

thirty) go to slaughtering each other, while the four oil companies keep watch and tab, ready like harpies to swoop down after the war is over and sink their claws in the polluted fields. Nothing but an international game of grab! Hivens, how much longer will the taxpayers of the world stand for it?"

Henry George Corroborated

HENRY GEORGE, in *Progress and Poverty*, by a process of deductive reasoning reached the conclusion, that in a country where there is an increase in population and material advancement, there is a constant tendency for the ratio of the product that goes to the payment of rent to *increase*; while there is a constant tendency for the ratio of the product that goes to the payment of wages to decrease.

In the year 1890 Carroll D. Wright was Director of the Census Bureau, and he made an attempt to estimate the amount of wealth which on an average was produced by a day's labor in the mills and factories of the Eastern States, and the amount that was paid in wages for this production. His estimates were, that a day's labor produced from eight to ten dollars worth of wealth, and that the wages paid were from two dollars to two and one-half dollars per day, about one fourth of the product going to the payment of wages. Taking the country as a whole, no doubt somewhat more than one fourth of the value of the total product was paid in wages, for wages were generally higher in the West than in the East. On account of the use that was made of this information in certain quarters, succeeding census reports contained no statistics of this kind.

Last year a government bureau estimated the amount of wealth produced in the country during the year at sixty billions of dollars, and the amount paid in wages was estimated at ten billion dollars. A financial institution made similar estimates which agreed closely with those made by the bureau. According to these estimates, since 1890 the amount paid in wages has decreased from one fourth or more to one sixth of the total product. The same conclusion can be reached by comparing rent and wages in new and sparsely populated regions with older communities.

With this tendency working with all the constancy of the force of gravity, how can the future of the country be viewed with complacency? With the evidence from induction corroborating so well the argument from deduction, can the professors of Political Economy still deny the validity of the "Laws of Rent and Wages" as formulated by Henry George?

—W. A. WARREN.

NOTICE: We are still in need of lists of prospects for circularizing and sampling. Send them in!

Impressions of an American Journalist In England and Germany

"THERE are more ways than one to skin a cat." This phrase has been used more or less since the days of Noah, when many thought there would not be much of a shower. The Commonwealth Land Party in England is carrying on an educational campaign for the reform advocated by Henry George, which is both extensive and intensive. When I wrote my article for the July-August Number of LAND AND FREEDOM I had not had the pleasure of meeting J. W. Graham Peace and W. C. Owen, leaders in the Commonwealth Party movement. While those connected with the "United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values" might perhaps be appropriately called bit-by-bit reformers, inclined to the balance-of-power-reward-your-friends-and-punish-your-enemies technique, the Commonwealth Land Party might be called Direct Actionists.

The United Committee seeks to get pledges from members of parliament and candidates for members of parliament for the land reform planks of their platform, but the Commonwealth Land Party has little or no faith that members of any of the present political parties can be depended upon to do much to further the cause of land reform.

The programme of Direct Action advocated by the Commonwealth Party is so simple that the wayfaring man, no matter how thick-headed, can understand it. The party demands, "*that on an appointed date the Crown, as trustee for the people, shall collect for the people the economic rent of the land.*"

Mr. Peace says that his party carefully avoids saying anything about "the taxation of land values," or "Single Tax." When a reform calculated to give to those who are doing the world's work the full product of their labor, is presented in the guise of a Tax Reform movement, it repels many and confuses others. While the simple doctrine that all mankind have an equal right to the use of the earth, and that government as a trustee for the people should exact from those who use the earth and its resources a sum equivalent to their value, is something that can be understood by all.

The Commonwealth Land Party since its organization six years ago, has held 1500 public meetings, at which its doctrines have been set forth. At Tower Hall, near London Tower, every Tuesday at noon it holds an open-air meeting, often attended by five or six hundred persons, and at Finsbury Park every Sunday both in the morning and evening it holds meetings. Its speakers have been heard in every part of the United Kingdom. It publishes a weekly paper, edited by Mr. Peace. Copies of it go to America. In New York Miss Corinne Carpenter, George

Lloyd, and Morris van Veen are among those who have shown their appreciation of *The Commonweal*, as the weekly is called.

