

May — June, 1933

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

An International Record of Single Tax Progress Founded in 1901

Tennessee Shows the Way

Steps to Economic Recovery

Dr. John Dewey

Fixing the Price of Wheat

B. W. Burger

What Prominent Men Have Said
of Henry George and His Teachings

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LAND AND FREEDOM

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JOSEPH DANA MILLER, Editor

HERMAN G. LOEW, Pres., 170 Broadway, New York City

OSCAR H. GEIGER, TREAS., 150 Nassau Street, N. Y. City

GEORGE R. MACEY, Sec., 150 Nassau Street, N. Y. City

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

ENGLAND: J. W. Graham Peace.

GERMANY: Adolph Damaschke, Lessignstrasse II, Berlin.

AUSTRALIA: Percy R. Meggy, Sydney, New South Wales.

NEW ZEALAND: Hon. P. J. O'Regan, Wellington.

DENMARK, Abel Brink, Copenhagen.

BULGARIA, Lasar Karaivanove, Plovdiv.

HUNGARY: Prof. Robt. Braun, Budapest.

MEXICO: Prof. R. B. Brinsmade.

Av. Centenario 219, San Luis Potosi City, Mexico.

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WHAT LAND AND FREEDOM STANDS FOR

TAKING the full rent of land for public purposes insures the fullest and best use of all land. In cities this would mean more homes and more places to do business and therefore lower rents. In rural communities it would mean the freedom of the farmer from land mortgages and would guarantee him full possession of his entire product at a small land rental to the government without the payment of any taxes. It would prevent the holding of mines idle for the purpose of monopoly and would immensely increase the production and therefore greatly lower the price of mine products.

Land can be used only by the employment of labor. Putting land to its fullest and best use would create an unlimited demand for labor. With an unlimited demand for labor, the job would seek the man, not the man seek the job, and labor would receive its full share of the product.

The freeing from taxation of all buildings, machinery, implements and improvements on land, all industry, thrift and enterprise, all wages, salaries, incomes and every product of labor and intellect, will encourage men to build and to produce, will reward them for their efforts to improve the land, to produce wealth and to render the services that the people need, instead of penalizing them for these efforts as taxation does now.

It will put an end to legalized robbery by the government which now pries into men's private affairs and exacts fines and penalties in the shape of tolls and taxes on every evidence of man's industry and thrift.

All labor and industry depend basically on land, and only in the measure that land is attainable can labor and industry be prosperous. The taking of the full Rent of Land for public purposes would put and keep all land forever in use to the fullest extent of the people's needs, and so would insure real and permanent prosperity for all.

Tennessee Shows the Way

COLLIERVILLE, Tenn., shows the way to the Nation!

By unanimous endorsement of its progressive Board of Mayor and Aldermen, it asked the Legislature of Tennessee to adopt an amendment to its City Charter, to permit the operation of a municipal enclave of economic ground rent.

And the Legislature of Tennessee adopted the bill. After its passage, Governor McAllister signed it on April 21, the law taking effect immediately.

This is the first time in the United States that a legislature of any state has authorized the existence of a municipally owned enclave; and the first time in this country that the philosophy of Henry George has been embodied into law by a legislature with the approval of a governor.

Collierville is a town of over one thousand people. It is located in Shelby County, twenty-four miles from the city of Memphis. Its people are substantial and conservative. Only once in its history has there been a business failure and that of small consequence. It is practically free of crime and criminal problems. In the past several years, only a very few offenders have appeared before its City Court. It has an aldermanic form of government. Its tax rate is low, the municipal rate being less than one dollar per hundred of assessed valuation. It boasts a municipally owned water system. It has no bonded indebtedness except for water purposes, which issue is less than thirty thousand dollars, and that is virtually self-liquidating from water rents received. It has excellent school facilities, and its churches compare favorably with towns of similar size. The average of its citizenship is highly intelligent. The town is ripe for an economic experiment. Its Board of Mayor and Aldermen are alert, progressive and forward-looking.*

The town has gone through the depression with perhaps better fortune than the average small American town, due largely to the thrift of its citizenship.

But with the coming of the depression, its governing body began a study of the problem of the vacant lot. They realized that it was necessary to lay water mains in front of vacant lots; to give them fire protection, police protection, streets, sidewalks and other town facilities. This leads to a costly and spasmodic development of the town.

And, moreover, the municipal taxes on some vacant lots were delinquent.

About this time, the enclave of Wall Hill, Miss., was founded. Within thirty miles of Collierville, therefore, was a small demonstration of two things: first, that economic ground rent alone was sufficient to pay the taxes

assessed by municipality, state and county; second, that access to land would relieve involuntary unemployment. The Wall Hill enclave owed its existence to Col. Kenon Taylor, who donated the land, and Abe D. Waldauer. And Waldauer happened to be the City Attorney for Collierville.

The Legislature of Tennessee adopted a law at its session just concluded which conferred powers upon incorporated towns in that state which the towns and cities had not theretofore possessed. That law gave to the towns and cities the right to purchase lots and lands within their corporate borders which were sold for delinquent taxes. It was inevitable, therefore, that under this law, Collierville, like other towns, would probably acquire lands and town lots.

What to do with this property?

Collierville did not want to buy lands and then sell them. It has seen how the private ownership of land, and the holding of it out of use, waiting for a speculative rise in value, has retarded growth and development. Its Board of Mayor and Aldermen also know that the taxing of houses and improvements operate to penalize thrift and industry, and to prevent or slow down improvement. And in this time of depression, Collierville wanted to speed up,—not slow down. It wanted to stimulate growth, development and employment; and to do it at home, not by sending its citizens and its young men to distant reforestation developments, or elsewhere in search of employment.

So it was that the Mayor and Aldermen turned to the philosophy of Henry George, and resolved to give that philosophy a trial, through the medium of the enclave. A bill was drawn by Mr. Waldauer, and introduced in the House of Representatives of Tennessee. It is House Bill 1,269. Omitting the formal caption, the bill follows:

"Whereas, the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Collierville will become vested with the title to lands hereafter sold for taxes, or otherwise acquired; and

Whereas, the said lands should be rented or made use of for the greatest benefit of the municipality and the inhabitants thereof; and

Whereas, a critical economic depression exists throughout the nation and the welfare of any community is made more secure by the profitable use of land and it is advisable that unemployed citizens should go back to the soil and as far as possible maintain themselves by raising food for man and beast; and that labor should be granted easy access to land to relieve poverty and unemployment; and

Whereas, it is the judgment of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee that the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of Collierville should be vested with the widest possible powers to make use of all lands now owned and to be hereafter owned by said town of Collierville for these purposes; now therefore:

Section 1—Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee: that the Mayor and Aldermen of

*We are glad to report that Mr. R. L. Strong and his entire ticket were reelected Mayor and Aldermen of Collierville. This insures a four-year trial of the enclave plan, its administration now being in the hands of its friends.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

the town of Collierville, or other governing body thereof, are hereby authorized and empowered to retain and to take title to lands located within the present or future corporate limits of said town, whether purchased at tax sales, or otherwise; and to hold title thereto, even though said land may not be necessary for use in the discharge of municipal purposes or functions.

Section 2—Be it further enacted: that the governing body of said town of Collierville is authorized, in its discretion, to sell said lands on such terms and conditions as they may deem advisable; and or is further expressly authorized to rent the same to any person, firm or corporation for the annual economic rent, which is defined to be such annual payment for the rent of land as represents the value included in the right to use the bare land, exclusive of the value of any character of improvements on said land such as buildings, crops and trees, less any municipal taxes that may be assessed upon the leasee and upon any of said improvements. And said governing body of the town of Collierville is further authorized to rent said lands upon any terms of lease which said governing body may determine.

Section 3—Be it further enacted: that said leases may extend for any term not to exceed 99 years, provided that the annual economic ground rent shall be determined each calendar year by said governing body of said municipality.

Section 4—Be it further enacted: that said governing body is hereby vested with all the authority necessary to maintain, operate and conduct a municipally owned enclave of economic rent.

Section 5—Be it further enacted: that if any section, sentence or clause of this Act be held unconstitutional such unconstitutionality shall not effect the remainder thereof.

Section 6—Be it further enacted: that this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: Pat Officer, Speaker of the Senate.

Frank W. Moore, Speaker of the House.

Approved: April 21, 1933.

Hill McAllister, Governor of Tennessee.

The bill was introduced by Hon. W. H. King, of Forest Hill, Tenn. Mr. King is an alert legislator, and although he may not be an avowed Single Taxer, he is interested in the development of enclaves. Under his able leadership the bill was piloted through the house.

After its passage there, he saw to it that the bill did not die in the closing days of the session. Zealously he watched its progress in the senate. He had the assistance of Hon. Fletcher Cohn in the House, and of Senator C. P. J. Mooney in the Senate. Senator Mooney and Mr. Cohn, though not enclavians, are liberals, and they wanted to give the people of Collierville the right to develop a municipal enclave. Thus, under the guidance and direction of these

Shelby legislators, a far-reaching municipal experiment has been made possible.

After the bill passed the Senate, by a unanimous vote, Mr. King did not rest. He haunted the Governor's office, explaining the object and purpose of the bill. To him goes a large share of the credit for inducing Governor McAllister to approve the law. The governor was also urged to approve the bill by officials of Collierville, and other interested citizens. By approving the bill, Governor McAllister achieves the distinction of being the first American governor to give the municipally owned enclave a chance to operate.

We come, now, to an analysis of the law:

The "whereas" clauses give the economic reasons motivating the legislature to pass the law. These clauses are valuable, as the courts, in determining the constitutionality of the measure, will accept the clauses as the statement of economic truth.

The right to sell land is retained by the town, not that Collierville wishes to sell its lands, but because it realizes that the problem of financing improvements may be presented. Therefore, it will give long time leases for the annual economic ground rent; and if the lender, whether banks or building and loan associations, insist on a fee simple title then the town is in a position to contract to convey the fee in the event the borrower defaults in payment for the improvements.

In Section 4 of the Act is the heart of the measure. It reads as follows:

"Section 4—Be it further enacted: that said governing body is hereby vested with all the authority necessary to maintain, operate and conduct a municipally owned enclave of economic rent."

This section confers the broadest municipal power to operate an enclave of economic rent that the draftsmen of the Bill could imagine.

The law is not self-executing. The town must acquire land, either by purchase, gift, or tax sale, and rent that land for economic rent through leases executed by its governing body, before real results will flow from the enactment.

There is no doubt as to the constitutionality of the law among the lawyers who have studied it. For the town will be merely leasing its own lands, which is a right possessed by all land-holding corporations, whether private or municipal. To deny this right to a municipal corporation would be to upset rights that the courts have recognized in other corporations for more than a century. And by giving to the corporation the right to rent lands on any terms, in addition to the right to lease for economic rent, a constitutional question of unfair classification is eliminated.

Inasmuch as lands or improvements owned by municipalities are exempt from state and county levies, interesting questions of law and taxation will probably arise from the Collierville experiment.

The law excited the keen interest of the late J. T. Patrick, Mayor of Collierville. Mayor Patrick, unfortunately, died after the bill had passed the Tennessee House of Representatives, but before its adoption by the Senate, and approval by the Governor. His last official act as Mayor was performed when, on what proved to be his death bed, he gave the law careful study, and sent a verbal message to the Board of Aldermen urging approval of the Act by the Board, its adoption by the Legislature. The law will stand as a monument to a beloved Mayor, and to the courageous and far-sighted officials of the town. They are: D. G. Delaney, vice-mayor; Fred Kirk, treasurer; W. W. Hutton, register; M. V. Kirk, alderman; J. R. Keough, alderman; R. L. Strong, alderman; and Abe D. Waldauer, corporation counsel.

All the lands in Collierville will not at once be put on the enclavial basis; but will rather seek a step by step development, gaining experience by trial in putting the law into operation. At present there are about thirty lots upon which the municipal taxes are delinquent. Where the owners do not wish to pay the taxes on these lands, the town will seek to acquire them through the medium of tax sales; proceeding slowly, however, to the end that no property owner who wants to retain the property will be done an injustice. This course will safeguard the plan and the law from attack.

The outstanding lesson from those advocating collection of economic rent is that at last a way has been found to permit the operation of municipal enclaves. Thus the movement for land emancipation by enclaves enters a larger and, it is believed, more important phase of development.

This law may ultimately open the whole State of Tennessee, as well as states similarly situated, to an approach to the Single Tax through the enclavial method of land emancipation.

The Collierville law also demonstrates that the legislatures of states will listen with favor to small scale, local measures, affecting specific towns or cities, whereas an attempt to put over a general law, without sufficient political organization, and with little general economic education, would likely lead to defeat. Thus, the "step by step" method should carry powerful appeal to Single Taxers, now that the Collierville law has passed the legislature and been signed by the governor, and has behind it a unanimous Board of Mayor and Aldermen who will attempt to put into operation the first municipally operated enclave in America, sympathetically and intelligently, and as rapidly as the people favor its extension.

Thus, after more than fifty years, the philosophy of Henry George has become translated into the statute law of a State; and will be locally applied to the area which may be acquired by Collierville.

Thus the town of Collierville, Tennessee, takes the lead in the movement to set free the land and men.

Steps to Economic Recovery

DR. JOHN DEWEY OVER RADIO STATION WEVD APRIL 28

YOU have heard much about various steps that should be taken to promote economic recovery. I propose this evening to concentrate attention upon one step, a step absolutely fundamental to permanent recovery of the patient as distinct from remedies that dope the patient into a temporary hectic burst of activity; a step so simple and so basic as to be generally neglected.

The one thing uppermost in the minds of everybody today is the appalling existence of want in the midst of plenty, of millions of unemployed in the midst of idle billions of hoarded money and unused credit as well as factories and mills deteriorating for lack of use, of hunger while farmers are burning grain for fuel. No wonder people are asking what sort of a crazy economic system we have when at a time when millions are short of adequate food, when babies are going without the milk necessary for their growth, the best remedy that experts can think of and that the Federal Government can recommend, is to pay a premium to farmers to grow less grain with which to make flour to feed the hungry and pay a premium to dairymen to send less milk to market.

Henry George called attention to this situation over fifty years ago. The contradiction between increasing plenty, increase of potential security, and actual want and insecurity is stated in the title of his chief work, "Progress and Poverty." That is what his book is about. It is a record of the fact that as the means and appliances of civilization increase, poverty and insecurity also increase. It is an explanation of why millionaires and tramps multiply together. It is a prediction of why this state of affairs will continue; it is a prediction of the plight in which the nation finds itself today. At the same time it is the explanation of why this condition is artificial, man-made, unnecessary, and how it can be remedied. So I suggest that as a beginning of the first steps to permanent recovery there be a nationwide revival of interest in the writings and teachings of Henry George, and that there be such an enlightenment of public opinion that our representatives in legislatures and public places be compelled to adopt the changes he urged.

Do not the following words sound as if they were written today? "So true it is that poverty does not come from the inability to produce more wealth than from every side we hear that power to produce is in excess of the ability to find a market; that the constant fear seems to be not that too little, but that too much, will be produced! Do we not maintain a high tariff, and keep at every port a horde of Custom-House officers, for fear the people of other countries will overwhelm us with their goods? Is not a large part of our machinery constantly idle? Are there not, even in what we call good times, an immense number of unemployed men who would gladly be at work producing

wealth if they could only get the opportunity? Do we not, even now, hear from every side of embarrassment from the very excess of productive power and of combinations to reduce production? . . . This seeming glut of production, this seeming excess of productive powers runs through all branches of industry and is evident all over the civilized world."

