in 1856, 379,000 men were employed in the British textile industry, as compared with only 218,000 in 1835. By 1914 the number had grown to 689,000. While population was doubling the number of workers in this machine industry was trebling. In the engineering trades the number of workers increased 250 per cent in 40 years. In the printing trades, in 40 years, the number of employed increased from 80,000 to 224,000. In all industry in England, between 1881 and 1911, employment increased 48 per cent while population increased but 38 per cent. And Prof. Thomas comments:

"Of course the fact is that but for the machine, England's population could not have increased at that rate. The country could not possibly have supported them. Starvation, or peasant standards of living for all, is the alternative of the machine."

In the United States it is the same story. Between 1920 and 1928 machines displaced the labor of 1,957,000 employes, including 800,000 agricultural workers. But in the same period, in new trades and professions, it provided work for 2,527,000 persons directly, and for something like 2,000,000 more indirectly.

Our census figures show that in 1914, out of each 1,000 of our population, 80.4 workers were employed in manufacturing industries. In 1929 the figure was 83.9. In manufacturing, mining and mechanical employment the percentage was 15.6 in 1880; 29.1 in 1900; 30.9 in 1930.

* * *

In general, until the dislocation growing out of the war and its

maladjustments overwhelmed us, there was, in this machine age, a steadily increasing proportion of the population engaged in gainful employment. At the same time the wages of employment, and the standard of living, had improved in even greater proportion.

Meanwhile, mankind does not live and operate through the machine alone. As the *Detroit News* remarks:

"In spite of our control of energy, we can't make cattle and hogs grow faster into beef and pork; with 30 horsepower we can't make deliveries very much faster than with one horse; and the machine has not yet been invented that will write an encyclopedia, or even a good book; or compose a symphony; or paint a first-rate picture; or teach in the schools; or run a bank; or perform millions of services that still demand one-brain power."

We have enough problems to worry about. One of them is the necessity of a readjustment that will more equitably distribute the opportunity to enjoy the products and the leisure the machine makes possible. But the machine itself, its production of more goods with less labor, need not be one of our troubles. That it threatens human happiness is as fallacious as was Dr. Malthus' idea that war and pestilence and famine were needed to save the race.

—Omaha *World-Herald*.

Railroad Taxation

MR. C. J. LAVERY, of Aberdeen, S. D., has written the following letter to the National Transportation Committee at New York:

The First Requisite to Security, and Securities:

Change our system of levying taxes from the earnings of some of us, as they are now levied, to the earnings of all of us—land values.

Taxation of railroads increases the cost of the services that they sell and the whole public pays in higher prices for goods and service.

Buying Power is the first requisite to security. Wages and interest are the source of buying power. When wages and interest are consumed by TAXES and RENT and HIGH CHARGES for UTILITY SERVICES there cannot be much buying power.

LAND RENT should liquidate TAXES; NOT WAGES nor INTEREST as now obtains. It should be good business to shift TAXES from wages and interest, where they always limit buying power, to land values—RENT—where they would stimulate buying power.

Given adequate BUYING POWER; the masses, who subsist wholly on wages and interest, would keep the wheels of industry and the railroads busy. There would be no "railroad problem." There would be no unemployment. There would be no overproduction. But there would be security and railroad securities would continue to be safe and sane investments. Think it over gentlemen, please.

Now, concerning the proposition of putting the programme over: WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS ALWAYS A WAY. I am confident that every one of you gentlemen are anxious to do what is best for the railroads and for the whole country. I am equally confident that if you recommend the shifting of taxes, from the railroads and all other industries that sell equipment and goods to the railroads, to land values, IT WILL BE DONE. The sooner, the better. The present Congress should be importuned as soon as possible. The remainder of your report may come later.

I feel sure that neither the railroads nor the people need the services of the Interstate Commerce Commission and it must cost the wage earners of the country a lot of money, reducing BUYING POWER in like ratio. I believe the Commission should be abolished but the shifting of railroad taxes to land values is much more fundamental and urgent. The farmers need lower freight rates badly. The railroads need more freight. And the unemployed need more freight to handle.

Noren Applies for a Carnegie Medal

This is an application for a medal and a cash reward for an act of mine that saved no less than 500 people from sudden death.

You have heard the awful yammer in Pittsburgh about high taxes and knowing taxes are unnecessary nuisances I got Attorney McNair, who is Pittsburgh's political economist, to come to Greenfield, where I live, to explain why taxes are unnecessary. We notified all of the 5,000 people who live in Greenfield and twenty came to the meeting which shows the uprising back of the yammer for lower taxes. The speaker satisfied everybody and the chairman requested a vote on having another meeting two weeks later. After feeling their clothes and finding their purses and watches safe they all raised their hands to signify they would attend the next meeting.

There is some expense involved to notify so many people of a meeting and knowing the danger of asking for a collection it puzzled us what to do. We all know what happens to an audience when some one cries fire and at the mention of money some one would start a rush for the doors and tramp on each other, others would be shocked and fall dead in their seats. To avoid this calamity I printed a notice on the circular for the following meeting, that anyone who wished to assist in abolishing taxes could do so by joining the Henry George Club and paying dues of a dollar a year.

Greenfield, like other communities, is made up of three classes of people, the generous, the brave and the scotch. The last has no reference to the people of Scotland or to those who came from there. As was expected after the circular's reference to dues the scotch remained at home, the generous of Greenfield is well known and would have been at the meeting but he happened to be in Atlantic City at the time, as he told me later. The brave ones all came for I spoke to both of them. Anyhow brave people do not produce a panic or get shocked, they can look you straight in the eye and say no.

I assure you, Gentlemen of The Carnegie Hero Commission, that none but my own self had anything to do with the notice of dues in the circular and that saving the five hundred people who otherwise would have been at the meeting is due to me and no one else. Surely saving five hundred from death in panic and shock deserves all I ask.

