

are availed of by banks to unload upon the government millions in doubtful loans, to further swell taxation.

We append other extracts from this remarkable series of papers:

Given the problem of millions of men out of work. Given the fact that these men are forbidden to work under pain of arrest for trespass until some one hires them. Given the further fact that the "work providers" find it more profitable to leave men idle than to employ them. Does the solution really need the appointment of committees by the general government and by state and city governments?

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We shall never understand the significance of the land question if we think in terms of land. As far as unemployment and economic freedom are concerned, land means absolutely nothing except a place in which to live and a place in which to work; the right to live and to work.

* * *

The present land system is nothing more or less than a privilege extended to some men to bar other men from a chance to work until a satisfactory tribute has been paid. The land is the instrument by which the tribute can be most effectively collected, because no man can work without a place in which to work.

* * *

The ancient principle of the common law was to accord to ownership an indefinite extension upward and downward. The Court of Appeals decided against the right of a telephone company to string wires over a private property, and said:

"The surface of the ground is a guide, but not a full measure, for within reasonable limitations land includes not only the surface but also the space above and the part beneath. 'Usque ad Coelum' is the upper boundary, and while this may not be taken too literally, there is no limitation within the bounds of any structure yet erected by man." Once the principle of the fee simple, "usque ad coelum," is accepted it is difficult to see what arbitrary limit could be set, and why the lines extending upward from the centre of the earth and through the owner's boundaries, should not extend upward until they have included the farthest limits of the "coelum," and why the land owner should not be entitled to his rent on penalty of emptying the "coelum" of its occupants. Imagine the prices which could be demanded, and the collections through eternity!

Of course, a fundamentally wrong principle of law can not be carried to its logical conclusion, and the law must interfere with the logical working of the fee simple, or the new science of aviation would have to be abandoned. And while the law does not allow a man to drive a coach and pair through the fee simple, it does allow him to drive an aeroplane or a Zeppelin through it.

It is to be hoped that a government which sees the necessity of allowing aviation in spite of the sacredness of the fee simple, will some day limit the right of the fee simple to bar the right of the human race to a place to live and a place to work.

Mr. Foley makes illuminating comments on the tariff which he regards as just another device preventing men from working.

We welcome this series of papers, and congratulate both Mr. Foley and *The Gaelic American*. We shall hope that they may be embodied in book form, for because of the force and clarity with which the problem is presented we believe it would be an effective work and perhaps a salable one.

UNRESTRICTED private property in land is inherently wrong, and leads to serious and widespread evils.

PROF. ALFRED RUSSELL WALLACE.

The Henry George Lecture Assn

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

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John Lawrence Monroe at Dayton, O

OCTOBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 14

NO city in the United States is more alive to the great social questions of the times than Dayton, O. What more, it is trying to answer those questions. The leaders who are seeking the answers are the social workers of the Council of Social Agencies. They are engaged in more than feeding the hungry, clothing the ill-clad, and ministering to the spiritual needs of people caught in the economic maelstrom. They are seeking the cause of people being drawn into the maelstrom, and the remedy.

When men were unemployed and families were destitute the social workers of Dayton said, "The solution must be in production." So a dozen Production Units were established throughout the city, securing empty houses or stores for headquarters and acquiring sewing machines, shoe-making machines, abandoned baking over

and other equipment and letting men go to work producing needed things for themselves and their families.

But this means of giving employment opportunities seemed inadequate. "Why should houses and stores be empty and deserted, and baking ovens abandoned?" they asked. The question of rents for the Production Units' headquarters was often a troublesome one. Why not enable families to get out on the land nearby Dayton and make their own living from the land? So Homestead Units were planned with Ralph Borsodi, author of "This Ugly Civilization" and "Flight from the City," as consulting economist.

With his family Mr. Borsodi moved from New York City to the country twelve years ago and established a self-subsistence homestead and embarked on what has become nationally known as the "Borsodi experiment." The success of his experiment has been notable, giving him the necessary background of experience for helping to plan the proposed fifty Homestead Units to encircle Dayton within a fifteen mile radius. Each of the Units was to be about 160 acres serving approximately thirty-five families each on individual three acre plots. Here the initial cost of the farms stood as a barrier but through aid from the Subsistence Homestead division of the N. R. A. the funds for the first Homestead Unit were obtained.

The Homestead Units are being established on principles which respect the right of the community to the ground rent and the right of the individual to the product of his labor. Each tract of land will be owned by the unit as a whole together with the pasture, wood-lot, and community buildings which will be used in common. Each family, however, will build and own individually its home, poultry-house, workshop, garden, and whatever it may wish to put on its three acres. To quote from Mr. Borsodi's "Flight from the City" (Harper's, 1933):

One feature of the plan shows the foresight with which the whole project is being launched. In order to prevent the possibility of speculation in land either at present or at some future time, perpetual leaseholds are to be substituted for the usual deeds to land. Thus all the advantages which flow from individual use and individual ownership of the homesteads will be retained, while injustices to the community flowing from the withholding of the land allotted to any homesteader from use will be prevented. The taxes levied upon the whole unit are to be apportioned among the leaseholders in accordance with the value of the pieces of land leased to them.

