

September—October, 1923

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# Single Tax Review

AN INTERNATIONAL RECORD OF SINGLE TAX PROGRESS  
FOUNDED IN 1901

The Single Tax Conference at Oxford  
(Summarized from the Oxford Chronicle)

An Interesting Chapter in the Proceedings  
R. L. Outhwaite, former M. P.

The Conference as One American Saw It  
R. C. Macauley

At the Sign of the Cat and the Fiddle  
By E. Wye

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## What "The Single Tax Review" Stands For

**L**AND is a free gift of nature, like air, like sunshine. Men ought not to be compelled to pay other men for its use. The right to its use is, if you please, a natural right, because arising out of the nature of man, or if you do not like the term, an equal right, equal in that it should be shared alike. This is no new discovery, for it is lamely and imperfectly recognized by primitive man (in the rude forms of early land communism) and lamely and imperfectly by all civilized communities (in laws of "eminent domain" and similar powers exercised by the State over land). All points of view include more or less dimly this conception of the peculiar nature of land as the inheritance of the human race, and not a proper subject for barter and sale.

The principle having been stated, we come now to the method, the Single Tax, the taking of the annual rent of land—what it is worth each year for use—by governmental agency, and the payment out of this fund for those functions which are supported and carried on in common—maintenance of highways, police and fire protection, public lighting, schools, etc. Now if the value of land were like other values this would not be a good method for the end in view. That is, if a man could take a plot of land as he takes a piece of wood, and fashioning it for use as a commodity give it a value by his labor, there would be no special reason for taxing it at a higher rate than other things, or singling it out from other taxable objects. But land, without the effort of the individual, grows in value with the community's growth, and by what the community does in the way of public improvements. This value of land is a value of community advantage, and the price asked for a piece of land by the owner is the price of community advantage. This advantage may be an excess of production over other and poorer land determined by natural fertility (farm land) or nearness to market or more populous avenues for shopping, or proximity to financial mart, shipping or railroad point (business centers), or because of superior fashionable attractiveness (residential centers). But all these advantages are social, community-made, not a product of labor, and in the price asked for the sale or use of land, a manifestation of community-made value. Now in a sense the value of everything may be ascribed to the presence of a community, with an important difference. Land differs in this, that neither in itself nor in its value is it the product of labor, for labor cannot produce more land in answer to demand, but can produce more houses and food and clothing, whence it arises that these things cost less where population is great or increasing, and land is the only thing that costs more.

To tax this land at its true value is to equalize all people-made advantages (which in their manifestation as value attach only to land), and thus secure to every man that equal right to land which has been contended for at the outset of this definition.—**JOSEPH DANA MILLER.** Condensed from **SINGLE TAX YEAR BOOK.**

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#### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

A number of communications treating of the question raised by Cecil St John in our May-June issue on the question of rent in its relation to mineral lands, are crowded out of this issue.

# The Single Tax Review

VOL. XXIII

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER, 1923

No. 5

## Current Comment

THE International Single Tax Conference at Oxford, England, has passed into history. Though representatives of fourteen nations were gathered, no mention of the event appeared in any of the newspapers of the United States. The Oxford papers, the *Chronicle* and the *Times*, favored the conference with elaborate reports in which all the addresses were fairly summarized.

At the opening of the Conference occurred an incident which may be destined to have far-reaching results. We shall depend for its recital on the Oxford *Times* from which we quote as follows:

"The declaration of principle and policy was then put as a resolution, and carried.

Mr. OUTHWAITE moved an amendment that the following words be deleted from the declaration:

"That, to attain this end in the simplest, easiest and most practical way, public revenues be obtained by imposing taxation on the value of land apart from improvements due to private enterprise and expenditure; that such taxation, national and local, be based on a valuation showing the actual market value of each piece of land in separate occupation or suitable for separate occupation irrespective of the improvements in it or upon it, the valuation being made public and being kept up to date by periodic revision; that taxation on land value be payable by each person interested in the value of the land and in proportion to his interest, and be treated as a public rent charge having priority over all other charges; and that an annual tax, levied without exemption on the actual market value on all land at an equal rate per unit of value in substitution for existing taxes on wages, trade, industry and improvements would at once bring about great and beneficial changes in the social and industrial condition of the people." He also moved that the words: "That the complete taxation of land value would provide such public revenue as would render all tariff and restrictive taxes unnecessary" be altered to: "That the complete collection of economic rent," etc. Their concern, he said, was to see if they could not get the slaves themselves to stand for their own emancipation, instead of going to the slave owners and asking them to be kind to their slaves and give them a little liberty. They should take the cause out of the category of rates and taxes, and present it to the people as one for their liberation. They wanted liberty in full, and with the aid of the people they could achieve it.

Mr. MACAULEY (America), seconded the amendment, and a general discussion followed until the Conference adjourned for lunch."

THE amendment was beaten later by a vote of 31 to 80.

A week later the officers of the group known as the Commonwealth League, with Hon. R. L. Outhwaite, former M.P., Mr. Warriner, an American resident in England, John E. Grant, author of that remarkable work, "The Problem of War and Its Solution", W. C. Owen, Dr. Pearson, both writers on economic subjects, J. Graham Pease and others met and organized a party, the first Single Tax Party in England, probably to be known as The Commonwealth Land Party. This meeting was held in a seventeenth century room in Fleet street, London, on the evening of Tuesday, August 28th, in a room known as Prince Henry's Room. A correspondent tells us that it was probably in this room that Prince Henry, who was the son of James II, received the rents of the Duchy of Cornwall, part of which estate is in Westminster. At this gathering of the Commonwealth Committee a meeting was arranged for in the great pottery district of Birmingham, and Mr. Outhwaite announced that he would stand as a candidate of the new party at the first bye-election.

THIS great question of ours (to use the language of Mr. Outhwaite), "will at last be raised out of the category of rates and taxes," and presented as a question of the liberation of the land. This is what we have been trying to do here, and in the success that has attended it the Single Tax Party has been largely instrumental. If the New Commonwealth Land Party can give to the real Georgian principle the emphasis that it so sadly needs in British politics, every Single Taxer will wish it God speed.

THE Single Taxers of Great Britain have looked to the Liberal Party for aid and continue to look to it, despite successive betrayals, thus furnishing an analogy to the experience of American Single Taxers with the delectable democracy from the time of Grover Cleveland to that of Woodrow Wilson.

BY an increasing number it is now perceived that the policy of looking for aid to Liberals and Laborites to advance the cause is a mistake—the same mistake we ourselves have made on this side of the ocean. To Messrs. Outhwaite, Grant, Graham Pease, Warriner and others, those of us who want the standard lifted high, free from "entangling alliances" with political parties, as the great measure that means a new and real human freedom, will look longingly across the Atlantic waters.

WE present in this issue an abridgement of the report from the *Oxford Chronicle* because it contains much of interest to American readers recounted by a reporter who

observed merely what he was sent to record; a more intimate and revealing chapter from Mr. Outhwaite's report of the Conference for the REVIEW; and an article by one of the American delegates, Robert C. Macauley, by common agreement the leader of the American delegation. This, we think, places the facts of the event before our readers and calls for no special number or additional pages for their recital. The Conference was without visible effect upon the organs of public opinion. Outside of the Oxford papers the event passed almost unnoticed in the press of the metropolis and throughout the United Kingdom.

AND now begins a new era in the history of the movement in Great Britain. The scene shifts from II Tothill street, London, to 43 Chancery Lane, now the headquarters of the Commonwealth Land party. Some of our readers will remember that at the time of Lloyd George's introduction of the Budget providing for a tax on land values of a small fraction in the pound, among the brave words that accompanied this proposed fractional installment of liberty, was Churchill's "We are ringing up the curtain on a play that is going to have a long run." Well, it didn't run long. The players did a lot of barnstorming for a period, and then retired from the stage. The curtain was rung down. And then the people who had paid to see the advertised show filed out, and some new political attraction was offered to the cheated and disinherited. Now the great drama is resumed, with a different set of actors, and the curtain will fall only when the last act is finished.

IT is not by homeopathic applications of a land value tax that the situation in England, or indeed anywhere else, can be cured. As for England herself, she is desperately sick. Millions of pounds in doles are being expended for the relief of the unemployed, and the need is increasing; her poverty has grown from an excrescence to a dreadful sore, and is spreading. And as a remedy for this condition she is offered, what? Land restoration? Freedom for the disinherited? No. Only a small tax on land values—the Liberal programme of a Penny in the Pound. Great God! And at such a time and in such a world! Far less, this that is offered her, by many times than obtains in any city in the United States, for in England it may be necessary to state, land bears no taxes at all.

TIME, indeed, Messrs. Members of the United Committee, that some one raised the banner of Land Restoration. The time is ripe—ay, over-ripe—for a new Cobden and Bright to lift the standard of a free earth. The economic rent of land is the People's commonwealth, the land itself is the people's heritage. Who shall say them nay? Who shall postpone the time for the coming of mankind into their inheritance? The time is NOW! Who shall say that liberty, not all at once but in installments,

is the true and only feasible programme—a penny in the pound this year and another penny the next, with starvation outstripping the progress of emancipation!

TO come to the practical side of the matter. One of the members of the United Committee said at the Conference, in substance and almost in these words: "We cannot adopt the name Single Tax for our elections—our tickets here are the Liberal and Labor programmes." Well, one of these programmes is a Penny in the Pound, and the other, compensation to the landlords! Henderson's letter, which we print elsewhere, is an excellent statement, but he is secretary of a party that favors compensation to the landlords—a policy of binding over the slaves for a period of years to the same tribute-takers! Henderson has condemned the Commonwealth League's programme as "confiscation," and Asquith has formally disapproved of what we as Single Taxers stand for. And yet we are told that these are the political leaders British Single Taxers are following, that while we preach the taking of the full economic rent by the people because it is theirs of right, when we come to the practical application of the principle we propose something else—that only a very small part of it be taken, or if we take all of it, the British people shall be condemned to pay for what we have preached insistently these many years belongs to them!

## The "Business Cycle," or Permanent Prosperity?

BANKERS, financiers and economists are discussing the business cycle;—the recurrence at frequent intervals of what is termed a period of overproduction, and seem to agree that these cycles are due to decreased purchasing power on the part of the consuming public. To the question why buying power should decrease the economists have varying replies, none of which appears to be more than a superficial explanation. The colored man who said that the earth rests on a tortoise, and the tortoise on a rock, replied to the query: "What does the rock rest on?" with the conclusive rejoinder. "There's rocks all the way down." Much to the same effect is the statement that productive activities depend upon purchasing power; that ability to buy depends upon productive capacity, and that cycles of prosperity and depression run all the way down.

If it is true that the phenomena of industry and trade are governed by natural laws that operate so that as consumers the people are not able to buy back as much wealth as they can and do produce, political economy would indeed be a dismal science. There is, however, no reason for believing that inability of consumption to keep pace with production is a natural or necessary condition. It would be absurd to say that fishermen were unemployed because they had caught too many fish; that grain growers

were poor because their crops were too abundant; that artisans were idle because there were too many houses. Yet in the complicated scheme of the modern order this is exactly what happens. Steam, electricity and the invention of labor-saving machinery, have so vastly increased man's powers that every form of consumable wealth can be readily produced in almost unlimited quantities. Only a very small percentage of the people of any country are able to buy all the useful things they need. They can produce, but do not get a return for their product that enables them to complete the circle of production, exchange and consumption. Here is plainly the riddle to be solved. In what way can the intricate mechanism of production and distribution be so adjusted that the orderly flow of wealth may be continuous, and not, as now, intermittent?

## Tell the Farmers the Truth

SENATOR MOSES says that the farmers have good reasons for discontent with the relatively low return for their labor, and capital invested in their farms. In no other American industry in the net profit so small as in agriculture. What can be done to improve conditions? There are the old, old suggestions for getting the farmer out of debt by lending him more money; for increased production through more scientific farm methods; for Government fixing of prices; for more anti-railroad legislation. They have the obvious defect that they lead to the same result; an ever-increasing surplus of farm crops for which no market can be found. Why not tell the truth about the farmers? Millions of them are poor and in debt because they have been robbed of a large share of the value of their products. They have been robbed by the high protective tariff. By excessively high interest rates. By unduly high freight rates. By unjust systems of local, county and state taxation. There is no mystery about the causes of agricultural depression. The remedy is not in the direction of more laws, commissions and regulation of industry, but in the repeal of the class legislation from which the farmers are suffering. The best thing that Governments can do for the farmer is to reduce the oppressive burden of taxation that is crushing him; and destroy land monopoly by establishing the Single Tax; and leave him alone to work out his own problems.

## Why Taxes are Not Reduced

REPORTS received by the National Industrial Conference from the various states show that with the exception of a few Western States there has been no cutting down of annual budgets, and no decrease of tax burdens. New administrations pledged to economy and lower taxes were elected in many states, but were helpless against the urgent demands for larger appropriations. Everybody favors economy as a general proposition, but when it comes to their particular interests they join in ad-

vocating public activities that mean larger drains upon the taxpayers. New taxes on capital, trade and industry are levied, and found to have the inevitable result of increasing the already too-high cost of living. Thus the process of taking a large percentage of the annual wealth production for unproductive purposes has reached a stage that threatens industrial and commercial prosperity.

Taxes mean work. However levied and collected, they can only be paid in the products of labor. In so far as they diminish the purchasing power of the producers they directly decrease consumption and limit industry and trade. Taxes on capital—savings that should be used in the production of more wealth—limit its supply and result in higher interest rates. Taxes on industrial or transportation corporations are added to the cost of goods or the price paid for services. Taxes on buildings are added to the rents. Business taxes are shifted to the ultimate consumer. Juggling with tax laws does not alter the fact that as now imposed taxes are a burdensome draft upon the productive forces of the country.

What is the remedy? Nothing better can be expected from law-makers until an intelligent public sentiment has been created, that will demand fundamental changes in methods of taxation. The first step should be the substitution of direct taxes for present indirect taxing systems, so as to bring home to each citizen a realization of the meaning to him or her of the costs of municipal, state, and national governments. Until this is done there would seem to be little prospect of a substantial reduction in the burden of taxation.

## “Pigeon Paley”

WHEN Paley wrote his “Moral Philosophy” in 1875 he earned for himself the nickname “Pigeon Paley” by a paragraph which his friend Law advised him to cut out saying it would exclude him from the chance of a bishopric. He retorted, “Bishop or no Bishop, it shall go in,” and this is what went in:—

“If you should see a flock of pigeons in a field of corn, and if (instead of each picking where and what it liked, taking just as much as it wanted and no more) you should see 99 of them gathering all they got into a heap; reserving nothing for themselves but the chaff and refuse, keeping this heap for one, and that the weakest perhaps and worst pigeon of the flock; sitting around, and looking on all the winter whilst this one was devouring, throwing about and wasting it; and if a pigeon more hardy or hungry than the rest touched a grain of the hoard, all the others instantly flying upon it and tearing it to pieces; if you should see this you would see nothing more than what is every day practiced and established among men.”

If poverty is appointed by the power which is above us all, then it is no crime; but if poverty is unnecessary, then it is a crime for which society is responsible, and for which society must suffer. —HENRY GEORGE.

# The International Single Tax Conference At Oxford, England

(Abridged From Report in Oxford Chronicle)

AN International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values was opened at the Assembly Room on Tuesday. Representatives from 14 countries were present, including an especially large delegation from the United States. Proceedings began the previous evening with a reception and a Henry George commemoration dinner. Numerous papers, followed by discussions, were read at the sessions on such subjects as "The International Aspect of Land Value Policy," "The Attitude of the British Political Parties to the Question," "Practical Progress in Denmark, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and Other Countries," "Land Monopoly," "War and Public Debts," etc.

Among the principal speakers were Mr. Jacob E. Lange (an authority on horticulture, author, translator, and principal of one of the famous Danish agricultural high schools), Mr. Bolton Hall (the American economist), Mr. R. C. Macauley (Philadelphia), Mr. Fiske Warren (the protagonist of the "Single Tax Colonies" in America), Dr. Julius J. Pikler (Chief of the Valuation Department at Budapest), Dr. Robert Braun (Hungarian translator of "Progress and Poverty"), Senor Antonio Albendin (Spain), Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., Wilson Raffan and Dr. J. Dundas White (both ex-M.P.'s).

Mrs. Henry George, jun., and the grandchildren of Henry George came over from America to attend.

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPATHY

Mr. A. W. Madsen (secretary) read telegrams from the Agent-General of Queensland, from the Argentine Single Taxation Association, the High Commissioner of Canada, the Agent-General of Quebec, from New South Wales and South Africa, the Norwegian, Swedish, and Swiss Legations, the Japanese Ambassador, the Minister for the Croats and Slovans, and the Mexican Charge d'Affaires, expressing sympathy with the conference. Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., Secretary of the Labor Party, sent a message affirming his support of the reform advocated by the conference.

