

The history of Land Monopoly is a history of repeated and continued injuries and usurpations, all serving to reduce the mass of mankind to economic serfdom.

To prove this let facts be submitted to a candid world.

Land Monopoly has refused assent to laws the most wholesome and for the public good.

It has forbidden taking by the people the values created by the people as a whole for use of the public. It has taxed labor and its products, to the end that land values created by the people might be unjustly monopolized by landlords. It has sent our sons to war. It has violated our daughters and sent them into prostitution. It has increased tenant farming so that we are rapidly becoming a nation of tenant farmers instead of owning farmers. It has lowered our standard of life. It has corrupted legislature and Congress. It has brought poverty to millions. Through poverty it has bred disease and immorality. It is both the child and parent of ignorance. It has obstructed justice and oftentimes refused suffrage to those not enjoying this same special privilege of land monopoly.

It has erected a multitude of new offices and sent swarms of officers to harass our people, pry into their personal affairs and eat out their substance; as, for example, it has taxed and sent officers to collect taxes on houses, furniture, jewelry, livestock, stocks and bonds, income, money on deposit, capital stock, corporate loans, bonus on charters, gross receipts, insurance premiums, banking companies, title and trust companies, private banks, Notaries Public, Building and Loan matured stock, net earnings or incomes, mercantile licenses, stock transfers, anthracite coal, emergency profits, inheritances, gasoline and motor license taxes, in one state alone, 53 different taxes in all not counting 44 kinds of license fees and 24 kinds of inspection fees all resulting in an increasing burden on labor, business and production of all kinds.

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated petitions have been answered by repeated injury. A system whose every act is one of indiscriminate tyranny is unfit for a freedom loving people.

We have not been wanting in protests to Land Monopolists. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. They have been deaf to the voice of justice.

We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which demands our change of taxation methods, and hold them as we hold the rest of mankind. Enemies in Injustice, and in Justice, Friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of a liberty loving people in Henry George Congress assembled and as disciples of that great apostle of Progress and opponent of Poverty, appealing to the World's sense of justice for the righteousness of our demands, do in the name of Liberty, Justice and Humanity, publish and declare that our

people are and of right ought to be Free and Independent of this Tyrant, Land Monopoly, which permits publicly created values to be privately absorbed and places the burden of government maintenance on labor and production. And further we do pledge an unceasing endeavor by gradual introduction and extension to effect the collection by the Government of the rent of land and the abolition of all taxes.

Appealing to that innate sense of justice which prevails in all mankind, to this cause of economic independence we do pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

Done at Philadelphia on this the 150th anniversary of that immortal Declaration of Political Independence.

It is significant of the spirit of the Henry George Foundation and its promoters that this splendid new Declaration of Independence, written by Mr. George J. Shaffer, of Pittsburgh, and adopted on September 2, at a public meeting in the Educational Building at the Sesqui-Centennial grounds was modified by a single amendment. It had originally read in the paragraph beginning, "And we pledge ourselves \*\*\*\* to further the taxation of land values." Mr. Geiger, of New York offered the amendment that it read, "to effect the collection by the Government of the rent of land and the abolition of all taxes." This amendment was accepted by Mr. Shaffer, was passed unanimously and so stands.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

## Canadian Greetings to The Henry George Congress

WE send you our most cordial greeting, and regret very much that we cannot send a larger deputation to assist in pushing forward the noblest and best reform before the world, a reform which when fully realized will transform this world from the evils which now separate nation from nation and class from class, and bring the equity of brotherhood, of peace on earth and good will to men—the crowning triumph of a harmonious civilization.

Then, instead of society being divided into oppressors and oppressed, there will be the equity of brotherhood, each man doing his best for his fellowmen. The vast values which accrue to the lands in the large cities, instead of being used as an agency to enable one part of society to despoil and crush into poverty the industrial classes, will be applied to public purposes.

In Canada at one time we made rapid progress. The early settlers on the farm lands in Manitoba, as soon as they learned that they were the pioneers who were developing that country, but that they were placed at great disadvantage by being isolated, by vast tracts of land lying unoccupied, and that for every improvement they were penalized with an additional tax, it did not take them long to apply to parliament to have all taxation of improvements abolished in the year 1890. We are informed on the best authority that this exemption of taxation on improvements is regarded

so favorably that no one dares to try to re-establish the old system.