Yet these words were penned at 1883, just fifty years ago, by George in his work called "Social Problems," every word of which applies to our present condition, only in a more intense degree. Nor did our people have to wait for the advent of technocrats to hear that the machine and the control of power make it *possible* to abolish poverty while *actually* improvements in the machinery of production and distribution are working in the opposite direction. Fifty years ago, George pointed out the same contrast. On the one hand as he said: "Productive power in such a state of civilization as ours is sufficient, did we give it play, to so enormously increase the production of wealth as to give abundance to all." On the other hand, now as when George wrote: "The tendency of all the inventions and improvements so wonderfully augmenting productive power is to concentrate enormous wealth in the hands of a few, to make the condition of the many more helpless. . . . Without a single exception I can think of, the effect of all modern industrial improvements is to production upon a large scale, to the minute division of labor, to the giving of large capital an overpowering advantage. . . . The tendency of the machine is in everything not merely to place it out of the power of the workman to become his own employer, but to reduce him to the position of a mere feeder or attendant; to dispense with judgment, skill and brains. . . . He has no more control of the conditions that give him employment than has the passenger in the railway train over the motion of the train." And yet machine and scientific technology contain in itself the possibility of the complete abolition of want and poverty. What is the trouble?

Go to the work of Henry George himself and learn how many of the troubles from which society still suffers, and suffers increasingly, are due to the fact that a few have monopolized the land, and that in consequence they have the power to dictate to others access to the land and to its products—which include waterpower, electricity, coal, iron and all minerals, as well as the foods that sustain life—and that they have the power to appropriate to their private use the values that the industry, the civilized order, the very benefactions, of others produce. This wrong is at the very basis of our present social and economic chaos, and until it is righted, all steps toward economic recovery may be temporarily helpful while in the long run useless.

I suppose my hearers have heard the following line of consolation put forth by professional optimists like Mr. Charles Schwab and his imitators. "To be sure," they say, "we have a bad depression, but we have had in our

history at least nine such depressions before, and yet have come out of them all to enjoy even better times than went before." What a wonderful consolation, and what a wonderful system! We can get out of our present hole and climb up in order to fall into a tenth, and eleventh and twelfth hole, and so on, each deeper than the one before! Is it not about time that instead of patching up here and there we try to go to the roots of our troubles?

Consequently instead of attempting a technical explanation of the moral and economic philosophy of Henry George, I want to urge my hearers to acquaint themselves with his own works, to study them, and then to organize to see that his principle is carried into effect. What are the most evident sore spots of the present? The answer is clear. Unemployment; extreme inequality in the distribution of the national income; enormous fixed charges in the way of interest on debts; a crazy, cumbrous, inequitable tax system that puts the burden on the consumer, and the ultimate producer, and lets off the parasites and exploiters, the privileged, who ought to be relieved entirely of their gorged excess, very lightly, and indeed in many cases as in that of the tariff, pays them a premium for imposing a burden on honest industry and on the means of production; a vicious and incompetent banking system, with billions of money, the hope for the future of millions of hardworking peoples, still locked up, while the depositors lose their homes and walk the streets in vain; the greater part of our population, in the nation of the earth most favored by nature, still living either in slums or in homes without the improvements indispensable to a healthy and civilized life.

You cannot study Henry George without learning how intimately each of these wrongs and evils is bound up with our land system. One of our great national weaknesses is speculation. Everybody recognizes that fact in the stock market orgy of our late boom days. Only a few realize the extent to which speculation in land is the source of many troubles of the farmer, the part it has played in loading banks and insurance companies with frozen assets and has compelled the closing of thousands of banks, nor how the high rents, the unpayable mortgages and the slums of the cities are connected with speculation in land values. All authorities on public works hold that the most fruitful field for them is slum clearance and better housing. Yet only a few seem to realize that with our present situation this improvement will put a bonus in the pockets of landlords, and the land speculator will be the one to profit financially—for after all buildings are built on land.

So with taxation. There are all sorts of tinkering going on, but the tinkers and patchers shut their eyes to the fact that the socially produced annual value of land—not of improvements, but of ground-rent value—is about five billion dollars and that its appropriation by those who create it, the community, would at once relieve the tax burden and ultimately would solve the tax problem. Of late the

federal government has concerned itself with the problems of home ownership, but again by methods of tinkering that may easily in the long run do more harm than good. The community's acquisition of its own creation, ground-rent value, would both reduce the price of land and entirely eliminate taxes on improvement, thus making ownership easier. And how any one expects to solve the unemployment question by putting the sanction of both legality and high pecuniary reward upon the ability of the few to keep the many from equal access to land and to the raw material, without which labor is impossible, I do not see—and no one else does. For the tinkers assume that unemployment must continue, only with government assistance to those who are necessarily out of work. By all means let us help those that now need it, but for the future let us prevent the cause instead of merely mitigating the effects.

So if there were time, one could go through every one of our problems and show its intimate connection with a just solution of the land problem.

I do not claim that his remedy is panacea that will cure by itself all our ailments. But I do claim that we cannot get rid of our basic troubles without it. I would make exactly the same concession and the same claim that Henry George himself made: "I do not say that in the recognition of the equal and unalienable right of each human being to the natural elements from which life must be supported and wants satisfied, lies the solution of all social problems. I fully recognize that even after we do this, much will remain to do. We might recognize the equal right to land, and yet tyranny and spoliation be continued. But whatever else we do, as long as we fail to recognize the equal right to the elements of nature, nothing will avail to remedy that unnatural inequality in the distribution of wealth which is fraught with so much evil and danger. Reform as we may, until we make this fundamental reform our material progress can but tend to differentiate our people into the monstrously rich and the frightfully poor. Whatever be the increase of wealth, the masses will still be ground toward the point of bare subsistence—we must still have our great criminal classes, our paupers and our tramps, men and women driven to degradation and desperation from inability to make an honest living."

Tax Mania

NO sooner is a tax levied on soap than some professor of political economy advocates a tax on soapsuds; then some expert advocates a tax on soap-bubbles as well.

The latest suggestion is 40 per cent tax on subway fares. Well, it happens that land values in four of the five boroughs are based on a 5 cent fare. Any increase in fares whether called a tax or just a plain increase, will depreciate values to a point where the real estate taxes will produce less revenue, and in all probability offset the amount received from a tax on fares.—JOHN J. EGAN in *World-Telegram*.

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(United with the Henry George Foundation of America)
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* * *

NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE LECTURE ASSOCIATION

John Lawrence Monroe, director, will leave on an Eastern tour, Tuesday, May 30, organizing Henry George Clubs, arranging Henry George Dinners, and speaking in principal cities. His itinerary for June and the first week in July is as follows:

Wednesday, May 31—South Bend, Ind., Rotary Club at noon and labor meeting in the evening. In cooperation with Dr. E. G. Freyer-muth, secretary of the Henry George Club of South Bend.

Friday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 6—Grand Rapids, Mich., and vicinity. In cooperation with Mr. Herman Frederich, secretary of the Henry George Club of Grand Rapids, Miss Edith Seekell of Kalamazoo, Mr. Chester A. Graham, director of Ashland College, Mich., and Mr. J. S. Tindall of Cedar Springs.

Wednesday, June 7 to Sunday, June 11—Lansing, Mich., and vicinity. In cooperation with Mr. W. W. Ross, secretary, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Robson, organizers of the Henry George Club of Lansing.

Monday, June 12 to Sunday, June 25—Detroit and vicinity. To address the Detroit Federation of Labor, Wednesday evening, June 21, on "Why Unemployment?" (a chalk-talk). A Detroit Henry George dinner will probably be held Friday, June 23.

Monday, June 26 to July 8—Ontario and Quebec provinces, Canada. Following this date Mr. Monroe will be in New England, New York State, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

Claude L. Watson filled the following appointments on a special trip to Omaha, Nebr.

Monday, April 10—Monthly meeting of the League of Women Voters, appointment arranged by Mrs. Howard J. Bailey; seven classes at the South Omaha High School. appointments arranged by Mr. A. W. Falvey, secretary of the Henry George Club of Omaha.

Tuesday, April 11—Triangle Club luncheon, arranged by Mr. Elmer E. Zimmerman. Another speaker at this meeting was Walter Waters, head of the famous B. E. F. at Washington, who expressed his deep interest in the Single Tax programme as explained by Mr. Watson.

Omaha Municipal University, Prof. Claude W. Stimson's class in taxation.

Wednesday, April 12—Director's meeting of the South Omaha Merchants' Association, Mr. J. P. Watkins, president.

Thursday, April 13—Parlor meeting arranged by Mr. Gilbert Harry of the advertising department of the Union Pacific Railroad.

On Wednesday evening, May 10, Mr. Watson addressed a receptive audience of ninety persons at the Irving Park Christian Church, Chicago.

NEWS OF HENRY GEORGE AND SINGLE TAX CLUBS

Single Tax League, Chicago—The speakers bureau of the League has issued an attractive eight-page leaflet containing an "Announcement of Lectures and Lecturers," with the photographs and speaking titles of seven of Chicago's ablest Single Tax speakers: Henry H. Hardinge, J. Edward Jones, Henry L. T. Tideman, George M. Strachan, Clayton J. Ewing, Thomas Meyer, and Edwin Hamilton. The first speaking title announced for each speaker—whatever other subjects he may treat of—is "The Single Tax." Mr. Nathan Hillman, an attorney and youthful leader in the Chicago movement, is chairman of the speakers' bureau, now an important part of the League's activities.

Henry George Club of Omaha, Nebr.—A special meeting of the Henry George Club was held Thursday evening, April 6, at a dinner at Hotel Conant. Major Rueben N. Perley of the 7th Corps army headquarters spoke on "Valuators." Resolutions were presented against the sales and income tax measures pending in the State Legislature.

Henry George Club of Lansing, Mich.—The *Lansing State Journal* of March 29 tells us that a public hearing in the senate chamber of the Michigan legislature, Tuesday, March 28, "Ray Robson, representing the Henry George Club of Lansing, advocated the Single Tax theory for which the organization stands," and a comment is quoted from Mr. Robson in opposition to the 15-mill tax limitations on real estate.

Members of the club, headed by John J. Richards, president, late in January appeared before Gov. William A. Comstock to appeal "for application of the Single Tax theory as espoused by the late Woodbridge N. Ferris, former governor." The group called the sales tax idea particularly objectionable, and described the tendency to "lower the rate of taxation on all real estate and resorting to some kind of indirect taxation as a substitute."

In Mr. B. W. Dennis, the Lansing Club has found a valuable member. He first became interested in the Single Tax upon hearing Ray Robson speak on the subject before the Y. M. C. A. He is writing letters for the newspapers, and in one of them he says; "Last Saturday evening I visited the fortnightly meeting of the 'Single Tax Club' and I was agreeably surprised at this public discussion to hear the great possi-

bilities shown of an entirely new deck (not only a new deal) through Single Tax methods."

Here are two stanzas from a satirical poem by Mr. Robson appearing in the *Capitol Review*:

"Tax? Tax? Must we then pay a tax

On beef and bones, on stocks and stones, on stores and mills and shacks
While 'neath the weight the Ship of State is bending till it cracks?
And sink it will unless we kill this

Tax, Tax, Tax!

"Nol Let us vow right here and now that from an early date
No power shall take what man may make from early morn till late;
For we demand that rent of land, which we do all create,
No man of wealth shall take by stealth, but it shall serve the State."

Henry George No Tax League, Peoria, Ill.—Mr. Clayton J. Ewing, president of the Single Tax League of Chicago, was the speaker at a public meeting of the Peoria League on Sunday afternoon, April 30. The Henry George No Tax League is affiliated with the Henry George Foundation of America and with the Commonwealth Land Party of England. Its officers are: president, Dr. Canada Wendell; secretary-treasurer, R. E. Green; and directors, Dr. Wendell, Fred J. Bahni, Charles J. Kalb, Albert Henniges, and Mr. Green. *The Commonwealth* London, Eng., says of this organization: "Starting without compromise, the League has laid its foundations securely and with commendable forthrightness."

League to Popularize the Study of Economics, St. Louis, Mo.—Under this temporary name a group of St. Louis Single Taxers including Joseph Forshaw, chairman, Erwin Kauffmann, Charles Lischer, and N. D. Alper is carrying on an educational programme to popularize the teachings of Henry George. Mr. Forshaw spoke Thursday evening, May 11, at the Young Men's Hebrew Association on the subject, "Fair Play in the Olympics of Life." A good many letters "to the editor" are appearing in the St. Louis papers from the pens of members of this group. *The Modern View*, a Weekly Journal of Modern Jewish Life and Thought, April 6, featured a full page article by N. D. Alper on "Economics as a Tool for Religion." The article closes with this paragraph:

"Taxation, as indicated in 'Progress and Poverty' is the lever by which the greatest dislocation in human affairs may be easily restored. Fairly applied, taking ample time, no one with a single title need be disturbed. In time land speculation, the first great speculation, would cease, and man would have his heritage in the Land for all generations."

"THE YOUTH OF AMERICA"

The manifesto of the Youth of America, a growing organization of young men and women, was presented to the people for the first time, in Chicago, May 19. It makes the following demands:

First: That all persons of the age of eighteen years be permitted to vote and hold office.

Second: That the products of labor shall be free from taxation.

Third: That the natural resources of the country be restored to the ownership of the people.

Fourth: That there shall exist the utmost freedom of exchange of the products of labor between our citizens and those of every other land.

Fifth: That there shall be no more wars.

Sixth: That there shall be unlimited educational opportunities for all.

Seventh: That each citizen shall be protected in his individual rights, as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights of our constitution.

In explanation of the third demand, the manifesto says, "We claim for all people a common right in our land. . . . As a practical method of asserting this right, we propose using our present power of taxation to obtain revenues from land values alone, thereby collecting from the

holders of our natural resources and valuable city lands the rent they owe society. The method is one which experience has shown to be just, practical and economical. For comparison of the value of our land sites and natural resources with our necessary public expenses shows that their rental value is more than ample for the support of our government."

The Chairman of the Central Council of the Youth of America is Walter Hecht, and secretary, Marian Mills, 3009 Narragansett Avenue, Chicago.

"Fixing the Price of Wheat"

IT has just cost the American people some 184 million dollars to learn two simple economic truths, first, that you cannot fix the domestic price of any commodity which is produced by the entire world; secondly, that the Law of Supply and Demand is still working.

The purpose of the Federal Farm Board Act passed in 1929 was to "peg" the price of wheat and certain other commodities so that the American farmer could be guaranteed "reasonable" profits. The Farm Board, during its stormy career, purchased about 908 million bushels of wheat at about ninety cents a bushel and attempted to hold it off the market to create an artificial scarcity and boost prices to the American consumer. The carrying charges on this wheat, at one time, were estimated at four million dollars a month. Thus were our farmers to be enriched at the expense of our entire population!

That forgotten man, ex-President Hoover, described the law creating the Farm Board as

"The most important measure ever passed by Congress in aid (sic) of a single industry."

The price of wheat in June, 1929, when the law was passed was \$1.22 a bushel; the price in April 1933, when the Farm Board, thoroughly discredited, ceased its activities had descended to 25 cents a bushel or about one half the cost of production.

This was not the first attempt by Congress to fix the price of a commodity. In 1890 it sought to "peg" the price of silver by buying and hoarding vast quantities of that metal. That experiment helped to bring on the panic of 1893.