Amongst those present also were Councilor Ludlow (Typographical Association), Mr. H. Keen (President of the Oxford Trades and Labor Council), Mr. W. S. Snelgrove (N.U.R.), representatives of the Building Trades Operatives, Mr. Smith (secretary of Ruskin College), etc.

## THE BANNER OF THE SINGLE TAX

The President (Mr. Charles E. Crompton), in welcoming the delegates in the name of the United Committee, specially welcomed the American delegates, who had come

over in such splendid force, and referred to the fact that beyond those from Great Britain, the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland, and the various colonies, delegates were present from Denmark, Germany, Spain, Hungary, etc. They had come to do reverence to the memory of Henry George. They came as firm believers in the teaching of Henry George and his "Progress and Poverty." They would take council together and endeavour to find the best way to carry forward his great teaching and his message to the world. Civilization had got to such a pitch that it was bent on destroying itself. They could only get back to the teaching of "Progress and Poverty" if the remedy was faced in time. Forty years ago Henry George came to this country and conducted a hurricane campaign which captured the imagination of the people. They met once again to raise the banner of the Single Tax.

## BRITAIN AND FRANCE

Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., referred with much satisfaction to the British Note to France. The only possible League of Nations would be based on international brotherhood. They must fight against the rapacity of interest and privilege, and try to see the doctrine of Henry George in its true perspective. They must have the courage of the principles that were in them. Oxford was the centre of academic training, and perhaps of much that was reactionary. They need not deplore the tardiness of their progress; the wonder was that they had been able to prevail at all. The most powerful way to kill truth was to ignore it, and but for the efforts of Henry George, much dry nonsense from the economists of Oxford and Cambridge might never have seen the light of day. Only by economic freedom could the League of Nations grow; the only League at present was the League men piously hoped for but which did not exist.

Mrs. Henry George and Miss Gertrude George also spoke. The former recalled early recollections of Henry George, and the latter spoke for the rising generation of women voters.

## MAYOR'S WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed the delegates on Tuesday. It had been said that Oxford was the home of the lost causes. However that might be, the history of Oxford had been written in very deep lines not only in the history of England but in the history of the world. They had a written history dating back 1,000 years, and he was the 800th

Mayor. (Applause.) From the college much that was renowned had been handed down.

### THE DECLARATION OF POLICY

The President in his address, referred members to the declaration of principle and policy. Everyone had an equal right to life, so everyone had an equal right to the land; the tenure of the land was the great governing fact which ultimately determined the economic, political, and consequently the intellectual and moral condition of a people. The unequal distribution of wealth, the persistence of poverty, and the recurrent periods of industrial depression, which were the cause and menace of modern civilization, were the evil results of permitting private individuals to levy tribute on the earnings of industry by appropriating the economic rent of land. The more completely the land was monopolized in any country the greater the insecurity of employment.

Other points in the declaration of policy referred to were the advocacy as a principle of universal application that the equal right to the land be established; that the easiest way to attain this end was taxation, national and local, to be based on a valuation showing the actual market value of each piece of land; taxation on land value, payable by each person interested; the maintenance of an annual tax, etc.

### HOSTILE TO WAR

At the evening session on Tuesday Mr. H. G. Chancellor spoke on the object of the movement, which was human freedom the world over. The object of force was oppression. They were therefore hostile to war; their international aim was friendship through freedom. War was the negation of every moral principle and every humane statement. It could only be carried on by abandoning every principle of religion and civilization. Even the imperfect application in the realms of thought and civil and political life of justice with freedom had made bloodshed obsolete in most civilized states. Its extension to the economic sphere would eliminate nearly all the causes which now breed violence and class warfare within these states.

### INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS

Mr James Dundas White dealt with "The International Aspect of Land Value Policy," and said the further the policy was developed in various countries the more closely would they approach the larger ideal of regarding the earth as heritage of the children of men and its rent as their common revenue. It would give free scope to industry, production, and exchange throughout the world. In practice, of course, each nation had to legislate for its own territory. In England the immediate objective was to reform the present system of taxing and rating landed properties by taxing and rating those who held the land

according to the true market value of the land that they held and by untaxing and unrating houses and all other improvements. To do this would break land monopoly, would make land available for use on fair terms, and give free scope to its development. It would remove causes of poverty and unrest.

### TRUE FREE TRADE

The policy would have further advantages, for the removal of the taxes on production would result, and the citizens of the one nation would be enabled to trade freely with those of the other nation. This Free Trade went far beyond mere anti-Protectionism. The land value policy gave a new outlook, a new orientation of thought.

### DANISH PROGRESS

Mr. W. R. Lester, who presided later, referring to a visit to Germany, said passing from Denmark, where there were smiling faces everywhere he found misery. We had a lot to learn from the small countries. At Bremen, which was outside the German Reich, a law had been passed for taxation of land values. In Hamburg there was every probability of the same thing being done.

Mr. Abel Brink (Copenhagen, secretary of the Danish Henry George Union) said the Henry George Union was formed in 1902, and the movement had a great following in Denmark. They wanted access to the land, and they wanted the abolition of taxes on merchandise. He thought his nation had done a little to advance the cause. Seventeen thousand people who might have now been unemployed were settled on the land. That the land belonged to the people was a common basis for international agreement.

Mrs. Signe Bjorner (Copenhagen) dealt with the land question from the spiritual standpoint. Any man who would take up this great idea would be a statesman; all the rest would be politicians. She had heard a speaker in Denmark once say that Socialism was born of despondency, Georgeism was optimism.

They had a political party in Denmark whose platform was Georgist.

Mr. Andrew McLaren, M.P., declared that under the present rating system of England land and labor, the two essentials to production, were divorced from each other, and while the land remained empty the unemployed stalked the streets. We were told that houses would be provided now that the State was subsidising the builders, but the first need in housing was land, and as soon as there was any mention of houses up went the value of land. If it suddenly became so prodigiously valuable, let the owner be rated at his own estimate—surely that was fair. He knew a plot which was withheld for years at a price of £6,000, and when it was sold ultimately for a secondary school site, those who raised the question discovered that notwithstanding the price paid the original owners

retained the full mineral rights, and in addition to this if the land subsided owing to mining operations they were not to be held liable. That was typical of many other instances.

Mr. Alex Paletta (Berlin) spoke on "The Taxation of Land Values in Germany," and said the decay of German money had affected the whole tax system. The mortgages, which amounted to 60 milliards of gold marks, had almost disappeared. For instance, a piece of land in 1914 might carry 100,000 gold marks, which equalled £5,000 in English money. In 1923 it would carry 100,000 paper marks, which equalled about 1 1-5th pence. He had not the latest quotations. (Laughter.)

Senor Antonio Albendin, Cadiz, editor of the *Impuesta Unico*, brought greetings from the Spanish delegation.

### LABOR PARTY'S DEMAND

On Friday night Mr. Andrew MacLaren, Labor M.P. for Burslem, speaking on the attitude of political parties to the taxation of land values, said that when he got to the House of Commons he had to act on the Agricultural Committee, and he found it was more concerned with the distribution of ham and eggs and butter and milk than the land. He and Colonel Wedgwood carried on the fight for a Single Tax. He had pressed with Mr. Ramsay Macdonald that in place of the Agricultural Committee there should be set up an inquiry. The first demand of the Labor party was valuation as quickly as possible. For what purpose? For the taxation and rating of land values. That was where the Labor party stood today. They would use this valuation when they got into power.

The conference afterwards issued the following manifesto, which will be translated into all the European languages, including Gaelic, and also into Japanese and Chinese:

### MANIFESTO

"We the disciples of Henry George from fourteen nations in conference at Oxford, send this message and challenge to all rulers responsible for the government of nations. 'The war to end war' has ended in a peace that has ended peace. Now there must be a new statecraft whose purpose is the liberty of the people and whose method is justice, and such we here offer, challenging a denial of its claims, whether from the standpoint of politics, business, economics, or righteousness.

"We hold this truth to be self-evident, that the system of land tenure in every country is the greatest factor in the life of the people. Plainly, the unjust inequalities of wealth, the ever-recurring business and industrial depressions, and the persistence of poverty with the vice, crime, and misery it compels, are results of private monopoly of land, the private confiscation of land rents, and a denial of the rights of the common people to the land of their country. Plainly

the closer this land monopoly the lower the wages of all labor and the returns from business, industry, and thrift, and the poorer the economic, social, and spiritual condition of the people.

"This is a world-wide and not a local or national issue. What matter to German or Frenchman, be he laborer or businessman, whether the monopolists who consume at his expense the enormous economic rent of the Ruhr mines live in France or Germany? These evils, which make unceasing civil strife within the nations and result in war between nations for more land, can be ended only by abolishing private monopoly of land and the unjust taxation levied because the people have been robbed of their communal rights in their fatherland. To effect this we urge the equal rights of all to the land be asserted by collecting as public revenue the economic rent of land by the direct taxes of land values and abolishing all other taxes, replacing the commerce destroying and war breeding international tariff by the absolute freedom of trade which is the natural right of all men."

### MR. ROBERT SMILLIE'S MESSAGE

At the morning session on Saturday, a message from Mr. Robert Smillie, M. P., was received, in which he stated, "I am deeply interested in the proceedings of the International Conference and I would gladly have taken advantage of the opportunity to be present had I been within reasonable distance of Oxford, but it is impossible, as I have engagements in the Morpeth Division during the coming week-end. During my brief stay in the Island of Islay I had an opportunity of inspecting the ruins of some small villages and many cottages, where at one time lived and moved the men and women who produced their living from the soil. I have seen large patches of land which were once productive but now waste. My brief experience had made me more determined than ever to denounce the present cursed system of land ownership in this country."

### ENCLAVES

Mr. Fiske Warren (Harvard) spoke on enclaves of economic rents, and explained that enclaves were small holdings under the operation of the Single Tax. In 1885 some settlers went from Iowa to Mobile and experienced many vicissitudes. The system developed, and the settlers held their land, which was partly under control of a trustee, and the land was leased, the lessee having to pay the economic rent. He owned his improvements and everything but the site.

### FREE LAND

Mr. Frank Stephens, the American sculptor, spoke of the experiment in Delaware with the settlement of Arden. Land there was given to any laborer who applied for it, and given quite free of cost. Based on that freedom of



access to the land, they had built up a successful community. Soon the mechanics came, then the business and professional people, then the artists and the dramatists. There was education, but they did not spend public money on education, believing that education was not the function of the government.

Mr. Bolton Hall recalled the progress of the movement in America, and said 26 per cent. of the total vote was for the Single Tax in California, and Oregon and Missouri followed closely.

#### AGAINST NATIONALISATION

At a special afternoon session on Saturday, Dr. S. Vere Pearson moved the following resolution: "We followers of the philosophy of Henry George in international conference assembled are opposed to all schemes which have underlying them nationalisation of land by way of purchasing it or by the issue of bonds in compensation to landholders."

Mr. Macauley seconded. This resolution was adopted at a subsequent session.

Mr. P. Wilson Raffan said that nationalisation of the land by purchase would meet with opposition from all sections of the people. The movement had always been kept above party politics, and however powerful or strong a party might be who brought nationalisation forward, they would regard it as a reactionary policy. (Applause.)

Mr. Peter Burt (Glasgow) wanted the tax on land to have the effect of bringing land into use.

Mr. Robert Macauley said in the United States all land was taxed, whether in use or not in use. It must be made unprofitable to the owner to keep land out of use.

#### THE ETHICAL SIDE

At the morning session on Sunday, Mr. C. H. Smithson (Halifax) recalled the Free Trade Conference at Antwerp. He was glad to note that the concluding sessions were to be devoted to the ethical side. Henry George had taught them that economic law and moral law were essentially the same. His was a gospel of glad tidings. Properly understood, the laws governing production and distribution showed them that want and anguish were not necessary. Competition in a society founded on justice, would be a perfect instrument, and would ensure a full reward to the services of Labor. Not until justice was established would love be realized, and this was the gospel the stricken world was aching to receive. This was the gospel it was the function of the churches to carry to the people.

#### SWEDEN AND NORWAY

Mr. Johan Hansson (Stockholm) and Mr. S. Wielgolaski (Christiana) dealt with "The Position in Sweden and Norway."

Mr. Hansson said the Swedes were new leaders in economics. Tariffs had helped to undermine financial stand-

ing, and he regretted the appearance of the tariffs in England (the safeguarding of the Industries Act). The speaker supported Free Trade throughout the world. The leading economists in Sweden held that the real Liberal community was impossible without socialising the rent of the land.

Mr. Wielgolaski said in Norway there were many not in favor of land taxation. The total area of cultivated land was over a million acres, and there were thousands of farms. There was peasant proprietorship, and 40 per cent. of the land belonged to the farmers themselves.

Mr. A. W. Madsen spoke on "The Taxation of Land Values in Operation in the British Dominions and Other Countries."

#### FINAL SESSION

Mr. A. W. Metcalf (Belfast), who presided at the final session on Sunday evening said the Single Tax was part of religion. Henry George himself was a great individualist, and no one would be more tolerant than he of individual views. He referred to the movement in Northern Ireland, and hoped it would in time gain the ear of the Northern Government.

Mr. Charles E. Crompton and Mr. John Paul spoke on "The United Committee: Its Activities and Its Place in the Movement."

Mr. Crompton said when the conference was first decided upon it was the main object that something should be achieved as a result. He thought the conference had been a success in that they had had an unequalled banquet of thought. They had come to a very critical point, and they were all agreed that something must be done to prevent civilization destroying itself. Everybody seemed to concede that there were two classes of people in the world—the privileged, and those who were without privilege. When they discussed social questions they would hear of the "nice people" and the working classes. The Tories recognized their own class and the inferior class. The Tories were very sorry for the inferior grade of people and to their honour they did all they could for them. Then they had the great party which stood for freedom and democracy—the Liberal Party. But the Liberal Party had tacitly admitted the same idea as the Tory Party, that there were this inferior grade of people, and (it was a horrid word) the gentlefolk. And so they came forward with mock measures of reform. They tried to help those on the poverty side. Then they came to the Labor Party, elected from the poverty side, and this party proclaimed that the workers had not had a fair chance, and put forward their own representatives instead of depending on the Tories and the Liberals. Let the workers themselves elect the people that would control their destinies. The unfortunate thing was that the people who elected them took the same view as the Tories and the liberals. The Labor leaders agreed just as much as the Tories and the Liberals that the workers were slaves.

They would not let the Tories or the Liberals control the slaves. They would elect slave drivers from their own ranks to control the slaves. That was his view of the Labor Party. There had been no suggestion from any of the three parties that the slaves should be set free. Between Single Taxers and the three political parties there was a great gulf. The Single Taxers demanded the freedom of the slaves and nothing else. The United Committee had stood for that one object. The committee had been kept alive by earnest men, poor and rich. They had had a very hard struggle to keep the movement alive. The conference at Oxford would mean a tremendous advance to the movement, for it had concentrated the eyes of the politicians of the country. Every politician, Tory, Liberal, and Labor knew what had been going on in Oxford, and in the next few months he was convinced they would see a very great change come over the face of politics in this country. They had raised again the standard of Henry George in this conference, and they were prepared to fight for it to the death.

Mr. E. M. Ginders (Manchester) contended that the taxation of land values was a first-class political question. The campaign in 1910 was of great advantage to the outside world, and had had immense value in putting forward again the doctrine of Henry George. Their programme offered the only possible means of escape from the economic paralysis that was creeping upon them.

#### WHAT CAMPBELL BANNERMAN DID

Mr. John Paul spoke on the work of the late Campbell Bannerman for the taxation of land values, and its echo in Scotland. The municipality of Glasgow had taken a leading part. But Conservatives being in power, the Bill did not get beyond the second reading. Then Campbell Bannerman and his party were returned to power in 1906 and they got support. In 1909, when the Budget came along, the Government was obliged to include the Taxation of Land Values, and England and Scotland were turned into a debating society for the taxation of land values.

Some reference had been made to the Cobden movement, but they could not start fair with the Cobden movement until they had valuation of land as the law of the country, and they could not get that except by education and propaganda.

#### SUPPORTING PROGRESSIVES

They could not adopt the ticket "Single Tax" as the Americans did, but their ticket here was the Liberal and Labor programme, the election campaign of the Liberal and of Laborist.

A resolution was passed, "That this International Conference of the followers of Henry George assembled at Oxford send greetings to their fellow workers in all lands."

Mr. Peter Burt paid a tribute to Mr. John Paul, who never in the darkest movement had faltered in hope or faith.

## An Interesting Session of the Conference

ABRIDGED FROM REPORT OF  
HON. R. L. OUTHWAITE

THURSDAY afternoon the debate on the amendment moved by Mr. R. L. Outhwaite on Tuesday, to the Declaration and Policy furnished by the United Committee was resumed. This amendment sought to substitute the "complete collection of economic rent" for the taxation proposals of the United Committee.