To enable me to continue in the three-year holiday jubilee now on I want you to give me a large cash reward for if I don't get it I might go French, as our mortgaged farmers are doing. The medal I want so that future generations will know I was a hero.

Respectfully submitted,
H. W. NOREN.

The Mad Hatter Again

"WHAT is a bargaining weapon?" asked Alice. The Hatter answered: "It is a rod in pickle for the foreigner to remind him that he takes our goods because they are the best on the market, and that he must send the goods he produces to some other country that needs them more than we do."

"Has the foreigner no bargaining weapon?" asked Alice.

"Yes, of course he has," said the Hatter; "that is why he is so unsettled: when our bargaining weapon gets going the foreigner will know for the first time what it signifies to have a Commonwealth of Nations and Colonies to work for."

"Does the bargaining weapon work on coal?" asked Alice.

"It will work on coal in the House of Commons," said the Hatter, in a pensive mood, "but at the moment it will not work in France nor in the Irish Free State."

"I am afraid I don't understand," said Alice.

"Neither do I," said the Hatter, "but what everybody is supposed to understand is that a tariff bargain is not like any other bargain. The tariff stops the foreign goods from coming in; and the bargaining weapon collects the money at its source."

"I have heard," said Alice, "that price is regulated by supply and demand, and that a bargain means—"

"Take another cup of tea," said the Hatter, "and do try to get into your precious head when you are thinking of tariffs that a bargain and a bargaining weapon are two different things."

"I am willing to learn," said Alice, "but please make it plain and simple."

"It has something to do with the unemployed," answered the Hatter. "A bargain means you get goods cheap because nobody wants them dear, and cheapness is against the man out of a job: bargaining power means revenue for the State and work for all."

"I have heard it said," Alice ventured, "that Lord Snowden knows where to find millions of pounds for the public revenue and that his plan would also bring high wages for steady men."

"That's just it," said the Hatter, "the unemployed have got the jumps and the Communists are saying that the only place to find steady men is in a waxwork."

"Don't be silly," said Alice, "our unemployed are very quiet and well-behaved, and Parliament did pass the Snowden Bill to burst the land monopoly."

"It is beyond peradventure a back number," said the Hatter. "The land question is only one idea, a phase of narrow nationalism. The trouble is international, and what is wanted is world-planning on a large scale."

"Everybody knows Denmark has Land Value Taxes," said Alice, "and they have so much food that after supplying their own needs they can send us tons and tons of bacon, eggs and butter."

"Yes," said the Hatter, "and this is one of the most serious problems we have to tackle; Denmark sells us millions of pounds' worth of food and buys nothing from us in return, or very little; we pay them in cheques which they cash in Germany. We take their goods and they take our money."

"What do the Germans do with the cheques?" Alice asked.

"Send them to the United States," said the Hatter, "and they just say: 'It's your gold we want.'"

"Has the gold made them happy and contented?" Alice asked.

"That was the intention," said the Hatter, "but they lost revenue in closing the saloons, and boot-legging is still an infant industry."

"I have heard," said Alice, "that it is goods for goods and that cheques and money merely allow people to say where they want their supplies to be delivered."

"That is a practice," said the Hatter, "that worked well enough in the past, but please don't forget the Great War. After this bloody fight for peace on earth we had to make a land fit for heroes to dwell in. This required much money to peg out the new claims for the heroes. In the process the fiscal policy came to a standstill. Free Trade could finance the war, but the peace treaty finished it. It is now in the shame corner. We must look to ourselves or we'll go under."

"But you have just told me," said Alice, "the problem is international, and—"

"Certainly," said the Hatter, "it is international when the wind blows in that direction, but it is a home affair when you come to pay the rent. It is a two-sided problem and the side you take in any argument depends entirely upon what you want to prove; it is this that makes the task of the Downing Street chiefs at Ottawa so tiresome: they must have this two-sided matter constantly before them, or they are lost; it must come to an end some day."

"What must come to and end?" Alice asked.

"Dumping," said the Hatter. "To save the situation everybody must stay at home and buy in the dearest market."

"People want plenty of goods for their money," said Alice; "they are not just so foolish—"

"Of course not," the Hatter exclaimed; "you have got me wrong; the idea of making things dear is to keep the home fires burning; goods must come dear or the gold standard will never return."

"There must be *something* in the Land Value question," said Alice. "Manchester wants it, and I have heard it said that what Manchester wants today, England will want tomorrow."

"That was right enough in the days before the war," said the Hatter, "but England is out of it this time; it's a world depression: besides, we don't want much land now; it's factories that are important, and under the Tariff they are coming overseas in boatloads. Buy British."

means rural regeneration and no more ribbon building."

"Too many factories will make goods cheap," said Alice, "and you have just said that we cannot have prosperity unless goods are dear."

"There you are again," said the Hatter, "you *will* look at these questions as *you* see them. In this place we always look at questions as other people see them; that is a lesson you have got to learn if you stay with us."

"If we all buy British and nobody buys foreign, how can we improve our export trade?" asked Alice.

"We don't want to improve it," said the Hatter, "we want to make it hard to get at so that we can take in the unemployed. It's this way: if a Manchester man trades with a man in Ottawa there are two profits, but if the trade is between a Bristol man and a New York man there is only one profit. Buy British means two and two make four, two for you two—the March Hare and yourself—and two for me, too. To buy foreign only means that one and one make two: We are taking no chances."

"Is there nothing to come out of the Conference at Ottawa?" Alice asked.

"I like it not," said the Hatter, "it has a lean and hungry look. Besides, it is what you put into such cartels that is important. Our men had nothing to put in it but Reparations, and as luck would have it, word came from Geneva that they had winked out: It's a sad story and the half will never be told."

"Where is the gold standard now?" asked Alice.

