

of the American Declaration of Independence 'ought to do itself honor by witnessing a first genuine International Land Congress. Has not the land question sufficient vitality to bring together an assemblage of militant men and women from the growing number of countries in which agitation for the restoration of land to the people has been making headway? Surely. And if the shibboleth for such an assemblage were to be "No compensation to land-owners!" there can be no reasonable doubt that those who entered with this credential could accomplish very much indeed. Method of course—but Will first! And it seems to us that the time has come for a renewal of the "howling dervish" stage of land restoration insanity. The Commonwealth Land Parties of Great Britain and the United States, with the Partida Georgista in Argentina are, so far as we know, the only political organizations in existence which point the way to immediate land restoration. Taking the lead, what could be more logical than for these three groups to step forward at this juncture and issue a joint manifesto and appeal to friends of genuine land restoration to meet in conference sometime during the year 1926? We do not fail to remember that the United Committee's Conference at Oxford last year closed with a recommendation that Copenhagen be selected as the place for the continuation of its deliberations. But what we have in mind is a considerably more representative assemblage of adherents and decidedly a more militant spirit than were observed at the Oxford Conference. The admirers of Quesnay and Jefferson, the followers of Rivadavia and Henry George, yes, of Moses and of Jesus—ought they not to step forth at this time and by their eloquence and persuasiveness try to win the attention and the hearts of plain people? Is the idea too fantastic? If not, how can it be put into effect?

Death of Herbert Quick

THE death of Herbert Quick robs the Henry George movement of one of its most earnest and devoted disciples. He died of heart disease on May 10th, while attending journalism week at the University of Missouri at Columbia.

Mr. Quick was born in 1861 on a farm in Grundy County, Iowa, and was educated in the county schools. He taught school from 1882 to 1890 and was the principal of a ward school in Mason City, Iowa. A martyr to infantile paralysis from youth, he battled with his infirmity and accomplished in a busy life a great quantity of work, large in volume and varied in kind.

Here is a brief but crowded list of his activities:

Admitted to the bar 1881.

Mayor of Sioux City 1898.

Editor *Farm and Fireside*, 1909-1916.

Member of the Federal Farm Loan Bureau, 1916-1921.

Went to Siberia as head of a Red Cross Commission to wind up its affairs in the Far East.

Author of several "best sellers," a dozen minor works of fiction and a number of non-fiction works dealing with economics and the farmer's problems. Of the latter, *The Real Trouble With the Farmer* is one of the best practical expositions of our philosophy as applied to the farmer.

In Vandermark's *Folly* and *The Hawkeye*, Mr. Quick has written the epic of the frontier. No one who wants to know something of the pioneering life of America can afford to neglect these books. Parkman is its historian and Quick its story teller. The latter's work is of the fibre that makes the glory of those old days.

He had an intimate knowledge of field and prairie. He was no mean naturalist and these touches give verisimilitude to the long journey of his hero to Monterey County. He was a scientific farmer, too, and knew soils. He approached the human problem as he did the study of soils and their qualities. And this is indeed the way to study the human problem for those who possess the necessary qualifications. Quick saw a human quality grow, and he knew that it grew because the soil was propitious; or he saw some desirable quality wither, and he knew it was because the ground was sterile. The lesson that is ever present in these novels of Mr. Quick's dealing with the elemental characteristics in human life is that of the relation of the kind and quality of soil to the development of all that is virile and best in man and woman.

The newspaper tributes to the dead writer were eloquent and discriminating. But in none of these was there any mention of the cause which had enlisted so great a part of his life and in the defence of which he had written so much. Commenting on this omission John J. Murphy sent the following letter to the *New York World*:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE *World*:

Your editorial appreciation of Herbert Quick will strike a sympathetic chord in the hearts of his friends, of whom he had a host. His kindly spirit endeared him to all fortunate enough to enjoy his acquaintance. The portrait might have been more lifelike were some reference made to the fact that the dominant passion of his life was his hunger for justice. He believed profoundly that the possible salvage of our civilization depends upon the public acceptance of some practical method of making the values in land created by population, invention and discovery bear the major if not the entire weight of public financial burdens—a method which would confer the triple benefit of lightening taxation on producer and consumer, of obviating the pretext for governmental intervention in our private lives and of making congestion of unwieldly and menacing fortunes less probable.