The Chairman announced that the time limit on each speaker would be five minutes.

Mr. James A. Robinson protested that delegates who had come thousands of miles at great personal sacrifice to debate this issue should not be constrained to state their case in five minutes. The time of the session should be extended.

This proposal called forth the opposition of the step-by-steppers and the Chairman announced that the restriction would be maintained. Mr. James A. Robinson urged that provision should be made when the vote was taken for the organizations which the delegates represented to be recorded. The Chairman announced that no such proposal could be accepted.

Mr. S. J. Gee (Commonwealth League,) speaking as one whose work lay among agricultural laborers, said they were simple minded persons. They thought that a "tax" meant a "tax" and could not see how further taxation could help them. It might be hard to drop the word "tax" after 40 years of advocacy, but the use of the word "rent" gave their strongly entrenched opponents no opportunity to confuse the issue and the aim they sought to achieve.

Mr. R. C. Macauley criticising the language of the declaration said the mere exemption of improvements would not end land speculation. The experience of Vancouver had proved that as long as the annual increase in land value was greater than the tax, speculation would continue. In Vancouver after the imposition of the tax and the exemptions of buildings the landlords had benefited by 67 million dollars. The statement in the United Committee declaration was economically false. Were "the collection of the entire economic rent" substituted the statement would be adequate.

Mr. Macauley was only fairly launched on his criticism when the Chairman's bell rang and he had to resume his seat after five minutes' exposition of the case that he had crossed the Atlantic to maintain.

Mr. Weller, (U. C.) said that it was untrue to say that the Taxation of Land Values made no moral appeal. He was trying to restore peace. He was not accusing the "all at once" apostles of insincerity. They were all out for one thing. A change of term was not going to accomplish it. It was purely difference in the use of the terms. The Manchester League demanded all, and so did all the speak-

ers. One of the members of the Commonwealth League had urged them to seek peace. If the amendment were accepted would Mr. Outhwaite cease to attack the Land Values group in his journal? Unity was impossible under these circumstances. They could all work in their own way without attacking one another. They were all out for one thing.

Mr. C. H. Smithson said that one of the chief objections to the collecting of the whole economic rent all at once was that it could not be done. There were no means of ascertaining the true economic value of land until they had taxed it. The Land Nationalizer had been driven to "Tax and Buy." It was necessary first to tax the land so as to find the true economic value after the monopoly value had been squeezed out.

Mr. J. A. Robinson said that the Declaration had already been passed by the United Committee and steps had been taken to ensure it being passed. The delegates of the American Single Tax Party were therefore only interested spectators. They had assembled from all parts of the world to listen to a reiteration of the views of the United Committee which would presently be carried by their delegates without adequate discussion. He knew that courtesy was part of the English character and they might well permit some slight modification of policy. He would like to take home with him the feeling that their movement was something more than a mere local matter of rates and taxes.

Mr. H. G. Chancellor, (U. C.) said that there had been no attempt to over-ride the opinions of delegates from other parts of the world. Every member had the same right with other members. The theory of the taxation of land values—the taking of the economic rent—was not a new one. They had been explaining it for years. Nobody was in doubt a tax on land values was the taking of a portion of the economic rent. Taxation was understood. They had built up on it a great propaganda. They had won two elections on it. They had created public opinion on the matter. Two of the political parties had the principle in their programme. They should not destroy what had been done.

Mr. W. J. Shaeffer, (America,) said that if their policy was to take the full economic rent of land why did they not put it into their Declaration. Why object to the amendment? Why make a half way measure of the thing? On the question of whether the Commonwealth League would promise not to attack the United Committee, —must they give a bond as to their action tomorrow? Emerson wrote of "foolish consistency." He would do the thing today that occurred to him to do. If after subscribing to principles he saw a new method, he would take it. Henry George had said that it would be better that the rent of land should be thrown into the sea than to go into private pockets. Henry George showed the evil effect of any part of the rent going to the landlords. He

regretted having to go back from the Conference feeling that they were not united on a general declaration of principle. Those for whom he spoke were insistent on having a policy adopted so that it would accord with fundamental principles. Were this not done the Conference would have been futile. The Chairman at this point tinkled his bell and Mr. Shaeffer ended, so far as the Conference was concerned, the message that he had crossed the Atlantic to deliver.

Mr. M. Warriner, (C.L.) said that there was no difference of principle between the Henry George men in that room. They all believed that the earth belonged to all. He thought the Conference ought to accept the amendment. They were united on principle but divided on policy. The amendment was pure Henry Georgeism. There was not a man, woman or child in the room who could not agree to it. Let them go from the Conference united.

Mr. John Paul, (U. C., Secretary to the Conference), said that he was obliged to Mr. Warriner for his statement. There was no difference in principle. It was a difference in policy. They could not get their own way in politics; if they tried they would be laughed off the stage, and told to get out of the way. They would have the public opinion behind them when the common people understood that the value of land belonged to the community. They stood for the declaration of principle, but also for practical politics. They were here as a Conference, not as members of the United Committee or of the Commonwealth League. He called upon the Conference to support the Declaration. Not a comma, not a word should be altered.

Miss George said that she was sure that what Mr. Paul had just presented to the Conference was the truth. If her grandfather were alive today he would support it.

Mr. J. McCulloch said that he was convinced that it was time to clarify the issue. They had been talking the taxation of land values for thirty years. Up to the present they had been dependent on political parties, and they had not got even a valuation of land. A small tax would not do away with the monopoly of land. The Commonwealth League never had attacked the United Committee. They had only defended themselves. He wanted to see a Single Tax Party formed. No one knew what Henry George's attitude would have been after the war. It would not have been to play at 1ds and 2ds in the £, while the world was in ruins. If they adopted the amendment they cut out Asquith and Henderson and the politicians who were fooling them.

Mr. A. Maclaren, (U. C.), said that the first thing that they would be asked when they came before the Government would be how were they going to do it. They would have to table (draft) a Bill.

Mr. George Edwards said he did not know whether he was entitled to speak. He had never shaken the hand of Henry George. Were they fetish worshippers? Would

they worship only his image and his descendants? The United Committee speakers had not discussed the issue; they had been discussing their own perplexities. Men had got up and said they had always declared for taking all the rent. Why should they now ask for less?

Mr. Madsen, (U. C.), said Taxation of Land Values was a political reform now in politics. There was no truth whatever in the contentions that it had failed in application. It had justified itself in whatever part of the world it had been tried. The facts presented about Vancouver were incorrect.

Dr. Joseph Green said that he was for taking the whole economic rent. The Declaration referred to the "complete taxation of land values". He did not propose to wait 40 or 100 years. He wanted to end the spectacle of men and women living in houses not fit for human habitation. Public opinion in England and Scotland was ripe for Land Restoration. They were not out to compromise principles. They were out to proclaim the truth that the whole of the economic rent of the land should be taken.

Mr. Frank Stephens, (America), said that he had come prejudiced in favor of the Commonwealth League because of its leader's position on social questions. He had listened with the utmost care to the arguments and could find no essential difference in meaning between the two propositions. The words "appropriation of economic rent" were mentioned three times by the United Committee in the Declaration. There was no suggestion that they would not take the whole of the economic rent. He would vote against the amendment. They would have practically disrupted the United Committee if they repudiated the phrase "taxation of land values" as being the decision of the Conference.

Mr. Macdonald, (U. C.), said that they had a strong vested interest to fight. He had gradually converted the whole of a local body on which he served, to the Taxation of Land Values. Would he now have to drop all that, and lose his years of work and do it all over again?

Mr. Evans said that he rose to make an appeal for support of the amendment. He believed that if the Conference broke up and did not go to the world with some simple form of International message they would have failed in their purpose. He was not interested at all in the difficulties of attaining their ends in various countries. They should enunciate a principle to which they could all subscribe. If they were going to collect all the economic rent, why should they object to saying so? They should support the amendment. He thought the amendment was a better statement. They needed a simple and unmistakable declaration. It was no matter if some saw difficulty in obtaining it.

J. W. Graham Peace, (C. L.), supporting the amendment, said that he did not come into the movement to argue about the rates and taxes, but because he believed it to be a liberation movement. The Commonwealth

League had not attacked the U. C., nor was it started in opposition to the older leagues. That the league hit back when attacked he admitted. So far from there having been any hostile motive actuating those who were associated with himself in founding the Commonwealth League the Conference would be interested to learn that for more than two years they had been urged that the time for a new and full presentation of the case to be made had arrived and had pressed this view upon their colleagues in the movement.

At the time they thought the United Committee or the English League for Taxation of Land Values should have done this, but these bodies did not think that anything could be done and pleaded want of money. His friends then set out to find the cash and again pressed their view with the addition of substantial financial support. When this offer was declined they replied that they would now feel quite free to go and try it out for themselves and it was readily admitted that they were entitled to do so. It was only after they had failed to carry old associates with them that they went out on a venture that had succeeded beyond all expectation and the result of which had fully justified the course adopted.

The vote was then taken. The Chairman announced that, on a show of hands, the amendment had been lost. Mr. R. L. Outhwaite demanded that the votes for and against should be recorded. The vote was retaken and showed 31 for the amendment and 80 against.

Mr. Macauley in order to demonstrate that the opponents of the amendment for the "complete collection of economic rent" had voted against the principle, and not the method, moved unsuccessfully a further amendment. This made the Declaration of policy a demand for the taxation of land values that would effect the complete collection of economic rent.

Mr. Macauley reinforced this argument that they should not send forth to the world a declaration of policy with a false statement as to the results that would be attained by its application. These results would only come from such taxation as would take the whole of the annual value of the land.

Mr. R. L. Outhwaite in supporting pointed out that the experience in Australia corroborated Mr. Macauley's argument. There they had the taxation of land values and 80% of the population lived in towns and cities for the monopoly of the rural land had not been broken.

That evening Mr. Charles C. Schoales and Mr. Macauley addressed the Conference on "Political Action for the Adoption of the Single Tax," urging that success could only be achieved by the formation of an independent Single Tax Party. Their speeches were not thrown away, as they served to convince the delegates of the Commonwealth League that the step which they had already contemplated must be taken.

I SEEK liberty above all things.—*Dante.*

## An English Paper Interviews Robert C. Macauley

AMONG the forty or so Americans attending this week's International Conference on the Taxation of Land Values no one is a more faithful disciple of Henry George than Mr. Robert C. Macauley, of Philadelphia, who was a Single Tax candidate in the last Presidential election in the United States. Mr. Macauley favoured the "Oxford Chronicle" one day this week with a statement concerning his own position, which may perhaps be described as that of a "whole hogger." He is quite sure that the English way of getting there by stages—if it is the English way, and he is by no means sure that it is—will not achieve very much in the matter of securing for the community the benefits which belong to it. Still less does the idea of *reculer pour mieux sauter* appeal to him.. He holds, indeed, that the method used in New Zealand—that of exempting land from increment duty on payment of capitalized value of rent charges—only aggravates the problem, since the owner is more inclined, having been freed by his payment, to hold on to his land till the price rises to suit his fancy. As to the chance of getting a little at a time, Mr. Macauley will not admit that exemption is a forward stage at all, and if it were he maintains that the landowner will fight as bitterly over five per cent. as he will over the whole, and it is not worth while to have seventeen bites at the cherry, any way. What is right is practical, and he will not go asking for halves.

### MAKING THE LANDLORD'S FUTURE

Mr. Macauley gave us credit that in this country the freehold, implying the ultimate ownership of the King, as representative of the community, was nearer the ideal than the fee simple in America and in post-revolutionary France, where the fee simple makes a man absolute owner. If in the United States, for example, one man, or one group of men, held all the land the position would be clear enough. In the United States only one fifth of all the land in the country was in use at all. In New York at this moment one-third of the land was being held idle in order to create artificially high prices, and he knew of one plot, with a twenty-foot frontage and a hundred feet depth, which was sold for 32,000 dollars a front foot. If that area were papered with £10 notes the land would be worth more than the money. The man who owned the land had first gone to sleep, while the community made it valuable.

### THE SINGLE TAX

The way—the only way—to deal with a situation of that kind, either in America or anywhere else, was the Single Tax, which collected for the community, the proper owners of the land. It was no use trying to "kid" the landlord that this was partly his game, Mr. Macauley declared—it was impossible to restore the loot to the looted

and let the looter have it as well. Under such an arrangement the small farmer would pay less in taxes than he paid now, and the small owner would also be better off, because he would pay nothing on his own improvements.

There were difficulties, it was suggested, such as the fact that a large part of the revenues of the University of Oxford were drawn from rents, but Mr. Macauley was ready with the rejoinder that if the people wanted a university they would pay for one, adding that they would have more to say in that case as to its availability to the people generally.

The tendency to welcome assistance from political parties he did not regard with enthusiasm. It was much more satisfactory, he thought, to get together all those who were interested, set up an executive, and go about making a party dedicated to this one idea. He would not be in the position of the land taxers in this country, depending on this and that party for help.

—Oxford Chronicle, August 17.

## The Oxford Conference as One American Saw It

SINGLE TAX PARTY delegates to the International Conference at Oxford, although outnumbered five to one, achieved a signal victory by helping to make possible the foundation of a separate political party in England pledged to champion adoption of The Single Tax.

The new party will be known as the Commonwealth Land Party. It is headed by Robert L. Outhwaite, former member of Parliament, who as leader of The Commonwealth League, has during the last four years made the land question a dominant note in English politics.

Collection of the entire annual ground rent for public revenue and abolition of all taxes forms the sole plank of the new party's platform, which, it is predicted, will drive out of the political field in England, not only the rapidly declining Liberal Party, but also the Socialistically inclined Labor Party.

The magnitude of the victory of Mr. Outhwaite and his Commonwealth Leaguers, aided by the Single Tax Party delegates, is emphasized by the fact that their vigorous campaigning prevented former Premier of England Herbert H. Asquith, who had been given an official place on the programme for the purpose, from collecting the political support of the English Single Taxers for his wing of the now languishing Liberal Party. The former premier declined to address the Conference after Mr. Outhwaite announced on the floor of the convention that Mr. Asquith in a recent public utterance had declared that whatever solution might be found for existing economic problems in England, he would not go to Single Taxers for it.

Andrew MacLaren, a labor member of Parliament, who was assigned by the United Committee to fill the gap made by Mr. Asquith's withdrawal, was also later prevented

from collecting for his party the political influence of the English Single Taxers, through the adoption by the Conference of a resolution denouncing the avowed policy of the Labor Party to buy out the landlords of England for \$50,000,000,000.

Although outnumbered overwhelmingly and outvoted repeatedly, the Commonwealth League members, assisted by the Single Tax Party delegates, conducted their fight with such vigor that victory crowned their efforts and delivery of the Single Tax cause in England into the hands of scheming politicians of the Liberal and Labor parties was prevented.

The importance of the failure to hand over the weight and influence of the Single Tax movement in England to these gentry will be recognized fully in the United States by those who witnessed the decline and disintegration of the American Single Tax movement after it submerged itself in the Democratic Party about 30 years ago.

Mr. Outhwaite, whose integrity and singleness of purpose is freely admitted by all, even his opponents, is a personage of outstanding prominence and is favorably known to virtually every voter throughout the United Kingdom. His great ability coupled with a wide experience in political life, extending over a period of nearly a quarter of a century, makes him an ideal leader for the Single Tax movement in England, which it is predicted by competent political observers, is destined in a short time to be the chief contender against the powerful and reactionary Tory Party.

The Commonwealth Land Party is prepared to contest every bye election for members of Parliament and is confident that by the time of the next general election, no matter how soon it may come, the organization will be prepared to have candidates in every constituency in which there is even a slight chance of victory.

Associated with Mr. Outhwaite in the direction of the Commonwealth Land Party are M. Warriner, Dr. Richard Pearson, John E. Grant, whose recent book, "The Problems of War and Its Solution," has brought him world-wide fame; Dr. Dunston, J. McCulloch, Mrs. Richard Pearson, Mr. Owens, J. W. Graham Peace and the members of the executive committee of the Commonwealth League which automatically became the governing body of the new party.

Although the call sent out by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values was for an international conference, it was in no sense international save that it was attended by representatives from fourteen different countries. As one delegate stated it the conference was a purely English gathering with an international gallery.

Everything brought before the Conference was considered solely in the light of its bearing on English politics and no action was taken on a single question having an international bearing except the appeal sent to the various chancelleries of the world urging their rulers to

adopt the Single Tax as a solution of the economic problems confronting their several countries. In passing it might be interesting to note that this resolution demanded the collection of the full economic rent, although the United Committee refused to accept this term in its declaration of principle and policy, being satisfied with the milder demand for the taxation of land values. Incidentally it might be pointed out the extent of the demand for the taxation of land values made by the United Committee was but a penny in the pound on the capital value of the land.