"That's the mystery of the moment," said the Hatter. "There is a great dispute as to its whereabouts; some say there never was no such thing, that it was sterling that counted all the time; that one gold sovereign was equal to twenty shillings, but it did not follow that twenty shillings was equal to one gold sovereign; the Bank of England put it across with one, or two scraps of paper; others say the gold standard is at the bottom of the Lake of Geneva and that it ought to stay there. In any case the experts are working overtime at it with gunboats and submarines standing to attention."

Alice was puzzled and could only think to say in a compassionate voice: "You look very tired."

"Wrong again," said the Hatter, taking a long breath: "it's the subject that's tired, and small wonder; it has been hard pressed these past ten years."

"Well, I declare," murmured Alice, "I never, in all my life, heard anyone talk of a subject being tired."

"You have a lot to learn," said the Hatter, "there are any number of tired subjects going west every day because they can't stand the racket."

"The Cheshire Cat sent me here," said Alice, "and I cannot think what for."

"You were the more deceived," said the Hatter; "it might have made all the difference if you had been sent here by the Whittington's Cat. This Cat dreamed a dream and in the morning left its adopted City of San Francisco

for distant shores where rats were plentiful and cats were few, returning home with bags of gold."

"What happened to the gold?" asked Alice.

"They made a Golden Gate for the city," said the Hatter, "with some of it, and handed the remainder to the Real Estate Market. They monkeyed about with it on the instalment system and finally got caught up in an earthquake at Florida: and that's why the United States drifted into the economic blizzard. You can read all about this in a book: It makes your Cheshire Cat look like 30 cents."

"Oh, dear me," said Alice, "can't we do something now to make things better for everybody?"

"All the mischief comes," said the Hatter, "by people who will do something and whatever they do is sure to make things worse; they sell the bearskin before they catch the bear, and when the bear is caught they sell his skin again: This is called high finance, and big business. It is not understood by many, but the High Lights in science say it's all in the evolution, and the rule of the road there is 'Wait for the Wagon.'"

"It's all very astonishing," said Alice, "and it is not easy making up one's mind."

"Don't try," said the Hatter; "have some more tea—China, Indian or Russian?"—JOHN PAUL.

Walk of Fame, Rollins College

A STONE FROM THE BIRTHPLACE OF HENRY GEORGE TO BE PLACED IN THE WALK

THE Henry George Foundation of America is making arrangements with President Hamilton Holt of Rollins College, Winter Park, Fla., for the presentation of a stone taken from the birthplace of Henry George located on the east side of Tenth Street, south of Pine, in Philadelphia, Pa. The Walk of Fame at Rollins College is made up of stepping stones taken from the birthplace of famous men throughout the world. It is fitting that the Walk should contain a stone from the birthplace of Henry George.

A stone taken from the Union Square Hotel where Henry George died was presented by a student of Rollins College last year, but no special ceremonies were held on that occasion.

The stone taken from the birthplace of Henry George will have inscribed upon it:

BIRTHPLACE OF HENRY GEORGE, PHILADELPHIA

It is planned to have the presentation ceremonies during the last week in February of this year. Friends of Henry George will be invited to attend this ceremony. An announcement of the programme and the exact date of the ceremonies will be sent out by the Henry George Foundation. Anyone interested will be able to get information by addressing the Henry George Foundation of America, Mr. Percy R. Williams, Secretary, 238 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Alfred Bishop Mason Passes

ALFRED BISHOP MASON is dead in Florence, Italy, where he has lived for a number of years, and was engaged almost to the very last in literary work. His most recent work was "Horace Walpole's England." As late as 1929 a novel appeared from his pen, "A Duchess and Her Daughters."

Twenty years ago he turned to the writing of juvenile fiction, and his stories had a wide vogue among the young. Before the appearance of "Progress and Poverty" he had written a "Primer of Political Economy" which showed the trend of his thought that made him a ready convert to the teachings of "Progress and Poverty," the doctrines of which he eagerly embraced.

The *Herald Tribune* of this city says of him: "He crowded several careers into his life. He was a corporation lawyer, a railroad president, an editorial writer, and a translator of books on economics and constitutional law."

He was at one time president of the American Cotton Oil Company and was one of the founders of the Provident Loan Association.

A busy and useful life is closed. Those who knew Mr. Mason, and they included most of the Henry George men and women in this locality, will recall his charming personality, his graceful faculty of speechmaking, and his courtly manners. He was a marked man in any company, and carried his years with amazing ease, as those present at the dinner given in his honor on his visit to the United States about two years ago will recall.

He was president of the Manhattan Single Tax for several terms. Born in 1851 he had seen much, written much and met many distinguished people. He was the son of R. B. Mason, once mayor of Chicago, and was a descendent of Stephen Hopkins, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and Captain Levi Mason, of the Revolutionary army.

Dare Not Repeal It

(A. W. MADSEN, in *Letter to the Memphis Conference*)

NEVER in the history of our movement have we had such a responsibility to shoulder or such an opportunity for new advances placed at our feet. It is an opportunity to use, with the assistance of all who will make common cause with us. It is ours to organize and rally again the powerful sentiment that exists in this country for the land value policy, a sentiment created by years of persistent endeavor, its influence proved in the three great parliamentary victories of 1906, 1910 and 1931 and in the demand on the part of hundreds of British municipalities for legislation to take public revenue from the public value of land.

If the sentiment for the Land Value Policy did not exist in the constituencies, if it did not have a dominating place in the programmes of both Labor and Liberal parties, no

such victory as that in 1931 would have been possible. Even now, the worst that our National Government dare do in compliance to Tory hostility is to suspend the operation of the Land Value Tax measure embodied in the Finance Act of last year.

