

Lloyd, and Morris van Veen are among those who have shown their appreciation of *The Commonwealth*, as the weekly is called.

Captain H. H. Druitt, J. W. Marsh and Mr. Peace held some lively meetings recently in the Salisbury district. London has a debating society, which is 264 years old. It was organized in 1757. It is called Cogers Hall, and at present it meets at Dyers Arms Restaurant on Cannon Street, every Saturday evening. It discusses the events of the current week and Mr. Peace and Mr. Owen are often hear at these meetings.

Mr. Peace says:

"No solution of the disemployment problem will be found except by way of freedom. Where men are free to work or not as they please there is never unemployment. Where land is held as private property there is always unemployment. Millions of acres of every description of land are idle in this country and this is the originating cause of unemployment. Other causes there are, but they are only consequential and secondary. For example, the loss of trade due to men being out of work leads to others being put off. Taxation to meet the cost of Poor Relief and "dole," by decreasing the purchasing power of the community, checks trade, and puts still more workers out of work. Subsidies, grants-in-aid, and all such raids upon the public purse by sectional interests have precisely the same effect, they add to the volume of unemployment; in short, all taxation acts as a check upon industry and so lessens employment. The relation between idle land and idle men is clearly and undeniably one of cause and effect. We have no patience with temporising proposals. We know that if the "cause" of an effect be removed there can no longer be that effect. So, at the risk of repeating ourselves, we say that only by way of the immediate restoration of the whole of the land will there ever be found a satisfactory and permanent solution to this simple problem that hitherto has baffled all our orthodox politicians and academic economists."

* * * * *

When I visited Berlin I found the land reformers there maintaining headquarters at No. 11 Lessingstrasser with Dr. A. Damaschke in charge. Very active in the movement are Dr. Richard Schwarz, Ernst Heinrich and Prof. Karl Schewe. I met Prof Schewe at his attractive home in Steglitz, a suburb of Berlin. He is a subscriber to six or eight land reform journals, published in four or five different countries. "Deep poverty and suffering among the working classes" Prof. Schewe said, "is covered in Berlin by a veneer which keeps it out of sight. The streets where some of the poorest people live are wide, kept scrupulously clean, and often the exteriors of the buildings are attractive, with boxes of flowers under the windows, yet within, one will find families of four or five living in one room."

Dr. Schwarz was one of those who took part in the Oxford Conference of land reform advocates in 1923. I did

not have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Heinrich, who lives at Potsdam, but I found his father, a most intelligent and enthusiastic advocate of the philosophy of Henry George. Dr. Damaschke is one of the influential statesmen of Germany, and it was largely through his advocacy that the present German constitution contains a provision which would authorize the Reichstag to take economic rent for public purposes.

Dr. Damaschke gave me the addresses of a number of land reformers in both Geneva and Prague, with letters of introduction, but I am sorry to say I was unable to use them, on account of many engagements and my stay in these cities being brief.

—CHESTER C. PLATT.

Benjamin W. Burger Starts A Great Undertaking

NEARLY fifty years after the publication of *Progress and Poverty* it has occurred to a Single Taxer to gather for historical purposes, all material in relation to Henry George. The credit for this gigantic undertaking must go to Benjamin W. Burger, of this city, an attorney of New York who ran for Supreme Court Judge several years ago on the Single Tax party ticket.

Mr. Burger is bearing the entire cost of this enterprise and no one will be asked to contribute a cent. After the material is got together Mr. Burger will prepare a life of Henry George, and the entire collection will be turned over and placed in a permanent home dedicated to the memory of our great leader.

Much material has already been collected. Unfortunately a great deal of valuable data has been destroyed or lost. A case in point is that of the late James Love, of Camden, N. J., who for years had been collecting material pertaining to George.

Mr. Burger has received one valuable collection from the widow of A. R. Saylor, consisting of files of *Justice*, of which Mr. Saylor was the publisher and A. C. Pleydell editor, and numerous letters which passed between Henry George and the committee in charge of the Wilmington campaign.

From William M. Callingham has come the minute book of the Camden Single Tax Club with newspaper clippings. By the way, it is a real pleasure to have a look at Callingham's chirography, it is so closely resembles steel engraving.

James J. McNamara, of Baltimore, has contributed a copy of *Protection or Free Trade* presented to him by Henry George with his autograph. Mr. McNamara came to New York as a young man in 1886 and spoke during the campaign. George was so impressed with his talk on the tariff that he presented him with a copy of his great work.