Indicative of the failure of the Conference to consider the broad international phase of the Single Tax, action was taken on but four questions during the full week's Conference.

The four concrete questions on which action was taken included the resolution sent to the rulers of various countries; the resolution denouncing any and all compensation for landlords of England, a resolution expressing sympathy and regret for all Single Taxers who died recently and the resolution outlining principle and policy, which by the way was equivocal in character, failing to demand collection of the full economic rent as was done in the resolution sent to the rulers of the nations of the world.

Although the declaration of principle and policy was inaccurate in its economic statements, the United Committee refused to correct it or amend it in any way. The attitude of the United Committee on this resolution is fully voiced by its secretary, John Paul, who in the debate on it declared "That not any change would be tolerated, not a comma would be taken out."

But one other question was brought before the Conference for action—a resolution declaring the Conference looked with disfavor on members of the Single Tax movement engaging in speculation in land—and it was promptly tabled by the United Committee, which controlled an overwhelming majority of the delegates present.

In the debate on the resolution, preceding the tabling of it, one member of the Conference became furious, lost his usual calm demeanor and springing to his feet and with his hands clinched above his head and his eyes blazing, shouted "I am a land gambler. It is the easiest way to make a living."

Although it was pointed out by one of the delegates that it seemed of doubtful propriety that land gamblers should be permitted to have seats in a Single Tax Conference—its aim being to destroy the selling value of land by governmental collection of its economic rent,—the well oiled machinery of the United Committee's "steam roller" was hastily put into operation and the resolution which demanded moral action from Single Taxers in harmony with their philosophy was quickly tabled.

Were it not that the Conference brought about the formation of the Commonwealth Land Party, it might be regrettable that the United Committee invited so many persons to travel thousands of miles to give a satisfactory background to English political intriguing. —ROBERT C. MACAULEY.

# At the Sign of the Cat and the Fiddle

CONDUCTED BY E. WYE

TRUE to her promise, Miss Bonnyclabber favors the readers of this Department with the following letter from England: "It was all very pleasant at Newlands and I thought the place had never looked better. To be sure, the weather was unseasonably cold. Emblem had talked of going down to Yorkshire for the 15th (you will remember that grouse shooting begins on the 15th August) but Clara reminded him of his engagement to take us to Oxford that week, so he dutifully acquiesced. Seeing what happened later on, it made things rather miserable for Clara—but poor dear, it wasn't her fault. A lot of letters and telegrams addressed to Emblem from Tothill Street, London, had much to do with our finally being there. Well, we got over to Oxford in good time for the opening ceremonies, which included a reception and a preliminary banquet or 'Henry George Commemoration Dinner,' and quite jolly it was to see so many old friends from America, especially nice to meet Mrs. George and her daughter Beatrice, Miss Hicks, Mr. Warren, Mr. Hall, Mr. Stephens and others, and renew acquaintance with the English and Scottish contingents of the League and of the United Committee. I have mentioned, I think, in a previous letter that our friends of the Sign of the Cat and the Fiddle, Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Wenzel, with Prof. and Mrs. Dowdy, had spent a day or two with us at Newlands; and there they were at the Conference 'with bells on'—an expression I tried to explain to some English people at dinner, much to their amusement and astonishment. There was also in evidence a crowd of very ordinary looking persons from America who came to represent the Single Tax Party, their general attitude and behavior reminding me more than I can say of what one pictures as the 'Mountain' in the French Revolutionary Convention.

"Well, I came armed with my portfolio and materials for taking notes, a habit which has remained with me from my university days. I ought not to say it, for it seems like boasting, but I do believe I have accumulated the completest set of notes and diaries for the past twenty years of any woman of education anywhere. Some day I mean to start in editing and revising with a view to making them public. Professor Dowdy says that in his seminars he invariably urges his students to acquire the habit, so you see I have a powerful adherent to the idea. For my thesis which got me my M. A.—but here I am wandering; pardon me.

"We found the Conference to be brilliantly attended, for it had been announced that the chief speech of the occasion would be made by no less a notable than Mr. Asquith. Emblem, who knows Mr. Asquith very well (and Mrs. Asquith too) was confident that an able and stirring appeal would be made by the former Premier to close the ranks and work heartily for the Taxation of Land Values; and

Emblem, who is an Asquith Liberal, chuckled in anticipation of the digs his chief would administer to David Lloyd George for that one's desertion of the battle standards of 1910. Yes, there was to be an immense advertising of the 'land question.' Emblem (who on the quiet is a liberal contributor to the United Committee) was applauded on the entrance of our party and we women were in quite a flutter. This was Monday. The evening banquet was a big success. We met all the delegates; listened to some very good speeches and finally reached our hotel tired enough to sleep soundly.

"Alas, and well-a-day! Who would have imagined that within a few hours our little pleasure party would be disrupted, and Emblem, much ruffled and scandalized, be on his way to Yorkshire, with us women left lamenting? On Tuesday morning a storm broke in the Conference and there was a fearful row. I thought it never would end, and when one of the delegates shouted, 'This is no place for me,' Emblem turned to Clara and whispered something I didn't hear, but I caught Clara's reply, 'Now Ferdie, don't be silly. What do you want to do? Wait.' Well things came to a crisis when those ruffians having insulted Mr. Asquith the latter naturally refused to come to the Conference.

"After that there was no use in continuing one's presence at the play of Hamlet, with Hamlet left out, so the fading away of the audience in attendance was noticeable. Emblem seized his hat and stick and was one of the first to leave. Some of the committee rushed after him and talked with him outside. It was there that he made arrangements to have us go back to Newlands while he posted for Yorkshire. He really was enraged and quite lost his temper. Whether he will continue his friendly connection with the U. C. remains to be seen. As an Asquith Liberal he is deeply hurt. He thinks the official managers of the Conference muddled the job and allowed a small number of rank outsiders to 'put one over on them.' Of course Mr. Outhwaite acted detestably and I am quite ashamed of the Americans of 'the Mountain' who seem to have supported him throughout. I even hear that between them a new English party has been concocted. Something of a joke, don't you think? I'm glad that our friends of the Cat and the Fiddle, the Dowdys, Horace Wenzel and Mr. Wiggins acted throughout with dignity and good judgement, although once or twice I saw the last mentioned, whom I've heard called 'Greased Lightning' at home, squirming in his seat, his face red as a beet and only kept from making a scene by the restraining hand of his friend Wenzel.

"I trust the foregoing will reach you safely, and I remain  
Your sincere ADÈLE BONNYCLABBER.

Note by the Conductor: We trust that our good friend, Miss Bonnyclabber, will not take it amiss if we say that this Department cannot endorse the attitude of criticism she takes toward those who have dared to disapprove the policy of the English "step by steppers"—whose step by step has seemed to us often to lead up and down the backstairs of party politics. Their selection of Mr. Asquith as a hero and standard-bearer has seemed to us grotesque. We think that the new Commonwealth Land Party is a safer proposition to hitch up to. Our sympathies are with Lord Emblem.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sir: Single Taxers in their speeches, etc. should never fail to make the limitation that the laborer is entitled to the full product of his labor *after the payment of economic rent*, which is equivalent to saying that the wages of labor are what the laborer can earn at the margin of cultivation (the best free land) without the payment of rent or, algebraically expressed

$$\text{As Wages} + \text{Rent} = \text{Product}$$

$$\text{Therefore Wages} = \text{Product} - \text{Rent}$$

This is clear enough. But unless we are careful we are apt, in spite of our knowledge of the subject, to fall into the habit of the socialist or of the syndicalist, both of whom never fail to assert that labor is entitled to the full production, taking no note of the existence of such a thing as economic rent as a factor.

Respectfully,

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

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Horace Wenzel writes us that he did not remain at the Oxford Conference after the Asquith episode, but hastened away to spend a few weeks in Russia. He fell in with some of our Western statesmen at Petrograd and being (as we know) connected with a well known and influential banking house in New York he was persona grata to these Americans and to the Soviet authorities as well. He writes that in his opinion Russia is pointing the way to many improvements in methods of industry and exchange, strange as that may seem. Just leave them alone for a few years, he writes and we shall see something.

On the other hand, so eager are the leaders of Moscow to get production fully under way that they are not far from compromising some of their earlier radical principles. Still Horace says it is all very wonderful. He is especially interested in the new standard of value and exchange known as the chervonetz—a composite unit of value not unlike the one originally suggested by Professor Jevons forty or fifty years ago. What they do in Russia is this: they actually experiment and put things into operation instead of forever dilly-dallying and palavering as elsewhere. When the grotesque downfall of the German mark is mentioned the men of Moscow simply put their tongues in their cheek and look childlike and bland. Horace says that the outstanding indication of progress in the Russian complex

is the way in which the energies of nature are being harnessed for the common good. Communism seizes for her own the newest developments of science, and is transferring to public uses what formerly went to the enrichment of the few. If we think there is no activity among Russian experimenters in the fields of electricity, radio—activity, bio-chemistry, agricultural chemistry, etc., we are mighty mistaken. Ground rent, which after all perhaps should not be considered in terms of money (God save the mark!) but rather in terms of universal energy, is being studied and understood and realized by the Russians for the first time in history. And the approach to a genuine communism of ground rent is the outstanding wonderful thing which is happening in Russia. Horace says that Single Taxers ought to be humble and penitent in the face of the intelligence evidenced by these maligned and hated men. As for the chervonetz, he says that in his opinion it will eventually give way to a really scientific measure for the exchange of the energies of nature, which in the future will be available to relieve the arduous labor of mankind. Russia, according to him, is a gigantic laboratory, in which the dreams of Georgians are partly on the way to coming true, willy nilly.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following are the final words of Latona, from the play entitled "The Wrath of Latona" by E. Yancey Cohen:

"What you have seen today will be a tale  
That ever poets will delight to tell,  
The tale of how Latona haply taught  
A fundamental lesson to mankind—  
That this fair earth must not sequestered be  
By cozening louts and wolves and greedy tricksters  
To the undoing of all others, but that those  
Who this bright jewel of the universe  
By providence of the immortal Gods inhabit  
Shall equal right and privilege have to use  
The natural gifts of bounteous Earth and Heaven,  
The fertile soil, the air, the sunlight warm,  
The water, wind and fire, that with these aids  
Secure the sons of men may lay their heads,  
And without let or hindrance live their lives  
And without killing labor live their lives.  
So be the Oracle's pious words fulfilled!  
And may a golden age at last appear;  
May goodness, truth and justice be enthron'd  
And ignorance and evil be destroyed—  
May Heaven and Earth be joined in one accord  
And peace be with us after many days."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### SHOP TALK

SCENE: Smoking-room of a Safe-deposit Company

CHARACTERS: Two wealthy "Single Taxers."

MR. HARDLY: (nervously) If they don't heat this place better I'm going elsewhere.



MR. SOFTLY: I agree with you, but what can you expect?

MR. HARDLY: (quickly) Anything wrong with the Company? Retrenchment, that's what it is.

MR. SOFTLY: Believe me, one yearns for those festivals of expansion that lasted all through the war. By the way, my son William is off today to his military training camp.

MR. HARDLY: (interrupting) May I offer you one of these Porto Rico regalias?

MR. SOFTLY: Thanks, I've given up smoking. Still, I like the odor—

MR. HARDLY: Perhaps you've heard of *My* son's good fortune. He's made his Frat at college—a first class Frat, I can tell you.

MR. SOFTLY: My warm congratulations. I hope you haven't tried to read that libel by Upton Sinclair on our colleges? I threw it away in disgust. Such damned bad form I never—

MR. HARDLY: To tell you the truth, I rarely read more than the various quotations now-a-days. I find them quite filling for the price. He, he! Have I ever asked you if you subscribe to Moody? Very informative and conservative. An excellent safeguard against the day of adversity.

MR. SOFTLY: I've got something surer than that—my daughter is immensely interested in Christian Science and is trying to instruct me. Know anything about it?

MR. HARDLY: Years ago I tried to read the book, but gave it up. Last Sunday morning in Church I was wondering how anything could be found more beautiful than the words of our service. The older I grow the more of a Fundamentalist I become.

MR. SOFTLY: Fundamentalist? Haven't heard of that.

MR. HARDLY: Ask Dr. Watson. You may come upon him sometime playing golf at Englewood—

MR. SOFTLY: I limit my talents now to auction. I've become quite an authority. Strained a ligament, so no more golf for me.

MR. HARDLY: Ha, ha! I'm struggling now with "ma jong." Have you tried it? Wonderful people, those Chinese. Well, I'll have to run over to my broker's office now. I'm nearly out of my stocks. What do you say about oils?

MR. SOFTLY: Sorry, no interest. I'm just closing out some vacant lots in Flatbush that I've been tied up in for years. A very remarkable "realtor" has come to my rescue. Hope to see you tomorrow. So long.

\* \* \* \* \*

A few days previous to the expected arrival of the Americans back from the Oxford Conference old Michael Shea walked to the Sign of the Cat and the Fiddle and asked if there was any news? "I hear," said he, "that the steamer will soon be here. Somebody has been after sendin' me a report of the procedin's there. A great shindig they had, and me restin' securely over here beyond the pur-

lews of Donnybrook. I should have been in the castle blowin' me horn like Hernanny. Well, do ye know, I praise the Saints that there's one man in England that has Irish blood in his veins, that's Outhwaite. What does he say? 'Get out, all ye spalpeens of politicians and labor leaders and respectabilities and stand aside. The common people, the ones that pays for the goods, are on to the game at last, and by Hiven, they'll run candidates of their own! That's what he says. And he's started a Party. Here's what he calls it (and he drew a small paper from his pocket) the 'Commonwealth Land Party.' Good name, better than Single Tax Party, which later on will be after changin' its name too. Listen to this: 'The object,' says he, 'is the foundation of a Commonwealth based on the assertion of the common right to the land!' I'd be puttin' a garland round his head for sayin' that. It takes me back to the brave days, the stirrin' days of Hinery George and Father McGlynn. Outhwaite's right. I know he's right and I can prove it. The common right to the land! Have yese ever heard of the affair of 'No Man's Quarry,' which happened over there by the Palisades when Fernando Wood was Mayor? Me own family was mixed up in that event, and Hivens, such a lickin' came to Pat McGloin and his pals that ivery Bowery boy knew the story. Say Mike,' says my partner along side of me layin' stones on Broadway, 'let's us emigrate again. Over in Jersey there's a free quarry, its free land—let us go!' Well, ye doubtless know the story, so I'll not detain ye now. But this man Outhwaite—keep your eye on him. He's the stuff. I'm sindin' him tin dollars by registered mail for the good of his soul and to aid the stringth of his elbow. All these do-nothings who sit at home by their cheerful fireside and prate of propaganda and nothing else, they make me tired. Critics, always critics of those who step out and lead. What are they but quietudes and roys faynants—a choice crowd of respectables who scorn parties and represintative government, being alarmed lest their own dear ideas should iver be represinted in politics? Wouldn't it be terrible to see a man sent to Congress with a mandate to open his mouth there and say what he's elected to say! If that is reprisintive government the more represintives the better. Otherwise what'll our respectable friends see? Faith, what ther-'ye seein' in Europe now, if they have eyes, what Hinery George foretold and predicted forty years ago, the downfall of represintive government and the appearance of the man on horseback, the dictator, the strong arm, like we see this day in Italy and Spain and Hungary and Greece and Bulgaria. By Hivens, I wish I was forty years younger so's I could resume my original role of Howlin' Dervish and indulge in the emotional insanity of the year 1886, addressin' the people and tellin' them a thing or two!"

\* \* \* \* \*

If they don't stop making laws, there will not be room in the libraries for any more books.

## Blackmail

ANOTHER sham-battle has been fought. The opponents divide the gate-receipts. The public pays and will continue to pay for a long time in higher prices for anthracite coal. The only difference between the coal fight and the pre-arranged prize-fights is that in the latter case only the gullible are mulcted, whereas in the former, everybody must pay, directly or indirectly, whether he has seen the show or not.

As if to corroborate the belief of shrewd observers that the whole contest was a frame-up, the United Mine Workers proceeded to broadcast a series of "red" scare stories which have had no rivals since the War, immediately at the close of the negotiations. It was the kind of stuff that might have been expected from the National Association of Manufacturers or the National Civic Federation. All that it meant to anyone who could read between the lines was an attempt to discredit some opposition group within the United Mine Workers which was preparing to challenge the existing Board of Officers. The Union was using against its own insurgents, the poison gas which the big interests had been employing against the Unions.

Neither side regarded the public interest, nor is it easy to see why either side should. As long as the public was able to get low priced coal, what did it care about the wages or living conditions of the miners? In general the public is wholly indifferent to the welfare of the great groups which serve it, until there is interruption of service. What justification is there for the public to complain of lack of consideration when it shows none?