To have repealed the Land Value Tax Act would have broken up the National Government, as responsible Ministers have freely admitted. Repeal would have aroused the same "seven devils" as were feared by the Conservative leader, Mr. Baldwin, when his party in 1917 wanted to destroy the 1910 Finance Act; and Mr. Baldwin the Conservative leader, refused for the same reason to permit the repeal of the 1931 Finance Act. He knows what it means to antagonize the sentiment for Land Value Taxation. The 1931 legislation stands on the Statute Book to be put into force and extended as soon as the present administration gives place to one more progressive. The day of change may not be far distant, if recent by-elections registering an immense turnover of votes against the Government, are any criterion. The reaction against protection has set in.

George L. Record's Conviction

(From a Letter to the Memphis Conference)

IN my judgment a great reform cannot be predicated upon financial advantages. It must be founded upon an appeal to the sense of justice of the average man. Whatever advantages can be shown were justified, and it is shrewd policy to show, but stripped of all verbiage what we really propose to do is to confiscate the value of the land which the land-owner owns, for which he has paid money. If we ever reach the political stage the land-owners will organize against us, and we will have a fierce battle over this point, which does not now come up in our discussion in any practical way; but if you appeal to a man's moral sense you are on solid ground, and our appeal on that side is powerful. We should try to show that the ownership of land as at present defined, involving the power to hold land out of use either for speculation or to sustain monopoly, is a privilege, exactly as slavery was and that the effect of it ultimately will be to destroy this Republic. We should use Lincoln's analysis of slavery and his conclusion that slavery would have to be abolished or the country would become all slave, and his appeal to the moral sense of the community for the right of the slave to eat the bread which he had earned by the sweat of his brow. That is the widest and strongest appeal we can make. Jefferson said, "that the land belongs in usufruct to the living," and if there is any moral truth in this world that is true.

The value of the land is created by the community and belongs to the community by every moral law to which the average man yields consent. At this particular time we should stress the point that the tremendous rise in land

values was the most powerful contributing cause of our present depression, as it was to all previous depressions which we have had, and that it will create in due time another depression after the deflation of land values results in a new temporary wave of prosperity.

Straight Economics

WHILE one group of people is asserting that labor-saving machinery is a cause of depression, another group is working feverishly on the invention of improved labor-saving machinery as a means of promoting prosperity.

Would it help or hinder prosperity if a steel or wood house should be designed that could be built so cheaply as to cut the price of a workingman's dwelling in half?

Contracts for thousands of the cheap houses would be let at once. Two or three houses would be constructed where one was built before. More labor would be employed. More people would get houses. All would be better off.

One group, however, would profit more than any other. This group would be the land owners. Land owners take a slice out of everything that facilitates commerce and industry.

John Stuart Mill, the great English economist, was puzzled by the phenomenon that the lot of labor was not more quickly improved by the use of machinery. What he failed to see clearly was that the greater share of the improvement in industrial processes goes to swell economic rent, or the value of land, and that land is owned by a minority of the population.

Into the pockets of land owners is drained off each decade an increasing share of the joint product of labor and capital.

Proposals have been suggested for correcting this situation, but we will not go into them here. We merely wish to identify that labor-saving machinery and other devices of efficiency are not an evil but an unmixed blessing.

Not a living soul cares to scrap any labor-saving device that has been in existence long enough to establish its value through use. The advance from the Stone Age to the Bronze Age, and thence to the Iron Age, was comparable to this civilization's advance from the horse to the automobile and thence to the airplane. What woman would care to scrap her suction sweeper, electric refrigerator, washing machine and electric iron, returning to the broom, icebox, wash board and flatiron? To ask such questions is to answer them. Equally foolish is the solemn consideration of other labor-saving machinery as a cause of unemployment.

What we should determine is whether the rent of land takes too large a proportion of the nation's income. A land owner collects a toll for the use of something he did not create. He simply bought the privilege of collecting the toll. Society may some day decide that this privilege is too great a burden for labor and industry to bear.

—*The William Feather Magazine.*

Shaw Gives His Case Away as Marx Did

ALL this (exploitation) would have been avoided if we had only had the sense and foresight to insist that the land should remain national property, that all rents should be used for public purposes. If this had been done there need have been no slums, no ugly mean streets and buildings, nor any rates and taxes. Everybody would benefit by the rent, everybody would contribute to it by work and no idler would be able to live on the labor of others.—BERNARD SHAW in the "Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism."

Too True

"YESSIR, not 10 years ago all this land around here sold for a dollar and a quarter an acre."

"And what does it sell for now?"

"Taxes."

IT is because that in what we propose—the securing to all men of equal natural opportunities for the exercise of the powers and the removal of all legal restriction on the legitimate exercise of those powers—we see the conformation of human law to the moral law, that we hold with confidence not merely that this is the sufficient remedy for all the evils you so strikingly portray, but that it is the *only possible* remedy. Nor is there any other.

"The Condition of Labor," Part III.

WHEN in all trades there is what we call scarcity of employment; when, everywhere, labor wastes, while desire is unsatisfied, must not the obstacle which prevents labor from producing the wealth it needs, lie at the foundation of the industrial structure? That foundation is land.

PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

GOVERNMENT is taxing checks when people think it ought to be checking taxes.—*Weston Leader.*

Clear Sighted

IN a speech at Stockholm urging closer relations between nations, the Prince said: "Economic nationalism is of no use in the present world depression. The only remedy is cooperation. For that purpose personal contact is of the greatest importance, and I am glad that you try so energetically to persuade British youth to come to Sweden and Swedes to visit Britain."

No greater or more authoritative condemnation of the policy of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald's Government could be made than this. Apart from the fact that he is heir to the Throne, the Prince states what he knows to be true,

and what he is above all men qualified by knowledge and experience to say. He is neither politician nor diplomat.

Because he so effectively damned this Government, the Prince's speech was meagerly reported in the tariff press and was relegated to an insignificant position on a back page. Its force was lost on the Opposition newspapers because they are so absorbed in beating their own little tin drums.—*Commonweal*, London, Eng.