Very soon after that similar legislation was enacted in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. In British Columbia an Act was passed requiring that the value of the land should be rated at one hundred per cent, and the improvements at not more than fifty per cent, and at as much less as the council might decide.

In some of the cities in the West taxes on improvements, income and business were wholly abolished. So long as large profits were won by speculation, little or no attention was paid to these exemptions, but as soon as the "boom" broke, then the speculators saw how the taxation would affect them. They at once used every effort to get the taxes placed back on the industries. In addition they got the report spread through the associated press that the land taxation had turned out a failure.

On her northern side Canada has an Arctic wilderness, where there can be no trade worth mentioning. But on her southern side, she has the best market in the world at her very doors. Millions of dollars have been expended to facilitate trade between these two countries, and millions of dollars are wasted in efforts to shackle that trade. Five cents are considered a high price to carry a bushel of wheat three thousand miles across the Atlantic. But it costs many times five cents to get that bushel across the imaginary line between these countries.

Many of our papers and our politicians spend their energies in trying to terrify the people from buying their goods in the States, but they say not a word about the vast amount of lands and timber limits, which our American neighbors have bought in this country for the sake of the millions of unearned increment they can squeeze out of our people.

Since the invention of the steam engine by James Watt about the time of the American Revolution, the advance in the physical sciences has been the wonder of the ages. But the failure to carry out our obligations and equities of brotherhood is the disgrace of our age. Our theological students have to learn the Golden Rule in three or four different languages. But they are not taught how to recognize and to apply that rule to our social adjustments in any language.

We are profoundly thankful for the assistance and encouragement we have received from our friends and brethren in the United States.

The inspiration of our great leader, whose memory you have met to honor, still lives, while his teachings grow day by day, and are bound some day to witness their triumph and their crowning glory.

Listen to his clarion call in that marvellous book: "Progress and Poverty." "Lo, here in our civilized society, the old allegories yet have a meaning. . . . Into the valley of the shadow of death yet often leads the path of duty, through the streets of Vanity Fair walk Christian and Faithful, and on Greatheart's armor ring the clanging blows. Ormuzd

still fights with Ahriman,—the Prince of Light with the Powers of Darkness. He who will hear, to him the clarions of the battle call."

To some of us will come the call to lay aside our weapons but it cannot be long before our successors will hear the Song of Triumph:

Jehovah has triumphed,  
His people are free.

—ERNEST FARMER, *President*  
W. A. DOUGLASS, *Secretary*  
A. C. THOMPSON, *Treasurer*

## To Restore the Birthplace of Henry George

THE officers of the Henry George Foundation are deeply gratified with the success of the recent Henry George Congress and desire to express appreciation of the fine spirit of cooperation displayed by all who participated, as well as the friendly and enthusiastic expressions received by mail from hundreds of others who were unable to go to Philadelphia. The attendance was gratifying beyond expectation and all sections had representation, even including Southern California and Canada. We believe this gathering of the faithful has done much to revive the spirit of Henry George in the hearts of his followers and to supply inspiration for a forward movement to spread more widely and rapidly the knowledge of his economic philosophy.

Believing firmly in the value of organized effort, we now cordially invite every reader of LAND AND FREEDOM to enlist as a member of the Foundation. Already applications for membership and contributions have come unsolicited from many states, and it is our purpose to extend this invitation to every friend of the cause in America.

The initial undertaking of the Foundation is the restoration of the birthplace of Henry George. We have made definite arrangements to purchase the old homestead and restore it to its original condition. Fortunately, it will not require a large investment and no money subscribed for general propaganda will be diverted. It is estimated that \$20,000 will be sufficient to cover the purchase, restoration and equipment. Six thousand dollars has already been subscribed to this fund by a few individuals deeply interested in saving the historic birthplace from neglect and possible destruction. We believe that every Single Taxer would like to have the honor and privilege of participating in the restoration of George's birthplace and we are now giving this opportunity. Contributions in any amount from one dollar to a thousand dollars will be received during the next three months.

We are glad to announce that Benjamin W. Burger, of New York City, to whom we are indebted for the display at the convention of the wonderful collection of memorabilia of Henry George, has generously offered to present the entire collection to the Foundation to be placed in the birth-