

An aftermath of these labors is "American Debate," a history proper of political and economic controversy in the United States. It is reviewed elsewhere in these columns.

Dr. Miller has shown the pedagogic bent of his mind, as well as his inventive capacity in teaching, in other fields than literature. About a year ago he conceived the idea of reviving the old "mock Congress," and, by the addition of new features, to make it an organization not only for practice in public speaking, argumentation, and parliamentary law, but also for civic service. He organized under the auspices of the Bronx Open Forum the Bronx Congress, and filled the young men who composed it with such enthusiasm that, with preparation of less than a month, they performed a forensic pageant, hastily written by Dr. Miller, entitled "The Declaration of Independence." Dr. Miller has rewritten the pageant, introducing a speech by a Revolutionary forerunner of Henry George, Pelatiah Webster, and a number of new patriotic songs in which a broad democracy, beyond that of mere "flag worship" is inculcated. It will be presented next Fourth of July by the Bronx Congress, and also by the Carnegie Hall Congress, which Dr. Miller is now organizing in the Borough of Manhattan. This Congress is composed of earnest and highly intelligent young men, members of the Liberty Literary Society, which Dr. Miller is also instructing in American politics, using his "American Debate" as a text-book.

He is in growing demand as a speaker on the Single Tax, before various organizations. He appeals particularly in his talks to the spirit of idealism which he is convinced is a growing characteristic of the age, not only in the churches and schools, but in business circles and among workingmen. He takes advantage particularly of the "passion for poetry" latterly manifested among young men, that "strange phenomenon," upon which sociologists are remarking—to draw their attention to the higher things of life by recitations from the great bards of democracy and humanity. He finds that even common sailors, to whom he talks weekly at the Seamen's Institute, have their unusually inert minds roused more by high thought

than by cheap sentiment. In this respect if a more fulsome title be applied to him than the plain and preferable term Pedagogue, it is that of Inspirational Propagandist.

THE GROUND HOG TRIPPING AGAIN

Our esteemed cotemporary, the *Ground Hog*, has in one of its issues a column of epigrams which it calls "Thought Starters." Most of them are striking, especially this one: "Most of the cost of transportation is hauling goods past vacant lots."

But some of the others are more questionable, as for example, "Free trade, under our present tax laws, is still another way of working for the groundlords." The owners of British agricultural land did not think so when in 1848 it was proposed to abolish the corn laws, and experience confirmed their fears. Indeed, the gain from protective tariffs flows chiefly to the owners of natural resources; a tariff on steel products, save where combination is effective, tends almost wholly to the enhancement of the value of iron ore lands. It would take a long time for land to absorb all the gain from commercial free trade in a country as wide as ours; in England land has not yet absorbed it; in this county it is doubtful if land could ever wholly absorb it. "Ultimately," says Mr. George, it would. Some of Mr. George's later disciples have assumed too short a period as indicated by the word "ultimately."

The Ground Hog stumbles a little again in the following:

"Birth control is still another way of working for the landlord; for if people have fewer children they will have more money, the land will stand more traffic and the landlord will get it."

The less people the more traffic! Surely, our epigrammatist does not mean this.

LAND PARTY'S SINGLE TAX SYMPOSIUM DINNER

A Single Tax symposium dinner was held at Peck's Restaurant, this city on March 10. This dinner, called by the Land Party for the

discussion of Methods of Propaganda, was attended by about fifty persons.

The National Single Tax League, the Manhattan Single Tax Club and the N. Y. State Single Tax League were invited to send speakers to represent their organizations, and to outline their respective programmes. The only organization which acknowledged or accepted the invitation was the N. Y. State Single Tax League which sent its field Secretary and Lecturer, Mr. James F. Morton, Jr., who reported on the organization's activities in an able manner and endorsed the idea that different groups, working perhaps in different lines, should nevertheless strive to work in harmony and charity with each other. Philadelphia sent worthy champions of the party idea to the dinner in the persons of Messrs. Robert C. Macauley and James A. Robinson, whose brilliant speeches for political action and separate party organization backed as they were by the old enthusiasm which energized our movement in the early days, had a startling effect. Mr. Blech, of the Land Party, spoke in favor of the Party idea for this State and proposed for that organization a definite programme designed to gather all Single Taxers into a coherent militant propaganda movement by way of the ballot box. The programme was to nominate by petition an entire city ticket, with candidates for assembly and senate also. To do this three thousand signatures of voters within the city are needed for the city candidates, fifteen hundred in any county or borough and in the assembly and senate districts five per cent. of the aggregate vote cast for governor at last election in those districts. It was pointed out that the propaganda of the past twenty years was confessedly weak if there were not now many more than the required number of Single Taxers within the city, and that whether or not they were in favor of joining the party they certainly should help getting the party on the ballot so that those who wish to vote for the Single Tax may do so. After a number of speakers from the floor had expressed their individual ideas, Mr. Wm. J. Wallace presented the following resolution:

"Resolved that it is the belief of this meeting

that the earth should be the common property of all men and that all of our political acts should be in conformity with this belief."

The resolution was duly put and carried unanimously.

RHODE ISLAND

We have to thank the Henry George Lecture Bureau for the presence here of two of its able speakers—in January Mr. John Z. White, and in the early part of March Miss Grace Isabell Colbron.

Miss Colbron was in the State on the first and second Sunday of the month and most of the intervening days. On March 4 she spoke at the Civic Forum, conducted by women in one of our Providence Theatres, and in the evening at the People's Forum, carried on for years by the Rhode Island Tax Reform Association.

Her other engagements were at the Moses Brown School; the George J. West Club; the Women's Department of Brown University; Washington Park Improvement Society; State Normal School; R. I. Equal Suffrage Association; Bristol Suffrage Club, and again on the 11th at the People's Forum in Providence.

Our Permissive Act, enabling any town or city in the State to transfer taxes from labor products to land values, still remains in the Judiciary committee of the State Senate. Whether acted upon, or not, at this session of the legislature I am strongly of the opinion that an educational campaign should be carried on here during the coming Summer. In this view the other Single Taxers of the State coincide.

The time has arrived, we think, to arouse the people as a whole to the urgent need of untaxing industry in Rhode Island. Last Summer we made more of a speaking campaign than ever before—every Saturday night at the steps of the Providence City Hall, every Sunday afternoon from the hotel veranda of our principal shore resort, and every Sunday evening through the People's Forum.

We had to depend almost entirely upon our local speakers; but what we need is the presence and assistance of others willing to devote weeks to the creation of a public senti-