Is it any wonder that the Senate of the State of Texas on January 12 last

"Resolved, that we implore our Representatives and Senators in Congress to desist from further attempting to interfere with natural economic laws and further meddlesome efforts to control production and price-fixing and urge especially upon Congressmen and Senators to oppose the passage of this bill and take from the neck of the producers of this nation the yoke of governmental control and dictation."

Between 1900 and 1914 the world produced an average of three and one-half billion bushels of wheat annually. The Great War virtually ended the production in Europe, particularly in Russia. Prices shot up, stimulating pro-

duction everywhere. Canada doubled its production in five years; the United States increased its wheat crop about 100 per cent, from 522 million in 1900 to one billion bushels in 1915. Argentine and Australia likewise multiplied their wheat acreage. In short, in all nations marginal land was brought into intense cultivation.

With the termination of the War in November, 1918, the Central Powers and Russia again began to raise wheat. But these newer countries which had profited enormously when wheat was relatively scarce and selling around \$2.00 a bushel, could not, overnight, cease producing wheat. As a result, production continued to soar. In 1930 for example, it reached almost 5 billion bushels.

Demand, on the other hand, progressively declined. This was due to two causes, namely, that during the war years the world had been forced to use substitutes, and to the inability of 35 million unemployed men to buy the wheat they so sadly needed.

Countries not producing sufficient wheat for their own needs raised their tariffs to encourage home production and shut out competition from the United States and other great wheat-exporting nations. These duties amount, in the case of Italy, to \$1.07 a bushel, France, \$1.71; Germany, \$1.60. Moreover each of these countries limits imports to specific quotas. The countries just named, for example, forbid the importation of more than three per cent of their domestic requirements and stimulate production of the remaining ninety-seven per cent by their own farmers. Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Spain and other countries, where comparatively little grain is grown, followed in the footsteps of the larger nations. The consequence was that the unnatural high prices prevailing within the restricted countries unduly stimulated production of wheat within those countries and inevitably led to price crashes.

In the face of increasing "surpluses" all over the world the American farmer kept on producing more and more wheat, being encouraged in the belief that through the Farm Board, the Government, somehow, would rescue him from the consequences of the inevitable "surplus." (We know of course that there is no real "surplus" so long as millions lack wheat, as they do).

Prices in the United States tumbled, as I have said, from \$2.20 to 25 cents a bushel, the lowest since the days of Queen Elizabeth, over four hundred years ago. Canada, Australia, Argentine, and the United States, on December 1 last "carried over" 745 million bushels surplus for export. Of this vast quantity the United States, alone, held 416 million bushels where normally we carry only one-quarter of that amount.

Despite mounting surpluses the Federal Farm Board attempted to lift prices by absorbing the comparatively small domestic surplus. When its attempts to regulate price failed, Congress learned, what any economist worth his salt could have told it in the beginning, that not even

the United States Treasury was strong enough, to hold up artificially, the price of a single commodity.

The Federal Farm Board Act will go down in history as the monumental blunder of our generation in attempting to fix price.

Have we learned anything from this experience? I doubt it.

With a sublime faith in the perfection of its own theories of economics, Congress on May 12 last passed another law designed to lift the price of nine commodities, namely, wheat, corn, cotton, oats, hogs, tobacco, rice, milk and milk products. Under the new plan the Secretary of Agriculture will fix "quotas" for production of these "basic" commodities, and sell or lease lands *for withdrawal from production in order to reduce marketable quantities of these commodities*. In short, we are to get rich by decreasing wealth!

Alongside the new Law, the old Farm Relief Act was simplicity itself. Alongside the 184 million dollars lost in attempting to regulate the price of wheat, the losses to be incurred under the new Act will be ten times that amount.—B. W. BURGER.

A Man of Fire

BERNARD SHAW said the other day that hearing one lecture by Henry George had changed "the whole current" of his life. Tolstoy mentioned George's name with worshipful reverence. Lenin read him. Sun Yat-sen's most practical ideas came from him. Lloyd George and Philip Snowden frankly acknowledge their debt to him. He has been honored by great men in other countries as far apart as Denmark and Uruguay.

Yet Henry George, says Lewis Gannett in an article on this great man in the *New York Herald Tribune*, is still a prophet almost without honor in his own country. Mr. Gannett seems to think this is due in part to George's principles:

"Why is it that Henry George's followers, the Single Taxers, lapse so monotonously into worthy dullness? One admires them; one is never fired by them. Even Albert Jay Nock, who wrote so superbly on everything else when he was editing the old *Freeman*, sank into dullness whenever he touched the subject for which his magazine was founded—the taxation of unearned increments in land values."

Henry George himself was "a man of fire." He ran off to sea from Philadelphia; he lost money in a hundred California wildcat gold-mine schemes and earned a mere living slaving for a score of California newspapers. It was the sudden rise in unearned land values, due to the arrival of the transcontinental railway in Sacramento—that and the remembered spectacle of poverty in the rich city of New York—which awakened George to the scandal of private appropriation of land values. The awakening, says Mr. Gannett, "made him a flaming crusader," and when he ran for mayor of New York he was to the respectable "the worst kind of rabblouser" and "more menacing than any American Socialist or Communist who has ever appeared since," while "to his followers he was a god."

Whether another "man of fire" is needed to convert the mass of people to George's ideas or not it is hard to say. But a reading of his books by the younger people of today would do a tremendous service to mankind. Whatever may be said of his arguments, he was undoubtedly one of a very small number of definitely original social philosophers of all time.—Editorial, *Ottawa Evening Citizen*, April 28.

What Many Prominent Men Have Said of Henry George And the Cause He Stood For

WE would not have it understood by our readers that they need accept on the authority of others the principles Henry George stood for. They must learn to think for themselves. It is significant, however, that from all ranks of life and human activity have come endorsements of the man and his work. This should at least lead others to think.

I am inclined to think that no writer of our times has had a more profound influence upon the thinking of the world than Henry George. I have read "Progress and Poverty" several times.—NEWTON D. BAKER.

Henry George was as guileless as a child and as sincere as a martyr.—WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

The country needs a new and sincere thought in politics, coherently, distinctly and boldly uttered by men who are sure of their ground. The power of men like Henry George seems to mean that. We must husband and administer the resources of this country for their common benefit.—WOODROW WILSON.

I believe in the Single Tax. I count it a great privilege to have been a friend of Henry George.—SAMUEL GOMPERS.

I believe that Henry George was one of the really great thinkers produced by our country. I do not go all the way with him, but I wish that his writings were better known and more clearly understood, for certainly they contain much that would be helpful today.—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Farewell, Henry George! Great, honest, pure heart and brain, farewell! You are one of the few men of the age whose names are to survive!—WILLIAM J. GAYNOR.

It is the thorough fusion of insight into actual facts and forces, with recognition of their bearing upon what makes life worth living, that constitutes Henry George one of the world's great social philosophers. It would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate the social philosophers who, from Plato down, rank with him.—JOHN DEWEY.

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 idlers would be able to live on the labor of others. . . . My ambition is to repay my debt to Henry George by coming over to America some day and trying to do for your young men what Henry George did nearly a quarter of a century ago for me.—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

I believe in the philosophy of Henry George.—SIR WILFRED LAURIER.

Economics has never been a dull subject to me. It is a science that affects every human being. It is because Henry George steeped the subject in the splendor of his

soul that we hear in his words an irresistible call for justice to all men.—HELEN KELLER.

It is a full half century since no inconsiderable part of the world was plunged into vigorous and often excited controversy over the thesis and the arguments of a book by Henry George. He called it "Progress and Poverty." Why is it that with all the progress which the world is making in so many directions that there still exists so much want? Henry George asked that question fifty years ago. Today everywhere in the world that question is being asked—why is it that the world today is in the grasp of the greatest economic, financial, social and political series of problems which have ever faced it in history? —NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER.

The most necessary reforms that I know of are the exemption of improvements and the taxation of land values. —GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.

Henry George was a master of English; one of the greatest that ever used a pen. He was one of the real prophets of the world; one of the seers of the world. His was a wonderful mind; he saw a question from every side; his philosophy appealed to every school. Henry George wrote a profound book; the first book on political economy that people may read; the first and perhaps the last that was readable to plain ordinary men.—CLARENCE DARROW.

The citizens who build up a community create land values; therefore they should belong to the citizens. Ground rent instead of being paid to landowners should be paid in place of taxes to the government. You should talk Single Tax from the housetops; you ought to have your principles engraved in the sky in letters a mile high. Don't stop. Keep on fighting!—BERNARR MACFADDEN, Editor of *Liberty*.

The Single Tax will wait, I fancy, for years, since it is so fundamental, and mankind never attacks fundamental problems until it has exhausted all the superficial ones. —BRAND WHITLOCK.

If private individuals continue to possess nominal claim to the land they must pay (ground) rent to the community. The land was given by the Creator, not for the use of Dukes, but for the equal use of all His children. Restriction on the use of land is restriction on human liberty! The land tax has been one of my dreams for years. The present land system is unjust and a burden to trade and industry. Direct taxation of land values will prove a remedy.—SIR PHILIP SNOWDEN.

Your proposal to shift the burden of taxation from industry to land values rejoices my heart.—DAVID LLOYD GEORGE.

If the value of agricultural land increases because it is close to a town, a railway line or a canal, the enhanced land values ought to be taxed because they are in no way due to the owner. Besides, the value of land fluctuates and, owing to circumstances outside of the control of the owners, the value increases abnormally. A tax on increased values will therefore prevent abnormal transactions.—VON WERMUTH, Minister of Finance of Germany.

People do not argue with the teaching of Henry George; they simply do not know it; and it is impossible to do otherwise with his teaching, for he who becomes acquainted with it cannot but agree. The land is common to all; all have the same right to it.—LEO TOLSTOY.

All for which Henry George strived and struggled will

yet come true—his prayer will be answered. Of all our modern prophets and reformers Henry George is the only one whose arguments are absolutely unanswerable and whose forecast is sure.—ELBERT HUBBARD.

The earth that God gave to man for his home, his sustenance and support—should never be the possession of any man, corporation, society or unfriendly government, any more than the air or the water, if as much.—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Your letter was most welcome, as was its very interesting enclosure. Mr. Hardinge certainly presents his material in a forceful way and is a worthy disciple of his great master, Henry George—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The burden of municipal taxation should be so shifted as to put the weight of taxation upon the unearned rise in value of land itself, rather than upon the improvements. —THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

It is becoming apparent to thoughtful men that, if the present method of procedure goes on, we shall be driven to the Single Tax idea, whether we like it or not.—VICE-PRESIDENT MARSHALL.

I am a Single Taxer. . . . The Single Tax would be the means of bringing about the sanitary conditions I so much desire.—SURGEON GENERAL GORGAS.

We are asking the land owners to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Taxation of land values is Rent paid to the Community. The great land owners can not be permitted to enjoy privileges to the detriment of the welfare of the Community. We have set our hands to this task and we are going to see it through—SIR PHILIP SNOWDEN.

SO the barbaric cry, "Buy American" will soon run its course. Did those who advocate it but stop to think they must know that it is the application of their unfortunate slogan that has largely got us into the fix in which we find ourselves now. We have been restrained so long from buying abroad that we can no longer buy from one another. Let it again be repeated that if we would sell abroad we must buy abroad in substantially the same amounts. The great civilizer, the great stabilizer of civilization, is commerce. So, if the war debts are ever to be settled the settlement must come from an exchange of commodities and not the exchange of gold and silver or of any other monetary metals. If the "Buy American" slogan is such a wonderful idea, why are we not buying American today? Certainly the stage is set for us to buy American, for so high and so wide have the nations built their trade barriers, largely in imitation of the example we have set them, that it is well nigh impossible for us to buy from anyone else. Coshocton, Ohio, *Tribune*.

UP to this point we have urged Republican support of the Roosevelt bills upon patriotic grounds, to meet a national emergency. No such emergency exists with respect to the farmer. *He is largely the victim of his own post-war speculation.*—New York Herald Tribune.

THE right of exchange is as sacred as any other right, and exists as much between members of different nations as between members of the same nation. Morality knows nothing of geographical boundaries, or distinctions of race. The moral law is cosmopolite—is no respecter of nationalities; and between men who are the antipodes of each other, either in locality or anything else, there must still exist the same balance of rights as though they were next-door neighbors in all things.—HERBERT SPENCER.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"A student in Culver High School writes:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary.

World's Fair and Chicago Single Tax Convention

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"IF a tax interferes with business let business stop," says the sales tax legislator.

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

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

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

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

John Paul

IT is a great loss the movement sustains in the death of John Paul on April 28. On March 15 he had attained his seventieth birthday, and preparations were being made for a world-wide celebration of the event.

We may repeat here what we said in March-April issue of LAND AND FREEDOM:

His long years of service and the splendid ability with which this modest but indefatigable Scot has directed his publishing activities and the conduct of his paper, *Land and Liberty*, with which he has so long been indented, and the wide contacts he has established throughout the world, have made him an international figure. We do not believe there is any member of the British Parliament who has a greater influence upon his contemporaries than this modest disciple of the truths expounded in "Progress and Poverty."

His apparent recovery from a serious illness makes his sudden death doubly poignant. He can ill be spared at this time when so much is needed to be done. But his work will outlast him and his example will inspire others in the great tasks ahead of us.

His associates in the Henry George movement honored his memory at a Memorial Meeting in London on May 9 of which full reports are lacking as we write. His ashes brought from Edinburgh were laid to rest in the Putney Vale Cemetery, Kingston Road, on May 9.

The *Evening News* of Edinburgh in its issue of April 29, made this comment on the passing of our great leader:

The death occurred very suddenly in Edinburgh yesterday of Mr. John Paul, London, editor of *Land and Liberty*, the leader of the Henry George movement in Great Britain. Mr. Paul was secretary of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and formerly secretary of the Scottish League. He had come to Scotland with his wife, who desired to visit a relative who is ill, and with his colleague, Mr. A. W. Madsen. Mr. Paul suddenly expired in his hotel in Edinburgh. He was 70 years of age, and had suffered from heart trouble for some years.

Mr. Paul was regarded as the greatest disciple of Henry George. He was a philosopher and a scholar and an ardent worker for the cause of individual emancipation, economic justice, and social reform. His passing will be regretted by all who belonged to the Henry George movement the world over. He was a native of Glasgow, and took an active part in promoting the rating of land values through the Glasgow Town Council, which led to the great municipal conferences promoted by Glasgow and the legislation that has since followed—in 1906 through the Scottish Land Values Bill, and in 1909 through the land values clauses in the Budget of that year, and in the succeeding years through much propaganda up to the Snowden Budget of 1931.

John Paul had his contacts with the movement in all parts of the world, and was secretary also of the International Union, which has held its representative conferences in Oxford in 1923, Copenhagen in 1926, and Edinburgh in 1929. All who knew Mr. Paul admired him for his wisdom in council, and his lovable and strong character.

On his seventieth birthday on March 15 last he received tributes from all parts of the world.

Hon Charles O'Connor Hennessy, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, addressed the following letter to the Memorial Meeting in London. Mr. Hennessy's sentiments will be echoed by thousands of John Paul's friends and admirers on this side of the Atlantic:

"I feel I speak for the large circle of American friends of John Paul in expressing not merely their sense of deep sorrow at parting with a beloved friend, but their feeling that the cause of human brotherhood and social justice in the world has lost a great leader.

For the greater part of a long life, John Paul labored with utter devotion and high intelligence to bring the great truths of Henry George's teachings to the minds of men everywhere. In this great work, I believe, he was surpassed by no man since the death of Henry George himself.