The United States Coal Commission has issued some reports on the subject, which are valuable so far as they illuminate the details of the industry, but mostly they have concerned themselves about superficials. They have not published any important figures dealing with the fundamental conditions which make it possible for the anthracite coal fields to form the basis of the tightest monopoly in the United States. Much was made of the pros and cons of operators and operatives, but hardly a word crept into the public print about the hazy figures lurking in the background—indeed if they were not such respectable people one might refer to them as the "niggers in the coal pile"—the owners of the coal land by whose gracious permission operators and operatives alike are permitted to function.

The operators and operatives alike have to render some service for what they get, but of the mine owners it may be said "they toil not, neither do they spin" but they get theirs just the same." And the higher coal goes in price the more they get in royalties. In many instances they may furnish the explanation why it is that we must pay \$1.00 per ton more for coal in order to give the miner 30 cents. The operator under his contract has to "divvy" with the "royaltor" (a new word, but which deserves to live as descriptive of a limited but highly remunerated

class in the community, whose chief economic function is the dissipation of congested wealth.)

The Coal Commission launches the brilliant suggestion that the Interstate Commerce Commission be charged with regulating the coal industry—a suggestion received by the county at large with a wry smile, remembering the exploits of that body in dealing with the railroads. Such a proposal would doubtless be accepted by the operators and perhaps by the operatives with varying degrees of satisfaction. But where does the public come in. About all that Public Service Commissions have achieved so far is the protection of shareholders and the gouging of the public. It would be so with coal.

Every Single Taxer knows that it is not by restriction but by freedom that salvation must be worked out. All the anthracite coal which counts in the National supply is concentrated in a few counties of a single state. The needs of this country and Canada lend to this deposit a fabulous value. Because of ancient deeds antedating the Government itself and granted by foreign rulers to their favorites or creditors in return for money lent them for personal expenses and dissipations, it has been put in the power of a few people to determine how much, if any, coal the people shall have each winter and at what price. Like Warren Hastings they probably feel that their most conspicuous virtue is moderation. They have striven to estimate "what the traffic will bear" and to charge no more. *Their power to exact high prices depends on their ability to withhold from use the thousands of acres of coal-bearing land which they own, but which they do not work or permit to be worked.*

It has been easy to do this in the past because such land has been assessed at its agricultural value. If such land were assessed at what it would sell for and were compelled to bear its proper share of State and County taxes, the grip of monopoly would soon be shaken or broken. There are signs even in corporation-owned Pennsylvania that such a policy is coming; some of the counties are forcing a policy which will lead to full value assessments and when that time comes we may expect a more intelligent treatment of the whole coal problem. Of course transportation must always play a large part in determining the price of coal to the consumer, but that question too is forcing itself on the public mind as one which must be solved if progress is not to stop. It seemed sometime ago, as if the only way that the public mind could be convinced of the fallacy of the theory, that we must leave the unraveling of our social snarls to government, was by large experiments in Socialism. Fortunately the experiments already made have disillusioned thousands and will probably deter other thousands from following that path. They know now that governments have most of the vices of their constituents and few of their virtues.

We believe it would be very helpful if Congress at the next session would order an investigation into the whole

question of mine ownerships and coal royalties and Pennsylvania's method of taxing such properties, so as to determine what action, if any, may appropriately be taken by the Federal authorities to promote the general welfare.

J. J. M.

## R. L. Outhwaite Resigns From the Labor Party

PURSUANT to his intention to start a Single Tax Party in Great Britain (though that will not be its name) Mr. Outhwaite, former M.P., has tendered his resignation as member of the Independent Labor Party. In his letter resigning he says:

"I am at present attending an International Conference for the Taxation of Land Values for the purpose of urging that the demand for the assertion of human rights should be lifted out of the category of rates and taxes and presented as one for emancipation from economic slavery resulting from the private appropriation of the earth."

He concludes by saying, "I can be of no further service to you now."

All the papers of the United Kingdom featured this resignation. The Derby *Telegraph* comments as follows:

"Mr. Outhwaite has washed his hands of the Labor Party. It is not for us to estimate the effects of his defection on the fortunes of that powerful political organization, but we have an idea that it will not be very profound or far-reaching. If political parties were composed almost exclusively of men of his illogical mind, we should never know where we stood. For the fact that some one or other takes a step with which one seriously disagrees is regarded by this strangely constituted politician as a valid and sufficient excuse for having no further association with him on matters with which both parties are in absolute agreement. The case of Mr. Outhwaite is, however, of such an extreme kind, that we trust for the sake of our political consistency, whether we be Liberals or Conservatives, or Labor men, it stands almost alone. He is a gentleman who has long taken the deepest possible interest in the taxation of land values. The friends of that movement recently met at Oxford in furtherance of their ideas. They had a perfect right to confer on such an issue, and many of us felt grateful that amidst the various Coalition tragedies of recent years, this ancient principle of the Liberal faith had not been entirely forgotten."

The *Evening Standard*, of London, has a correspondent who commenting on Mr. Outhwaite's resignation from the Independent Labor Party, says:

"I have a certain feeling personally of affection for Mr. Outhwaite. At one time it was my duty to attend regularly the debates of the House of Commons, and it was always a pleasure to watch him looking like a rather mournful and strictly non-combative eagle, gazing over an entirely indifferent assembly."

The Manchester *Evening News* says, under the heading An Erratic Politician:

"Mr. R. L. Outhwaite, who has now shaken the dust of the I.L.P. from his shoes, was one of the best known of the Liberal headquarters' staff fighters in the early 1900's.

Born in Tasmania, he first plunged into politics in South Africa, and shared in many a rough-and-tumble at noisy meetings there. He was a very active by-election worker for Liberalism for a number of years, and courageous enough to go to West Birmingham and challenge "Joe" in 1906.

While M.P. for Hanley he became associated with the late Mr. Joseph Fels, and took up the crusade for taxation reform which Mr. Fels financed.

Mr. Outhwaite left the Liberal party on grounds of principle which were called also "Pacifism" during the war.

Now he has left the party of his second choice, and probably will plough a lonely political furrow for the rest of his days."

In a communication to the *Staffordshire Sentinel* of August 24, Mr. Outhwaite says:

"I have had four and one-half years seeking to serve Labor through its parties. All the work the Commonwealth League has done amongst the rank and file has been negatived by this sort of trickery. I am tired of it all. To my mind the people are doomed to perish in enslavement if they do not swiftly assert their common right to the land and its rent."

## Why the Commonwealth League was Founded

I SAW too that the pettifogging presentation of the cause of emancipation in fiscal terms laid us open to the charge that our chief aim was not to free the people from wage-slavery, but to free the capitalist from repressive burdens. So it seemed to me to be a paramount duty to formulate our demand in terms that would admit of no misconception as to aims. To make manifest to all that Liberty was our goal, and to call on those who had stood for liberty to regard us as their allies. So we founded the Commonwealth League. So we cut ourselves off from old associates, and have spared neither Liberals nor the taxers and raters, who propose justice and liberty on the instalment plan; we have our reward in the Land Nationalisation Bill.—R. L. OUTHWAITE IN *The Commonweal*.

AS we go to press we learn of the death of J. W. Bengough, of Toronto, a devoted servant of the cause known to every reader of the REVIEW. Full details of the life and services of our friend will follow in next issue.

IF men cannot find an employer, why cannot they employ themselves? Simply because they are shut out from the element on which human labor can alone be exerted.

—HENRY GEORGE.

## NEWS—DOMESTIC

### New York

THE Single Tax party of the city of New York has placed in nomination the following candidates for Supreme Court in the 1st Judicial District which includes Manhattan and the Bronx; Samuel Bell Thomas and Edward Owings Towne, and in the 2nd Judicial District, which includes Kings, Queens and Nassau Counties, Benjamin W. Burger.

The Brooklyn County ticket of the Single Tax party is as follows: For District Attorney, James P. Kohler; for Registrar, Morris W. Norwalk; for Sheriff, Dr. Samuel Schneidman, and for County Clerk, Dr. Charles L. Andrews.

This month—October—the Saturday night Forum lectures will be resumed, and notices of these will be mailed to all the friends. An interesting programme is contemplated for the coming season.

### New Jersey

PETITIONS have been filed at Hackensack, N. J., by the Single Tax party of Bergen County for the following candidates for the Assembly: Edward M. Caffall, West Palisade; R. James D'Alessandro, West Palisade; Agnes Lillian Shannon, Marsemere; and Henry L. Rottmann, Grantwood.

There is much latent sentiment in Bergen County in favor of the Single Tax Party, and the vote is always a notable one. The canvassers were encouraged by the sentiment expressed by those signing the petition, and a good vote is confidently anticipated.

A full Assembly ticket has been nominated by the Essex County Single Tax Party. Nominees are as follows: William J. Wallace; A. Bourgeois; Dr. Mary D. Hussey, Walter J. Triner, Joseph E. Stegner, Alfred Cooper, Joseph R. Rusby, Frank L. Pollard, Jeremiah V. B. Parker, Chas. Mack, Chas. J. Sherwood, Herman G. Lowe.

### Oregon

A FINE meeting in Portland in celebration of Henry George's birthday was made notable by addresses from B. F. Lindas, formerly of Washington, D. C. and Harry Stone, of Portland. These speeches were a notice to the Single Tax world that old methods were obsolete in Oregon, and that straight-out declaration of our doctrine was policy as well as principle.

Mr. Lindas will endeavor to crystalize this sentiment by a trip through the United States beginning October 1st, going via Colorado Springs, Denver, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Louis, arriving in Chicago in time to attend a gathering called by Otto Cullman, where he will tell the story of Oregon. He will then proceed East arriving in New York December 1st.

## Dinner and Reception to the Returned Visitors From Oxford, England

FOR the first time since the return of the American Single Tax Party delegates from Oxford, England, New York Single Taxers were able to learn at first hand of what actually happened at the so-called International Conference. Single Taxers have long been familiar with the conduct of the Fels Fund conferences in the past, where close corporation methods were pursued and cut-and-dried programmes were the only ones submitted for discussion. But they had a right to assume that an "international" conference called by our English co-workers, and having the sanction of men in whom we have learned to repose faith, would be a conference in fact as well as in name; that those travelling to Oxford from various parts of the world would have a voice in the organizing of such a conference in accordance with recognized customs everywhere.

That this was not to be, that steam-roller methods were applied to the Single Tax party delegates, can only be attributed to the fact that the Chairman and others of the United Committee were taken with an attack of the nerves. They did not seem to know that an International Conference had to be constituted by the delegates present, and the officers chosen by these delegates. This Messrs. Macauley and Edwards tried to make plain in temperate statements at the outset. They seem to have been misunderstood. And from that day to the close of the six day conference matters and procedure decided on months before by the Committee at Tothill street went through, to use the words of one of the gentleman, "without the change of a comma."

The incident is now closed. The REVIEW shall refuse to be drawn into a controversy respecting what was done and the reasons for doing it. It is needless to reflect upon motives or to look for them when they do not clearly appear. The big thing is that the Commonwealth Land Party arises a Phoenix from the ashes. The movement in England will now cease to be a "movement of rates and taxes" and will become a war for liberation. To this we shall devote what space we can from time to time.

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On the evening of September 28 a dinner was held at the Civic Club, this city, fifty persons being present, not a bad attendance at 48 hours notice. Mr. Oscar Geiger presided and introduced Mr. Macauley. That gentleman said that some of the things which struck the observer at the Conference was that nothing would be considered save as it bore on English politics; that the ethical side of the Single Tax was almost unheard; that representatives of 14 nations sat in their seats and saw the Single Taxers play politics. He would have felt very much depressed if this had been all, but every cloud has its silver lining, which in this instance was the emergence of that splendid

figure, R. L. Outhwaite, as the standard bearer of the new party which would have for its aim the principle of the Land for the People. He closed with a glowing tribute to Mr. Outhwaite.

Chairman Geiger raised a laugh by introducing Amy Mali Hicks as the framer of the only resolution that ever passed unanimously in an assembly of Single Taxers, referring to the Manifesto printed elsewhere. Miss Hicks said she did not meet a single member of the conference, who whatever differences as to method might have prevailed, was not at heart in favor of the land for the people and anxious to work for it. Referring to this Manifesto, the "Message to the Rulers of All Nations," a letter from Mrs. Signe Bjorner to Miss Colbron said that it was printed in big black letters on all the bill board columns throughout Copenhagen. This is a splendid piece of propaganda that does honor to the wide-awake Danish delegation.

Messrs. Edwards, of Ohio, and Haug, of Philadelphia spoke of the methods followed in organizing the conference.

Mr. Schoales, of Philadelphia, said that his idea of going to the International Conference was the publicity that a good attendance would secure. He told of the journey across, of Macauley's earnest talks with the Captain on the Single Tax, and his fear for the safety of the ship if the Captain should become too greatly interested. They converted pretty nearly everybody on board. He was convinced that their journey had not been fruitless. An organization of a Single Tax party had been effected in England, and Mr. Outhwaite himself had stated that he did not believe it would have come about but for the presence of the Single Tax party men from America.

Mr. J. P. Kohler said that the Single Tax movement was in the position of the Christian religion when the Roman emperors took charge of it.

Mr. George Lloyd made one of the happiest speeches of the evening. He told of the mock trial held on the ship going over. He was disposed to regard somewhat tolerantly the actions of the United Committee. He liked the English; they were better mannered than our own people. Everyone said "Thank you" when handed a tract; every one said, "Sorry" when he brushed against you. When he landed on his return he had thirty-six cents in his pocket. As he walked up the deserted street in the direction of his home at 7 o'clock on the morning he whistled a tune that his wife knew to apprise her of his coming. He fondly hoped that she would be anticipating the return of her hero; she was. Eagerly he awaited her greeting. But all she said was, "George, bring in the milk!"

Chairman Geiger in introducing Mr. Robinson said that long before the United Committee had thought of an International Conference this man had earnestly urged that one be held either in London or Geneva.

Mr. Robinson spoke of himself as one of "the group of insignificant malcontents" who had made an attempt on behalf of delegates from fourteen nations to organize what

had been called an International Conference. They had reason to believe that a conference would be organized in accordance with the rules governing such assemblies called together under the name "international." He found that what they had reason to believe was only a tentative programme was really a permanent programme. This was a betrayal of those who had come thousands of miles to attend. What the delegates witnessed was an attempt to sell the influence of the Single Tax to the Liberal Party and to Asquith, the leader of that party.

Mr. Robinson explained that in the many by-elections to be held it was not at all unlikely that men from the new Single Tax party led by Outhwaite and other leaders of that party would be elected to Parliament. Think what an achievement that would be—to have members of a real Single Tax party elected by Single Tax votes to Parliament!

Other speakers at the dinner, which adjourned at a late hour, were William J. Wallace, Corinne Carpenter, Miss Charlotte Schetter, Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, Edward Owings Towne, James F. Morton and others.

## Philadelphia Welcomes the Returned Delegates

THE Social Club of the Single Tax Party gave a Welcome Home reception, Saturday evening, September 29, 1923, in its headquarters, 842 North Broad Street, to the Philadelphia delegates who recently returned from Oxford, England.

Over 400 men and women attended, and a short meeting was held to hear the report of the delegates. Mr. D. Oscar Sobel, organizer of the Social Club, presided, and made an address of welcome. He also reported a membership of 350, and promises that for the next Presidential election he will have 5,000 members.

There were seven delegates from Philadelphia, headed by Robert C. Macauley, Single Tax Party candidate for President in 1920. The remainder of the delegation included James A. Robinson, George A. Haug, William J. Shaeffer, William J. Schoales and Miss Frances I. Macauley.

Mr. Macauley talked about the distressing situation in England and stated that unemployment was a great deal worse than in this country in 1920.

The commodious rooms of Single Tax Hall, were crowded and an annex hall had to be provided for this reception.

Mrs. Pearl Sobel, Mr. Raymond James, Miss Sunny Perry, Mr. Rodney Emsley, Miss Mary Gertzman, Mr. William Rubin, Miss Tillie Wishnew, Miss Margaret Meyers, and Mr. Joseph Layman, members of the reception committee, served refreshments.

Dancing in the Club's spacious ball room kept up until midnight.

PEARL SOBEL.

BY a vote of 20 to 8 the City Council of Buenos Aires has ratified the proposal of the Mayor to abolish all taxes on improvements. Full particulars in our next issue.

## Minnesota

READERS of the REVIEW should be interested in what we have accomplished in Minnesota.

We have two classes of land owners; one class lease their lands on royalty, the other operate their own and other lands and thus secure the natural or heritage value.

In 1921 our legislature passed a bill to tax at six per cent. the heritage element in all ore mined. No tax on the labor or capital involved in the business of mining the ore. Pretty close to the Single Tax, is it not? The vote on this measure was 101 to 25 in the House and 38 to 28 in the Senate. The U. S. Supreme Court recently sustained this law in a unanimous opinion, especially commending the feature taxing the heritage element and exempting the labor and capital element in the value of land.