Note to Our Readers

THE Single Tax colony at Gilpin's Point, Maryland, on which so much labor, money and hope have been expended for years, is about to be lost by inability to pay six months' mortgage interest—sixty dollars.

Are there Single Taxers who will give that amount in order to give us a fighting chance for another six months and to save two elderly and loyal Single Tax workers—man and wife—from losing their only home by the mortgage foreclosure?

FRANK STEPHENS.

Arden, Del.

The Effect of Free Land

HENRY GEORGE lived at a time when the great empire of the west called on the dispossessed of all the world to make a home for themselves on the open prairies free from serfdom. He witnessed the ignorant, the alien, the wounded soldiers of the Civil war rise from their poverty to comfort by the mutual help of one man for another. They converted a barren desert waste into the golden west. They created great commonwealths. All this he had seen passing under his eyes. And he had noted its effect on men, on their self-respect, on our democracy.

Then, as his century drew to a close, he saw this great empire passing into private hands; he saw it cut into monster feudal estates; he saw men crowded back into the cities, there to compete with one another for a livelihood on other land that was owned merely for the sake of exacting tribute for its occupancy.

FREDERICK C. HOWE in the *Christian Century*.

BOOK NOTICES

LAWS OF SOCIAL EVOLUTION *

The publication of this work by Prof. Starcke of the University of Copenhagen was delayed for six years after his death in 1926. The style is pedantic and heavy and the reading of the book is not made easier by translation into English.

A bibliography of thirteen pages and list of about 125 articles and books by the same author (published posthumously) testify to the author's industry and erudition.

Prof. Starcke looks favorably upon the Georgian philosophy to which he devotes two chapters. He says, (page 355):

"To own land means that we are able to say to our fellow citizens: You are to work, while I am going to consume the bread you are producing."

The book is highly interesting and is recommended to those who are interested in acquiring a foreign viewpoint of the economic problem.

B. W. B.

*Laws of Social Evolution and Social Ideals, by C. N. Starcke. Levin Munksgaard Copenhagen, Denmark.

THE SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

There has reached us a new edition of "The Science of Political Economy," by Henry George, published by the Henry George Foundation, of London, at the moderate price of 2s 6d, well bound in cloth. The publishers report that before going to press they had orders for close upon 2,000 copies. It does look as if they were supplying a much-felt want.

In our opinion this work is Henry George's most important contribution to economic thought, excepting, of course, "Progress and Poverty."

"The Science of Political Economy" is divided into five sections, each a link in a chain of logical analysis, full of argument and illustrations that strengthen the case it seeks to expound. Whether we agree with the writer or not, his original ideas on the definition of wealth are clearly stated. The following passage indicates the scope and purpose of this work:

"Of all the sciences, political economy is that which to civilized men of today is of most practical importance. It is the science to which must belong the solving of problems that at the close of a century of the greatest material and scientific development the world has yet seen, are in all civilized countries clouding the horizon of the future—the only science that can enable our civilization to escape already threatening catastrophe. Yet, surpassing in its practical importance as political economy is, he who today would form clear and sure ideas of what it really reaches must form them for himself.

"To define a word is to mark off what it includes from what it does not include—to make it in our minds, as it were, clear and sharp on its edges—so that it will always stand for the same thing or things, not at one time mean more and at another time less.

"Thus, beginning at the beginnings, let us consider the nature and scope of political economy, that we may see its origin and meaning, what it includes and what it does not include. If in this I ask the reader to go with me deeper than writers on political economy usually do, let him not think me wandering from the subject. He who would build a towering structure of brick and stone, that in stress and strain will stand firm and plumb, digs for its foundation to solid rock."

The two chapters on Conscious and Unconscious Co-operation together with the chapters on The Two Sources of Value, Value from Production and Value from Obligation, well entitle "The Science of Political Economy" to a hearing from every student of social problems and certainly to a place in every public library throughout the land.

Another enlightening contribution that the book makes to economic study is in showing that the so-called Law of Diminishing Returns is not particular to agriculture but is of universal application. In the light of this exposition the chapters on Time and Space can be read with advantage.

The chapter on The Breakdown of Scholastic Political Economy is of more than historical interest. Here the author reveals in the course of his examination an acquaintance with economic writings since the time of Adam Smith, and before this time, that makes the book to be one of no small standing. In almost every chapter in words that never fail the thought, the student is helped to an understanding of the law underlying the production and distribution of wealth.

Correspondence

A CORRECTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I wish to confess an error that appears at the end of my article in March-April issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, on Rent—Cost—Price. The error does not effect the argument; all the same it should be corrected. In trying to show that rent does not enter into price (and it doesn't) I have made it appear that a man works seven and one-half to eleven and one-half days respectively for rent. This is quite wrong. Rent costs nothing; it is a free gift, due to working on land away from

the margin. I am indebted to Mr. W. Harris, the retiring president of the N. S. W. Henry George League, for drawing my attention to this inadvertency.

Queensland, Australia.

Edwin I. S. Harding.

THOSE WHO CREATE DO NOT TAKE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

May I call your attention to a decision of the New York Court of Appeals, *Perlmutter vs. Greene*, 259 N. Y. 327, where Chief Justice Pound states:

"The State creates new values for adjacent owners by building good roads."

The Judge might have gone still further and said: "which new value the State creates, the State allows the private individuals to take."

New York City.

HARRY WEMBERGER.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THE Minden, La., *Herald* reprinted in full the address of J. F. Colbert made at the Memphis conference. This address also appeared in the November-December LAND AND FREEDOM.

CHARLES B. M. KNOWLES, of Brookline, Mass., writes: "Your paper is a great source of inspiration to all those who labor for the cause of real freedom. I wish you every success in your great work."

