

Henry George Memorabilia To New York Public Library

MRS. ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE has presented to the New York Public Library an extensive collection of manuscripts and books written by, or relating to, Henry George and to the Single Tax.

Among the manuscripts mention may be made of 1,700 letters addressed to George between 1854 and 1897, six volumes of his copy press letter books between 1869 and 1882, his diary between 1855 and 1896, including a record of his voyage on the *Hindu* to Australia and India in 1855-6 when the boy of sixteen shipped before the mast.

The manuscripts include also separate articles by him on a number of subjects, sometimes giving his impressions of Lincoln, or Grant, or Garfield, the Irish question, and many speeches and lectures during elections, the text of his well-known lectures on Moses, Malthusian theory and woman suffrage, and numerous addresses made in this country and abroad. Mention should be made also of the visiting card of Georges Clemenceau, with a note acknowledging receipt of a copy of "Progress and Poverty," numerous memorials of testimonial dinners or addresses of welcome.

The printed books include seven editions of "Progress and Poverty," as well as the "author's edition" printed at San Francisco in 1879, which contains numerous notes and corrections in George's hand. There are four editions in English of the "Condition of Labor," three of "The Land Question," three of "A Perplexed Philosopher" and one of "Social Problems."

The amazing wideness of the interest in Henry George and his theories is demonstrated with eloquence by the eleven volumes of the Russian translation of the works of this economist, to say nothing of the Italian, Spanish, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Danish, Polish and Dutch translations, and the Japanese, Danish, German and Dutch commentaries.

There are also numerous copies of periodical articles by him, reviews of his works, speeches by him in various parts of the world, letters to the *Irish World* in 1881-2, clippings relating to his visit to Great Britain in 1884, to the Mayoralty campaigns of 1886 and 1897, and various others of more general interest.

Good For The Rotarians

FOLLOWING is Article II of the Rotarian Creed to which every member is supposed to subscribe:

Finally, believing in the universality of the Golden Rule—all things whatsoever ye would that men would do unto you, do ye even so unto them—we contend that society best holds together when equal opportunity is accorded all men in the natural resources of this planet.

Death Of Mary Boies Ely

WITH the passing of Mary Boies Ely, on June 5th, our cause lost a valiant adherent who brought to the work all the charm of gracious cultured womanhood and executive ability of a high order. Mary Ely had been a semi-invalid for the past ten years, following a serious breakdown due to overwork. But her faith never wavered, even though she could no longer take an active part in the work. And her influence for good was still felt in many ways.

During her years of active service in the movement Mary Ely accomplished much, in spite of the fact that her working days, and many other hours besides, were filled to the brim with the duties of running a big and prosperous girl's school. Not even the many trials and troubles which always crowd in on the heads of so large an establishment could hinder her in her work for the cause. She used her position and her knowledge of the school world to get our speakers a hearing in many places which might have been closed to us without her assistance. Living in daily intimacy with young minds she learned all the avenues of approach to their interest, and knew the great value of enlisting the sympathies of youth.

While keeping steadily to the lines of endeavor in which her professional position offered her the greatest chance of effective service, Mary Ely had a heart and mind full of sympathy for any other branch of the work. She was one of those Single Taxers who are always more anxious to emphasize the points on which we can agree, rather than those on which we differ. She proved a diplomatic and useful mediator in many a dispute, smoothing over troubled moments with tactful charm.

It was in the 90's or thereabouts, that Mary Ely, living her busy life of mental labor, became interested in the doctrines of Henry George. Bolton Hall, who is responsible for so many other converts, was the first to open this new thought to a mind ready to receive it. Her acceptance of it was complete, and it remained her greatest interest until her death. Those of us who worked with her in the cause for many years feel a sense of personal loss and, in spite of the retirement in which she lived for the past decade, we feel a sense of loss to the movement as well. The world can ill afford to lose such steadfast faith inspired by the ability to think clearly and fearlessly, as was Mary Ely's.

—GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

Death Of Walter A. Carpenter

WALTER A. CARPENTER who died in June of this year, belongs to a former generation of Single Taxers. He became a convert through reading *Progress and Poverty* and was so strongly convinced of the soundness of the philosophy expounded in that book that he induced his

father and brothers to read it. They too, became convinced.