In our recent legislature we passed a bill taxing the royalties received by land owners six per cent. The vote was 104 to 16 in the House and 39 to 25 in the Senate. These taxes are in addition to heavy advalorem taxes on the ore land each year. We shall now need no general state tax on our homes, farms or other property.

This is the biggest victory for the principle of taxing land values ever attained in the United States.

C. J. BUELL.

## Honors to Captain Kelleher

CAPTAIN PATRICK KELLEHER has just been appointed by the General Superintendent of Police, Collins of Chicago, to command the First or Central District of the Police Department.

We have pleasant recollections of Captain Kelleher at the Chicago National Convention of the Single Tax Party in 1920.

The *Constabulary News*, of Chicago, in a recent issue contains a portrait and sketch of this splendid officer, from which we extract the following:

One incident in the life of Captain Kelliher that occurred when he was but nine years of age stands out prominently in his memory. Henry George, the great apostle of Single Tax, had been sent to Ireland by the managing editor of a New York newspaper to study absentee landlordism, that prevailed at that time in Ireland. Mr. George, with the faith and hope that he possessed that Single Tax was the solution of the deplorable condition that has caused so much suffering, not only in Ireland, but throughout the world, took a decided stand against the oppression of the people who were land hungry and openly proclaimed against this iniquitous system. At one of the meetings called by Mr. George, Captain Kelliher was present, though but a mere child, and witnessed the shameful sight of Henry George's arrest. Mr. George did not know that in that child's brain was implanted the spark of the great movement that made Henry George a figure that will rank in history with the great men of our nation.

Capt. Kelliher had the pleasure—when he grew to young manhood in the United States—to meet this brilliant leader and Dr. McGlynn, and he prizes that meeting as one of the events of his life.

## Death of Daniel Kiefer

The death of Daniel Kiefer, of heart disease, at Takoma Park, Maryland, is announced.

Mr. Kiefer was for a number of years Chairman of the Fels Fund Commission and later of the National Single Tax League.

When it was announced by the late Joseph Fels that he was prepared to duplicate dollar for dollar every contribution to the Single Tax movement up to one hundred thousand dollars annually, an organization was formed, known as the Fels Fund Commission, with Daniel Kiefer as chairman, to administer this fund. This he did faithfully according to his lights and without compensation.

We recall that walking from the luncheon where Mr. Fels had made his announcement, in company with Mr. August Lewis, we noted the serious and preoccupied air of Mr. Lewis, and we asked what he thought of it. And very soberly he answered, "I do not like it."

Mr. Lewis had been one of Mr. George's closest and most devoted friends. To him Mr. George had dedicated "The Science of Political Economy," and there were few men whose judgment he would have regarded as highly.

However that may be, there was something prophetic in the apprehension felt by Mr. Lewis at this time and shared by one or two others. Most Single Taxers hailed the offer enthusiastically as marking a new era in the history of the movement.

Had there been any existing organization at the time, things might have turned out differently. But our "leaders" had distinctly disapproved of all organization, had actually counselled against it, and the rank and file, though feeling the unwisdom of this course, had such an over-weening respect for these leaders that nothing but sporadic and ineffectual efforts had been made in the direction of perfecting a national organization.

So one had to be created to administer this fund. It is unfortunate that Mr. Kiefer, with the best of intentions, was little qualified by temper and intellectual limitations, for the leadership now thrust upon him. Many of those who composed the Commission and who now acted as his advisors, were even less qualified. Unfamiliar with the best traditions of the movement, wholly unacquainted with the qualifications of those who might now have been called in for the preparation and compilation of material, they sought out new men for these labors. They did not have to seek long, for the presence of what politicians call "the pork barrel" was advertised, and it was not long before some of these were accommodated with comfortable positions on the pay roll. They were for the most part new names and almost wholly unknown.

The money that now flowed into the coffers of the Commission was, in great part, wasted for political campaigns in the interest of Mr. Bigelow in Ohio, (campaigns only remotely concerned with the Single Tax, and in one in-

stance actually resulting in its suppression in the fundamental law of the state), in fights for the Initiative and Referendum in a number of states, and in salaries unjustifiably large to the favorites of the Commission.

The REVIEW at this time openly antagonized the Commission, though in receipt of its grudging support, for this waste of Single Tax money. The REVIEW contended, despite the efforts of the Commission to discipline its editor, that the moneys received as contributions from Single Taxers by the Commission should be exclusively expended, in accordance with its original appeal—i., e., for Single Tax work and for that alone, not for measures which, in the language of the defenders of the policy that was now being pursued, "led in that direction."

For Daniel Kiefer, it is to be said, that by conviction he was not a "pussyfooter." He was for the California "Great Adventure," and was personally inclined to the fullest uncompromising statement of our philosophy. His attitude on the war, and toward President Wilson, robbed him of what influence remained to him after the merging of the Commission into the National Single Tax League and the slow and numbing influence that finally resulted in the disappearance of that "organization."

The Fels Commission and its conduct over a period of years is an unpleasant incident in the history of the movement. The responsibility for the failure of a well meant but short-sighted philanthropist must be shared only in small part by Daniel Kiefer, but in greater measure by those who, some of them better equipped than these men in the knowledge of the movement and its traditions, acted as their advisors.

## Death of Walter B. Lowenstein

OVER our head at the desk where we write is a photograph of one whom by correspondence and association at the National Convention of the Single Tax Party in Chicago we came to know and appreciate at his true worth. It is hard to believe that he has gone from us, and his death at Palo Alto, California, late in August of this year seems a personal loss.

A tribute to the beautiful and devoted spirit of our friend finds place in an anonymous letter to the Palo Alto *Times*. We can say nothing that seems more fitting.

"Coupled with a fine, gentle nature, Mr. Lowenstein had also a keen sense of humor, a sincere and honest mind and a capacity for strong friendships. Although an illness of several years has resulted in cutting off the activities which promised so much in the service of all that is fine and true and good, there remains in the hearts of his friends an abiding sense of the great value of such idealism as his and an increased strength and encouragement from association with such idealism."

IF, as Roger Babson says, the French invasion of the Ruhr valley "has helped American business," why not stir up more trouble abroad?—H. M. H.

## Arthur Henderson, M. P. to the Oxford Conference

I AM very interested to hear that the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values is holding an international conference at Oxford next week, and I much appreciate your cordial invitation to attend and speak to the assembly. It is with extreme regret that I am compelled to intimate my inability to be present, as I should like to have taken advantage of this offer to assure your friends that the principle and policy of the United Committee have no more sincere supporter than myself.

The taxation of land values has been a vital need ever since the private ownership of land formed an integral part of the social system, but the aftermath of a great war has brought us problems which have dragged its urgent necessity more into the light and indicated the essential truths of the doctrine taught by Henry George.

### FORTY YEARS AGO

It is, I believe, forty years this December since Mr. Richard McGhee welcomed him to these shores for his first speaking tour, and it may be a melancholy thought to some that despite the lapse of so long a period the policy he then came to advocate should still hover in the realms of theory, at least as far as this country is concerned. No one who has read that epoch making book, "Progress and Poverty," would suggest that the ill fared duties of the 1909-10 Budget bore the slightest resemblance to the tax that George desired to impose, but if this country has been slow in putting the principle into operation its advocates may take heart by the knowledge that it is working in many of our Colonies and Dependencies, although some of the schemes leave much to be desired.

It has often been said that an Englishman never invents, he only improves. We shall not be able to improve upon the Henry George plan, but the more we approximate to his simple tax the more shall we improve upon some of the schemes in operation elsewhere. and I observe, with pleasure, therefore, that the resolution which the conference will be called upon to adopt is drafted with this object in view.

The tax, your resolution says, is to be levied "without exemption on the actual market value of all land at an equal rate per unit of value." Every owner will be called upon to pay the tax according to its true value, irrespective of the use to which it is put. The possessor of vacant land within an urban area will not be able to secure the assessment of building sites at an agricultural value. The owner of a great estate whose mansion is surrounded by some of the fairest and most productive land in the world will find that the pressure of the tax makes it imperative to release his grip, and thereby enable the farmer to enlarge his holding, the agricultural labourer to secure an allotment, while the Scottish lord whose ancestors cleared the mountains

and glens of that beautiful country and sent the crofters overseas to create more land values for the monopolists of the Colonies, will be asked to pay the tax upon the capital value of the deer forests without having the privilege of pleading that he is merely the owner of "bare hillside."

### THE UNEMPLOYED

But if the tax were now in operation it would, in addition to securing the existing values of land, bring within its scope the future values which are to be created by the Government plans for absorbing a part—a very small part—of the vast army of unemployed. Arterial roads are to be built from point to point, by-pass roads are to make circuitous routes round great cities, and join sections of existing highways, in order that swift-running motor transport may not endanger the lives of the populace, while railways are to be encouraged to extend their mileage into undeveloped districts with a view to decreasing the congestion of the towns. Tramway companies will, of course, continue to thrust their lines into country areas and omnibus routes spring up with a rapidity which astonishes the villagers.

I need not point out that speculation in the areas covered by these developments prevails with an intensity which is surprising only to those who do not understand the laws which govern the rising values of land. Neither is it necessary for me to assert that economy and moral justice demand that the community shall share in the increased values which result.

I wish, however, that the overburdened taxpayer of this country could be made to understand as clearly as do your friends that the cost of the construction of main roads for which he will be asked to pay could be met without taking one penny out of his pocket by utilizing the land values to finance the schemes.

The taxation of land values with, of course, the exemption of improvements, does not receive my support merely as a plan for raising additional revenue. It is designed to achieve far greater results. It seeks to open the way to the natural resources from which all wealth springs. The labour is here, and with it the will to work, but the land still lies locked in the grip of a tenacious and unrelenting monopoly, while unemployment and poverty haunt us with a terrifying persistence.

### A GLOOMY OUTLOOK

Is it to be wondered that the working classes of this country almost despair of better times? "Hope cometh with the morning," but "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," and the morning of the post-war period has not brought fulfillment of the promises given. There has been, unhappily, a slump in idealism, while the enervating influence of unfulfilled expectations has enveloped the people like a damp mist, and the more they strive in the direction of a new social order the darker and gloomier becomes the way.

The fourth winter of unemployment draws near without any satisfactory opportunities opening out for the economic welfare of that mass of the people who have borne the heat and burden of the day so patiently. Are these opportunities always to be denied to them? Is Labour never to achieve free access to nature's bounteous storehouse? Must the toll of landlordism always absorb the benefits of the increasing wealth made possible by the inventive mind of man?

These are the questions that must be answered before we can proceed in the direction of building up a society based upon universal brotherhood, and no answer will satisfy the moral sense of the people that does not contain an admission of the right of a community to throw open the land and to take for the community the economic values created by the community. With a society thus firmly established upon the basis of economic justice, the spiritual and intellectual ideals, without which a nation cannot live, will have greater freedom of development, for "The wisdom of a learned man cometh by opportunity of leisure," and I hold that every man has a right to sufficient leisure to enable him to seek "the things that are more excellent."

### NO REASON FOR DESPAIR

To some of us the better days seem long in coming. We may never see the achievement of our ideals; but that is not a reason for despair or an excuse for the relaxation of our efforts. We must go forward strong in the faith that is within us and determined to bear down every obstacle with which we are confronted. Progress is slow and evolution can only show achievements of dismal degree. The time when your policy may be in universal operation is perhaps nearer than you think. Never fail to give voice to it when the opportunity is present, and take courage despite the set-backs that produce disappointment.

Arthur Henderson.

## From R. L. Outhwaites Speech at the Conference

The people had to be shown what was the origin of economic slavery and of war itself. It was the impulse in man to satisfy his needs with the least possible exertion, and on the basis of chattel slavery all the great empires of the past were built up, and, because of that, they fell in the dust. Throughout the world, they would find the civilizations were based upon slavery just as much as the old ones. What was wanted was a House of Commons which would issue a declaration of common right to the land so that they might know in which way the people were turning for liberty. Another thing wanted was a Finance Bill which would collect from the tenants of the economic estate the economic rent and pass it into a common land rent fund which would be ear-marked for allocation to local authorities per head of the population.



## The Campaign in Ontario

AS our Tax Exemption Petition presented to the Toronto City Council last year, was not allowed by the courts owing to a technicality, it was decided early this year to obtain a new petition, rather than institute costly legal action with uncertain results against City Hall officialdom.

After six months of canvassing, by competent workers, a new petition containing 13,000 names of persons qualified to vote on money by-laws, has been obtained.

The section of the Municipal Tax Exemption Act of 1920, as amended in 1921, that permits such a petition, is as follows:

Where a petition signed by at least ten per cent. of the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws is presented to the Council on or before the first day of November in any year, praying for the submission of a by-law under this Act and setting out in the petition the percentage of exemption desired each year, it shall be the duty of the Council to submit a by-law in conformity with the petition to the electors qualified to vote on money by-laws on the day fixed for holding the poll at the next annual municipal election, and if the voting is in favor of the by-law it shall be the duty of the Council to forthwith pass the by-law, and such by-law shall not be repealed except as provided in section 11.

The petition as largely signed reads as follows:

Therefore we, the undersigned, hereby petition the Council of the City of Toronto that, under and in accordance with the said Act as amended, there be duly submitted at the next annual municipal election after the presentation to council of this petition a by-law exempting from taxation for all purposes including school purposes for the first year in which the by-law takes effect 10 per cent. of the assessed value of improvements, income and business assessment, and from year to year thereafter an additional 10 per cent. of assessed value until the whole of such assessed value is so exempted from taxation.

Much opposition was encountered from the special interests, so strongly entrenched at our City Hall, but it had no visible effect upon the signers, many of whom are also on last years' petition.

The new signatures received will give us at least 2000 names over the necessary 10%.

All signatures of persons found on the last official voters' list of the city, are checked off by an identification mark and sworn to by affidavits attached to each sheet of names.

Suitable literature has been left at many thousands of Toronto homes explaining the petition and its benefits, so the electors have a solid basis of information to guide them when this question goes to a vote.

In January of the present year the city authorities appointed a Special Committee to consider and report on the merits of the Amended Act that makes the petition possible.

The following persons compose this committee. The Assessment Commissioner, the City Solicitor, the Commissioner of Finance, and one representative from the following bodies: The Bankers, the Board of Trade, the Trades and Labor Council, the Central Council of

Ratepayers, and the Single Tax Association of Ontario.

In the meantime our Assessment Commissioner had compiled a report on this question, but we were refused access to it by his department and the Mayor.

The first meeting of this Special Committee convened on August 1st and adjourned until the 23rd of that month.

Other sessions were held on the 24th and 30th of August, September 5th and 12th, with a final meeting called for September 25th when it is expected that reports on the evidence will be issued to the press.

During the progress of this meeting which had many press notices, such experts as James R. Brown, New York, Harry Willock, Pittsburg, Pa., C. J. Tully, Ottawa, Hon. E. C. Drury, Ex-Premier of Ontario, with local Single Taxers including A. W. Roebuck, Alan. C. Thompson, Julian Sale, A. B. Farmer, E. J. Farmer, H. Patterson, presented convincing facts and figures showing the great benefits to be obtained by the adoption of this by-law.

A. W. Roebuck, our president, who attended these meetings—that extended over six days—with his legal training, drew out by his questions many interesting facts.

The grand old man of our movement in Canada, W. A. Douglas, and Ex-Alderman R. Honeyford are to give evidence at the final session of the committee.

On September 12th, Mr. A. W. Roebuck, our president, addressed the Public Ownership Committee of America on the subject of "Public Ownership and Sane Taxation," arousing much enthusiasm by his excellent presentation, that received favorable press notices.

The same evening a complimentary dinner was given to Otto Cullman and Emil O. Jorgensen, of Chicago, and in addition other prominent Single Taxers were present such as S. A. Stockwell of the Minnesota Legislature, Alderman W. W. Mills, Chicago, Chester Platt, Madison, Wis., Carl J. Buell, Minnesota, W. J. Spaulding, Springfield, Ill., L. K. Mayer, Brooklyn, N. Y., Hon. Cornelius Sheehan, New York, Wm. Erickson, Seattle, Wash., and Mr. Andrews, Kewana, Ill.

—S. T.

## Our Billion Mark Prize

INSPIRED by the example of Mr. Edward Bok, the REVIEW offers a prize of 1,000,000,000 marks for the best suggestion for a practicable method for giving the American farmers an annual income equal to the value of their labor, and interest on the capital invested in their industry. The only limitations put on plans for this worthy purpose are: 1st. That they shall not propose to get the farmers out of debt by loaning them more money. 2nd. That they shall not suggest the election of some professional friend of the farmer as President. 3rd. That they shall not require the enactment of a lot of fool laws by cheap politicians.

