

Death of Charles Magin

A FREQUENT visitor to this office was Charles Magin of East Orange, N. J., whose death on July 9 is announced. It is difficult to believe that this splendid veteran of the movement had attained the ripe age of 88, for he was mentally alert and physically capable almost to the last. Nothing that served to advance the Single Tax movement was allowed to go unnoted. His was a fine, tolerant spirit, and he had no word of harsh critical dissent for any one sincerely devoted to the cause and preferring to do his own work in his own way.

And he had an enviable record, for fifty years ago he was making stump speeches for the cause and had never ceased to be interested from that time to the present.

Mr. Magin was a Swedenborgian and steeped in the philosophy of that great thinker. Besides, he was a stained-glass window artist and a few of the churches where samples of his work are shown are the Church of the Nativity, Rev. A. Flemming, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Church of the Messiah, Brooklyn, N. Y.; The National Church of the New Jerusalem, Washington, D. C., Transcript window; Christ Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Bethel Presbyterian Church, Rev. MacCaully, East Orange, N. J.; First Presbyterian Church, Newburgh, N. Y.; St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rev. Edwin P. Wright, East Orange, N. J.; Trinity Congregational Church, East Orange, N. J.; Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Little Rock, Ark., in memory of Bishop H. N. Pierce; Holy Cross Episcopal Church, New York, N. Y.

Mr. Magin attended the School of Heraldry in London where he learned much of interest concerning antique class. It was his delight to reproduce antique effects in stained glass work.

Funeral services for Mr. Magin were conducted at the Colonial Home in East Orange. His wife and three daughters survive him. The couple were to have celebrated their fifty-ninth wedding anniversary in November.

Miscellany

FROM NOAH WEBSTER, A GREAT AMERICAN

Applying to faction the military maxim of M. Porcius Cato, "Bellum seipsum alit," "war feeds itself," a victorious leader supplies the wants, and secures the attachment of his followers by dividing among them the spoils of the vanquished. Then commences the reign of persecution and revenge. The man who mounts into office on popular confidence, may rise with impunity above the constitution of his country and trample on the rights of the people. Under the specious titles of a *republican*, and the *friend of the people*, he may exercise the despotism of a *Frederic*. Noah Webster, p. 4, of the preface to *Miscellaneous Papers*, 1802.

WHAT DR. DILLARD SAW IN JERUSALEM

One day on a train going from Jerusalem to Joppa I happened to be in a compartment with an American engineer in the employment of the British government. During our conversation he suddenly

asked me if I had known anything about Henry George or his theory. I told him that I had known Mr. George very well. He said that in America he had regarded the George movement very lightly, but that since he had been in Palestine he had come to the conclusion that this theory might be the solution of the trouble between the Jew and the Arabs.

To show how widespread are the problems of the land question in Palestine, my friend on the train informed me that two-thirds of the Province of Galilee is subject to absentee landlordism. It is not easy to compare areas in the old country and the new. The drive from Haifa through Nazareth across Galilee to Tiberias is about 20 miles. The drive from Afton, Va., across Albemarle County through Charlottesville to Keswick is a little farther. Roughly speaking, I think we may say that the size of Galilee is about two-thirds that of an average county in Virginia or Maryland.

J. H. DILLARD, in *Washington Post*.

THE OBSERVANT FRANKLIN

Franklin [Benjamin] also saw, what [Professor] Turner elucidate in a later day, that the American colonies were a "frontier" for Europe; that *the cheap lands overseas maintained the level of laborer's wages in England on a higher plane than in continental Europe*. "The salutary effect," said Franklin, "will be produced even without emigration, and will result from the mere possibility of emigrating. . . . But the rise of wages will not be equally felt by the different nations of Europe. It will be *more or less considerable in proportion to the greater or less facilities for emigration which each affords*." The above was written after the French and Indian War but prior to the Revolution. The venerable philosopher returned to the same subject again and again, significantly in a discussion of who should emigrate to America, which can be dated after the completion of the Articles of Confederation, probably 1783-1785. Europeans need not look to the confederation government to foster manufactures with bounties etc. Nor, in general, can such favors be expected from the separate states. Where tried, the results have usually been disappointing: "labor being generally too dear there, and hands difficult to be kept together, everyone desiring to be a master, and the *cheapness of land* inclining many to *leave trades for agriculture*." In the same article Franklin stated: "Insomuch that the propriety of an hundred acres of fertile soil full of wood may be obtained near the frontiers in many places for eight to ten guineas, hearty young laboring men, who understand the husbandry of corn and cattle, which is nearly the same in that country as in Europe, may easily establish themselves there. A little money saved of the good wages they receive there while they work for others, enables them to buy the land and begin their plantation, in which they are assisted by the good will of the neighbors, and some credit. Multitudes of poor people from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Germany have by this means in a few years become wealthy farmers who, in their own countries, where *all the lands are fully occupied and the wages of labor low, could never have emerged from the poor condition wherein they were born*." "Was there a Safety Valve for Labor?" by Joseph Schafer in *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, Vol. XXIV, No. 3, December, 1937, pp. 299-300.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

INTRODUCED by Mr. Dyett—read twice and ordered to be printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on State Finances and Revenues, Except Taxation, Expenditure and Restrictions on the Powers of the Legislature in Respect Thereto and to Public Indebtedness.

The Delegates of the People of the State of New York,

Convention assembled, do propose as follows:

Section 1. Section twelve of article one of the constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. All lands within this state are declared to be allodial, so that, subject only to the liability to escheat, the entire and absolute property is vested in the owners, according to the nature of their respective estates, *but the value of land exclusive of improvements thereon is declared to be a public asset. It shall be the duty of assessing officers to determine the full value of land as though wholly unimproved and free from any tax. The legislature shall pass such laws so far as possible shall recover the full annual value of the land for the use of the state and its subdivisions.*

EXPLANATION—Matter in *italics* is new.

