

of economic ground rent," has as yet had negligible results; but as a device to stimulate payment of delinquent taxes, its effects have been highly satisfactory. The Act authorized the town of Collierville to acquire the land, at tax sales or otherwise, and to lease the same for a period not exceeding 99 years. Improvements on such leased lands are exempt from municipal levies. Only the "Single Tax on land values" could be assessed by the municipality on the lands thus leased. As reported in LAND AND FREEDOM for March-April, 1936:

"About the middle of February, a tax bill was filed by the town to compel payment of all delinquent taxes on lands and buildings in Collierville.

"Only 18 taxpayers in this town of more than 1,000 population, were delinquent at the time of the filing of these suits. Few towns in America can today show so little tax delinquency.

"Since the filing of these suits, already more than one-half of those sued have paid their taxes. In all probability the remaining delinquents will pay their taxes before the suits can be prosecuted to conclusion, and the property on which the taxes are levied can be sold to the town for delinquent taxes.

"At the present time, Collierville has only one lot leased for economic ground rent. This lot was formerly the site of the town jail; but the jail was demolished, and built elsewhere. Thus the town had a lot which could be leased under the Enclave Law. No citizen of the town has objected to the leasing of this lot; and the validity of the Enclave Act has not been challenged."

American City for July.

THREE prominent Georgeists of this city have departed since the last number of LAND AND FREEDOM appeared. They are Benjamin Doblin, John H. Scully, and Cornelius Donovan. Fuller details of their life and work will be published later.

Washington Women Meet

APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS

MRS. HELENE H. McEVoy, who has been dividing her time between New York and Washington during the last year, was hostess at the April meeting of the Woman's Single Tax Club of the District of Columbia, at the National Woman's Party headquarters, 114 B Street, Northeast. The first speaker on the programme was Dr. Alice M. Caporn, a health lecturer who is hoping to found a colony in Australia, in which the principles of Henry George as well as of dietetics, shall be followed.

Mr. George A. Warren, a member of the District bar, supplemented the address of Dr. Caporn by further remarks on the land tenure plan of the Mosaic law, calling attention to the provision thereof requiring that all allotments of land made to Jewish families (each receiving one) should revert to the original owners or their descendants upon the coming of the Jubilee year every fiftieth year if in the meantime ownership has passed to others. This plan, he said, prevented monopoly of the land by the rich and powerful. Illustrating how private ownership of land may destroy a nation, if permitted to continue, Mr. Warren cited the case of Ireland, which, with a population of over eight millions in 1840, had now only a little over half that number.

Following Mr. Warren, Representative Charles R. Eckert of Pennsylvania, called attention to the fact that the problem of unemployment and poverty has cursed the human race from time immemorial. There are many persons who believe that the machine is responsible for much of our present misery and economic ills, yet even before the so-called "machine age" was in existence, the people of France were in a more wretched condition than the people of America are today, as is indicated by Jefferson's declaration, upon his arrival there: "Of twenty millions of people supposed to be in France, I am of the opinion

there are nineteen millions more wretched, more accursed in every circumstance of human existence than the most conspicuously wretched individual of the whole United States."

Following the principal speakers, the meeting resolved itself into an informal symposium on the general subject of taxation until the guests were invited into the dining room to enjoy sandwiches, cocoa, coffee, cakes and ice cream.

Among the visitors present were Mrs. Timothy Campbell, Mrs. Henry Tideman, Miss Gertrude Van Eeghen of Holland, Princess Nour Hamada of Syria, representing the Oriental Alliance for Women, and the well-known sculptress Mrs. Adelaide Johnson, long an ardent suffrage worker, whose marble busts of Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, are among the statues in the National Capitol Building.

The annual business meeting of the club was held on Monday, May 4, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter N. Campbell, 1409 Newton Street, Northwest, where officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Helene H. McEvoy, one of the few charter members of the District organization still surviving; vice-president, Mrs. Gertrude E. Mackenzie; recording secretary, Mrs. Walter N. Campbell; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Jennie Knight; director to the Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Marie H. Heath; chairman of the programme committee, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips.