Upright, brave, clear-thinking and generous, his personal qualities won the affection and attachment of great numbers of men and women who had the privilege of his friendship. His like we may never see again, but the example that he set for all of us may serve still to lead us onward and upward in our labors for a better world.

Matthew Warriner

MANY friends of the movement here will learn with profound sorrow of the death of Matthew Warriner at his home in Kingston-on-Thames, on April 11. His passing is a great loss to the Commonwealth Party of England, and to the *Commonweal*, with which he was so long associated.

Mr. J. W. Graham Peace, editor of the *Commonweal*, tells of Mr. Warriner's career and his many adventures, working in the Chicago stock yards, farming in the Middle West, wrecked in the Carribean Sea. He had gone from England to America in 1884. Finally after many experiences he entered with one of his brothers in the shipping business at New Orleans, retiring in 1915.

All this we gather from the appreciative notice of his life work appearing in the *Commonweal* from the pen of his devoted friend and co-worker, Mr. Peace.

Mr. Warriner's devotion to the great cause of immediate emancipation for all peoples from the burden of landlordism by the instant collection of the full economic rent, may not be realized—we may have to wait for slower steps—but by his unremitting efforts and splendid devotion Matthew Warriner has brought that day appreciably nearer.

He was a tower of strength to the cause, a courtly and kindly gentleman, and a considerate but inflexible advocate of what he conceived as the truth.

To his friends in America he will remain a delightful memory for those qualities of mind and heart which are remembered even on his short visits here by those who were permitted to share his comradeship.

Work of Charles H. Ingersoll

THE work of the past two months has been very interesting and novel, largely devoted to broadcasting.

There have been twenty stations in all used, an average of about ten at one time: these are the ones used, WNJ, WHOM, WODA, WCAP, WILM, WDAS, WAAM, WLTH, WBNX, WWRL, WCBA, and WPCB.

There were 120 broadcasts in all from Jan. 1 to May 20; now averaging over forty a month: Jan., 7; Feb., 31; March, 34; April, 28; May, 26.

Though nearly thirty talks have been prepared the following are the live subjects:

Technocracy Challenges Capitalism. Technocracy Challenges Democracy. What Technocracy Might Be. Depression, Cause and Cure. What's Wrong with Capitalism? What Is Single Tax? A New Capitalism. Statement and Quiz. Public Service of Radio. Not a Single Tax. Bank Holiday. Daily Headlines. Father Coughlin, Orator. That Hokey of Huey's. Pittsburgh Plan. Immediate Way Out. To the Realtors. Clamor Against Wealth. Cure Under-Production. Bernard Shaw Boiled Down. Inflation, Latest Cure-all. Draft to Socialism. Not Seeing the Obvious. Where Do JOBS Come From? The New Deal and Shuffle.

Every talk contains a high content of "straight Single Tax" and most of them are chiefly the pure gospel.

There has been shown no sensitiveness to this subject by any of the programme directors whose welcome to Mr. Ingersoll has been most cordial.

The quality and size of stations improves steadily and our relations also do, as we become a "regular feature" and, as we hope, our audiences build up.

There is some lack of complete publicity for our talks on many of these stations which are crowded out of the metropolitan dailies, but we will improve this showing. Meantime, Mr. Ingersoll's delivery and technique improve and more especially his talks themselves getting more snappy, pointed and appropriate. His constant aim is for more simple and sure paths to the radio mind.

If the value of this work may be measured in commercial terms—the price the stations demand for "time"—this 120 fifteen minute period runs into many thousands of dollars.

Mr. Ingersoll is very anxious to print weekly each new talk, as it is finished, and mail it to all club members and friends and to 1,000 or more newspapers. There is no doubt that the great variety of topics, all made to serve the George philosophy, and the great care and preparation, will make a series of great value if financing may be had for its publication which will cost \$20 weekly including mailing.

Mondays. WCAP, Asbury Park, 10:00 a. m.; WILM, Wilmington, Del., 1:45 p. m.; WDAS, Philadelphia, Pa., 7:45 p. m.

Wednesday. WAAM, Newark, 2:45 p. m.

Thursdays. WLTH, Brooklyn, N. Y., 9:45 a. m.; WBNX, Bronx, N. Y., 12 m.

Thursdays. WLTH, Brooklyn, N. Y., 9:45 a. m.; WBNX, Bronx, N. Y., 12 m.; WWRL, Woodside, L. I. 10:15 p. m.

Fridays. WCBA, New York City, 1 p. m.

Saturdays. WHOM, Jersey City, 7:45 p. m.; WPCB, New York City, 11:45 a. m.

Sundays. WPCB, New York City, 6:45 p. m.

Though there has been no great effort made for regular meetings this year, about twenty have been held as reported below, and which Mr. Ingersoll has valued very highly as maintaining a balanced output and continuing this valuable experience.

The street meetings have only recently developed and look very interesting and important. Mr. Ingersoll is working with Mr. Stanley, George Lloyd, Mr. Librescot, of Bolton Hall's office, and Morris Van Veen, to organize a street campaign and extend it across the country, the idea being to let our gospel be heard as widely as possible.

PUBLIC ADDRESSES

Woodhaven Republican Club. March 16, 8:30 p. m. Meeting in club house; 90 present; 20 ladies. Made a general talk; following no formula; 35 minutes. Had a very effective quiz of one and one half hours.

Dover, Del. Legislature. March 27. Meeting of about a dozen selected members with the President of the Senate, at the request of Frank J. Stirlith, on the subject "Graded System of Taxation," patterned after Pittsburgh plan.

I made some preparation based on suggestions of his and presented the principles involved and answered questions as to details, as did Mr. Stirlith also. President objected, but others favorable. Mr. Stirlith is hopeful, having had favorable action previously.

Woburn, Mass. Rotary Club. April 5. I gave them a lively talk which made them anxious to know more as we had a question period of over one hour. Attendance 50; talked 30 minutes.

Franklin, Mass. Board of Commerce. April 8. Meeting at the rooms of the board was a very exceptional one; 100 present; talk about 40 minutes; quiz over two hours. Mr. Van Leeuwen said that there had never been such a demonstration made there though all our best speakers have been here.

Bordentown, N. J. High School. April 24, 9:00 a. m. Drove from home arriving 8:30. Superintendent Overholser, a very fine young man who favors Single Tax and 300 seniors and sophomores in the assembly. I made an original 35 minute talk and held their interest completely with a 10 minute quiz.

Bordentown High School Economic and Other Advanced Classes. April 24, 9:45 p. m.; 100 present. This simply extended the quiz from the assembly and was one of the best I have had. Mr. Overholser helped with questions and seemed very well pleased; invited me to come again.

Hammonton, N. J. Kiwanis. April 25, 12:30 p. m. at O'Donell house. Messrs. Littlefield, Jackson, Postmaster Adams, and Editor, introduced me generally. They expected 25, the membership being 35, but there were 50 present. I made an original talk of 35 minutes and we had a 45 minute quiz.

Irrington, N. J. Rotary. April 27, 12:15 p. m. This is my third

meeting in Irvington in six months; through J. H. Allen; 35 present. I made a 30 minute talk but only had a limited quiz.

Waterbury, Conn., Second Congregational Church Forum. April 30, 7:30 p. m.; about 200 present. I made a special talk, having prepared it on the way up and having in mind that these are the hardest audiences to talk to. They were very earnest and attentive and many talked with me afterward and were highly appreciative. Talked 40 minutes and had a 40 minute quiz.

Newburg, N. Y. Rotary, Palatine Hotel. May 2, 12:15 p. m.; Mr. Green, president, accepts Single Tax; very fine introduction; talked 30 minutes; had rapt attention and this seemed one of the few instances where they were so surprised that they could not ask questions freely. However, we had a very good half-hour quiz and some converts; 60 present.

Dunellen, N. J. Rotary. May 11, 12:12 p. m.; 50 present. Mr. Bolen received and introduced me; talked 30 minutes and had their complete attention; quiz lasted one hour; meeting arranged by Chandler; afterward, went to Zarepath, the Pillar of Fire People, which I found to be a very interesting and healthy community in spite of their being called "jumpers;" expect to arrange a radio programme with their station.

Outdoor Meeting. May 4, corner 86th Street and Broadway. Made the acquaintance of Mr. Philip Stanley at 86th Street and Lexington Avenue.; accepted his invitation to talk at this point tonight and had an audience of about 300, more or less shifting.

Outdoor Meeting, 72nd Street and Broadway. May 5. Much better meeting than last night in all respects including crowd which was around 300. Made a satisfactory talk of 35 minutes; had a quiz of over one hour, lasting until after midnight. Mr. Stanley has recently been converted to Single Tax.

Outdoor Meetings. May 11; 86th Street and Broadway; May 12, 72nd Street and Broadway; May 13, 59th Street and Broadway; May 14, 59th Street and Broadway; May 18, 86th Street and Broadway. These street meetings are all of similar character, varying from about 100 to 300 or 400. I find the audiences very interested and can hold their attention as indicated by many pointed questions.

Ardcn, Del. Field Theatre. May 12, 4 p. m. I was late, having radio date in New York, but Mr. Hetzel held the audience; about 100. Varied talk somewhat to the audience but covered the usual ground and found complete interest and a very intelligent quiz. Talked 35 minutes; questions lasted nearly another hour.

Outdoor Meeting, 72nd Street and Broadway. May 19, 9 to 10:15 p. m.; about 250, but they immediately concentrated on my 35 minute talk which fitted my usual formula. No lack of intelligence and interest, in fact their questions were of an unusually high order; quiz lasted three-quarters of an hour and meeting until 11:45.

The Socialist across the street couldn't get a crowd while Stanley had 500. This is the fellow that had to quit last week after I asked him a few innocent questions. Looks like our cause would win over Socialism in *getting* and *holding* audiences if it can be pushed.

North Hudson, N. J. Kiwanis.—May 23; arranged by Mr. Chandler.

On the same date Mr. Ingersoll debated with Mr. Charles Smith at the Pythian Temple.

On June 1 Mr. Ingersoll was at Caldwell-West Essex, N. J. Kiwanis.

Churchill A Model City

THERE is a third feature that makes Churchill remarkable, and it is that feature alone that is dealt with here. Churchill is made the subject of one of a series of articles on Canada's natural resources for the reason that a new government policy in relation to the townsite has been in operation for over five years and its continuation has been promised. The effect upon the new town of this governmental policy has been almost startlingly successful, as will be shown later. The effect of continuance of this policy is soon to begin to appear, for it has been officially announced that, with construction work advanced to its present degree of completion, and with the slight experience of partial operation of the route for two seasons, the townsite is to be opened in the coming summer.

The change of policy is quite radical. Instead of allowing private ownership of town lots, as in the case of so many other towns in the course of Canada's history the ownership will be retained by the government and lots will be leased to those who wish to use them. The history of this policy may be briefly traced.

The policy of publicly-owned and leased town lots is new in Canada. All our important places from Quebec, the oldest, to the bright new Moosonee on James Bay—Hon. Howard Ferguson, when Premier of Ontario said that that town would "swap cargoes with Churchill"—have proceeded upon the apparently unquestioned belief that privately owned town lots are part of the order of nature and of the destiny of man. We have learned, it is true, that the booms and busts that this system produces are not a good thing but bad; but the general idea seems to be that they are to a town what the measles are to a person—one can't avoid them, so better have them early and grow out of them. All our habits, all our precedents, are based on private ownership. The other method may take a good deal of getting used to.

The natural conditions of Churchill, already referred to, are likely to complicate and make difficult the application of new ideas. The far-north location, the long, harsh winter, the permanently frozen soil, while not necessarily incompatible with community success and individual comfort, are obstacles to be overcome. The people of Manitoba, as owners of the townsite and as the ultimate authority directing the land policy, may have such grasp and mastership of the new policy that they can adjust it to the conditions of the new town's existence and development. It is to be hoped that such is the case.

So far, the new policy of public ownership of the townsite has been a perfect success. For five years the work of building the railway and terminals has proceeded without delay and without delay, notwithstanding the tremendous difficulties of climate and isolation. All reports go to show that the work has been well done and that the opening of the new town will be as successful as the perfect launching of a new ship. Land that was valueless before this public work began has taken on value, but every foot of the land and every dollar of the value is retained by the public. This condition ought to—and no doubt will—be reflected in the plan of the new town. No private interest has existed to distort that plan. The only points to be considered were, in the first place, the proper rights of the future citizens and the interest of the general public. Best of all, the crazy speculation in town lots which has caused loss and demoralization in many other developments has been completely avoided; there has been no boom in Churchill. The idea of a boom anywhere seems almost unthinkable in these days of depression, but it must be remembered that the decision to make Churchill the "Metropolis of the North" was reached at a time when speculation was more universal and more insane than at any other time in history.—A. C. CAMPBELL, "Churchill Northern Metropolis" in *Canadian Unionist* for March, 1933.

"THE wages of sin is death." Of society's economic sins this is unquestionably true.

TAXATION of industry makes the weakest industries stop. This puts many out of work and, to care for them, legislators put more taxes on industry. This forces to the wall the weakest among surviving industries and more become unemployed. Then, to take care of the additional idle ones, additional taxes are put on industry. And legislators wonder why the depression persists.

Henry George School of Social Science

AN address to be noted and remembered—252 West 72d Street, New York City.—It is an address that marks an epoch. It is the location of the first permanent headquarters of the Henry George School of Social Science.

At this address, henceforth, classes in fundamental economics and social philosophy, the philosophy of Henry George, will be always in session.

Already plans are being made to reach the twenty-five thousand teachers in the New York City school system, to whom certificates issued by the Henry George School of Social Science will mean certificates of "Alertness" which are recognized by the Board of Education in considering salary increases and positions of advancement for teachers.

College students and senior high school students, as well as the general public, will now also be approached in a manner they could not heretofore be reached without a permanent headquarters that is always open, and where someone to give information is always in attendance. It is now planned to have classes in session every day and every evening, and to provide graded classes for those who mean to pursue their studies until they themselves are qualified as teachers. One of the aims the director of the school has set for himself is the training of teachers who will carry on the work of the School and thus enable it to spread its teaching and its influence everywhere, and thus make an ever increasing audience for the gospel for which the School is established.

In addition to the forums and the classes that have been conducted in the Boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn and Bronx, two special classes of thirty-five students each were started since our last report. These two classes were organized in response to a demand for an intensive course in "Progress and Poverty," and it is gratifying to announce the marked progress these two classes are making. The plan is to finish the book in eight weekly sessions of two hours each. Readings are assigned by the director that must be completed before the classes; the class being devoted entirely to a discussion of the lesson.

In addition to these two special classes, one class of about forty that meets every two weeks has been started in North Arlington, N. J. after a lecture there by Mr. Geiger. Another class, also as a result of a talk by Mr. Geiger, is being organized now in Ridgewood, N. J.

Also since our last report, Mr. Geiger addressed six classes in Contemporaneous Civilization, and their instructors, in two sessions at Columbia University. Prof. Harry J. Carman under whose direction these classes are conducted has had Mr. Geiger talk to several groups at Columbia College and intends to have him return there as often as the curriculum of his department permits.

One of the very important functions of the School now

that it has its own place, will be to furnish a library and reading-room accommodations for students and the public, and books on economics and social philosophy will be needed. The funds of the School being limited however, it will have to depend for books and tracts on the generosity of those who have such books and tracts and who, perhaps, will welcome an opportunity of putting them to good and immediate use.

