

under discussion. Four experts discussed the subject. The bulk of the recommendations suggested that it would be quite proper to classify the unfortunates according to their different trades, then find the suitable factories for these men, then try to get each man into his proper place.

At the conclusion the chairman called for questions. At once I seized the opportunity.

"The speakers have called our attention to the number of people out of employment. Can they tell us the number of acres unemployed. In this republic there are only about thirty people to the square mile, in Canada less than three to the square mile, while in England there are more than six hundred to the square mile. With such an overabundance of opportunities on this continent what is it that gets between God's child and God's land. With such ample opportunities, why should any man be out of employment."

The chairman asked each of the speakers in succession for an answer, but no reply came.

It has been my fortune to appear before several government commissions. But in the majority of cases, they were the veriest of shams.

Magnas est veritas; but it does not yet prevail.

Toronto, Canada

W. A. DOUGLAS.

NEED FOR REAL STATISTICS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:.

Some newspaper or magazine could render a useful service by making a careful study of the national and state agencies for collecting statistics: their number, cost, and value to the public.

I have no exact information, but have seen statements now and then which fill me with suspicion regarding these numerous statistical bureaus; that they serve to cumber library shelves with useless and neglected volumes; that the statistics of crops are sometimes used for speculative purposes in advance of their publication to the world; that wheat and cotton growers, as well as some manufacturing industries, deem it worth while to collect their own statistical matter as a protection from the government machines for grinding out statistical reports; and that much of the tables of figures regarding social conditions are half-baked, telling nothing not already known fairly well, and used only by bootstrap uplifters in securing more laws and bureaus to cure evils by empirical and quack methods.

I hope that the editor of a powerful publication will let loose some investigators on this problem.

Here is another possibly good idea for a magazine or Sunday newspaper article: Some years ago a business man who knew, in a practical way, all about the iron and steel industry, and who was also interested in taxation, made a study of the tax cost of the steel in a watch. It was an extraordinary showing which he presented to a small group of cultured people, and he might have published the results of his study had he not died suddenly. Because of the minuteness of his computations and the admitted necessity of using estimates only, I doubt if his conclusions would prove convincing to one who had not the time and patience to follow him in his calculations.

But it ought not be a difficult matter to determine the tax cost approximately of a building, an automobile, or a theatre ticket. Some of the taxes, indeed, can be fixed with absolute accuracy; others can be estimated conservatively; and many, like the numerous imposts on materials entering into construction, would be mere guesswork. But a careful worker in the problem could reach a conclusion which would carry conviction.

And newspaper and magazine editors are mistaken if they think that well thought out and well-written articles on taxation would not be widely read.

Cleveland, Ohio.

H. M. H.

COOLIDGE APPARENTLY TOOK FRIGHT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The realtors of the United States have recently issued a call to arms to fight the proposed rent regulation bill in Washington, D. C., fearing

if some such measure is enacted it will be the signal for the states to follow. We, of course, are not in favor of any sort of regulation, but such an enactment might compel the realtors to do some independent thinking outside of their principal stock in trade, i. e., selling real estate at high prices. I taunt them now by saying that if they do not take the Single Tax they may get something worse.

To me it seems, with mounting prices of land on every side, civilization, riding on the crest of a so called prosperity wave, is merely marking time until its final plunge.

Oak Park, Ill.

W. D. TATE.

PESSIMISTIC

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

To my mind the greatest disaster that befell the human race occurred in the declining years of the last century when what was known as the Henry George philosophy, under the name of "The Land for the People," passed into eclipse. In 1886 one of the most bitter campaigns ever waged in New York was in progress. The labor men in and outside the unions were aroused to the greatest enthusiasm. With only three thousand dollars for our campaign and with church and state and a united press in opposition, Henry George was beaten only by wholesale fraud and intimidation.