From Charles Corkhill, of Reading, has come copies of New York papers with reports of the death and funeral of George.

From second hand book stores 27 different editions of George's works were secured.

William H. Faulhaber, organizer and first president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, gave the death mask made by Richard George.

Other material has been contributed by Morris Van-Veen, Edward S. Ross, and Anna Ross, widow of Will Ross, pioneers in the movement.

The estate of the late Sylvester Malone will give all the George McGlynn collection. Mr. Malone was president of the Anti-Poverty Society.

The galley proofs of the review of Progress and Poverty printed in the *Manchester Guardian* were found among papers and books in a second hand store.

Many of the friends in the east have been called upon to search their effects for photographs, books, pamphlets, letters, clippings and badges of the campaigns to be added to this collection. It is sad but true that many must be prodded in making the search. The writer has spent several weeks in visiting Single Taxers in several cities. So far he has been met with the kindest reception in inducing them to cooperate. Should he seem to some too insistent he begs forgiveness.

If this memorabilia is not gathered now much of it will in time disappear and future historians will find it impossible to properly appraise Henry George and his work.

There is no telling what material can be had. It is therefore important for all Single Taxers to exert themselves and search for matter of interest to the collection. It is a labor of love and those interested in the cause should give what they can to make this collection of the great historical value intended.

Mr. Burger's address is 233 Broadway, this city.

Let Organizer Robinson Tell Them

MR. JACOB PFEIFFER, of the Miller Rubber Company, of Akron, Ohio, had an article in a recent number of *The Nation's Business* entitled "Twenty-three Kinds of Taxation." Mr. Herman Hermelink, of the Buick Motor Company, of Kansas City, Mo., wrote Mr. Pfeiffer suggesting that the latter invite Mr. Robinson, now campaigning in Ohio, to speak before the Akron Chamber of Commerce.

Death of Jerome O'Neill

NEWS has reached us of the death of Jerome O'Neill, whom old Single Taxers knew better as "Jerry" O'Neill, and who was the well beloved friend of our prophet and teacher, Henry George. Details are lacking of his illness and death. We reserve fuller account of his life and work for our next issue.

Commonwealth Land Party's Nominee for Governor of New Jersey

DR. FERGUSON TELLS OF HENRY GEORGE AND
HIS FIRST PUBLISHER

DR. JOSEPH FERGUSON, candidate for governor on the Commonwealth Land party ticket in New Jersey, has long been a believer in the cause and during the last twenty years has spent much of his time in trying to make others see the big vision. He was presidential elector on the party ticket for William J. Wallace at the last national election. He is a strong believer in party action.

While practising osteopathy in Middletown, N. Y. from 1911 to 1917, he associated himself in the work for the cause with Stephen Wolf, Z. K. Green, Charles Fuller and others. Dr. S. D. Butler, of the Universalist Church in that city, joined the group, at which time the parsonage and sometimes even the church itself, were devoted to speakers telling of the great measure of industrial emancipation.

Owing to a physical breakdown Dr. Ferguson was compelled temporarily to abandon the practice of osteopathy, but found time and opportunity to explain our doctrines to any one who would listen. Since moving to New Brunswick he has united with those who believe that the party method offers a most promising form of propaganda. To neighbors who now quiz him as to our principles he is able to tell what we stand for and he will make speeches in Middlesex County where opportunity offers. He reports that a few promising converts are swinging in our direction.

Dr Ferguson in an interview with a representative of LAND AND FREEDOM related a number of incidents connected with the life of Henry George which may not be known to many of our readers.

"About my first recollection of the Single Tax movement was when my father took my mother and me to a dinner in a hall in Union Square, at which dinner, Mr. George, Tom L. Johnson, Dr. McGlynn, Louis F. Post and Thomas G. Shearman spoke. I was too young to feel more than the slight interest of childhood but later I can recall a trip of the Anti-Poverty Association on a barge up the Sound. Several incidents come to my memory of that trip.

"Still later I looked after the book stand at the old Criterion Theater in Brooklyn on Sunday afternoons, when Hugh F. Pentecost addressed large audiences. During my early school days at the Adelphi Academy in Brooklyn I was frequently in arguments on the Single Tax theory and when about seventeen years of age was a watcher at the polls in the old 7th Assembly District of Brooklyn when Mr. George ran the last time for office, the year he died in harness.