RIVERDALE PICNIC

The quarter-century mark was reached when the Single Taxers of Washington and vicinity held their annual basket picnic on Sunday, June 7, at the home of Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley in Riverdale, Md.

Mrs. Heath, the retiring president, reminded her hearers of the fact that, with Single Tax in the air and on the air, and with a liberal political administration, conditions were peculiarly favorable for action under our incoming president, Mrs. Helene McEvoy, whom she introduced as chairman of the meeting.

Mrs. McEvoy, after referring to the circumstances under which the club was organized some forty years ago, and her pleasure at now being chosen as its leader, introduced the principal speaker, Representative Charles R. Eckert of Pennsylvania. Mr. Eckert said in part:

"I have some very pleasant memories of a gathering like this a year ago, through the generosity and hospitality of Mrs. Keeley. I am glad to be here with you again, and am pleased that the Single Taxers, and especially the women Single Taxers, of the District of Columbia, are as militant and aggressive as I find them to be. In fact, to some extent, it confirms a dream I had a good many years ago when a group of Single Taxers up in Pittsburgh decided to form a national organization. It is known as the Henry George Foundation of America, and when the subject was under consideration, I used to argue that the Single Tax movement ought to have a national headquarters in Washington because here is the seat of government; we find here a different atmosphere from what we find in many other communities, and I rather regret that that dream of mine failed. I felt then and I feel now that the movement would be stimulated if we could have a national organization with headquarters here to act as a clearing house for all activities in which Single Taxers are engaged. Now as we look around and observe the various types of movements that spring up and gain momentum, we find that they have a different method of organization and of propaganda from those of the Single Taxers—movements that have neither the merit nor the stability that ours has, and yet in spite of their inherent weaknesses we find them gaining followers, and in some cases their plans are enacted into law. I have particularly in mind the Prohibition movement, which gained such momentum and strength and developed so rapidly that the Constitution of the United States was amended, and yet the movement itself—whatever our individual opinions may be on the liquor question—does not have the inherent strength of the Single Tax movement. And today we have a movement which, irrespective of its merits or

demerits, has gathered a great deal of momentum, namely, the Townsend Plan. We also have, along that line, the movement that is sponsored by Father Coughlin, and these movements are growing.

Now of course I do not mean to say that all the work that has been done in the years gone by, has been in vain, far from it; much has been accomplished, but I think we could, by organizing our ranks and agitating through the radio and the press, make much faster progress. Of course we must bear in mind that deep waters move slowly, and the Single Tax philosophy is one of the most fundamental reforms that we can conceive of, and therefore the progress naturally is slow. Henry George must have realized that fact, because we all recall that last chapter of "Progress and Poverty" in which he said:

"The Truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured.

"Let us not disguise the fact. Over and over again has the standard of Truth and Justice been raised in the country. Over and over again has it been trampled under foot, oftentimes in blood. If they are weak forces that are arrayed against Truth, why should error so long prevail? If Justice has but to raise her head to have Injustice flee before her, why should the wail of the oppressed so long go up?"

Following Mr. Eckert's talk, Mrs. Walter N. Campbell read letters from Representatives David John Lewis and Robert W. Crosser, and from Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, expressing regret at their inability to be present.

In response to the chairman's request for an account of her game, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips of Clarendon, Virginia, responded by saying: "It was through my effort to interpret the economic philosophy of Henry George that I first conceived the idea for the Landlord's Game. At first I did not think of it as a game, but merely as a tangible illustration of economic processes. For several years, I worked at the game, improving it, and in 1904, I applied for and was granted a basic patent by the U. S. Patent Office. I might say incidentally that during and since that time I have worked out several other games all based on the three fundamental principles of the original. I still have in my possession my original model of my game Monopoly. In the winter of 1932-33 I was warned by a good Single Taxer and patent attorney that an attempt was being made to publish a game that was remarkably like mine and which he thought should bear my extended patent number. He even told me the proposed names for the game: 'Finance' and 'Monopoly.' But at that time I was in no position either physically or financially to defend my rights. During the next two years several mysterious visitors and two or three suspicious correspondents sought in vain to buy my patent. I would have none of them. As soon as my health was sufficiently improved and financial conditions became better, I meant to approach Mr. Parker, the great game king, whom I once met, years before, under very pleasant circumstances. I planned to get in communication again with him. No other publisher was good enough for my Landlord's Game. While making my preparations for this approach, Mr. Parker himself, who years before had seen and praised my game, sought me out at my tiny cottage home and, knowing that I was the real inventor of the game Monopoly, made a proposition which I readily accepted as it gave me the very opportunity I was seeking—to make games for the Parker firm. I hope some day to so improve my original game that it will be a scientific measure for the student of economics, as exact in its domain as is the multiplication table in the field of mathematics, or the level, the yardstick, or the pound weight in their respective fields. If we cheat, we become involved and suffer accordingly. If we are faithful to the formula, we are prosperous and happy. We cannot violate the laws of nature in any realm without bringing upon us our own punishment. God will not be so mocked."