We don't know why Mexico was not "recognized," but feelsure J. P. Morgan knows.

## What Is News?

THE following from the Portland *Oregonian* is of interest:

Single Tax advocates are complaining at the New York press. The first meeting of the International Conference of Single Taxers opened recently at Oxford, England. The next day there was no account of the affair in any of the New York newspapers.

Thereupon a group of New York Single Taxers sent the following cablegram to Robert Macauley, former reporter, delegate to the convention and candidate for president on the Single Tax ticket in 1920:

"No news of conference here. Get arrested at once."

And the day following, with general irony, one of the group wrote plaintively to the New York *World* that he was afraid the cablegram miscarried and was delivered to Mr. DeValera by mistake.

It might seem a somewhat sad commentary on our modern newspapers that a man must be arrested before he can get his name in print. The answer lies in the fact that the logic of the complaint is mixed.

News is that which is new or interesting, that which is of greatest interest to the greatest number.

There would not be many thrills in a lengthy report of the doings of an international Single Tax convention.

On the other hand, if a man once candidate for the presidency of the United States should heave a well-aimed brick at the person of the premier of Great Britain and should get himself arrested thereby, then it would be of interest to a large number of readers, and automatically it would become news, worthy of the cable and the front page.

That is to say, if a dog bites a man it is not news. But if a man bites a dog, that's news.

The complaint we make is not that the papers in the United States did not give lengthy reports of the International Single Tax Conference at Oxford, but that they gave no reports at all.

The question therefore arises, when is news news? It is certain that a conference of philologists, for example, taking place in London and to which half a hundred delegates from the United States were in attendance, would have been thought of sufficient importance to have found mention in every paper in this country. Yet here is a movement which is of interest to thousands, which in the State of California alone received the endorsement of a quarter of a million voters. Is it not pertinent to inquire why an international conference representing perhaps the aspirations of a million people received not a line in the news columns of the American press, nor a single editorial comment, favorable or adverse?

Somewhere tonight they are making up the pages of a metropolitan newspaper. Let us travel in fancy to the spot where amid the sound of the moving presses on another floor we may listen to the following conversation:

"Here's a story of a nasty scandal in high society."  
"Good. Run it in the first column." "Cable saying that Wiffinton Smythe knocked a rubber ball around a field with fewer strokes than five competitors." "Great.

That will interest all our readers." "A husky loafer with no visible means of support is going to have a fist fight with another slugger." "Fine. Make it two columns, with photos." "Bandit robs Broadway jewelry store." "Give it an inch. These holdups happen every day." "Senator Frump emits an interview on the Balkan situation." "If he agrees with us on foreign policies run it all. If he's against us, four lines will do." "Associated Press dispatch about the International Single Tax Conference." "Kill it. Our readers are not interested in better methods of taxation, nor in the land question. None of 'em are farmers."

## The Review in Public Libraries

WE cannot too often urge upon our friends the value to the movement of placing the REVIEW in Public Libraries. These institutions, some of which subscribe directly for the REVIEW, are nearly all glad to have it, and most of them report that it is frequently consulted.

Mr. George H. Sinton, of Pasadena, California, for many years has subscribed for nearly two score public libraries in different parts of the country. One librarian writes, "Shall be pleased to have you continue sending us the REVIEW." Another, "The REVIEW is placed in our reading room and I am sure some patrons of the library are interested in the articles." A college librarian writes, "We bind it with other magazines and it is put with the bound volumes where it is available to our college world." Another, "Very glad to have the REVIEW for another year and will see that it is made available to our readers."

Many other similar communications from librarians have been received, all confirmatory of the value to the movement of the widest library circulation for its representative periodical.

Will not our readers emulate Mr. Sinton's example?

## Investing Investment in the People's Heritage

THE Lincoln, Nebraska, Joint Stock Land Bank issue a circular inviting investment. We quote:

Land continually increases in value with the increase in population. Census figures covering seventy years of American experience demonstrate this beyond dispute. In older countries the records of centuries show the same tendency. A chart prepared by one of the economists in the United States Department of Agriculture shows that the tendency has been for land values to increase in an almost parallel line with the increase in population. Every other physical property against which bonds may be issued is subject to depreciation, and the protection of the bondholder requires the maintenance of a sinking fund to take care of the decrease in value. In the case of land bank bonds, the bondholder is protected by a gradual payment of the mortgages and a gradual increase in the value of the property securing the mortgages.

## Those Funny Reformers

**VISITOR** from Mars: Who are these people who submit to the extortions of landlords, profiteers, trades unions and coal-mine owners; who are jammed and jostled in subways; who are governed either by cheap politicians or by crooked financial interests that exploit them; who pay a large part of their earnings as taxes; who toil endlessly, getting in return only a bare existence?

**Earthworm:** These are our hardheaded practical men of affairs, who pay no attention to abstract theories of better government, or schemes for a wiser social order. They make no protest because they know that these are the natural conditions under which mankind must work and live.

**The Visitor:** And who are these people one occasionally meets, who seem to have the curious notion that it might be possible to get rid of the parasites, taxeaters, incompetents in office, and other nuisances that afflict society?

**Earthworm:** Oh, they are unfortunates who happened to be born without a sense of humor; cranks, uplifters, Single Taxers, parlor socialists, idealists and visionaries. We laugh at them, for we know that you can't change human nature.—Whidden Graham in *Life*.

## The Housing Challenge

**EVERY** now and then the *Daily News* is asked to stir up interest in the housing situation.

This time the request comes from a young woman, familiar with the general life of the city, who says she has been importuned repeatedly by victims of the shortage. Young people, just married, are having an especially difficult time seeking suitable homes. Many of them want small two-room apartments in which to commence their housekeeping, being wise enough to know that present rents are ruinous. Unless we are mistaken, there is but one apartment house in Passaic which has a two-room apartment, the rule being three and four-room apartments at exorbitant rents.

Another class of folk who suffer bitterly are the school teachers. Conditions under which some of them have to live are unbelievable.

What's going to be done about it?

We know all about the exactions of labor and the high price of materials.

We also see quite clearly that the cream of the present prosperity is going into rent. The existence of the land problem crops out in time of high wages just as distinctly as it does in the time of low wages.

The problem of the sane housing of the people is one that challenges the serious attention of all men and women who can raise their eyes above the Dollar.

Passaic (N. J.) *Daily News*.

Many interesting people have attended the Land Values Conference at Oxford this week, and among them Mr. Robert Macauley, a strong supporter of the land doctrine of Henry George, who stood as a Single Tax candidate for the presidency against Mr. Harding at the last U. S. A. election. Like so many American publicists—like President Harding himself—Mr. Macauley began life as a journalist. He is engaged in journalism still, but combines it—again like many Americans—with commerce. It is quite possible that Mr. Macauley may renew his candidature at the next presidential election.

—*Oxford Chronicle*

“But in 1910 Vancouver adopted a very much modified form of Single Tax. (Exemption of improvements from taxation.)

“Many see the evil of the present system, but are afraid to try the remedy (Single Tax). It is morally right, they say, but it is impractical. It would disturb business conditions. But WE should hesitate to believe that God has made the right impossible to put into practice. IF IT IS RIGHT IT IS PRACTICAL—if not, the Creator has given us a problem to solve which has no solution.”

—WILLIAM C. DEMILLE, 1920.

### HENRY GEORGE

On Nebo hast thou died! The Promised Land

Thou shalt not tread with feet of mortal clay.

Thy Joshua, where is he? Perchance this day

He girdeth on his armor, sword in hand.

On Nebo hast thou died! But on thy view

Through thinning clouds the gorgeous landscape burst

Joyous, serene, as when man saw it first;

For all God's children, not a favored few.

On Nebo hast thou died. Ere long mankind

Shall honor thee as never man before,

And grateful, joyous tears attest thy worth.

On Nebo hast thou died! Those left behind,

Though their loved Captain's voice is heard no more,

Will wield their arms till they've reclaimed the earth.

WILLIAM LUXTON.

## BOOK NOTICES

### MUNICIPAL PROBLEMS\*

This is one of the Handbook Series of the H. W. Wilson Company, and consists of selections from books and magazine articles on current municipal problems. As such it is an extremely useful book.

The editor of the *Single Tax Review* is quoted twice in its pages, though it is to be regretted that the conclusions of the articles quoted from are omitted. The paragraphs cited merely reflect the writer's opinion of the corruption of cities.

The work of compilation has been very thoroughly done by Lamar T. Beman, attorney-at-law in Cleveland, Ohio. The student of city problems will find the work a very mine of information.

\*Current Problems in Municipal Government. Compiled by Lamar T. Beman. 12 mo. clo. 542 pp. price \$2.40. The H. W. Wilson Company, New York City.

### SOCIAL CHANGE\*

Here we have a work in which variations in types of humanity are subject to most careful study. The author predicates as determining factors in human and social development what he terms the “bio-

logical" and "cultural". If for these we substitute the more familiar terms, "heredity" and "environment" we will be able to follow the author quite as well through many an interesting speculation.

It is not a book to be disposed of in a few paragraphs even where we differ with its conclusions. It is a thoughtful and scholarly work and will repay careful reading.

\*Social Change. With Respect to Culture and Original Nature. By William Fielding Ogburn, Professor of Sociology at Columbia College. 12 mo. clo. 365 pp., price \$2.00. B. W. Huebsch, New York City.

#### A STUDY OF HENRY FORD\*

This is a study of the life and character of Henry Ford by his former pastor and one-time head of the Sociological Department of the Ford Motor Company.

Dean Marquis quotes Ford as saying: "There is nothing I want I cannot have. But I do not want the things money can buy. I want to live a life, to make the world a little better for having lived in it. The trouble with most people is that they do not think. I want to do things that will make them think."

Surely a man with such ambitions cannot go far wrong. We cannot believe that the weaknesses here attributed to Mr. Ford, or his peculiarities, will seriously affect his usefulness. The aspiration in the utterance quoted will keep him straight.

Nor are we disposed to lay much importance on his supposed intellectual shortcomings. His contempt of history has been shared by men more conspicuous for scholarship and more widely acquainted with history. Was it not Walpole who said to one who read to him in his last illness as to whether he desired history or fiction, replied, "Read me history, for that I know to be false."

The Ford Peace Ship may seem to offer a curious contradiction when we consider the practical genius of the man of business. How reconcile the idealism of this strange adventure with what we know of him as the efficient manager of the greatest industrial plant in the world?

Let us not jump to the conclusion that, impractical and even Quixotic as seemed the Ford Peace Ship, it was not without its usefulness at a time when men were more or less war-crazed. Ford did not need any advertisement, but the ideal of Peace which had departed from the world may have needed this dramatic gesture made by the first man of Business as well as the richest man in the world. Contrasted with our view of events at the time, and indeed with what appeared the rational views of human conduct, this seemed an adventure highly irrational. Yet so seems every spiritual striving when mundane things are uppermost, every attitude of prayer, every appeal to the invisible. May not the Ford Peace Ship seem in historical retrospect as an appeal to human tenderness, possessing the virtue of an invocation, a spontaneous appeal to the higher ideals of humanity where these had disappeared in a world racked with hate? Why not confess that we do not know?

One other consideration occurs to us. It by no means follows that because Mr. Ford has succeeded as a business man that therefore he would succeed as President. Nor does the reverse conclusion follow—i.e. that the qualities which have enabled him to succeed in business might not stand him in good stead as President. People have a lot of ready-made opinions and reason according to formulas. But these are wholly unsafe when applied to so extraordinary a character as Henry Ford. He does the unexpected things, but what he does is governed by a wide range of experience and a quick and agile mind. The customary formulas do not apply.

We are not booming Henry Ford for President, but we can conceive of greater national misfortunes, and we can name presidents whose achievements would not stand out in brilliant contrast to what Henry Ford might accomplish in the simplicity of his inexperience with world problems, but out of a quick and virile intellect and sympathetic nature.

Dean Marquis has made an interesting book dealing with a very interesting man. But we cannot help but feel that his analysis leaves something to be desired. He is so near the picture that something is left out. His statement, that, "No one can know Henry Ford who has

not lived for some time in his industrial family," seems to us to indicate the limitations of the writer who would place before us the true picture of Henry Ford. For it is not in this way alone that so varied a character, looked at from one single view-point, can be accurately limned. Dean Marquis has therefore presented us, despite the interest attaching to these pages, an unfinished portrait. —J. D. M.

\*Henry Ford, an interpretation. By Samuel S. Marquis 12 mo. clo. 206 pp. Price \$2.50. Little, Brown & Co., Boston.

#### MR. FLACY TELLS IT AGAIN BUT DIFFERENTLY.\*

With much simplicity of illustration, in plain language easily comprehended by the hurried business man or the worker in his few hours of leisure, Mr. Flacy has told the story of economic conditions and the cure. Our author is not an experienced writer and tells us as much. He has made no effort to clothe this thought in rounded periods. His is a plain, unvarnished tale of a man who trusts to simple words to explain simple truths.

To the Single Taxer there is nothing new in this work—to him it is the same story told in other words. But the language is modern, of the kind spoken by the "man in the street." And for this reason it has a power of its own, like the writings of Cobbett, Bunyan, Defoe, Thomas Paine—not in the same degree, of course, but measurably and efficiently.

Yet how it shames the work of the college professors who deal with the simple laws of economic science in elaborately learned treatises. How few of them would be capable of a thought like this, and how few would elect to express it as simply, or succeed in expressing it as well:

"Prescript and man-made rules which do not rest on the morals of nature are very technical and mischievous and not dependable, and place the administration of government and judiciary in a very awkward position to administer justly, and can never meet the requirements; but when desired, may be caricatured, with magic phrases, and dignity and affable composure, into almost any kind of verdict that is wished."

Mr. Flacy divides economic thinkers into two groups which he terms felicitously "artificialists" and "naturalists" and says:

"The Naturalists have a political party known as the Single Tax Party; they believe that all equitable and fundamental law can come only from the source of nature, both for individual and national life; that the injunction of the natural law and divine order must be fully obeyed in order to have equity, liberty and lasting peace and prosperity; that this is the only source that can be depended upon, as this alone can restore to man his natural inherited rights that are his by birth—his equal right to the use of the land, by which both the individual and the nation are lifted out of the deadly pit of self-defence, struggle and the strife of tooth and claw."

On the whole we heartily concur in the words of John Emerson Roberts, who writes a few words of introduction for this little work, when he says, "If a few million of people read this little book the dawn of a new and better day is at hand."—J. D. M.

\*Constructive Democracy and the Science of Political Ethics. By William J. Flacy. 12 mo. clo. 188 pp. Published by the author. Box 65. Kansas City, Mo.

#### NATURAL LAW IN THE ECONOMIC WORLD\*

In the flood of books dealing with economic questions it strikes as a bit of deliberate impertinence that these writers, for the most part, proceed with their more or less nebulous speculations as if a man known as Henry George never blazed a pathway for them. In blissful unconsciousness that the fallacies they elaborate as important discoveries have been exploded by Mr. George as the sheerest nonsense they continue their amateur maunderings, which they try to make pretentious by assumptions of scholarship and reference to books on economics as dead as Adam.

That there are natural laws in the economic world, and that one book, if not more, Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," has indicated a line of reasoning that has rendered nearly all the books on political economy wholly useless as authorities—to this they seem politely oblivious.

On the other hand, the elaboration of the thought whose germ is the discovery of Henry George might be profitably extended in many fruitful speculations. Stress might be laid on these natural laws to which were our institutions to conform, quite a different civilization would arise.

This is the task Mr. Peddie has set for himself, and no acknowledgement of his obligations to Henry George is necessary, for his work is sufficiently his own in the elaboration of his thought and in the reasoning that fortifies his conclusions.

We could have wished that he had more carefully considered the wording of his thought here and there, for occasionally loosely constructed sentences mar the work. It must not be thought, however, that these lapses are frequent, for they are not. Clarity of expression is the rule of this admirable discussion, and the thought is clear as a limped stream. Nor is this detracted from by the frequent very exasperating misuse of commas, which is perhaps due to careless proof-reading, or perhaps to the author's own imperfect ear for these matters.

At all events, they should be corrected in subsequent editions, for they are real blemishes in a work of this character. It is obvious that some of these errors are not those of the author, such as Mathiesian for Malthusianism, and so perhaps he is also to be acquitted in part on the score of misuse of commas.

We might quarrel with the author's term, "rent of land value," but as he has been careful to make his meaning clear he has left no room for misunderstanding.