To those capable of reading between the lines of his numerous works this spirit was always obvious. Like the late Surgeon General Gorgas, who held similar views, his message to the world was that no civilization is safe which does not build upon the corner-stone of justice to human-

ity, that palaces do not justify hovels but are indicted by them, and that a full and satisfying life for all can only be based on adequate opportunity for each.

—JOHN J. MURPHY.

In another part of this issue will be found what is perhaps the last article that came from his pen. It shows the influence that the writings of Henry George exercised on the development of his thought. Mr. Quick was long a friend of LAND AND FREEDOM, and was hospitable to every form of agitation for the cause. He had a good word to say for the Commonwealth Land party and might have been induced, had it not been for the poor state of his health, to take a more active part in its campaign. He wrote in favor of the party policy in one of his syndicated letters that must have been read by millions. His own inclination was probably toward less militant methods but he was philosopher enough to realize the value of the party method as a mode of propaganda, and had a good word to say in its favor.

A very able writer, a devoted and clear-sighted soul has gone from among us.

The Revolt Against Tax Methods

THE people of Oregon will vote at the next general or special election, upon a proposed constitutional amendment, recently passed by the legislature, prohibiting any income or inheritance taxes and further providing that no change in this section shall be submitted to the people before 1940. The effectiveness of this last proviso is doubtful, but it indicates the temper of the legislature.

This proposal follows the adoption last November, by the people of Florida, of a constitutional amendment similarly prohibiting income and inheritance taxes.

Oregon has an inheritance tax, but the state income tax enacted by the legislature of 1923, was repealed by popular vote last November.

A further indication of the revolt against present tax methods is that Nevada has repealed its inheritance tax.

Lecture Work of Organizer Robinson

JAMES A. ROBINSON has made Ohio the field of his operations during the last few months. He addressed the Kiwanis Club, at Youngstown, on May 2. About 250 were present, and Mr. Robinson's lecture was well received. On May 4 he addressed the Hellenic American Association before an audience of about 200. The audience was very responsive.

On May 5 George Edwards talked before the City Planning Commission in the Council Chambers of the City Hall and at his request the Mayor of Youngstown who pre-

sided gave Mr. Robinson the floor, and the latter was able to state our objective without reserve.

On May 10 Mr. Robinson returned to Cleveland to debate the question, "Resolved, that the solution of our economic problem is the Single Tax," with David S. Reisig before the Cleveland Public Forum at Goodrich Settlement House. There was a lively session before a good audience.

Mr. J. Bruce Lindsay addressed the Central Labor Union, of Cleveland, the week before and was ably seconded in his argument for our cause by Max Hayes, editor of the *Cleveland Citizen*.

Mr. Robinson has made other addresses, one before the Kiwanis Club at Warren, and before the Rosicrucians at Youngstown. George Edwards and Joseph Gottlieb of the latter city, have been of great assistance in securing lecture dates for Organizer Robinson and there are many others to come.

Mr. Robinson writes us: "The interest manifested by the various bodies addressed indicates an eager desire to hear our proposition. It is gratifying to be able to report that unqualified statement of our objective, viz, the collection by the government of the rent of land in lieu of taxation, aroused no formidable objection. Excessive taxation, burdensome and inquisitorial, seems to be provoking resentment and opening the public mind to suggestions remedial. Never has our proposition had so favorable a time for presentation."

Mr. Virgil D. Allen reports that Mr. David Gibson is making efforts through his newspaper published in Lorain to discover the names of the 11,000 in Ohio who voted the Commonwealth Land Party ticket. This effort will be duplicated by other papers in the State.

Brazil

A GRATIFYING evidence of the existence in Brazil of organized, intellectual and aggressive Georgism has come into our hands, in the shape of the second monthly issue of the *Revista do Imposto Unico* (Single Tax Review). It is published in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, the southernmost State of Brazil. Like its Argentine colleague, it is artistically presented and also well supported by advertisements. We note on the back cover a full-page advertisement of a Ford Motor. The inside of the same sheet contains a full-page advertisement of a Royal Typewriter.

The most important article in this issue of the *Revista do Imposto Unico* is one showing the growth of a State Land Tax from 1902, when a tax of 10 reis per hectare of area and 0.2 per cent. of value was imposed. In 1913, improvements were separated from land values and exempted.

"The practical results of this reform, it is said, were shown at once. The selling value of land and property which, under the system of taxing improvements, rose from 408,000 contos (in 1903) up to 975,000 contos in 1913,