In the following year Mr. George was nominated on the state ticket, but a division in the ranks when the Socialists withdrew their support weakened our forces. And in 1888 Mr. George in the Cleveland campaign gave his support to the Democratic party. Then was wished on us the title of what since has been known as the Single Tax, and following what was supposed to be the line of last resistance, our movement rapidly declined. Looking back over the years we can easily discover what caused this catastrophe. I do not mean this as a criticism of Henry George; the mistake was ours in forcing him into the position of the political leader of our movement. He had achieved the greatest work in human history when he completed his immortal work, *Progress and Poverty*. But he was not physically strong enough for campaigning. By nature, too, he was too kind and too credulous toward those around him, too little appreciative of the alert intelligence of the Machiavellian minds of the enemies of social justice. He should have been in an editorial room with a labor paper at his back, and we should have got our political leaders from the rank and file. If we could have exchanged our leaders for men of the calibre of the socialist leaders we would have had a majority in congress today.

As it was they organized a party and a press that puts us to shame. That unfortunate misnomer, the Single Tax, damned our movement from the start. Mr. George expressed his dissatisfaction to me and said he could not find a name to satisfy him. I said, "No wonder that we seem to be afraid to claim our real title." He turned on me and said, "What is that?" I said, "What is it we are presenting to the people, a perfect natural Social System that gives the greatest possible liberty to the individual, therefore we are the real Socialists." His objection was that it was preempted by the Socialists, and I said, "Then we should fight for it."

The trouble with us was that we did not have the courage of our convictions. We never really realized the meaning of our movement. We are not taxers; we are really proposing the greatest revolution the world ever saw. We never realized the strength of the sinister forces opposed to us, the schools, the press and organized churchianity. All these are in conspiracy to prevent the people seeing or hearing the great fundamental truths we stand for.

We must demand that the social wealth, land rent, be taken for all public expenses, leaving production and exchange free, for the only natural peacemaker is free trade and the surest guaranty of prosperity. We must appeal to the emotions of the people, for their intelligence has been stunted by the organized forces of education. We must cast faiths and beliefs from us. Only to the extent that we can distinguish Fact from Fiction are we intelligent. I hold the Church responsible for the low state of human knowledge, for it takes the people

in their youth when their minds are plastic and by constant repetition impresses upon the minds of our youth a false conception of life and the world in which we live and our relation to the truth, and after all the natural social order is the only religion that is worthy of the name.

The sinister forces that oppose us are at work everywhere. Over in England the other day when Philip Snowden pledged himself to the bring in a bill in Parliament the dominant forces took alarm and ordered the leaders of the Liberal party to attack the Labor party. By means of a forged letter they denounced the Laborites as reds. And then the government offered an Earldom to Asquith for his treachery to the people. The statesmen strutting on the world's stage, crying peace, peace, where there is no peace, are either fools or knaves, or both.

At seventy seven years, I feel bitterly the catastrophe that has befallen us and refrain from further remarks for fear they would burn the paper on which they were written and all you would receive by mail would be the ashes in the envelope.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

JEROME O'NEIL.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this all too pessimistic letter was an old friend of Henry George. Probably there was no man in the movement in the days of '86 whose friendship Mr. George valued more highly. Mr. O'Neil was at this time prominent in the ranks of labor and he was one of Mr. George's political lieutenants in his first mayoralty campaign.]

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THE *People's Advocate*, of Adelaide, South Australia, gives the speech of E. J. Craigie before the Tariff Commission at the Parliament House. Mr. Craigie submitted his arguments against the tariff and at the conclusion of his address was advised that if the Board decided to cross examine him he would be notified in due course. Mr. Craigie dealt closely with the duties levied on agricultural implements and machinery.

A LENGTHY and very able communication from J. S. MacLean, of Columbus, appears in the Ohio State Journal under the caption, "Our Unjust Tax System."

WE have received a neatly printed little pamphlet containing a tribute to the late Henry W. McFarlane by R. E. Chadwick. Liberal extracts from the writings of Henry George are interspersed.