In partially financing the first Homestead Unit, the government has recognized and accepted the basic principles involved in this feature of the plan. Anxious that the social implications of these principles should be understood by the homesteaders themselves, Mr. Borsodi, through Mr. Bolton Hall, invited Mr. Monroe to talk at meetings of actual and prospective homesteaders arranged by the Council of Social Agencies during the two week period from October 28 to November 12. The invitation being accepted, Mr. Monroe spoke nearly every day before one or two groups on the need for treating the

whole earth as the common estate of mankind and for abolishing all taxation on the products of labor.

AN ANTI-POVERTY HENRY GEORGE DINNER DAYTON, O., FRIDAY, NOV. 10

Single Taxers are sprouting up in Dayton like corn in a new field. The growth of sentiment in Dayton is the result of the persistent campaign through the years. The complete set of Henry George in the library, it is learned, was a donation from the Henry George Lecture Association—in the old days. That there is a nucleus of thorough-going followers of Henry George is in no small part due to the newspaper letter writing and personal work of Walter J. H. Schutz, Frank Kirkendall, W. C. Potsmith, and John F. Morrissey. Dayton's most honored citizen, Orville Wright, became interested in the Single Tax through hearing John Z. White. Some of the most interested new people are those who heard Percy R. Williams three years ago or Claude L. Watson one year ago on tours arranged by the Lecture Association. The most ardent new disciple of Henry George, Mr. Gwyne McConaughy, youthful director of the Y. M. C. A. Schools, read of Henry George in Lincoln Steffen's Autobiography and subsequently bought the complete set of Henry George's works from the Schalkenbach Foundation, having seen their advertisements.

Naming their organization after the society made famous by Father McGlynn and Henry George, the Single Taxers of Dayton organized the Anti-Poverty Club a short time ago. A Henry George Dinner was sponsored by the club on Friday evening, Nov. 10, with H. Lee Jones, pastor of the First Unitarian Church, as chairman, and John Lawrence Monroe as speaker. The committee consisted of Mr. E. S. Barghoorn, Miss Hazel Boe, Mrs. Charlotte Reeve Conover, Rollo E. Engle, Frank Kirkendall, John F. Morrissey, and Mrs. Alice Kile Neibel. Over twenty-five attended the dinner and took part in the spirited round-table discussion on "Why Poverty?"

Plans for a class in Henry George under the guidance of the correspondence division of the Henry George School of Social Science were outlined by Mr. Schutz, president of the club.

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LECTURE ASSOCIATION NOTES:—Speaking appointments are to be arranged for Hon. George H. Duncan within a hundred miles of Washington this winter. His official duties as secretary to Senator Fred H. Brown of New Hampshire will still permit him to speak at Baltimore, Wilmington, or even Harrisburg, Richmond, Fredericksburg, or Winchester. Organizations and Single Taxers in these cities have an exceptional opportunity to hear Mr. Duncan direct from the firing line.

Mr. Andrew P. Canning of Chicago will be available for speaking appointments again this winter in the southwest, particularly Tucson and Phoenix. On a similar trip last winter Mr. Canning filled several important engagements and brought a number of influential persons into the fold. One whom we interested in reading "Progress and Poverty" was William R. Mathews, editor and owner of the

Arizona Star—the best paper Mr. Canning found on his southwestern travels. Mr. Mathews wrote Mr. Canning, "I have purchased a copy of Henry George's book 'Progress and Poverty', and am now in the midst of reading it. I have rarely read any book which has such a clear, forceful style."

Hon. Jackson H. Ralston writes to the Lecture Association: "As you are doubtless aware we are engaged in a most important campaign in California for the adoption of the enclosed (land value taxation) constitutional amendment through the initiative. The Single Taxers are practically without exception united behind it and the State Federation of Labor is with it. We can put it over, in my opinion, but it will call for every ounce of strength we can bring to bear or can our friends throughout the United States. At the present stage of the fight—one of organization—you can contribute to our success through making us better known to each other. You must have very considerable lists of people friendly to us in every part of the State, and such a list will be of real value to us. If you will kindly send it to me I will see that it reaches its useful destinations." The lists are on the way!

Mr. Edwin L. Upp of McKeesport, Pa., writes: "Mr. McNair's victory in Pittsburgh yesterday was indeed pleasing, especially so because of his clear enunciation of the principles for which he stands, during his campaign. I am hopeful that the subject of taxation will be kept in the forefront as much as possible during the term of his administration. Here at McKeesport I consider that day lost when I have not called our philosophy to the attention of some one or more of my friends and am pleased to say that more and more people are getting interested. I hope that some day in the not far distant future it will be possible to form an active organization locally."