It will be entirely agreeable to the School to have donors insert their names in the books they donate, or if donors prefer, the School will insert its acknowledgments to each donor on the inner front cover or fly leaf of each book. First editions, or other valuable books, will be specially handled and preserved for posterity.

Pictures and busts of Henry George also will be accepted and given suitable location.

Acknowledgment of all gifts, unless otherwise instructed, will be made both directly and through the columns of LAND AND FREEDOM.

In view of the present financial status of the School, and because such funds as it has are required for rent and furnishings, it is requested that, where at all possible, all books, tracts, busts and pictures be sent by mail or express prepaid; also that the name of the donor be distinctly marked on package so that proper acknowledgment may be made.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Assume that the Henry George idea is the law of the land:

I wish to get for use, for a living but with no special idea of profit, a piece of land such as would be called at present submarginal, in a farming sense, but which might have attractions in the way of climate, scenery, etc.

I wish to get for use, for production, for profit, some first class farming land.

I wish to get a homesite in suburbs, town or city to build a home on.

I wish to get a business site, up to the highest value.

In general just how would I go about it, in each of these cases. Who would determine the rent to be paid the State, and how would the amount be determined? Would there be free competitive bidding? In case there was no competition at all, how would the tax be figured?

If I build to lease, in figuring my investment, I would include the annual site-rent of the land, would I not?

Would the advantage to the tenant be the difference between the rate based on the site-rent and the rate based on the selling price of the land, under present system?

Would rentals be figured by competition, supply and demand, over and above the base, figured on the annual Single Tax and the investment in improvements?

When you explain to a farmer that though the land would bear a heavier tax, his individual tax would be less, he is pleased with the idea of reduction. But he realizes that present taxes, high as they are, barely suffice to give him the public improvements that he feels he must have. With lower actual taxes, he fears that his greatly desired

public improvements would be curtailed. I suppose the answer is that he would get what he could afford, much or nothing as the case might be. But how would you answer him?—P. R. W.

A. Rent would be determined basically exactly as it is now, by the higgling of the market. There is competition now for all the land that is to be had, only that the price is governed largely by the speculative withholding of land from use. This speculative withholding removed, as "the Henry George idea" would remove it, all unused land would be accessible to those who desire to put it to use. Submarginal land would have no value and would pay no rent. If the climatic and scenic attractions mentioned were sufficiently potent to attract people in such numbers as to make some spots more desirable than others, rent would appear, otherwise, regardless of its natural attractiveness, it would be rent free.

"First class farming land" is such as with the same effort produces greater returns than lower class farming lands. Its advantages would be expressed in rent.

Home sites are different from production sites in that (other things being equal) they are lower in value and therefore lower in land rent.

The "highest business site value" will under the Single Tax, pay its full annual rent even though that be a million. No part of the rent will be capitalized into selling value.

Naturally, the site-rent must be paid by the users of the land. If the users happen to be the tenants of an owner of the building they must pay their share of the rent, but if P. R. W. means in saying "in figuring my investment, I would include the annual site-rent of the land" means that, as at present, "profits" may be added to such "investment," he is mistaken. The property of a builder, or owner, is his building, for the use of which, plus such services as he may render, he is entitled to payment.

Supply and demand govern all prices. Remove the incentive to hold land out of use, as the taking of the rent by government in lieu of all taxes will do, and the supply of land will be so great that its individual unit value will fall and thus the advantage to the tenant, and to all users of land, will be the lower cost of housing and of doing business. But this will not be the only advantage. The greater demand for labor will increase wages, therefore consumption, and the greater demand for commodities and services will increase the output of all producers, and all will reap the advantage of good times and prosperity.

The farmer, under the Single Tax, will be, perhaps, the most favored individual in the community. His taxes now fall mainly on buildings and improvements on land, on tools, machinery, live stock, etc., which often exceed by several times the value of his land. He would be relieved of all these taxes. The unprecedented demand for labor and the consequently higher universal wages would

enormously increase the demand for his products, and therefore his income.

While under the Single Tax the individual unit of land may fall, the greater demand for and therefore greater use of, land will cause rent in the aggregate to rise considerably, and government will have much more money than it has now for public improvements and services to the people.

Q. I am not positive that increase in land values, brings on poverty. It seems to me, the counterfeiting of stock, bond values, does. Where every corporation is permitted to print practically unlimited stock certificates, not even land values can compete with such an unlimited swindle. The thieves market where they market their counterfeit values is of immediate importance for solution.

To stop the right of corporations to print counterfeit property tokens, and to market them in gambling places, called the stock market, is where quick solution lies. If farmers and producers would organize they could secure power to apply remedies, but they fritter it away and elect nine-tenths lawyers to transact their business for them.—JOHN EHMANN.

A. Legitimate increase in land values due to increasing population, or to greater productivity, under conditions of freedom with land speculation eliminated, cannot bring on poverty. Increase in land values due to land being speculatively held out of use depresses the margin of production and depressing the margin can do nothing else but lower wages and create poverty.

To prohibit the printing of stocks and bonds and leave untouched the conditions that give usurious qualities to such stocks and bonds, would be akin to leaving valuables lie about with unlocked doors and then by edict making it a crime to steal. It would not do any good. Stocks and bonds merely divide the spoils; without them the robbery of the people will go on just as effectively.

Instead of stopping the right of corporations to print and market "counterfeit property tokens" wouldn't it be a more effective and speedier solution to stop individuals from converting public property into private gain?

Public Works and The Depression

BUSINESS is in a very bad way, with millions of men out of work, and, naturally, there are many different kinds of remedies proposed, to cure it. At this time, one very popular one is that government should start a series of public works, such as new postoffices and roads, and also finance the construction of new bridges, and the electrification of the railroads, and similar projects. Through these public works, men would be given jobs and they would have money to spend, and there would be created an effective demand for the commodities and services of business. If a huge enough amount, such as five billion dollars, be expended, it will cause business men to regain confidence and it should be the turning point to bring back good times again. If this reasoning be sound, no time should be lost in putting such a public works programme into effect. Let us, therefore, test our

several instances, taken at random, to see if public works are a cure for the depression:

1—The Treasury Department writes on March 24, 1933, that "the cost of the land for the new Parcel Post Building in New York City was \$2,000,000. The amount of the construction contract is \$5,233,231."

2—A New York City newspaper of April 17, 1933, states that "Nassau County orders \$1,000,000 bond issue. Most of this sum will buy highway rights of way (land)."

3—The Federal Government may spend two billion dollars to buy farm mortgages. A New York weekly says concerning the farm mortgage situation in Iowa: "Well, the lawyer bid somewheres around \$30,000 for 320 acres of land. Good land, you understand. Used to be worth \$300 an acre."

4—A New York City newspaper of Oct. 7, 1932, states that "Borough President Levy has a fund of \$8,720,000 to acquire twenty-four acres for childrens' playgrounds, where none now exist. Under usual conditions these would cost \$11,000,000 but because of the depression the property (slum land) might be purchased within the borough's present means."

5—A New York City newspaper of Feb. 17, 1933, states that "the New Rochelle, N. Y. postoffice would be located at the corner of * * *. The property (land) was offered for \$200,000."

6—A New York City newspaper of April 9, 1933, states that "Fred. F. French will start in six weeks to stamp out the 'lung block' on the lower East Side, one of the most sordid sections in New York. French plans to displace about 3,000 people from buildings none of which is under fifty years old." The New York State Housing Board estimates the land, consisting of five acres of slums, will cost \$3,000,000, and the new buildings will cost \$6,000,000.

Now, the question is whether five billion dollars of public works, similar to the above, can cure the depression. There seems to be no logical reason to say that they would do so. In fact, there seems to be no direct connection, either as cause or effect, between public works and the depression.

There is, however, one constant factor running all through these six cases, and that is the enormous prices that must be paid for land. The dirt farmer, for instance, cannot successfully "make" crops on \$300 an acre land, and so the government is asked to finance the mortgage. Thousands of children are denied much needed playgrounds because New York City cannot buy slum land at \$360,000 an acre. The French project to destroy some horrible slums in New York City, must pay \$600,000 an acre for land. If the government spends five billions for public works, it will pay \$1,500,000,000 for the land to do it on. And, furthermore, the surrounding land will increase in value billions of dollars. The one sure direct result therefore of a five billion dollar public works programme is that land owners will receive several billions of dollars. The conclusion from this short examination into facts is that President Roosevelt and his able and sincere advisers should immediately make a thorough and painstaking inquiry into high land values as one cause of the present depression.—T. A. MCHENRY.

THERE is no evidence that any considerable group of Nebraskans is even tolerant of the idea of a sales tax. A few city real estate dealers are for it. A few school teachers (one bill proposes to give its entire yield to the school fund) have indorsed it. A few professional promoters are pumping the bellows. But the people, the taxpayers, are silent. They want tax reduction, not tax additions.

Omaha *World-Herald*.

GANDHI can rid India of some political wrongs merely by fasting a few days. American workers fast for years without having the slightest effect on what is wrong here. But Gandhi thinks while he fasts.

An Ethical Basis for School Revenue

NEVER before has the problem of financing the public schools been so acute; never before has the public been so tax-conscious. Everywhere legislators are feverishly urged to look here and there to find one more source of revenue, and everywhere the ordinary citizen, already groaning under a staggering burden, stoutly declares his inability to give more. The question is not too much one of political economy to engage the attention of teachers as such. More and more at educational meetings the question of "How Shall the Public Schools be Financed?" has come up for discussion and much space has been given to it in professional literature of recent issue.

In all these platform addresses and published articles one striking fact is evident. With almost complete unanimity these eminent educators discuss the matter as though the whole question were one of who has the money. "According to ability to pay" seems to be the sole test. It seems never to have occurred to such speakers and writers that the matter of ethics has anything to do with it. Their argument begins and ends with "The State needs the money." They would have us obtain revenue for the nation, the state or municipality on the same principle as the burglar or highwayman gets his. That principle is: "I *need* what you *have*, therefore I *take*." Has society no higher justification for asking for the taxpayer's dollars? Has the state no loftier sanction for demanding tribute?

If any of us were to be asked individually, out of what fund we expect to pay for the food we eat, the clothes on our bodies and the roofs over our heads, there is but one proper answer: Out of our own *earnings*. A person who deliberately plans to do otherwise, save as a result of a free gift of the producer, is justly regarded by society as a crook and treated accordingly. We build jails for the fellows who order their lives on the basis of other folks' "ability to pay." By what reasoning is the state absolved from the same ethical test? Is not organized society, just as much as is the individual, amenable to the commandment, "thou shalt not steal" and bidden to eat its bread in the sweat of its *own* face? In other words, should not public revenue be derived from public earnings as distinguished from individual earnings?

The thought probably has never occurred to nine out of ten of those legislators, educational administrators and civic associations who are so bravely marching to the "relief of real estate," and who proclaim that "intangible wealth" (meaning of course stocks, bonds and mortgages) must bear the burden, as though the futility of that kind of taxation had not been so often and so thoroughly exposed. Such persons should be reminded of that which is recognized by every economist as a communal product, the value of land. The so-called "unearned increment" is just as certainly earned by the people as a whole who have brought it into being as are the wages of a day laborer his own earnings. Land values come into being with communities, and, exactly as these communities grow in size and complexity, the increasingly necessary revenue for their maintenance is automatically at hand.

What is the result of any public improvement? If we build a new street, open a new sewer, construct a public bridge over the river or across the railroad, extend transit facilities, improve the river banks, or erect new school buildings, do these not result in increased land values? Or, to mention improvements of an intangible though not less appreciable nature, what happens when civic alertness provides clean, graftless and efficient city government? The desire of everyone to live and to do business in such an exemplary place creates a greater demand for sites—not for buildings necessarily. The common remark that municipal improvements tend to raise the value of "real estate" is both true and false, since this term by custom but in opposition to logic is made to include both land and the improvements on it. Do buildings increase in value as a result of neighborhood betterments?

Should a house burn down, how much has its owner lost? Obviously, no matter where the house is located—in a highly desirable neighborhood or only a sparsely settled one, the loss is only the cost of rebuilding and this rebuilding is apt to cost even less in a highly developed locality—HENRY W. HETZEL in *The News Letter*, official publication of the Philadelphia Teachers Organization, for May, 1933.

Economics and Religion

SOON birds will be selecting sites for their homes in the trees. With time comes little mouths to feed and parent birds must work harder. Nature's storehouse is open to them and there they fill their needs only at the cost of labor. In the country bees are on the wing seeking flowers wherein is stored the raw materials from which they prepare their honey. All nature will soon be busy and when winter comes again the animals of nature's kingdom will have their homes and food, and the plants their season's growth.

What of man? He too, must prepare, and draw from Nature's vast and unfailing storehouse. Nature yields to man, black or white, Jew or Gentile, under the same conditions, and in like quantities if he is permitted to, and will but work. Nature, in fact, seems to have provided too well; wheat used as fuel and men hungry; cotton unpicked and men unclothed; shoes overproduced and men without them. Are birds concerned with too many worms, bees too many flowers, squirrels too many nuts?

At a certain point, as we "shoot the chutes" of what economists call the business cycle, we always hear the question: "Why poverty amidst Plenty?" Answers come from all sides; tariff, silver, God, capitalism, socialism, communism, dictatorship. All this with the low of the cycle. Eventually we turn the corner, and again we will watch the mad race of Progress and Poverty and wonder when the thousands of evil riding horsemen of the depression will again sweep down on humanity with horrors greater than those visited by wars.

Did we have to make men better, or change human nature to obtain the Dynamo, the X-Ray? Man had only to learn nature's principles that always existed. Had it been necessary to wait until men were made better, we would never have had them. Scientists seek knowledge of principles to work with them. Could the man of "faith" be so irreligious as to feel that the Creator had failed to provide the laws of Economics, the laws for the production and distribution of wealth, with which man may work?

Would not a doctor seek a cause for recurring boils? Should we not seek the cause of recurring "economic bellyaches?" Tariff, banks and bankers, wars, etc., are these first causes, or are they farther removed? It seems as futile to look for a cure of poverty and depressions by annulling these evils, as to uproot trees by pulling off leaves. Religion is deeply concerned about mankind's seemingly hopeless position. They make haste to point out that it is not God's desertion, but man's failure. Nature has been good.

A learned Rabbi of our city was quoted some time ago as saying that "Prohibition has made us of a Nation of hypocrites and liars." The personal property tax did that to us long before prohibition, and included men who never drank. Religious leaders deal with the thing they call human nature; they seek to influence men to be honest and less selfish. This brings to mind a question. Suppose the youthful David had missed the temple of Goliath and had only hit him on the nose? Is it not possible that the Church has failed to use an effective method? Are men dishonest, do they swear falsely because the personal property tax is wrong, or because man is dishonest? Perhaps this is a dishonest tax? Perhaps it is communistic? If an unjust tax is removed would not men find it easier to be honest? Will all the exhortations of the church change conditions resulting when an honest man, in his honest opinion, receives an income by man-made laws

honestly his, but which a proper study of God's economic laws by the ministers might reveal to be dishonest in moral law and equity because it was gained unfairly at the expense of others equally entitled to it? Desire to be honest cannot correct the evils arising from wrong principles believed to be right. Does this not indicate a duty on him whom the frailties of human nature lay as a burden? Would it be wrong to change human nature but changing conditions instead of hoping for it the "hard way" and in spite of conditions? Poverty breeds crime; great reforms are usually simple ones; may it not be that there is a simple economic reform that would largely banish involuntary poverty and its countless ills?—N. D. ALPER, in *The Modern View*, St. Louis, Mo.