WALDO J. WERNICKE, of Los Angeles, is doing a lot of real work. Letters to the papers, articles in the *Progressive* and addresses to the school teachers are but a small part of the activities for which our old friend is to be credited.

MR. ELWOOD G. LEWIS, of Northport, L. I., N. Y., writes: "Your paper is the best exponent of the Single Tax that I have ever read. It diversifies its contents so as to catch the interest of many lines of thought."

OVER 2,000 copies of the British edition of Henry George's "Science of Political Economy," have been sold by the United Committee of London. And in twelve months they have sold 10,697 copies of books by Henry George and over 7,000 pamphlets.

H. F. SARMAN, of Omaha, has a vigorous letter in the Omaha *World-Herald* in opposition to the sales tax.

HENRY ELLERT, of Milk River, Alta, Canada, writes us: "If Single Taxers would dwell more upon what true capital is and the difference between rent and interest I am convinced it would show up the parasite quicker than anything else," with which pronouncement we wholly agree.

J. E. STEGNER, of Brimfield, Mass., writes: "I have been reading the report of the Hoover Research Committee. Surely they need one of our best Single Taxers to tell them something. I am hoping that perhaps President Roosevelt may propose some measure of land value taxation and make the people see what is needed. Is it too much to believe that such a thing is possible?"

P. J. REILLY, of this city, writes: "After reading The Professor and the Single Tax in your November-December issue I believe that that editorial alone is worth a year's subscription."

W. A. WARREN has returned to this country from his engineering work in Russia and is now located at Beaver, Pa. He writes: "I am very much pleased with recent numbers of LAND AND FREEDOM."

CHARLES G. MERRELL, of Cincinnati, addressed the Civic Club of that city on December 19. He told his audience that ten per cent of our population own the land. When by a logical process it gets to be owned by one per cent of the population the rest of us can be considered slaves." Mr. Merrell is indefatigable in bringing the message to various audiences. On December 5 he spoke before the Literary Club of Cincinnati on the subject of Democracy.

HENRY WARE ALLEN has received a number of favorable commendation on his Henry George Calendar recently issued. Among those who have commented on it are such well known Single Taxers as Dr. S. Solis Cohen, George Hughes, Carl D. Thompson, William A. Black and many others. This work can be secured of the Schalkenbach Foundation which has copies for sale. Mr. Allen contemplates a second edition and desires names and birthdays from those whose names do not appear in the first edition.

QUEENSLAND now has a Single Tax paper, *Land Values and Progress*, published at Brisbane.

ARVIN R. MATTESON, of Rochester, N. Y., writes: "With the coming of each number of LAND AND FREEDOM I find in News Notes and Comments some stronger argument in the plainest English to nail down the principle for which the journal stands."

W. G. STEWART, of Reading, Pa., writes: "I always find enlightening matter in LAND AND FREEDOM. In the November-December issue, for instance, Editor Bittenheim's truly indicate the character of the side-tracking objections commonly raised (to him, not by him, I believe). And Irving Fisher's reprinted article on the Single Tax is another astounding out-pouring of professional economics, shamelessly evasive of formal approval. I thought better of him. Hon. Abe D. Waldauer's Plea for the Enclave as a way of accomplishing something now that is essential to later political accomplishments, certainly merits practical consideration."

HOWELL CLOPTON HARRIS in the Macon, Georgia, *Telegraph* gives a formidable array of eminent names of men in all walks of life who are supporters of the land value tax, or who are Henry George men by conviction. It is an impressive list, and Mr. Harris, who is one of our indefatigable letter writers, deserves our gratitude for his persistent work. Other letters appearing from time to time in the Macon *Telegraph* evidence the rare and unusual felicity with which Mr. Harris presents our doctrine in its various phases.

IN a recent volume of recollections from the pen of Opie Read, veteran novelist born in 1852, and founder of the *Arkansas Traveler*, famous for its humor, occurs the following:

"A midnight session with Henry George, the mind of a statesman and the humor of a philosopher. With him was J. H. Bailey, who had recently written 'The Factors of Civilization,' a book which the author in flattery of himself said could interest only a few. George pronounced it the ablest work since John Stuart Mill put down his pen."

Mr. Bailey committed suicide two days after this conversation. Who knows of him or of the work which Henry George praised so highly?

COMMENTING on the death of Edmund Vance Cooke, W. A. Croneberger, of Cleveland, writes: "Cleveland has lost a beloved citizen, and our cause a tireless worker."

THE death of F. F. Ingram chronicled in a recent issue recalls the fact that this veteran of the Single Tax movement was the father of the U. S. Parcel Post system, accomplishing it almost single handed.

DR. T. J. KELLY, of Marathon, Iowa, takes a pessimistic view of the present situation. He writes: "I have no expectation that truth which

Henry George made clear will be adopted in time to save our present civilization. Man is not yet far enough from the jungle to allow intelligence to assume its proper authority as the final arbiter of his affairs. But I have no doubt of the final triumph of truth; and whenever men are fit for freedom they will have it. All good wishes for the strengthening of your own splendid effort in the greatest cause known to man."

AMERICAN visitors to the last International Land Value Conference at Edinburgh will remember that one of its features was the calling of a committee of those present of Irish birth. The Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy presided and Mr. John O'Donnell Derrick was appointed secretary. A manifest was drafted, signed and posted with suitable literature by Mr. Derrick to members of all political parties in the Dail at Dublin. This work has been continued; as any public man in the Free State was reported by any person as showing a disposition to discuss land and taxation problems he was sent Henry George literature. This work is going on.

A. W. FALVEY, secretary of the Omaha Henry George Club, has started a campaign against the sales tax which is being actively urged from many quarters. The Omaha club started with a dozen members, is forging ahead and proposes to organize for real work in the State of Nebraska.