And our friend, Dr. E. G. Freyermuth, secretary of the Henry George Club of South Bend, Ind., writes: "I talk Single Tax every day, often twice and oftener; I think I am making some impression because I have people stop me to ask me about it. I am planning some active work done in the way of organization. Rabbi William Stern, a prominent Jewish leader in the city, is preparing a sermon on our favorite subject."

I have provided him with an abundance of literature. . . ."

The great work goes on!

Messages to Henry George Congress

Very sorry cannot be with you. Best wishes for success of your most important undertaking.—JOHN S. CODMAN, Boston, Mass.

I appreciate very much your kind sentiments and the way in which you express them that I might be present at the Annual Henry George Congress in Chicago. I am very sorry indeed to say that it will be quite impossible for me to get away to attend. The work here is all-embracing and holds me to it.

I ask you kindly to accept the good wishes of the British Henry George movement for the success of your Congress, and we will look forward eagerly to the report that success has been achieved.

A. W. MADSEN, London, Eng.

I am much complimented by your invitation and if my engagements permitted me to make a trip to Chicago I should be happy to accept your invitation, but it is quite impossible for me to make the trip at this time.

It may interest you to know that I had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Mr. Henry George. Many years ago—in the nineties—when I was a young lawyer, I was the assignee for the creditors of Charles L. Webster & Company, the firm which published Mr. George's books.

I do not recall just what the occasion was which took me to his house on East 18th or 19th Street in this city, as I remember it, but

I vividly remember the time I spent in his company, sitting with him beside a little coal grate and talking our business over.

He was a man of gentle manners and quiet speech. He took a large and patient view of his business relations with the firm. The latter's failure was a source of embarrassment to him, and perhaps of annoyance. But he did not show it. As I left him I was quite aware that I had been in the presence of a very great man. And that feeling grew as I had occasion to meet him subsequently.

Thank you again for your pleasant invitation and let me again express my regret in being unable to accept it.

BAINBRIDGE COLBY, N. Y. City.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 3rd inst. in which you extend an invitation to me to address the Eighth Annual Henry George Congress to be held in Chicago, September 18th to 20th. While I am deeply appreciative of the honor and privilege thus extended to me I find that it will be simply impossible for me to be in Chicago at the time mentioned, because of pressing matters which will make my presence in New York imperative.

I have made note of your comments relating to that phase of the National Recovery Act pertaining to financing a Back to the Land Movement. The machinery of this act is now being set up in Washington and in due course all of us, no doubt, will have more concrete information relative to the programme that will be followed by the administration in carrying out the provisions of this act.

Please convey my sincere appreciation to your organization for the invitation so kindly extended to me but which, unfortunately, as above indicated, I cannot accept.

BERNARR MACFADDEN, N. Y. City.

It is impossible for me to anticipate my duties as far in advance as that, or to make any even tentative engagements. The most I can say, is that I would like very much to be with you if it is possible.

FREDERIC C. HOWE, Washington, D. C.

I have just received the prospectus for the Single Tax convention in Chicago and it creates in me a wish to be a part of it, but I fear it will not be possible. My home is now in California and the journey seems too long and too expensive for a man of my years and lack of resources. My very best wishes go with its deliberations however, and I am sending a small check in accordance with your letter to help pay for the expenses of the preliminary work.

I see on the list of speakers many of the men and women who were active when I was active. I must infer that they are all younger than I or more enduring, for I shrink from public duties at seventy-three. I am content to let Darrow and White and Bigelow represent the movement as they did when I was young—or at least younger than I am now. Please remember me to Dana Miller, Bolton Hall, Frank Stephens and all the other "old timers" whom you chance to meet. In these rash and experimental times our theories should have a counterbalancing effect. Most of us, I think, are in all essentials individualistic now as we were then.

HAMLIN GARLAND, Hollywood, Calif.

Having just returned from a nearly five months' absence, I find on my desk yours of August 17. I regret that it will be impossible for me to attend the gathering in Chicago and take part in it. Just now I am thoroughly tired of all travel after 14,000 miles of it. I wish all possible success to the convention, and desire to express the hope that its members will devote themselves to the consideration of practical measures for the advancement of our cause, laying aside all purely academic discussions. These may have their use, but to me seem to lead to the development of differences rather than to progress.

JACKSON H. RALSTON, Palo Alto, Calif.

Since your special invitation to the Henry George Congress to be held in Chicago September 25 arrived, I have been hoping that I might be there with you but have now concluded that it will not be feasible. I want to thank you for your kind attention and to extend my greet-