Dr. Alice M. Caporn, a health culturist and dietitian, told the members more about her ambition to found a colony, preferably in Honduras, where a superior race might be developed.

Mrs. Keeley stated that she had been in union labor since the age

of fourteen, and that the labor unions are now beginning to understand the principles of the Single Tax and are giving a good idea of it in some of their constitutions, notably the Latherers' and Plasterers' Unions. Mrs. Keeley had become convinced that the Single Tax was the one solution of our economic problems after listening to an address delivered by Father Huntington in the early nineties, and had "worked at it ever since—once a Single Taxer, always a Single Taxer."

One of the encouraging features of this twenty-first anniversary gathering was the number of young people recently graduated from the extension classes of the Henry George School of Social Science which have been conducted by Mrs. Phillips and Mr. Swanton. These students were each asked to contribute a few words to the programme and all expressed their enthusiasm for the cause and their hope of being able to spread the light. Among others who spoke briefly were Mrs. W. White, Mrs. C. N. Goodwin, Mrs. Clinglin Smith, Mrs. Swigert, Mrs. Jennie Knight, Mrs. Laura Lees, and

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

BOOK REVIEWS

REVIEW BY REV. L. M. BIRKHEAD OVER STATION WDAF
OF HENRY WARE ALLEN'S BOOK

Henry Ware Allen and his new book, "Prosperity," discloses two interesting facts with respect to human nature. First that it is possible to grow old and at the same time grow in wisdom, and secondly that one may also grow old and yet retain one's youthful enthusiasm. Here, in this book, Mr. Allen has given expression to a ripe wisdom, a wisdom that is the product of nearly fifty years of honest and deep thought about our economic problems. And his views are presented with the enthusiasm of youth. His enthusiasm for his ideas is infectious.

Of course, Mr. Allen is a partisan. He is a Single Taxer. He believes that Henry George propounded a social and economic philosophy which points the way out for our country. But his propaganda views are presented with due regard for other proposals.

First of all Mr. Allen believes that "Prosperity" can be achieved by democratic steps. He is something of a Jeffersonian in his political views.

The subtitle of "Prosperity" is:

"As a natural result of abolishing all taxes upon business, industry, commerce and agriculture, leaving for the necessary expenses of government its natural revenue, economic rent as determined by its site value of land."

Mr. Allen gives it as his opinion that the study of real political economy, "dry-as-dust" science—but not in Mr. Allen's book, has been neglected in America, both in our universities and in our every day world. As a result we have such unworkable and unsound experiments as the New Deal.

Our author regrets the tendency toward State Socialism. He, argues that the democracy of Thomas Jefferson, perfected by Henry George, is the right way to bring the country out of the industrial depression and to establish it upon a strong basis of prosperity.

This book, by the way, is written in the form of a very interesting discussion between Grandfather Justin Waterson, a retired Chicago merchant, 85 years old, and his grandson, Charles Waterson, 17 years old. The discussion takes place in the years 2000-2001.

Grandfather Waterson is opposed to the income tax. He thinks that back there in the early part of the 20th Century when it was in force "it was a case of the government robbing Peter to pay Paul in true Robin Hood style." And he reports that when the income tax was repealed that there was an immediate revival of business.

Grandfather thinks that the tax system in force in the year 1936 and thereabouts was the product of politicians who were thinking of the next election and not of statesmen who were thinking of the next generation.