Captain H. H. Druitt, J. W. Marsh and Mr. Peace held some lively meetings recently in the Salisbury district. London has a debating society, which is 264 years old. It was organized in 1757. It is called Cogers Hall, and at present it meets at Dyers Arms Restaurant on Cannon Street, every Saturday evening. It discusses the events of the current week and Mr. Peace and Mr. Owen are often hear at these meetings.

Mr. Peace says:

"No solution of the disemployment problem will be found except by way of freedom. Where men are free to work or not as they please there is never unemployment. Where land is held as private property there is always unemployment. Millions of acres of every description of land are idle in this country and this is the originating cause of unemployment. Other causes there are, but they are only consequential and secondary. For example, the loss of trade due to men being out of work leads to others being put off. Taxation to meet the cost of Poor Relief and "dole," by decreasing the purchasing power of the community, checks trade, and puts still more workers out of work. Subsidies, grants-in-aid, and all such raids upon the public purse by sectional interests have precisely the same effect, they add to the volume of unemployment; in short, all taxation acts as a check upon industry and so lessens employment. The relation between idle land and idle men is clearly and undeniably one of cause and effect. We have no patience with temporising proposals. We know that if the "cause" of an effect be removed there can no longer be that effect. So, at the risk of repeating ourselves, we say that only by way of the immediate restoration of the whole of the land will there ever be found a satisfactory and permanent solution to this simple problem that hitherto has baffled all our orthodox politicians and academic economists."

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When I visited Berlin I found the land reformers there maintaining headquarters at No. 11 Lessingstrasser with Dr. A. Damaschke in charge. Very active in the movement are Dr. Richard Schwarz, Ernst Heinrich and Prof. Karl Schewe. I met Prof Schewe at his attractive home in Steglitz, a suburb of Berlin. He is a subscriber to six or eight land reform journals, published in four or five different countries. "Deep poverty and suffering among the working classes" Prof. Schewe said, "is covered in Berlin by a veneer which keeps it out of sight. The streets where some of the poorest people live are wide, kept scrupulously clean, and often the exteriors of the buildings are attractive, with boxes of flowers under the windows, yet within, one will find families of four or five living in one room."

Dr. Schwarz was one of those who took part in the Oxford Conference of land reform advocates in 1923. I did

not have the pleasure of meeting Mr. Heinrich, who lives at Potsdam, but I found his father, a most intelligent and enthusiastic advocate of the philosophy of Henry George. Dr. Damaschke is one of the influential statesmen of Germany, and it was largely through his advocacy that the present German constitution contains a provision which would authorize the Reichstag to take economic rent for public purposes.

Dr. Damaschke gave me the addresses of a number of land reformers in both Geneva and Prague, with letters of introduction, but I am sorry to say I was unable to use them, on account of many engagements and my stay in these cities being brief. —CHESTER C. PLATT.

Benjamin W. Burger Starts A Great Undertaking

NEARLY fifty years after the publication of *Progress and Poverty* it has occurred to a Single Taxer to gather for historical purposes, all material in relation to Henry George. The credit for this gigantic undertaking must go to Benjamin W. Burger, of this city, an attorney of New York who ran for Supreme Court Judge several years ago on the Single Tax party ticket.

Mr. Burger is bearing the entire cost of this enterprise and no one will be asked to contribute a cent. After the material is got together Mr. Burger will prepare a life of Henry George, and the entire collection will be turned over and placed in a permanent home dedicated to the memory of our great leader.

Much material has already been collected. Unfortunately a great deal of valuable data has been destroyed or lost. A case in point is that of the late James Love, of Camden, N. J., who for years had been collecting material pertaining to George.

Mr. Burger has received one valuable collection from the widow of A. R. Saylor, consisting of files of *Justice*, of which Mr. Saylor was the publisher and A. C. Pleydell editor, and numerous letters which passed between Henry George and the committee in charge of the Wilmington campaign.

From William M. Callingham has come the minute book of the Camden Single Tax Club with newspaper clippings. By the way, it is a real pleasure to have a look at Callingham's chirography, it is so closely resembles steel engraving.

James J. McNamara, of Baltimore, has contributed a copy of *Protection or Free Trade* presented to him by Henry George with his autograph. Mr. McNamara came to New York as a young man in 1886 and spoke during the campaign. George was so impressed with his talk on the tariff that he presented him with a copy of his great work.

From Charles Corkhill, of Reading, has come copies of New York papers with reports of the death and funeral of George.