Washington Women at Work

THE Woman's Single Tax Club of the District of Columbia held their closing meeting for the season on Monday evening, May 1, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Morton G. Lloyd, No. 100 Taylor Street, Chevy Chase, Md.

As all business had been dispensed with at the previous meeting and no regular minutes kept, the members reported informally on the Landlord's Game party which had constituted the April session, in the ball room of the All States Hotel, 514 19th Street, N. W. It was attended by about two dozen persons, despite a downpour of rain, the guests including a group of students from the economic class at George Washington University, accompanied by their instructor, Professor Owens, and their interest in, and grasp of, the principles involved, afforded much satisfaction to Mrs. Phillips, the inventor and director of this ingenious game which gives a practical demonstration of the working out of our present taxation system, which permits a few to accumulate at the expense of the many, and of the Henry George principle, under which wealth tends toward a more equitable distribution among the players when the rules of the game are changed in conformity with the Single Tax.

An invitation was extended by Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley to hold the annual gathering at her home in Riverdale, Md., on the last Sunday in May, a custom which was inaugurated in 1912 and has been followed every year since without a break.

A pleasant surprise to the club was afforded at this closing meeting of the year, by the unexpected presence of Mr. and Mrs. Jackson H. Ralston, formerly Maryland residents but now living in California. Following the business meeting, Mr. Ralston, after reporting on conditions in California, gave, at the request of several of the members, a brief review of the campaign which he had been instrumental in waging in Maryland.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mrs. Walter N. Campbell, president; Mrs. Marie H. Heath, vice-president; Mrs. Jennie Knight, recording secretary; Miss Frances S. Crosby, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lucy R. Swanton, treasurer; Mrs. Tamer F. Rorke, director to the Federation of Woman's Clubs.

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

Open Letter to President Roosevelt

JOHN C. ROSE, OF PITTSBURGH, HAS ADDRESSED THE FOLLOWING
LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT.

AS a good and faithful Democrat, you are no doubt a firm believer in, or at least an admirer of, the ideas advanced by Thomas Jefferson.

Permit me, therefore, to call your attention to several ideas which this eminent statesman and thinker firmly believed in.

In a letter written in Paris to James Madison, Sept. 6, 1789 (in Ford's "Jefferson's Writings," Vol. VI. pp. 3-4) Jefferson says:

"I set out on this ground, which I suppose to be self-evident, that the earth belongs in usufruct to the living; that the dead have neither power nor right over it. . . . This principle that the earth belongs to the living and not to the dead is of very extensive application and consequences in every country."

And to another letter written at Fontainebleau to Madison's father, Oct. 28, 1785, (Ibid, Vol. VIII p. 196) in which the great exponent of democracy says:

"Whenever there are in any country uncultivated lands and unemployed poor, it is clear that the laws of property have been so far extended as to violate natural right. The earth is given as a common stock for men to labor and live on. If, for the encouragement of industry, we allow it to be appropriated, we must take care that other employment be provided for those excluded from the appropriation. If we do not, the fundamental right to labor on the earth is denied."

The implications contained in these two extracts are clear enough. Moreover, we have almost the identical conditions which Jefferson referred to. We have both "uncultivated lands and unemployed poor." Conservatively speaking, at least half of our country is held idle and uncultivated, and we have at least 13,000,000 unemployed.

Jefferson lays down the rule of justice and equity, if not of law, that if government permits the monopolization of land and natural resources, and the people suffer unemployment as a consequence, as they most certainly do, then it is the duty of government to provide work for the expropriated masses. When government fails in this sacred duty, according to Jefferson, "the fundamental right to labor the earth returns to the unemployed."

You are, I realize, making an effort to provide work for the expropriated masses. But since you propose to defray the cost of employment out of taxes levied upon industry and business, you are thereby helping to impoverish labor. If you must give employment, or a dole, you should defray the cost from the unearned rent of land. This is the only sound way of charitably helping the poor.

But the natural and just way of helping the unemployed

is, as Jefferson suggests, to restore the earth to the people, for employment is ultimately nothing but the application directly or indirectly of labor to land.

By the phrase, "restoring the earth to the people," is not meant sending the people back to the land, or dividing the earth into parcels. It is only necessary to socialize the ground rent, to be used for all public purposes, and to abolish all taxes.

If you would carry out Jefferson's ideas regarding the use of the earth, you would do much toward materializing his dreams of an ideal democracy.

Don't Laugh!

THE most striking evidence that has come to our attention of popular realization of a change in the old order is the following item, which appeared in this newspaper's columns of church news:

"Prayer for more bountiful crops for the farmer, usual to Episcopal services on Rogation Sunday, was modified throughout the Ohio diocese. Officials felt the appeal would not be in accord with the government policy of limiting crop production. So prayer was offered instead for improved means of produce distribution."

Are we going to see the time when the President of the United States will call on us to give thanks the last Thursday in November because the harvests were not so bountiful as usual?

Cleveland Press.

Answers A Popular Need

HENRY GEORGE seems to answer a popular need today. The campus economists and the institute statisticians who have charted and formulated and made inexorable economic laws for years and years are no longer trusted by the man in the street. He knows that these academists have ignored human needs. On the other hand, the inductive and descriptive methods of laboratory science have become so deeply rooted in the practical American nature that the same man in the same street cannot help distrusting the pure emotionalists, the priests with vague utopias to offer mankind. Henry George belongs to neither category.

Writing of George in a preface to "Significant Paragraphs From 'Progress and Poverty,'" John Dewey said that "it is the thorough fusion of insight into actual facts and forces, with recognition of the bearing upon what makes human life worth living, that constitutes Henry George one of the world's great social philosophers." And Prof. Dewey's words express the spirit in which Prof. Geiger's admirable biography, critique and history of Henry George is written.

—WILLIAM SOSKIN, in *New York Evening Post*.

Not of the Schools

IS a life of reading and writing, enlivened by organized athletics—a life in which all your bills are paid and everything is done for you, from making your bed to cooking your meals—precisely a life that develops the moral stamina and the mental hardihood of the pioneer? Somehow, one seems to remember that of half-a-dozen world-notable men thus far produced by this American Republic Emerson and Thoreau were in disfavor with their esteemed Alma Mater, William James lacked a college degree, as did Henry George; and Abraham Lincoln and Walt Whitman attained their respective summits without recourse to any institutions of higher learning whatsoever.

Editorial (Uncle Dudley) in *Boston Globe*.

Happy America—Then!

BUT though North America is not yet so rich as England, it is much more thriving, and advancing with much greater rapidity to the further acquisition of riches. The most decisive mark of the prosperity of any country is the increase of the number of its inhabitants. In Great Britain, and most other European countries, they are not supposed to double in less than five hundred years. In the British colonies in North America, it has been found that they double in twenty or five-and-twenty years. Nor in the present times is this increase principally owing to the continual importation of new inhabitants, but to the great multiplication of the species. Those who live to old age, it is said, frequently see there from fifty to a hundred, and some times many more, descendants from their own body. Labor is there so well rewarded, that a numerous family of children, instead of being a burden, is a source of opulence, and prosperity to the parents. The labor of each child before it can leave their house, is computed to be worth a hundred pounds clear gain to them. A young widow with four or five young children, who, among the middling or inferior ranks of people in Europe, would have so little chance for a second husband, is there frequently courted as a sort of fortune. The value of children is the greatest of all encouragements to marriage. We cannot wonder that the people in North America should generally marry very young. Notwithstanding the great increase occasioned by such marriages, there is a continual complaint of the scarcity of hands. The demand for laborers, the funds destined for maintaining them, increase still faster than they can find laborers to employ."

ADAM SMITH in "Wealth of Nations."

HENRY GEORGE lived at a time when the great empire of the West called on the dispossessed of 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 waste into the golden west. They created great commonwealths. All this he had seen passing under his eyes. And he 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 cities, there to compete with one another for a livelihood on other land *owned merely for the sake of exacting tribute* for its occupancy.

FREDERIC C. HOWE.

A MIDNIGHT session with Henry George, the mind of a statesman and the humor of a philosopher.

OPIE READ.

Does The New Republic Know?

Of course, it is not outside the realm of possibility that before another Presidential year arrives our economic system will have crashed, and that we shall have been compelled to junk the politicians and turn for leadership to those who really know what it is all about.

New Republic

Thanks!

THE January-February number of LAND AND FREEDOM, Joseph Dana Miller's excellent publication, is out, filled with varied matter relative to our movement, most attractively presented. Every Single Taxer who opens a copy of LAND AND FREEDOM rejoices in our cause having so scholarly and dignified a representative.

Fairhope Courier.

Beginning of Banking Collapse

IT would be interesting to know what produced the Union Guardian Trust Company collapse. It has been given out that 80 per cent of its assets are in Detroit real estate, which has shrunk and frozen on its hands.

New Republic.

FUNDAMENTALS of Economics: If there is anything more important, economically, than a building lot, a cabbage lot or a wood lot, no one ever heard of it—except, of course, a farm with gardens, orchards, fields of growing grain, pasture for cattle, etc.; a mine with ore of precious and useful metals or coal; a forest with trees which provide lumber for all forms of construction; the ocean, which, in addition to producing tons of sea food, is useful as a highway for transportation of wealth.

When nature offers to men these millions of opportunities for labor and capital to be profitably employed, one would imagine that unemployment of millions of people would be impossible; or if, due to social maladjustments, some were unemployed, the question uppermost in our minds would be how to get the landless man on the manless land; but instead we hear a babel of tongues.

The Communists are busy getting up parades and fighting the police and the government. The Socialists are talking about machinery, economic determinism, surplus value and the class struggle. The old-school politicians are debating whether the number of unemployed is ten million or fifteen million. They are legislating for better government statistics, free employment agencies and unemployment insurance—and the devil laughs.

JOHN J. EGAN in *New York World-Telegram.*

IT takes a very yellow editor or statesman to shove the blame for consequences of his own blunders or misdoings on reds.

WHEN a citizen can not pay his taxes there is evidence that the government levying the taxes has failed to be of service to him.

BOOK REVIEWS

WORSE THAN SOCIALISM*

There is a language we call English. Those who speak it or write it will convey their meanings so that we can grasp them intelligently and intelligibly. We do not have to stop every now and then to ask what does this or that statement mean. In good writing we know at once. That is the use of language, not to conceal but to convey thought.

Take the first division of this work of Prof. Tugwell, which is entitled "A Note in Beginning." As near as we can understand it it is a protest against the ugliness of modern industry. But wherefore these number of unusual words to voice the protest?

Describing a modern industrial town with its looms, spindles, wheels, dust, smoke, noise, Prof. Tugwell says:

"But there were no values which a free people would have recognized; there was no beauty that was not a travesty of taste; there were no satisfactions beyond the ones in which degradation lay wholly exposed. Its acceptance is suffered only by accustomedness. (sic). Time is helping very little. The growth of our surplus multiplies the bribes but does not change their character." Page 5.

We would not have the reader understand that this vagueness is characteristic of the entire work. Indeed, quite the contrary. When our author gets fairly into his stride we may disagree with him, as we emphatically do, but he can no longer be accused of vagueness or obscurity.

It would perhaps surprise Prof. Tugwell were he told that he is a socialist. The first manifestation of the socialist mind is the refusal or inability to accept the natural laws of production and distribution. Here there are no natural laws as the socialist views it. Again it will surprise the professor to be told that he is a more thoroughgoing socialist than Norman Thomas, for his plan of a nationally ordered industry goes further than we believe Mr. Thomas would go if he had the power.

In his treatment of competition and the laissez-faire doctrine of Adam Smith and his school, he is sweeping in his generalizations. He says: (page 48):

"Nothing could be done about low wages and individual poverty because free competition secured to everyone all that he could get in any case. Interference with its free functioning, by permitting unionization, or by passing legislation restricting hours of work, or by setting minimums for wages, would in the long run, cause industry to decline, and then, of course, the plight of the worker would be even more tragic. For wages which are low are better than none at all."

From the point of view of the employer of labor this assumption had much to support it. The competitive school of the Manchester doctrinaires, as well as the new regulative school of which Prof. Tugwell is the leading exponent, fails to reckon with a factor which militates against both. The law of competition is a natural law, but it operates only where it is free to work, i. e., in a free society. Where land, the source of wealth, is privately controlled it is obvious that labor is not free to apply itself to natural resources. Laissez-faire under such circumstances is a bitter mockery. But similarly in a society of regulative industry such as Prof. Tugwell seeks to establish, labor would still be relegated to the same servile condition, since he does not propose to alter the prevailing relation of man to the natural resources of the earth.

The fatal error which vitiates the philosophy of our Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, as it vitiates the laissez-faire doctrine, is the failure to understand the office which competition fills in the natural process of production and distribution. Had Prof. Tugwell seen this his book would never have been written. He would have known a disciplined or regulated industry is a needless exercise of overlordship. He would have avoided all the painfully and skillfully laborious speculations, the subtly intricate divinations that cumber these pages.

For political economy when reduced to its elements, and its terms correctly defined, is surprisingly simple. Its only complexities are its confusions. The scholastic and pedagogic interpretations which have interlarded the science as taught recall those clever lines of Gilbert Chesterton:

"Oh, we have learned to peer and pore
On tortuous problems from our youth;
We know all labyrinthian lore,
We are the three Wise Men of yore,
And we know all things but the truth."

We do not wish thus to characterize Prof. Tugwell. He is not wholly of that ill-favored ilk. But he has absorbed their habits and methods of speech, acquired some of their vagueness, like his brother economists, and so has written a book that is of little value because he discusses wages while omitting all reference to land, mentions monopoly and omits economic rent, and talks of competition without defining it.

Prof. Tugwell's treatment of the machine is no more satisfactory than that of the technocrat or the socialist. Out of the machine is born more than its immediate product; its by-product, so to speak, is more tremendous in volume, and infinitely greater in extent, at that is *economic rent*. Even the fantastic notion of Prof. Tugwell, which he more than hints, that machines will finally enable us to dispense altogether with labor, would ensure that the community might still live on its economic rent, and universal leisure become the habit of mankind.

This might seem credible enough if we regard the machine as something fixed once it is invented. But a machine has no such permanent entity. It is a growth, waxing from youth to maturity and dying of old age, when it must be replaced by a new and improved machine. And the progress of mechanization instead of lessening the demand for labor enormously increases it. For while it lightens labor it tremendously increases the demand for technical skill.

This is progress, always so regarded from the time when men made bricks with straw. It is folly to attempt to arrest it, as has been done by short-sighted trades-unionists throughout all the history of inventions. And while Prof. Tugwell seems to think that everything must finally be done by machinery, a notion as fantastic as others that are hinted at, it seems likely that this is not so and never will be so. There are many delicate processes of artisanry which the machine is powerless to replace. And it seems well within reasonable forecast that when the machine has advanced to a point of even greater efficiency men and women will turn to those fabrics which are the result of the trained hand, the sensitive touch and the genius for artistry that the machine, even at its highest point of development, can only feebly imitate. A new and extended market will open for these products of the hand among people who will then be able to afford them, of whom there will be many more in the time to come. This is only a thought in passing, but it will be a direct consequence of the machine, which then will be able to supply in abundance and more cheaply all the coarse necessities of life. The machine is rapidly bringing about an industrial era in which greater numbers of people will share in those satisfactions and enjoyment of beauty whose absence from our modern life our author so gravely deplures.