Mr. Carpenter while a resident in Farmington, Minnesota, was a frequent lecturer on our question, and he had the satisfaction of knowing that his talks carried conviction to many as to the importance of the land question even to some who had put the money question ahead of all others.

In company with the late C. J. Buell and Oliver T. Erickson he attended the Cooper Union Single Tax National Conference in 1890 in this city as a delegate from the Minneapolis Single Tax League of which he and his companions were among the founders. Here he met Henry George for the first time. Two of his daughters have long been active workers in the cause. Corinne Carpenter is the better known of these and was one of those who attended the Oxford Single Tax Conference in 1923. She is an active member of the Commonwealth Land Party.

A Sane Spot In Ontario

IN Ontario, a Province with about as bad a system of municipal taxation as any north of the Mexican border, the village of Fort Erie stands out like a good deed in a naughty world.

In 1920 Fort Erie had a population of about 1,500 and an area of some 700 acres. The population was increasing very slowly—a dozen or so a year, less than the natural increase. Large areas were held idle, the owners refusing to so much as quote a price. One of these areas practically split the village in two. Although the natural advantages of Fort Erie are great, people were passing it by and building in villages beyond. The tax rate was 33 mills—higher than that of Toronto has ever been.

Fort Erie had a Councillor, one Albert Bell, a man whose intelligence and force of character soon made him a directing force in the village. Bell is a plain, practical man, used to mechanical labor, not highly schooled, but extremely clear-headed and able to express himself clearly and aptly at all times. He was not a Single Taxer, but in looking over the Statutes he noted the clause permitting the gradual exemption of improvements and saw at once the possibilities in it for Fort Erie. At first Bell was the only man in Fort Erie who saw the light, but he was able to convince one other Councillor, and between them they talked over a third. This gave them a majority. The Reeve was opposed, and resorted to some chicanery to prevent the passage of a by-law. But after some fencing in the course of which Bell himself drew up a by-law and insisted on its submission, the Reeve produced one in more orthodox form and it was submitted to the property-owners and passed.

This by-law exempted improvements, business and incomes 20% in 1922, increasing to 80% in the present year. The results began to show almost at once in increased building and influx of population. In three years the in-

crease was between two and three hundred more than in the dozen years preceding. The results were so apparent that many opponents became supporters of the reform, and others at least withdrew their opposition.

When the reactionary McBrien Bill was before committee a year ago, Bell and the Reeve came to Toronto to oppose it. They were heard once by the committee, but the meeting was adjourned before they were through and the date of the next meeting was changed without notifying any opponents of the Bill. However, the Fort Erie representatives had a session, reported to be somewhat stormy with McBrien privately, and succeeded in having a clause inserted excepting Fort Erie from the operation of the Act.

The advance already shown in Fort Erie has been made without any additional industries being started in the village. The situation there is extremely favorable. Where a Toronto factory has to pay 48 mills on the value of its buildings in ordinary and business tax, a Fort Erie factory will pay 20 to 22. Location, railway service, etc., are excellent. One or two good factories would make a great difference in a place of that size. Several firms are already considering locating there.

Opposition is slight. There is some, of the usual irrational character. W. J. Kee, a Councillor, opposes the by-law because the additional services required by the increased population have increased the local improvement debt. Most communities would be glad to have their debt increased in that way.

The Fort Erie situation is far from ideal. The present tax rate is not yet reported (it was 55 in 1924), but is not likely to go beyond 60. This means that the land owners will contribute less than one-half of the communally produced values to the common treasury. Single Taxers will hold that common decency demands that the creators of the value should receive at least half—which means a tax rate of 75 mills or more.

What is worse, the Fort Erie by-law is liable to repeal by a reactionary Council. Should by some accident of local politics, three land speculators, elected on some totally different issue, get into that Council we should have a spectacle such as there was in Victoria in 1923—the vote of one land speculator in Council outweighing the votes of hundreds of citizens outside. Mr. Bell's influence is so strong (he is now Reeve) as to make that contingency somewhat remote, but it is there, and must add to the difficulty of inducing industries to locate. *Square Deal*, Toronto, Canada.

A Single Tax Village

THE village of Fort Erie, Province of Ontario, under a taxation scheme similar to that advocated by the late Henry George, will have a tax rate this year of close to \$86 the \$1,000 of assessment. On the basis of equal taxation of buildings and lands, the rate would be about \$42, which includes the county tax of about \$10.