The Outing at Mahwah River

THE Annual Conference of the Graded Tax Committee was held on June 25 at Fairchild's Landing of the Mahwah River Yacht Club, Suffern, N. Y.

Mr. Walter Fairchild, Chairman, opened the meeting by calling for reports on the two proposals of the Graded Tax Committee presented at the Constitutional Convention now in session at Albany. The first proposal was embodied in a Constitutional Amendment introduced by Mr. Thos. B. Dyatt of Harlem. It permits counties and cities to tax increases in land values in excess of the present 2 per cent limitation. The second proposal, introduced by Wm. S. Bennett of New York City, permits lower rates on improvement values than on land values. Both proposals have been referred to the Committee on Taxation. Mr. Fairchild has addressed this Committee whose chairman is Mr. Martin Saxe.

Then followed speeches by Mr. J. Charles Lane, secretary of the Tax Department in New York City. He outlined two graded tax bills to be introduced in the New York City council by Mr. Charles Mellous of Queens. The first bill requires the council to fix two tax rates instead of one rate as at present, viz., to fix one rate on land values and on one improvement values. The second bill provides that beginning with the second half of the year 1939, the council shall fix these rates so that nine-tenths of the tax raised shall be on land values and one-tenth from improvement values.

Mr. Wm. Exton spoke of the necessity of a positive constructive attitude to obtain legislation. Mr. Lancaster Green spoke about the wide influence of the Henry George School and Mr. Z. K. Green of Middletown, N. Y., reported the introduction of a graded tax by the Middletown Council. Mr. Harry Weinberger made a short address appropriate to the occasion.

Detailed information covering the work of the Graded Tax Committee may be obtained by writing the committee (stamp enclosed), Park Place, Room 205, New York City. It should be noted that the committee has gotten out a stamp to affix to envelopes and correspondence. The stamp is marked "Untax the building, Tax the site," and may be obtained in lots at \$1.00 per hundred.

Previous to the meeting, refreshments were served on a small island near Great Falls, on the western part of the club grounds.

BOOK REVIEWS

A PROFESSOR'S BALDERDASH

BY ADAM SAVAGE

(A booklet of 40 pages)

This is a criticism of the "Folklore of Capitalism," by Professor Thurman W. Arnold, who has recently accepted a position in the Attorney General's office in Washington.

The critic states at the outset that he has taken the trouble to

review the book because it is an outstanding example of looseness of thought, and that as Professor Arnold has not spared those he criticizes, he has "not the slightest compunction in dealing with him and his book as he has dealt with others."

He then proceeds to deal with both. It is the prettiest piece of dealing that we have ever come across. As a dam Savage he is severe yet kind, fierce yet tolerant, bold yet modest and economically sure of his ground in every word and sentence. The criticism teems with delightful humor throughout, yet replete with seriousness and a wealth of historical reference and sound economics.

Adam Savage must be a very retiring character as he has presented us with one of the finest pamphlets ever written by any Single Taxer, and yet there is nothing to indicate where it may be purchased or the price or even the name of the printer.

We hope this review may be noted by Adam Savage and that, for the good of the cause he will let us know where we may obtain additional copies. Also, if our readers are interested, let us hear from them, because this gem should have wide distribution. Incidentally our best informed Single Taxers will learn much by reading.—C. H. K.

Correspondence

SCHOOL GRADUATION DINNER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

A young convert to the philosophy of Henry George has expressed to me his disappointment with some of the speeches delivered at the graduation dinner of the HGSSS on June 13. He had taken a party of his friends to the dinner, promising them an oratorical treat, which fell short of his expectations. His disappointment may be creditable to some degree as indicating an ambition for improvement, but I think it is unjustified.

I have a lively memory of dinners of long ago, when we used to ransack the country for the best oratorical talent to voice our sentiments. We took our friends to these dinners in the hope that eloquent speakers like Henry George, Father McGlynn, Frank Stephens, Charles Frederick Adams, H. V. Hetzel and many others, would either convert them or at least inspire them to study our philosophy. These dinners doubtless had a very real value. We thoroughly enjoyed them, and at their conclusion we went home in a fine state of exaltation that sometimes lasted for several days. In results, however, they fell far short of our high hopes.

We also went into politics. We sought to take the kingdom of heaven by storm. In this, too, we were disappointed. The Nazarene had said nineteen centuries ago that the kingdom of heaven is not to be taken by storm, and we found that He was right.

Personally, I was delighted with the dinner of the New York School, and with the speeches that followed, as I was with the dinner of the Newark School held the preceding evening, where Frederick Leubuscher, Mrs. Anna George deMille, George Rusby, some half a dozen students and I were the speakers. Certainly the speeches of some of the students who have just finished the first course in our economic philosophy lack the grace and polish of the best after-dinner speakers. There were no flights of oratory, and no attempts thereat, but they were better music to my old ears than any of our old-time speakers can now furnish, and the youthful and enthusiastic faces of the new generation of Georgeists are good for the eyes of those who but a few years ago were wont to gather in small groups—elderly people with silvering hair who bemoaned the apparent fact that Henry George was being forgotten by a crazy world.

What a change has come since Robert Schalkenbach set up his Foundation for the republication of Henry George's books, long out of print, without which Oscar Geiger probably could not have started his School of Social Science, having no text-books! And as I look into these young and eager faces I realize that, even though they cannot yet speak with the eloquence of a George or a McGlynn, wisdom is not going to die with us—that a new force, one that we oldsters have lost to a large degree, has come into the movement