What is it that troubles Prof. Tugwell? It is the problem of distribution to which Henry George gave the solution. It is those ugly aspects of progress which troubled Ruskin and Alfred Russel Wallace. He is an idealist, but he seeks the realization, not in a free industry but a regimented democracy. The picture he draws for us is not inviting, but neither is his remedy. Indeed if his remedy were adopted it would mean the end of all progress. There is only this satisfaction that can be felt in the monstrous suggestions for federal incorporation of large enterprises, control of prices, control of wages, etc., etc.—all the fearful programme before which the mind stands appalled—and that satisfaction is that it assures the dissolution of his plans at the very outset. It must fail as soon as tried. It will not work. But the ominous thing about it is that he is Assistant Secretary of Agriculture in the Roosevelt administration, that he is the head of the so-

*The Industrial Discipline and the Governmental Arts. By Rexford G. Tugwell, Professor of Economics Columbia University. Cloth 241pp. Price \$2.50. Columbia University Press, N. Y. City.

called "brain trust;" and that he has the ear of the President. While there is no fear that his plans will work there is no limit to the harm that such a man so placed can do.

It is assumed, for instance, that he is partly responsible with Secretary Wallace for the Farm Bill, which is an experiment in legislation that the party of Thomas Jefferson should spew out of its mouth. We are prepared in these disastrous days to tread strange paths but hardly such as these. At least we want to preserve our sanity. We are not disposed to reject every sound dictate of economic policy for a drunken orgy into the domain of a more than socialistic bedlam.

What will be the reaction of a business man to these suggestions for taking over practically all businesses? With what emotions, for example, will he read the following from page 86 where Prof. Tugwell becomes really definite and emerges from his verbal incrustations:

"As a matter of fact scarcely any one has maintained a clear and steady view. The business men have been so hampered by the day-to-day exigencies of their situation that they seldom see the larger implications of their policies. So that even the most public-spirited of them have not contributed much to a theory of control. Also it is true that they have been repeatedly frightened by the forecasting of inefficiency among the public servants to whom controls might be entrusted. At any rate they have been actively hostile to suggestions for the enlarging of the sphere of government."

And page 96, in what follows, shows how Prof. Tugwell misinterprets the trend of progress and how the "unfit"—who are they indeed?—are to be supplied out of "the surplus," a hint of a perpetual group of pauperized retainers on society. This is not a suggestion that they might be permitted to share in the growth of economic rent—their unalienable right—but out of the social surplus of a mechanized industry—Marxism with a vengeance!

"If we are correct in supposing that machines are destined to take over physical tasks because they can do them more efficiently than at the cheapest price at which life for the workers can be supported, the unfit will eventually come to be a dead load on society. But this is another problem. Just as serious a one, perhaps, also, is the presumable trend that will increase the qualifications of skill necessary to employment. Such a development would increase the size of this unfit group. These considerations point to difficulties; but they will not stop industrial advance. One thing is clear from a humanitarian viewpoint: it is not the fault of the unfit that they are so. We shall have to keep back a portion of our increasing surplus for their support. We can do this more cheaply than we could meet the problem in any other way. It is unthinkable that we shall mold our operations on the capabilities of the least intelligent among us. That would be too expensive and would prevent further progress."

So it is inevitable that a large portion of our people are destined to pauperism! Is it not time that a new social gospel be preached in season and out to controvert such vicious doctrine?

On page 97 our author writes: "A competitive system will not achieve a sufficient stability to give any one assurance of continuous employment or enlarged opportunity." This is exactly what a *free* competitive system will insure. With free access to all natural opportunities on condition of the payment to society of the economic value of such opportunity, with the abolition of all restrictions on the exercise of human labor, and with all taxation that now stifles industry abolished, there will arise a stable industrial system of continuous employment.

We quote now from page 99:

"Perhaps it is true that if we move toward industrial democracy it is for other reasons than that superior productivity will result. Perhaps it is done rather to escape from discipline than to attain a more effective one. But again, if we move toward democracy for other reasons, even for seemingly opposite reasons, it may still be true that a genuinely effective discipline will be easier under the new conditions. At present, discipline is mostly imposed from above, and enforced largely through measures which fall into the psychological category of fear—the fear of actually being discharged, the fear of reduced wages and the like."

These quotations might be indefinitely extended. But the same

criticism would apply. It is sufficient to say that what industry needs is not discipline but freedom. What has become of the good old democratic doctrine that the functions of government need to be minimized rather than enlarged, that industry is best conserved as it is freed from regulative restriction and interference? We would not touch upon this point at all were it not for the fact that Prof. Tugwell occupies a high official post that makes him part of a democratic administration, and that his economic theories are listened to with deference, or so we have reason to assume. We have travelled far from Grover Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson. The democratic party has much to answer for, but we do not believe that even in these degenerate days it will go Tugwellian.

On page 100 the Professor again says:

"We are not entirely without precedent for such a planning organization. The War Industries Board was an instrument of precisely this sort. It disappeared, of course, at the end of the war; but its advantages, which are admitted even by those most committed to other features of capitalism, for which it was a substitute, are so great that to come into the position of defending the principle it represented, one has only to admit that peace-time efficiency is as important as efficiency in war time."

The principle of the War Board Industries is therefore to be part of the Tugwell programme. (Observe the use of the word "capitalism," which means so many things and means nothing.) How do our business men like it? Are they content to give up their freedom and be disciplined? Have they been such bad boys that they need to be disciplined? Of course the professor is clever enough—shall we say cautious enough?—to leave much of his programme hanging in the air. He says (page 107): "No suggestion for carrying out this particular programme has been made for obvious reasons." But there is enough remaining that is specific enough to be alarming. For example when he says: "A civil service in industry is not unthinkable." And on page 121 where he says: "What is important to note here is that, though the facts discredit our faith, we still believe in competition." And on page 137 where he says:

"We cannot lower prices, because capital charges are unnecessarily high; capital charges are high because high prices shut off the markets which would open to cheaper products. A better regulated flow of funds into industries which could use capital effectively and continuously might correct the difficulty. But how shall we achieve such regulation as long as we insist on competition, on voluntarism, and on the sacredness of the right of each to do as he sees fit with the property to which he holds the title?"

Here we must conclude. It will be seen that Prof. Tugwell not only contends against the right of business men to regulate their industries, but now, without pointing out any distinction between public and private property, between public and private rights, questions the right of property to which men "hold title," in which he includes by inference all property. Can socialism, which at least contends for a limited right of property, go further?

It is into a fearfully hazardous path he tempts us. Idealist though he is the road to communism seems safer than this, for in communism as preached there is a certain voluntarism which tempers its severity. And all this arises from an inherent distrust of those natural laws on which a true political economy is founded.

On page 223 (now hold your breath for a while, so you may be prepared for what is coming) Prof. Tugwell says:

"If we were thus severely logical in understanding industry, and determined in our purpose to consolidate the gains it furnishes, we should come to conclusions which reverse, in curious ways, some of our conventions. Unemployment, for instance, seems a very bad thing; we are apt to measure our civilization in its terms. But evidently it is a condition which is inherent in the progress of technique."

Twelve million men and women out of employment owing to the progress of technique! Of course, with his usual vagueness he denies this in the statement that follows in the very next paragraph in which he says that "there is much work to be done—plenty of it." It is

not often easy to pin Prof. Tugwell down to just what he does mean. But taking such statement as the one quoted how shall we fitly characterize it, and at the same time be polite?

Why do we not find in any page of this work an acknowledgement of the writer's obligation to the socialistic philosophy? Is he naive enough to imagine that he is proposing a new philosophy? What is new in it are the extremes to which he goes; that is the only originality which he can claim for it.

Twelve million of our people are unemployed and cannot buy. It is not in the regimentation of business but in providing employment for the unemployed that the true solution lies. It is often argued that advances to the banks for loans will facilitate borrowing. But the business man will not borrow of the bank, no matter what resources are supplied him, nor on what terms, if he sees no buying capacity to reward his efforts. He will not go into business nor enlarge his present operations if he sees no market. He will not borrow to go into business until he is assured of buyers for his product.

Therefore suggestions for the regimentation of industry or proposals to take over industries are all beside the mark. The theory of general overproduction ignores the buying capacity of over twelve millions of unemployed. Here is a depressed market which would provide the "effective demand" for the resuscitation of all the industries of the country. To take over these industries is not to increase the buying power of these millions; it will not effect them at all, and government in effect has merely acquired a number of wholly unprofitable industries.

Does it not occur to our "best minds" that these twelve million men and women, perhaps nearer fifteen million now, kept the industries of the country going by buying, and that no increase either in the lending power of the banks, nor any regimentation of industry, can restore this buying power? And does not Prof. Tugwell see that his colossal scheme for industrial regulation, along with plans of inflation such as that tacked on to the Farm Bill, and in the discretion of the President, will not put a single dollar into the pockets of the unemployed?

Years ago there was a meeting in Chickering Hall in this city in which Mr. George was one of the speakers. The meeting was called by graduates and students of Columbia and there were speakers for and against. One of the speakers, the late J. Bleeker Miller, spoke against the George doctrine. Henry George, with a severe incisiveness, said: "Is this the kind of political economy you learned at Columbia?"

May we, with all due respect to Prof. Tugwell for his well meant idealism, ask if this is the kind of political economy he learned at Columbia?

We cannot do better in concluding this review than to quote Dr. John Dewey as follows:

"No permanent improvement in employment; and no genuine prosperity can be achieved, until state and local governments and particularly municipal governments, abandon their shortsighted taxing policies, and raise at least the major part of their budgets by *taxing land values*, so enabling them to exempt from taxation buildings, other labor products, machinery and stocks of goods, and personal property.

The advocates of panaceas for the disaster which we have brought upon ourselves, deserve short shift, but no less do the optimists of ignorance, who ignore the basic importance of our land policy."

JOSEPH DANA MILLER.

Correspondence

IN APPRECIATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have been meaning to write to you and express my appreciation for the long and favorable review that you recently gave me. There is one little passage in the review where I think you inadvertently gave a somewhat wrong impression. This is where you referred to my remark that "if popular ignorance and misunderstanding prevent its

taxation, it would be better for capital and labor to support government wholly from these earnings, however hard and fairly won, than to be deprived of its services." But leaving out the phrase "than to be deprived of its services," you made my position seem weaker to your readers than it otherwise would be. I am sure that some, at least, of your readers would agree with me that even the securing of revenue from a very bad source would ordinarily be better than not to have any government at all.

However, this is a comparatively minor point and the general tone of your comments is indeed friendly. Also, you did what very favorable reviewers sometimes neglect to do, viz., you included in your comments complimentary statements capable of being quoted in advertisements. Some reviewers quote at length from a book, show by implication that they like it and make the review fairly extensive without ever inserting a single striking or definitely favorable comment which a publisher can use. Such a review is more disappointing in many cases than one which is uncompromisingly antagonistic and therefore likely to arouse some interest.

Columbia, Mo.

HARRY GUNNISON BROWN.

BEGINNING THE SAME ORGY OVER AGAIN

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Bankers have been seriously condemned for the conditions that exist in Detroit and other cities and, undoubtedly, much of the criticism is justified, but, after all, the bankers are only a little bit worse than the rest of us. When a preacher makes a moral slip, he is severely criticized because in entering the ministry he has taken certain vows which put him in the position of being a teacher and a leader to higher principles. We have a right to expect more from a preacher than from more common men.

Bankers in soliciting the custody of other people's money set themselves up as knowing more about finance than more common people and we have a right, therefore, to expect the bankers not only to refrain from speculation, but to keep the rest of us from speculating, at least with the funds controlled by them.

During the conditions that have existed for several years until 1929, nearly everyone has been trying to get something for nothing. It is popular to speak of the banking situation as being caused by the greed of bankers, but it has not only been the greed of bankers and greed of wealthy people generally, but greed of people in all walks of life who have tried to get something for nothing. The little speculator who bought five shares of stock or one \$250 vacant lot, has been morally almost as guilty as the bankers. The pressure on the bankers has been tremendous and most of them would have been crucified had they exercised the necessary resistance to the speculative demands made upon them.

Unfortunately the stage is already being set to have the same performance all over again throughout the country. Every effort is being made to "restore real estate values" which means to start the land speculation-ball rolling again. If we were learning anything from our recent experiences, they might be worth their cost, but there is very little indication that we have learned anything that will prove of benefit, and I should say that this statement applies from the President of the United States down or up as you choose.

Detroit, Mich.

A. LAURENCE SMITH.

WANTS TO FIGHT THE ISSUE POLITICALLY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We Single Taxers see a great truth, but I think we are lacking in team-work to give it application. It might be called the political or mechanical phase of the movement.

To make a showing with our small army against the great army of economic illiteracy we should decide on a campaign in Missouri, California or Colorado, and in this way create an interest in the Single

Tax. Our best work in the past, and our best results, have been in the interest aroused by these campaigns. Voters have been interested in the concrete presentation through the legal petition. I do not agree that we should have a campaign of education to precede political action. Political action will itself supply the education. The initiative is not the only vehicle to get the Single Tax, but it is a way to break through the silence that our movement is trying to overcome.

Our two campaigns in Missouri were not a disappointment. We should desire opposition, for we shall never know how effective we are until we get opposition, and this opposition will create the desired attention. I regret the statement of Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown that we hurt the cause by the Missouri campaign of 1910.

I agree with Prof. Brown that we should minimize opposition, so why not make the amendment applicable to St. Louis and Kansas City and the land speculative belt surrounding these cities?

We must not fool ourselves about the future. We are faced with a great change. Most people are seeking a change. They are looking for a way out of their troubles. Now is our opportunity for presenting our cause as the fundamental solution. A few years ago we feared the farmer and the small home owner. Today they will welcome a change. Our leaders in Washington see the fire but have not the vision to stop the destruction.

Will be glad to hear from your readers on this suggestion.

St. Louis, Mo.

E. H. BOECK.

RENT VS. PRICE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the controversy as to whether or not rent enters into price it would appear the arguments made pro and con are too inconclusive to be unanimously accepted. To clear the ground and clarify the problem I think it should be noted that Rent always reflects an inherent or adhering USE value, whereas Price, just as invariably, reflects EXCHANGE value. This distinction is vital. To illustrate let us take a farm above the margin of cultivation and where the rent is paid in kind. Let the crop harvested be 1,000 bushels of wheat and we find, irrespective of the division between Landlord and Tenant—be that harsh or easy—on its arrival in the market, the higgling therein, under the dominant law of Supply and Demand, sets an exchange value on the total quantity. This value when apportioned to a measured quantity makes its price, and price is exchange value expressed in the common denominator, money. Let the user of land ship to market a product not demanded there and he will have his labor for his pains, no matter what rent he has paid. So, rent does not enter into price.

Look over the world today. In the West they are burning wheat and corn for fuel; Brazil is throwing millions of bags of coffee into the sea; sugar in Cuba, produced by starving laborers, is selling c. i. f. at three quarters of a cent a pound in New York. Would you raise the rent to increase the price?

I hold no brief for the landlord yet I would like to point out that the landlord cannot levy a toll on the transportation of merchandise, for the charge on that is for carrier's service and is based on so much per ton mile, irrespective of the varying values of the lands passed by in transit. That the landlord may charge the user of land for the advantage of location near roads is certain, but neither the landlord nor tenant can shift that charge over to the carrier.

San Cristobal, Cuba.

ANTONIO BASTIDA.

ARE WE TOO HARD ON PROF. FISHER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

May I suggest that you and other Single Taxers are bearing down too hard on Prof. Fisher? (Nov.-Dec. issue.) When a prominent teacher of economics is just getting a glimpse of the economic truths upon which the Single Tax is based, should you not encourage him?