There are some instructive and rather novel reflections on the rent of mineral and timber lands, which those interested in Mr. St. John's recent article will find profitable to consider. Mr. Peddie would probably not be greatly concerned over the problem raised by Mr. St. John, for he argues that, with all mineral lands free to use, the best of these would be utilized at once, and as the contents are soon exhausted the rental value would soon approximate to the poorest mines. As we understand him, he is of the opinion that, with all mining lands free to use, the problem of their rent tends almost to disappearance. We quote: "Therefore, where there is no monopolization, the rich fields will be worked to the exclusion of the others until they lose the advantage they possess before the poorer fields are brought into use. Rent, therefore, will not arise owing to different degrees of richness or fertility in mines."

It may not be wholly fair to the work to attempt to convey an idea of its quality by quotation. But two sample paragraphs suffice for the reader of this review who may be induced to secure the work, which it is not too much to say is an exploration into fields almost unsurveyed.

"It seems to be generally assumed that, in the modern world, with its specialization and division of labor, it is not possible for the individual to be economically independent as he was when he performed all services for himself; that because of modern methods of producing wealth, because of cooperation and exchange, and the bringing together of individuals in society, that individualism cannot be maintained; that the individual cannot enjoy the benefits that arise from present methods of production, and at the same time retain his personal economic independence. It is assumed that he must forego either one or the other, that the retention of both is impossible.

"The drift of thought in this direction is one of the most vicious tendencies of the present time. It conveys in a subtle way the impression that the interest of the individual and of the community are opposed, that the interests of the whole, representing the community, are greater than that of the part representing the individual. The interest of the part therefore, should be subverted to that of the whole. Consequently the individual should forget about himself and live for the community, and the community in return will see that the individual is provided with employment and with the necessities and comforts of life. It has a pleasing and attractive sound, but a policy of this nature, were it persisted in and carried into effect, would wipe out the last vestige of human liberty, destroy civilization, and divest man of all that differentiates him from the brutes."

This is well said, and is a true statement of the true doctrine of individualism that needs to be said again and again.

We commend the work heartily.—J. D. M.

\*The Order of Nature in Economics. By David Edward Peddie. 12 mo. clo 147 pp. Richard G. Badger, Publisher, Boston, Mass.

"La Parcelle 32" by Ernest Perochon is a novel of French peasant life during the great war. It is a story of sordidness, greed and unhappiness, unrelieved by humor; but is told with a simplicity, directness and power. If Perochon gives a true picture, the French peasant who lived away from the war zone spent no time hating the Germans and was not alarmed by the danger to his country. He usually hated or feared some neighbor, and was intent on amassing money from the high prices, and on buying land. It was an era of intense land speculation in the rural communities, the land being sold in small fields or "parcels" at auction, with spirited bidding, disagreeable cunning and avariciousness, and unheard of prices for lots of Mother Earth. All that is bad in human nature seems to be excited by the keen desire to make money by buying and selling land—Perochon makes that plain.

—H. M. H.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### SUGGESTION FOR A NAME.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The selection of an expressive name for the party which proposes to bring to a successful issue the great cause advocated by Henry George has never yet been settled to the satisfaction of the great majority of so-called "Single Taxers."

For many years past the writer has pondered over this question, and lately has become convinced that we shall never procure a better name than

#### "THE EQUITY PARTY"

The more this name is examined, the more it will be seen to serve its purpose. We could not call ourselves "the Justice Party," for Justice is sometimes administered with a rope. If we say "The Land Party," there are millions of people who say "We do not want land." Everyone all over the world, however, wants "Equity."

All dollars must be equal in value; all yard sticks must measure the same; all pound weights must weigh alike, and all men recognize this principle.

All men are entitled to all they earn, and if one man gets less than he earns, some one is getting more; contrarywise, if one man gets more, some one is getting less.

Equity demands the abolition of all special privileges; it demands that the community receive all the value that it creates, it demands that Capital receive all the earnings due to its investment, and, finally that Labor receive all that it earns.

Equity says that the wealth received as the community's share shall be administered for the benefit of all the people, omitting no one, and favoring no one.

Charity, the highest of all the virtues, cannot exist without Equity, as Henry George so often pointed out.

Will you not present this suggestion to your readers, and invite comment? Several to whom I have offered this idea have approved it. I may say, unqualifiedly.

Who knows whether we may not at last have reached our goal?

New York City

EARSEN I. SOPEN.

### SURFACE AND CONTENT VALUE

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

St. John's article in May-June SINGLE TAX REVIEW seems to have stirred up considerable comment and some controversy.

It seems to me to be a very clear statement of a principle that I have always supposed every careful student recognized.

In Minnesota for several years that principle has been embodied in our statutes. We do not alienate the title to any minerals or timber.

Standing timber on state owned land is paid for at its full stumpage value and minerals—iron, etc.,—yield a royalty equal to the full HERITAGE element in the value of the ore.

Of course this was not always the case. Much mineral and timber land was sold outright and vast fortunes were made out of the heritage values that should have been collected by the state, but that is no longer the case. The HERITAGE value belongs to the people now.

In addition to this Minnesota has passed statutes taxing royalties collected by private and corporate owners of ore lands. The legislature of 1921 also passed an act taxing the HERITAGE element in ore mined by private and corporate owners. These taxes are all strictly according to Single Tax principles and are collected at the time the ore is taken out. This act has been sustained by the U. S. Supreme Court in a unanimous opinion.

In addition to these special taxes these ore lands are taxed each year on their value as *ore lands*. From this it follows that the state treasury and the local communities obtain many millions a year out of these natural values. It also follows that ore lands are developed and used instead of being held idle, as is the case with much coal land.

Perhaps if your readers could study our situation here,—could learn what we are really doing—it might save a lot of theorizing.

St. Paul, Minn.

C. J. BUELL.

#### FOR INDEPENDENT PARTY ACTION

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

Permit me to say that A. H. Jenkins letter "Selling the Single Tax" appealed to me immensely. Don't knock others. Give no thought or time to those who oppose the Single Tax. Don't tell the world who are against us. Tell them of those who are for us. I noticed that Edward T. Weeks of Louisiana in 1904, advocated coming out boldly for a Single Tax Party. My husband and I, as well as hundreds of others too numerous to mention, in Colfax, Alexandria, and New Orleans, were active in the cause, and believed as Mr. Weeks did, in independent party action. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it. We certainly would have been further along on the road to freedom and justice than we are now. Beside, look at the example set by our great leader Henry George. He ran for Mayor of New York City, principally to call the attention of the people to our cause. We have the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We have nothing to be ashamed of, and can advertise our intentions from the housetops. In the future we are determined to bear the name of "catterwauling Ghost dancers" no longer.

Our country is honeycombed with Single Taxers, thousands who have never expressed themselves. The great body of Christian Scientists, Socialists and The Salvation Army believe in the restitution of the land to the people. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose by independent party action.

Inwood, L. I.

JOSIE THORPE PRICE.

#### PROPAGANDA LITERATURE.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

The article by A. H. Jenkins on "Selling the Single Tax" interested me. Doubtless our methods of propaganda are sometimes crude and ineffective, and our pamphlets unattractive. I suggest that Mr. Jenkins, or some one in the Single Tax faith, who understands the art of "selling" an idea, prepare a pamphlet along advanced lines.

Some years ago the Fels Fund published a pamphlet giving the names and addresses of a large number of prominent citizens who are either out-and-out Single Taxers or friendly to our movement. It was impressive. I placed a number of copies where they would do good. Another such list would be helpful.

The Cleveland Single Tax Club depends for literature mainly upon "Squirrel Island" by A. Freeland, and Henry George's "Single Tax: What It Is and Why We Urge It." These pamphlets are neatly printed free of cost to the club. We have seen nothing better for general circulation; but are open to suggestions from experts in the publicity line. Cleveland, Ohio.

HOWARD M. HOLMES.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THE preparation of campaign material for the Congressional and Presidential fight of 1924 is announced from Republican headquarters. Quite a number of distinguished collaborators are named among those at work on this material among which is to be a pamphlet on taxation. A waiting world is on tip toe in anticipation of the wealth of enlightenment that is coming.

MR. ALVA SWEZEY has just been appointed by the Governor to the State Tax Commission of Kansas. Mr. Swezey is a Single Taxer. He and Mr. E. E. Soderstrom, of Wichita, Kansas, and the present Governor Davis were fellow students at the University of Kansas in the 80's and it was from young Swezey that Mr. Soderstrom caught the Single Tax infection. Later Mr. Swezey went to Harvard, from which institution he graduated.

THE death of William P. McLaughlin, veteran newspaper man, occurred last August. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and came to America at the age of seventeen. He set type for Henry George on the *Standard*. He conducted a sporting column in the *World* and the pen name adopted, "Wurra Wurra," became nationally known.

SAMUEL GOMPERS has just celebrated his birthday. We wish him many more birthdays, for surely it must be interesting to see how many years an old man can suppress beliefs he avowed in youth and which his friends say he still holds regarding the teachings of Henry George.

WE acknowledge the receipt from England of an excellent pamphlet on "The Industry of Agriculture," by Dr. S. V. Pearson, one of the publications of the Commonwealth League.

THE *Builder*, of Adelaide, So. Australia, for July contains an article by E. J. Craigie, secretary of the Land Values Rating Committee of Adelaide, on Land Values Assessment.

WE note from the *Fairhope Courier* that a recent visitor to Fairhope was C. J. Buell, of St. Paul. He lectured before the Fairhope Forum in August on "The Single Tax in Minnesota."

THE *New York Call*, formerly the Socialists organ of this city, has passed into the control of union labor and radical groups, and will be helped by contributions from the Garland Fund. Whether this is a loss or gain to the progressive movement remains to be seen.

THE numerous Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs of Ohio that invite Single Tax speakers pay their expenses, so we are informed by the Cleveland Club.

HON. JOHN O. ROGERS, City Tax Attorney of Knoxville, Tenn., has announced his candidacy for County Assessor. The election will take place in next August, but Mr. Rogers is already circulating a little pamphlet in which he takes his stand for exemptions of improvements and higher taxes on land values.

THE Ohio Retail Dealers Association has engaged a university professor to make a "tax survey." Howard M. Holmes, of Cleveland, wrote a letter to the Committee calling attention to the fact that taxes on the processes of production tend to reduce purchasing power and asking that they view the problem as a whole and not trust wholly to a college man's thinking, but do more thinking for themselves.

THE 84th anniversary of the birth of Henry George was celebrated at the home of Wm. Duvall at Auburn, Mass. Those present were, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Underhill, J. H. Cooney, Oliver R. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Keller, George Hall, Nathan Rice, R. S. Scott, W. D. Kendall, E. B. Maynard, all of Worcester, Kenneth Maynard of Ster-

ling, Mr. and Mrs. George Duval and children, Edith and Wilson, of Auburn. It was an inspiring occasion to the friends that gathered.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON, of Pender Island, British Columbia, writes us: "I am much pleased with the REVIEW. It seems to me that one copy is sufficient to convince any one possessed of a fair and unbiased mind of the justice of our proposal."

OREGON Single Taxers celebrated Henry George's Birthday by a banquet at the Y. M. C. A. building in Portland. Nearly one hundred tickets were sold, but not all were present owing to vacation week during which many of the friends were out of town. Among the speakers were H. W. Stone, of the Y. M. C. A., Arthur Brock, and B. F. Lindas, who made the principal speech. Our readers will remember Mr. Lindas as a valuable contributor to our columns. Formerly a resident of Washington, Mr. Lindas has now made his home in Portland and may go out on the road for the Oregon Single Tax League. He brings to the movement there the enthusiasm that will count.

THE Great Adventure League gave a dinner commemorating Henry George's Birthday at the Y. M. C. A. rooms in Los Angeles, on September 6. Among the speakers were W. F. Burgener, W. H. Maguire, W. F. Withers, Ada Paterson and Cary Richard Colburn. The last named spoke on "Personal Consecration." He said while he did not possess the gifts necessary to a party worker he believed in party action. Greetings were received from Dr. T. J. Kelley, of Marathon, Iowa, H. W. Noren, of Pittsburgh, Harriet Prenter, of Toronto and others. Lona Ingham Robinson presided.

THE Cleveland Single Tax Club has sent its speakers' list and a letter to all local business and civic clubs, also to women's organizations, alumni associations and men's clubs of 50 churches. The folder announcing speakers has been sent to all Lions' and Exchange clubs in Ohio.

E. W. Doty delivered a Single Tax address to the Young People's Sunday School Class of the Methodist Church of Lakewood, O., August 5, but the subject announced was the "Golden Rule". The young people heard something more than conventional notions regarding the application of that most famous of Christ's sayings.

HENRY GEORGE'S birthday was made the occasion of a banquet in the pretty rose room of the Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. J. E. Tuckerman presided. Charlotte L. Smith told of the Early Life of Henry George and Some of his Books; Virgil D. Allen talked on "Henry George's Three Trips to the British Isles and His Trip Around the World;" William Q. ("Billy") Radcliffe exhibited his bound volumes of *The Standard* and talked about them; Henry P. Boynton told of George's two campaigns for Mayor. Speeches were also made by J. S. Maclean, of Columbus, Ohio, and by Judge George S. Addams, David Gibson, and Fred Burgdorff of Cleveland. The meeting lasted from 6 to 11 o'clock.

ROTARY CLUB of Kent, Ohio, on August 7, listened to E. W. Doty's explanation of the Single Tax, and asked him to come again. In Niles, Ohio, he talked to 60 members of the Kiwanis Club, August 29.

THE special annual of the *Minneapolis Labor Review* is another of those impressive periodicals issued from time to time by Mr. Lewis and his associates. This magazine is of 112 pages with beautifully illustrated cover. It contains an elaborate and pointed discussion on Taxation by John Z. White.

WE have received advanced sheets of a little work shortly to be issued, "Songs of Love and Freedom," by J. W. Graham Peace, member of the Commonwealth League and the new Single Tax party of Great Britain. These are songs set to familiar tunes, the words of which express the sentiments of the revolutionary group of Single Taxers in England. We may be able to print some of these songs in future issues of the REVIEW.

CLEVELAND'S "good government" crowd, the Citizens League, having declared in favor of an "equitable system" of taxation, the politicians will have to do something. One candidate sternly demands a "safe, sane and sensible" system; another wants one "sound and logical." We are impartial, and don't care what wins out, but could suggest that a really bright candidate might make a hit by urging the adoption of a safe, sound, sane, sensible, satisfying and sanitary system of taxation. The only practical result, we imagine, will be the addition of several new taxes to the 98 sources of revenue now used by Ohio's state government.

R. J. MILLER, of 3914 Wisconsin Place, Los Angeles, California, is in need of Jan.-Feb. 1921 and March-April 1922 of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW to complete his files.

E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY, of this city announce the publication of a new work by Prof. Frederick William Roman, entitled "The New Education in Europe." Prof. Roman is a well known Single Taxer, formerly of the Syracuse University.

AMONG recent visitors to Fairhope, was R. S. McMahon, of New Orleans, La.

CLEVELAND Real Estate Board has a special salaried secretary to look after legislation, particularly relating to taxation. The board is becoming tiresome by reiterating its demand for the assessment of all personal property; but its new tax expert, Mr. F. E. Bicknell, never tells how it can be done. And there is a humorous feature about it, for the property assessor in Cleveland is a member of the real estate board.

IN a letter just received from Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson is a comment on the personality of Walter B. Lowenstein, now gone from us. Mrs. Robinson says: "His reasoning processes were unusual, so that often his announcements sounded enigmatic, sometimes startling, till you thought it all out the long way round and found him right as usual. His loss is one star dropped from my small galaxy of friends, or is it merely passed behind a cloud?"

GOVERNOR VIC DONAHEY, of Ohio, in his first message to the legislature, was strong against having any more taxes, and he vetoed a bill to place a tax of two cents on every gallon of gasoline. Now, however, he is seeking re-election, and favors what he calls a "sensible gasoline tax at the proper time." Great is the politician!

A GATHERING of Single Taxers in Toronto welcomed a number of visiting American disciples of Henry George on the evening of September 12, among them Otto Cullman, Emil Jorgenson, C. J. Buell, and S. A. Stockwell. A. W. Roebuck of the Ontario Single Tax Association, acted as chairman and speeches were made by all those named. The *Toronto Globe* gave a column report of the affair.

THE Los Angeles League celebrated the birthday of Henry George by a dinner at which 109 sat down. The event occurred on August 30. Dr. Woodhead presided, and among the speakers were Rev. Dr. James A. Francis, R. E. Chadwick, Mrs. Wm. C. deMille, and others. Dr. Woodhead presided.

MESSRS. Macauley, Robinson and Lloyd, visitors to the Oxford Conference, addressed an impressive gathering in Hyde Park, and George Lloyd, the irrepressible, spoke effectively in Liverpool and Plymouth to interested audiences.

THE University of California Library is in need of issues of the REVIEW to complete files from Sept.-Oct. 1922 (Number 5. Vol 22) and all succeeding numbers. The REVIEW is unable to supply these missing numbers. Will some one of our readers get into communication with the Librarian of the University?