A PETITION is being circulated by Will Atkinson to members of Congress for the imposition of a federal tax on land values of one billion dollars. This petition is accompanied by a forceful presentation of conditions and an argument for our principles that should not fail to open the eyes of our public men. Mr. Atkinson's address is 230 Second Street, N. E., Washington, D. C.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL traveled 30,000 miles in 1932 and delivered 324 lectures to audiences aggregating 52,000 in over one hundred cities and 30 States and provinces (Canada). The newspaper publicity secured is estimated to have multiplied his audiences 500 times.

H. ARNOLD JACOBSON, of Brooklyn, N. Y., supplies us with this useful suggestion: "I suggest that LAND AND FREEDOM publish one or more articles outlining the Socialist misconception of terms and bring out the urgency for a popular acceptance of correct economic understanding before the public becomes too imbued with phrases that sound fetching and logical when not submitted to too close an analysis. It is my estimation it is very urgent that Single Taxers concentrate more on converting Socialists and Communists to economic precision."

COPIES of the Keller Bill introduced some years ago in the House of Representatives have been sent out by Hon. Edward Polak of this city to 175 newspapers in the United States. He has also petitioned the Ways and Means Committee of the House and has sent copies of the Bill to most of the members of the House and Senate. This Bill is in the form of an Excise Tax and is so called to escape the provision against a direct federal tax. Good lawyers say it is constitutional. A copy of this Bill for the taxation of land values has been sent with a letter in explanation and argument to President-elect Roosevelt. Single Taxers who wish to cooperate with Mr. Polak in this work may address him care of this office.

In *John Bull* of January 7, Viscount Snowden has an article entitled "Tons of Money," in which he reiterates his convictions on land value taxation and free trade. He says: "By strangling the land taxes the Chancellor has deprived himself of one fruitful and just source of revenue. He has done this to entrench landowners in their monopoly. They are to continue to appropriate socially-created wealth, while the rest of the community are to bear the ever increasing taxes on the necessities of life."

GORDON L. MACLAREN, a new subscriber from Brookline, Mass., writes: "I wish to congratulate you on the neat job you did on the inflation theory in your last number. I hope Borah sees it. I do not believe he can fail to appreciate it."

THE death of Frank D. Larrabee, at Hollywood, Calif., will recall the name of a once active worker for the cause. He was known to have tried more cases than any lawyer in the State of Minnesota. He was born in Oswego County, N. Y., in 1856. He retired from the practice of law in 1931 and removed to Hollywood, Calif. He was a great orator and an effective pleader before a jury. In 1931 he visited this office.

S. B. WELCOME, of Los Angeles, Calif., writes:

"I was much interested in your article 'The Professor and the Single Tax' appearing in your great paper for November-December, 1932, page 206.

"Nobody but a top-notch professor of economics in a top-notch college could get such piffle into print, thereby giving us the opportunity for showing up his incompetence in his chosen line."

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York *Herald-Tribune*, T. A. McHenry, calls Technocracy "learned twaddle." William N. McNair in an address in Pittsburgh called it "Communism in a disguised form." Both characterizations are apt enough.

THE Bergen County, N. J. *Leader*, of January 1, gives seven pages to a list of mortgage foreclosures in that county.

R. W. STIFFEY has an excellent letter in the Pittsburgh *Press* of January 12, in which he asks why a Department of Agriculture and why a Department of Labor.

E. H. BOECK, of St. Louis, Mo., has addressed an open letter to President-elect Roosevelt and concludes with this admonition:

"You have a great opportunity. Your task is great, and you will need the association in this great service of those who know their 'Progress and Poverty,' for in no other way is the solution possible."

DR. CHAS. J. LAVERY, of Aberdeen, S. D., who is forever busy in the good work, has a letter in the *South Dakota Churchman*, of December, in reply to an editorial appearing in that paper.

WE have received a reprint of the article in the *Survey-Graphic* of December, 1932, by Harold S. Battenheim, editor of the *American City*, "A Pragmatic Experiment With Taxes." This admirable ski tells of two tax systems in the two divisions of the Island of Pragmatic in 1952. Those wanting a copy of this pamphlet may secure one by writing to Mr. Battenheim at 44 Crescent Road, Madison, N. J.

THERON McCAMPBELL, Democratic Assemblyman from Monmouth County, N. J., would end all general property taxes. He told the assembly that he would strive unceasingly for the complete exemption of all improvements. Mr. McCampbell is stirring the legislature of which he is a member to some real thinking on the subject.

A FINE editorial appears in the *Enterprise* of Hartselle, Ala., under the title "Ownership of the Source of Wealth, not Wealth, that is Menace to Civilization." A letter from S. M. Dinkins appears in the same issue.

THE death on December 10 of Sir. Joseph Carruthers, former premier of New South Wales, recalls the fame of an active advocate of land value taxation who while in office did much to advance our principle. Twice he attended Henry George Anniversary gatherings. At one of these meetings he said he could claim to have done something. "Certainly one great step forward is the adoption of local government which

we have established throughout the vast area of New South Wales. Rating on the unimproved value of land has been established as the basis of local self-government." He was knighted in 1908.

COMMENTING on the dictionary definitions of "unearned increment" W. Schwander, of Houston, Texas, calls attention to Webster's College, Home and Office Dictionary, which intimates that Henry George originated the term. Both Webster's New International Dictionary and Funk & Wagnall's give fairly correct definitions of unearned increment."

THE Pittsburgh *Sun-Telegraph* has a picture of our old friend Francis V. Maguire who has just attained his eighty-first birthday. The same issue of the paper also reports the address of William McNair before the Henry George Club on January 13.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL proposes a Tax Relief Association of America to obtain legislative action which will gradually reduce oppressive taxes now imposed on industry and farms and balance the budgets by increasing taxes on the value of land. Those who desire fuller information on this proposal may address Mr. Ingersoll at the Manhattan Single Tax Club, 1182 Broadway, New York City. The programme embodied in a statement issued by Mr. Ingersoll.

