sonal qualities of our departed friend. We quote from the tribute printed in the issue of the *Tribune* announcing his death:

"Those who for many years worked for and with Mr. Wallace in his capacity as editor and publisher of the *Tribune* join the great and humble of the city, bowing in grief at his passing."

To Mr. Robert B. Wallace we extend our best wishes for the continued success of the *Tribune*. He can be depended upon to carry on in the spirit of his great father.

## His Last Editorial

The following entitled "The Leak in Our Tax System" was the last word written by Fred Wallace for his paper, the Coshocton *Tribune* in its issue of August 24.

FOR four years business has had to pare to the bone to make both ends meet. Accounting departments during that distressing period have been heavy purchasers of red ink. Business has been squeexed between the upper millstone of mounting taxes and the nether stone of decreased sales. The manufacturers of black ink have not fared as well these four years past as those who have made the red variety. As the Manufacturers' Record recently observed, "American business cannot continue to supply both wages and taxes in the amounts demanded of it by the government."

For the last two years of the Hoover panic it became an acute question of which it should be—a job or more dollars for public treasuries. It seems not yet to have dawned upon any of our governments, federal, state or local, that every dollar taken in taxes means that business must pare a dollar from other expenses. In the average business concern the bulk of the paring has had to be confined to wage budgets—there was no other place to pare. The cut in wages meant either lowered compensation, fewer jobs or both. If recovery is checked or proceeds more slowly than we desire, there is nothing mysterious about the cause—government is taking both from capital and labor more money than our productive processes can stand.

The government's chief aim now is to provide more jobs at better wages. For this purpose it has launched the greatest public works programme in all history. To further this aim it is also enlisting agreements within the various industries. It is appealing to patriotism and sentiment. It is also doing it through official fiat. And while business has given an obedient ear to the commands and entreaties of government it knows that, after all, wages can't be raised when there is no money in the bank. Yet with all its vigorous policies, many of them well planned, it does not yet seem to have penetrated official heads that the greatest boost to its own programme, the surest way to increase employment and payrolls, would be for government itself to cut in two its own demand for money with which to maintain many of its own useless functions.

Every time taxes are increased the cost of commodities is increased proportionately. Every time the cost of commodities is increased consumption of these commodities is decreased. Decreased consumption calls for decreased production and thus the vicious circle is completed which results in industrial depressions, loss of purchasing power, unemployment and want in the homes of million of toilers. If commodities were altogether untaxed and public funds raised from a tax on socially created land values, this endless chain of depression and partial recovery would be forever broken. There would be fewer unemployed, wages would increase, the laborer could buy back what he produces and industry would forge ahead with nothing to fear in the future.

Under that simple programme our whole taxation system could be revamped. At present an enormous percentage of all taxes collected, perhaps 20 to 25 per cent, is spent in collection. The waste of tax money before it gets into public treasuries is frightful. Under the simple plan of exempting everything that is now taxed and placing the entire burden upon ground rent this appalling waste would be eliminated. There is annually going into the private pockets of landlords something more than $14,000,000,000, more than enough to supply the needs of every taxing jurisdiction in the nation. At least two and a half billions that are now collected by taxation is a total loss—it never reaches public treasuries.

Why is so simple and far-reaching an expedient as this overlooked by an administration that is trying to put industry back on its feet? Because the vested land interests of the country are more powerful than the administration. There is no other answer.

## New York Honors Dr. Roman

DR. FREDERICK W. ROMAN of the Roman Forum, Los Angeles, was the guest of honor at a dinner sponsored by the Single Tax Central Committee at Town Hall Club, New York City, on Monday evening, Sept. 11. Dr. Roman was greeted by sixty-two Single Tax friends on his brief stay in New York while returning to Los Angeles from a European trip.

Those who attended the dinner were richly rewarded by an intimate and challenging picture of Fascism in Germany and Communism in Russia. It is Dr. Roman's belief that communism is barely holding its own while in many countries the Fascist "man on horse back is just around the corner."

Hitler went into office, Dr. Roman said, pledged to parcel out the land. Now that he is in power, however, he is doing nothing about it and so long as the large land holders support him nothing will be done. "The land system proposed," said Dr. Roman, "has nothing in it for land taxers. Its purpose is to introduce the peasant system of the feudal ages." Adolph Damaschke, the great German follower of Henry George, being a member of the social-democratic party, is silenced by the Nazi reign of terror, while other land taxers are in some instances in concentration camps or in jails.

Dr. Roman denied the implications of the statement that there is no unemployment in Russia in his consideration of the four to six million kulaks who have been driven off their land since the beginning of the collectivist farming under the 5-year plan and who are working at forced labor at starvation wages. Furthermore the millions of idle people on the Volga he said are "as miserable wretches as ever."

While affirming that the only economic order he "can have any faith in is the system that gives the individual the product of his toil," Dr. Roman expressed the fear that the forces of nationalism throughout the world have developed so far as to "make it probably too late to avert another world conflict, after which we'll have to start all over."

Others who spoke briefly at the meeting were James F. Morton of Paterson, N. J., Chester C. Platt of Rye, N. Y., Harold S. Buttenheim, editor of *The American City*, Philip H. Cornick, Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, and John Lawrence Monroe. Walter Fairchild was chairman. Miss Betty Cohen and Miss Irene Walford managed the details of the dinner.