EDNA K. WOOLEY, who writes entertainingly on many subjects for the Woman's Page of the *Cleveland News*, discusses the Income Tax in a recent issue with an intelligence not often found in the newspapers of the day.

THE Eatontown, N. J. *Advertiser*, of February 20, carries on the front page an article entitled, The Tax Muddle, showing conditions in that state and mentioning the Schalkenbach Bequest as an "interesting incident" in connection with the newly aroused interest in tax reform.

A. B. FARQUHAR, well known manufacturer of agricultural implements at York, Pa., and widely known as a leading free trader, is dead at the age of 86. Mr. Farquhar was reputed to be a Single Taxer and in the early days was a contributor to Henry George's *Standard*. But his letters were usually confined to the tariff and it is doubtful how much of a Single Taxer he really was. But he was not unsympathetic. He helped this paper in its early stages, but was displeased with the action of those of our belief who espoused the cause of Bryan and free silver.

MR. AND MRS. ALBERT SCHALKENBACH visited Fairhope in February. Albert is the brother of the late Robert Schalkenbach and a member of the board of trustees to administer the fund left by the latter for Single Tax work. Albert dates his conversion to the Single Tax several years before Robert.

A WRITER on the real estate page of the *Cleveland Plaindealer* speaks of land as a "commodity." A commodity is something made by the hand of labor. Who made the land?

AN old friend of LAND AND FREEDOM and a veteran Single Taxer, J. H. Sheets, of Long Prairie, Minn., has suffered a bereavement in the death of his wife.

CITIZENS of two residential suburbs of Cleveland which have been the scene of enormous land speculations, held a meeting and appointed 171 of their number as "team workers" to raise \$350,000 for building a church. The newspaper report of this enterprise sounds as if it may have been written by the real estate editor; for it speaks of this section as one that will be "particularly benefited" by the construction of the church.

MRS. CHARLES H. PRESCOTT of Cleveland attended the Women's Conference in Washington on the Causes and Cure of War. On her return she reported to the Cleveland Women's Council for the Promotion of Peace that: "It was agreed that the greatest cause of war was the economic condition of the world, amounting to industrial imperialism, and that no country was safe from foreign aggression until it has a sound economic foundation." She said that another conference will be held at which an attempt will be made "to go to the root of the evil" and formulate a plan for economic adjustments which would make for peace. Women's clubs were urged to study the cause and cure of war.

DR. W. T. HORNADAY advocates a tax on domestic cats because the cat is "the greatest four-footed scourge of bird life." He would tax them to get rid of them. That's a good reason. For example, we do not need houses and so our wise legislators tax them to get rid of them. And it helps some.

THE *Liberator*, of Auckland, New Zealand's Single Tax paper, passed its twenty-fifth birthday with the issue of December, 1924.

OUR friends will regret to learn that Mark M. Dintenfass, of New Jersey, suffered severe wounds by an explosion in the Evans National Film Laboratory at Fort Lee, N. J., which took two lives and injured many. Mr. Dintenfass is part owner of the Evans Laboratory. He has suffered no permanent injury from his wounds.

MISS HELEN E. STEINER told the Business Women's Club of Cleveland that Ohio's public utility companies pay in taxes \$42.19 a minute. A useful piece of information, doubtless, but some of the intelligent and inquiring minds present must have asked: "Well, what's the point."

JAMES F. MORTON, JR., is now curator of the Paterson, N. J. Museum. We congratulate our friend on capturing this coveted position.

THE *London News* contains an article on landlordism from the pen of Josiah Wedgewood under the title, "How the Community is Fleeced."

COUNTY AUDITOR AND ASSESSOR JOHN A. ZANGERLE told the women of the Cleveland Civitan Club that taxes on household goods and farm products ought to be abolished.

GOVERNOR VIC DONAHEY, who, although Ohio gave Coolidge an enormous majority and elected all the rest of the Republican ticket, was successful on the Democratic ticket by 176,000 majority, received a letter recently from a citizen who protested against increasing the number of taxes, and the governor replied flatly that there would be no more with his consent.