WE have received the second edition of "The Fundamental Principles of Economics," by Charles F. Townsend and Walter L. Sinton. It is full of interesting matter and was reviewed in LAND AND FREEDOM in its first appearance. Articles by Thomas Paine, John Stuart Mill, Yancey Cohen, F. Bastiat and others appear therein. The pamphlet consists of 63 pages and is admirably adapted for propaganda. Mr. Sinton's address is 2951 Washington Street, San Francisco, Calif.

UNDER a resolution to be submitted by Senator Pat Harrison the S. Senate will summon before that body representatives of all schools of thought who have plans to restore economic stability. It is to be hoped that the Henry George movement will be represented at this hearing and we have the thanks of Senator Harrison for suggesting the names of certain persons qualified to present our remedy for the economic ills that beset us.

In the *Labor Advocate* published at Nashville, Tenn., John C. Rose has a three column article on "The Comparative Study of Social Sciences." He examines the various forms of taxation and discusses the canons of taxation admirably and thoroughly.

THE death of Louis Parsons was announced in our November-December number. He died November 17. He was not known widely outside of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, to the activities of which he was singularly devoted. His friendship for Mr. James R. Brown was of long duration and he was one of the most active and generous supporters, working unceasingly. His was a kindly, modest nature and those who knew him best learned to love him. He was a friend of this paper for many years. He was connected with the Seaman Brothers and was a member of that well known firm. We shall miss him greatly for the work he did in his unobtrusive way.

WE must now definitely abandon the presumption that Mark Twain is the author of the now famous classic, "The Story of Archimedes." We were careful not to insist upon the authenticity of this article despite the belief of Dan Beard. With a clearer apprehension of the style of Mark Twain, and with perhaps a fuller knowledge of his writings, John Paul, editor of *Land and Liberty*, of London, was skeptical from the start. It flashed upon Mr. Paul that this essay was one which he

had selected for publication in his paper and that it had come from the *Pioneer*, an Australian paper. E. J. Craigie, of Adelaide, was able to verify this in the Adelaide Public Library. The author was the late H. G. Taylor, who adopted the *nom de plume*, "Twark Main," not Mark Twain. This settles a long controversy. John Paul writes: "If Mark Twain had seen the Single Tax philosophy as the author of 'Archimedes' saw it, this would have been one more turning in his writings where he could have taught the lesson in his own inimitable way that political democracy is a failure and must remain a failure so long as land monopoly prevails."

JOHN T. GIDDINGS, of East Providence, R. I., has aroused much interest in his community by the suggestion for a graded tax law. Really his is a proposal to raise the rate on land up to the full annual value as determined by the tax assessors. In an interview with Mr. Giddings in the *Record-Post* of East Providence he sets forth the recommendations for his proposal.

"DAD" continues his contributions to *The Gateway*, the local paper of Floral Park, L. I., and is now answering the arguments of an opponent. This has developed into a debate in which "Dad" has no difficulty in holding his own. This publicity in local papers is of great value to the cause and such writers as our Floral Park friend are very much needed.

THE sudden death of E. E. Soderstrom, of Wichita, Kan., is reported by Henry Ware Allen. He had been a Single Taxer for many years, as well as a subscriber and correspondent of this paper. Mr. Allen writes us: "He did field work for the Single Tax in Missouri at a time when the speakers, including Mr. Soderstrom, were threatened with mob violence by farmers who did not understand our ideas. Mr. Soderstrom has kindly come to my office on Saturday afternoons to read LAND AND FREEDOM and other Single Tax literature to me since I became blind and this has been greatly appreciated. He was a well educated man, and always took an active interest in the Single Tax." He was sixty years old. He is survived by three brothers and a sister. A faithful and devoted friend of the movement has passed to his reward.

IN the *Nation and New Statesman* of December 17, Mr. A. W. Madsen gives his version of an incident which took place at a Free Trade Luncheon in London. Lord Snowden had urged free traders to link up free Trade with the taxation of land values. Sir Herbert Samuel, whose curious apostasy from his former beliefs is a matter of common knowledge, urged free traders to work for the liberation of industry and small holdings. Mr. Madsen interrupted with the question: "But not for the taxation of land values." Sir Herbert replied that he was with Lord Snowden on the question but it was a matter of controversy. Oh, these politicians!

MR. GUNNAR NAUMANN, of Nucla, Col., writes: "What our cause needs at this time is more advertising. The people should be urged to read and study the works of Henry George, and to learn something about his philosophy. It seems that when the lawmakers and statesmen and the beneficiaries of monopoly cannot find any fault with the Single Tax, or are not able to argue against it, they simply ignore it and try as much as possible to evade it and hide it away from the people."

CORNELIUS LEENHOUTS, of Milwaukee, writes: "It seems uphill work to feed the people the truth, the truth which you and others make so simple. They seem to want something complicated."

No Taxes in every issue is full of interesting matter. We do not see how any one can read it and still remain ignorant of the real remedy.

JUST PUBLISHED

THE ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT

by FRANCIS NEILSON

author of

HOW DIPLOMATS MAKE WAR

When Jehovah led His Chosen People into the Promised Land, He gave them ten simple rules for moral uprightness and an eleventh commandment which was to assure them economic happiness and perpetual possession. A curse was laid upon them who "laid field to field."

This curse is being fulfilled upon us now as it has been fulfilled upon every great civilization before us. Mr. Neilson analyses the economic causes of the Babylonian, the Greek, and the Roman collapses. He expounds the warnings of the great seekers after social justice, from the Hebrew prophets, the Greek philosophers and law-givers, and the Roman writers on natural law, to Joseph Butler, Immanuel Kant, and Henry George.

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