

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