For instance, now that the depression is a topic of wide-spread economic study, why not suggest that Prof. Fisher read Book V of "Progress and Poverty," on the cause of industrial depressions; and compare it afresh with the "many contradictory and self-contradictory theories," now offered by professors, editors and industrialists?

Henry George is alive today, while Frances A. Walker, his chief critic, is forgotten. In another fifty years Henry George will still be living, while Edwin R. A. Seligman, his critic of the present generation, will also be forgotten. Prof. Fisher is evidently learning. Why not encourage him? Tell him of Profs. Harry Gunnison Brown and Frederick W. Roman. Make the profession of economics respectable by introducing consistency.

JOHN HARRINGTON.

Oshkosh, Wisc.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

In the Peoria, Ill., *Star* of April 15, Mr. R. E. Green, secretary of the Peoria Single Tax League, has a communication on Idle Land. He quotes from an editorial of the *Star* in which that paper said: "There is seemingly no good reason why idle land should not be put to the good purpose of furnishing food for those who sorely need it." Mr. Green uses this for a text for a further elaboration of the truth contained in the editorial statement. Peoria, by the way, now has an active Single Tax organization, (see report of John Laurence Monroe on another page) and on April 30 had a public meeting in which our old friend Clayton J. Ewing gave one of his brilliant talks. Mr. Ewing who lived in Peoria renewed acquaintance with his Single Tax friends, and it is hoped that he may soon be able to visit Peoria again.

OUR glorious Single Tax cotemporary, *The Standard*, of New South Wales, ably edited by A. G. Huie, has entered the twenty-eighth year of its existence.

WILLIAM R. WILLIAMS, of Toronto, writes: "I appreciate very much the splendid articles appearing in LAND AND FREEDOM. It is the lode star which is endeavoring to keep the lamp of liberty burning in what otherwise seems to be a crazy patchwork of a world."

WE regret to chronicle the death of W. H. Slocumb, which occurred March 31 of this year. He did much writing for the Single Tax. During his active life he was a printer, machinist and hotel proprietor. He was the author of the Single Tax amendment to the constitution of California which was submitted to the voters in 1922. He was about sixty-five years of age, and at one time an all-round champion athlete. He was devoted to the truth as he saw it.

W. J. WERNICKE, of Los Angeles, writes informing us of the death of Fred. Jackson, of Pasadena, editor of the *Pasadena Labor News*, and who though a socialist was active in Single Tax work. Facing the death that he chose for himself he addressed the following letter to his associates:

"Well, friends, I have no unkind feelings for any one. I am sincerely grateful to many dear friends for having gone the limit for and with me. I wish for those who have done me wrong simply that their eyes may be opened and that they may be converted to zealous service in aiding in the destruction of the Hell-born economic and industrial system and the bringing in of the New Social Order, such as Jesus taught us to pray for. I thank you. Sincerely your friend, FRED W. JACKSON."

GRACE ISABEL COLBRON has addressed a letter to Heywood Broun on his abandonment of socialism, inviting him to embrace the Georgist principles. We believe it is with us that Heywood Broun belongs.

WE must make a few corrections of statements appearing in March-April LAND AND FREEDOM. Where we said that our old friend "Billy"

Radcliffe had reached his eighty-first birthday we should have said his eighty-third. Another error into which we fell was where we commented on an article by Prof. R. B. Brinsmade in the *Mining Journal* which is published at Phoenix, Ariz., and not at Los Angeles as stated. The paper with Mr. Brinsmade's article has been lost and is now difficult to secure. If our friends in the engineering field have a copy of this issue in which Mr. Brinsmade's article, "The Silver Cure," appears, will they kindly mail a copy to this office?

In the recent death of Felix Adler, founder and head of the Society for Ethical Culture, there passes a man who did much useful work. We are sorry not to be able to commend his work as of the broadest and most valuable kind. Without a recognition of those fundamental economic and social laws on which must be based any cultural improvement in the race, the work of such a man as Felix Adler must fail in really lasting influence. However, education is valuable in itself, and in the degree that Felix Adler contributed to high spiritual ideals his labors were not in vain.

THE Liberal Luncheon Club of Seattle, Wash., meets once a week. William Matthews is secretary.

A PROGRESSIVE newspaper which for years has been very friendly to our principles is the *Times Mirror*, of Warren, Pa. Warren is the home of A. G. Beecher and many communications appear in the *Times Mirror* from his pen. These include many extracts from LAND AND FREEDOM. But we are under special obligation to the forward-looking editorial policy, which does more than merely squint at our doctrine.

In the *Labor Advocate*, of Nashville, Tenn., appears a three-column article from John C. Rose on "The Richest Man." That richest man is our old friend Francis W. Maguire, of Pittsburgh. The article is admirably written.

RAY W. DOUGLASS, of Pottsville, Iowa, is secretary to recently elected Congressman Fred Bierman, of the same town. Congratulations!

STEPHEN BELL, of *Commerce and Finance*, the progressive Wall street weekly, writes: "It is evident that our Single Tax friends in Denmark, however numerous they may be, have not as yet been able to make much impression on economic maladjustments. Socialistic sentiment there as elsewhere is too strong for them. The Bank of Copenhagen sets the April unemployment percentage at 36.9. We must learn that the establishment of land value taxation when and where it may be had is not sufficient. Existing barriers to industry and trade are numerous and must be removed before the full benefits of our system may be realized." It must be remembered, however, that Denmark has not in operation a sufficient measure of land value taxation to produce any marked social effects.

GUNNAR NAUMANN writes from Nucla, Colo.: "LAND AND FREEDOM for March-April is certainly fine. Clear and logical Henry George philosophy throughout. The treatment of the 'Ability to Pay' doctrine of taxation in Massachusetts by Thomas Ashton interested me very much."

WHEN the Collierville enclave bill was introduced in the legislature of Tennessee one of the members wanted to know if an enclave was something good to eat, and a friend of the bill replied that if there were more enclaves more folk would eat regularly. Another of the members said: "I allow if this bill will do that I am for it."

In the *Canada Unionist* for April, A. C. Campbell, of Ottawa, has an article entitled "The Realm of Radio," in which the air is con-

sidered as a "natural resource," to the use and enjoyment of which all have equal rights. The argument is well presented. In another part of this issue will be found extracts from another article in the same periodical from the same pen on the city of Churchill.

ROBERT H. JACKSON, of Jamestown, N. Y., the city's most prominent attorney, in a recent address before Jamestown's Chamber of Commerce quoted at length from Henry George. In introducing the statement from Henry George he said: "I would like to read to you the words of one of America's economic thinkers which describes so perfectly our present situation and points the way to a more hopeful tomorrow."

We learn from *The Square Deal*, of Toronto, of the death of John Mr. Gowan, of Ravena, Ontario, long an active Single Taxer and a charter member of the Henry George Foundation of Canada. He was a good friend of this paper and we had correspondence with him extending over a number of years. He was up to 1923 Professor of Applied Science in Engineering in the University of Toronto. He was unmarried.

N. D. ALPER, from whose contribution to a St. Louis periodical we quote elsewhere, is a frequent contributor of Single Tax letters to the *St. Louis Star and Times*. We welcome Mr. Alper to the ranks of the Georgists. He is an excellent writer and puts his economic arguments in novel and engaging form. Joseph Forshaw is also to be credited with occasional letters to the *Star and Times*.

THE newly elevated premier of China, Wang Ching-wei, once stated in an interview that his favorite philosopher was Henry George.

JOHN HILLES died at Bentonville, Ark. on March 28 at the age of 71. In his younger years he was an active Single Taxer and is a brother of Miss Ella Hilles, Single Taxer of New London, Iowa.

EUGENE W. WAY, of Seattle, Wash., author of the widely circulated pamphlet, "Taxation and Starvation," is a former member of the legislature and secured over 40 per cent of the State vote for a Single Tax measure.

We have received *The Pill*, a neatly printed little pamphlet from William F. Copeland, of Sylvan Park, Alpine, N. J. It is announced as a "sample home remedy for economic flue, Industrial Collywobbles and Political Excrescences." Among the cures advocated by Mr. Copeland is the taxation of land values. We are sure its humor and piquancy will be appreciated.

In an article in the *New Republic* of April 5, by John A. Kingsbury, on Russian Medicine, he makes the statement that prostitution has practically disappeared from Russia. About three years ago Mr. W. A. Warren, then engaged in engineering work in Siberia but now returned to the States, wrote a letter which appeared in LAND AND FREEDOM, and stated that "The street walker was no longer to be met with in Russia," and giving as the reason that the land system of Russia had opened so many avenues for employment for women that none were obliged to lead a life of shame in order to gain a livelihood.

DR. JOHN DEWEY, president of the People's Lobby, has asked President Roosevelt to recommend to Congress "an annual tax of at least one per cent on the full assessed value of all taxable land in the United States exclusive of subsoil wealth or improvements in or on land." Such a tax, Dr. Dewey said, would make possible the repeal of these "most burdensome consumptive taxes."

THE death of Judge G. S. Addams, at the age of 63, recalls an interesting and useful career. He was one of the group of young men who

became followers of Tom L. Johnson. He was Assistant Solicitor under Newton D. Baker, and as a Juvenile Court Jurist distinguished himself. He never required witnesses to take an oath, contending that it had little effect in getting at the truth. He was a convinced Henry George man and known to most of the Single Taxers in Cleveland.

JAMES F. MORTON, who needs no introduction to Single Taxers of the country, writes us: "Strange that the message of Henry George, the only one that goes to the root of our major problems, is utterly ungrasped at Washington, when so many voices are raised to proclaim the innumerable shallow panaceas of the hour."

ANTONIO ALBENDIN, leader of the Henry George movement in Spain, died in his home in Toledo on March 6. He was present at the International Conferences and made the acquaintance of many friends of the movement from foreign countries. He took a modest part in the debates at Oxford and Copenhagen. He became a convert to the philosophy of Henry George on being presented with a copy of "Progress and Poverty" by a stranger in a tramcar. He was a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM and a correspondent of this paper over a number of years. We miss the loss of a personal friend. We shall cherish his photograph and that of his devoted wife who died some years ago, and of whose death he wrote us at the time. Henry George and Beethoven were the two men to whom he looked for inspiration, for he was a distinguished musician. He held a high official post in the Spanish Inland Revenue Office. These few facts of an active and useful career are gathered from an appreciative notice of the Spanish leader by M. J. Stewart in *Land and Liberty* for March-April, 1933.

We have received an interesting pamphlet from the Cambridge University Press of London, England, by Dr. S. Vere Pearson on "Causes of Rural Depopulation." The economic causes as well as some subsidiary causes are pointed out. The treatment of private control of natural resources is economically sound.

A COMMUNICATION appears in the *Ohio Druggist* published at Columbus, O., from the pen of Charles G. Merrell. The editor in introducing Mr. Merrell to his readers, offers to send the latter's pamphlet, "Causes of Business Depression," published by the Single Tax Pub. Co., to any one desiring same.

M. L. KATHAN and Dr. Richmond, of Coquille, Ore., spoke before 450 people in Coquille. They opposed the Sales Tax and explained George's philosophy. Going some for a small town!

We have received a well written and well printed little eight page pamphlet from the pen of John T. Giddings, of East Providence, R. I., entitled "Science and Taxation."

A REVIEW of Dr. George W. Geiger's "Philosophy of Henry George," by Lewis Gannett in the *New York Herald Tribune* of April 25, is not such as we have the right to expect from so capable a reviewer. It is, if the truth must be told, rather superficial. He does, however, suggest that a life of George, whom he calls "a man of fire," might be written. But this kind of work was not projected when Dr. Geiger essayed his task, which was to present the philosophy of Henry George for studious examination and permanent embodiment. Mr. Soskin in his admirable review of the book in the *New York Evening Post* more fittingly epitomizes it. We are awaiting with interest other reviews of Dr. Geiger's remarkable work.

J. H. ZERBEY, whose death at Pottsville, Pa., is announced, head of the Zerbey Newspaper, Inc., was one of the best known newspaper men in Pennsylvania. We do not know whether he was a Single Taxer or not, but some years ago he aroused much attention by agita-

ting for a tax on the value of the coal mountains in Schuylkill County. His agitation resulted in the securing of legislation that ended the merely nominal tax and freed the farmer and homeowner from onerous assessment.

A YEAR or two ago Joseph W. Carroll, of Norfolk, Conn., had some correspondence with George Bernard Shaw. The latter informed him that Voltaire knocked the Single Tax in the head a hundred years ago. Voltaire, it is said, recanted later and was a great admirer of Turgot. Who knows of this recantation and where it is to be found? However, it makes but little difference. The *Impot Unique* was not the Single Tax save in name.

B. J. W. FIRTH, of Sydney, Australia, son of J. R. Firth, was a recent visitor to this office and had much to say of conditions in Australia. He is entirely hopeful of its early progress in New South Wales.

MEMBERS of the Omaha Single Tax Club have been very active in their efforts to arouse sentiment against pending tax bills, Mr. A. M. Chapman of Lincoln doing a noble work right on the ground and keeping Omaha informed of the progress of things. Mr. H. J. Bailey of this club has written many letters to representatives, as has Mr. Henry F. Sarman. The secretary, A. W. Falvey, has sent out a number of appeals for immediate action to help defeat the legislation, and the club sent Mr. Sarman down to Lincoln to appear before the committee on taxation at the request of Mr. Chapman.

As a specimen of what may be called unconscious British humor a lady sends the following from the *Saturday Review of Literature*:

"G. M. writing in the *New English Weekly* says: 'Assuming that the writer is a babe in the woods of economics, as most American writers are, and has never climbed to an eminence of thought from which can be descried the promised land of Liberty and Leisure, what can he do to reinvigorate his morale? The answer, I think,—if he will not take the pains to acquire the new economic vision—is to attempt something in a literary way that is novel to him. Perhaps I should say, something additional to his usual interests and duties. In short, let him impose greater tasks upon himself and of a positive character.'"

THE bulky Report of the Transport Advisory Committee of New South Wales, Australia, recommends:

"that local responsibility as well as local control of the trams should be ensured by enacting that any profits on any year's operations, after allowing for interest, sinking fund, and depreciation, should go in reduction of fares or other advantages to the public, and that any deficits should be made good by a local tax levied upon the unimproved capital value of all ratable lands in the City of Newcastle, the Municipalities of Hamilton, Wickham, Waratah, Carrington, Merewether, Adamstown, New Lambton, Lambton, and Wallsend, and eastern portions of the Shire of Tarro, or any other areas served by trams."

LOUIS F. WESTON, of Cambridge, Mass., writes us:

"It seems a mistake to associate our aims in any way with taxation, and, too, it would seem to the uninitiated that ours is a mere fiscal reform, thus getting a prejudiced idea of it at the start. Henry George himself warned against the use of the term 'single-tax'. I have a letter from the late Frederick F. Ingram of San Diego, Calif., formerly publisher of the *Ingram Institute News*, in which he says he heard George give this warning several times."

WILLIAM MATTHEWS, of Seattle, Wash., writes:

"Technocracy has enjoyed a considerable run, stimulating thought and interest in economics, which is surely needed.

"We fear its usefulness is almost spent, however, for while Miss Technocracy has stepped to the front fresh, beautiful and stylish; her family identity is being disclosed in spite of her strenuous denials. She has been very attractive to many of the boys, but her older and more discriminating admirers recognize her habits of thought and early schooling and know full well that she is a chip off the same old block of socialism."

An Address that is the Marking of an Epoch

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