

two-thirds the area of our little State of Victoria, easily carries, with no unemployed, her population of 37,400,000. Land speculation is forbidden in Java, and, except in the west, land is treated as Government property, and is let on hereditary lease or in communal holdings."

The *Commonweal* writer states "It is true there is very little unemployment in Java *except among the Europeans*. (Italics are the C's.)

The Europeans chiefly live "in the west," referred to by *Progress* i. e. in Batavia, Buitenzorg, etc.) where much valuable land is not treated as Government property. They total only 170,000 out of an approaching thirty-seven and a half million population. The "very little unemployment" elsewhere occurs on the company land referred to later.

Confirming the general statement that "land is treated as Government property and is let on hereditary leases or in communal holdings," the following details are given in "A Manual of Netherlands India, (Dutch West Indies). Printed by His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, page 208, "Land Tenure." The ultimate ownership of most of the land of Netherlands West Indies? is nominally vested in the State. Part of this land is State-administered as well as State-owned. In a further considerable proportion of land the natives enjoy possessory rights of usufruct, individual or communal, while in addition it is possible for them to acquire (on 75 year leases) a proprietary title which under the name of "agrarian ownership" was created by the agrarian law of 1870. Much land is held by a heritable leasehold title which practically ensures security and perpetuity of tenure to the landholder, while much is let on long or short leases of a terminable nature. A third category is found by the so-called particular lands which are held by individual companies in full proprietorship as the result of former sales by the Government. In the principalities of Jokyakarta and Surakarta the native princes are still the sovereign lords of the land and pay their officials with land grants or "appanages" which carry with them certain fiscal and public rights. There are also "official lands", survivals from the days of custom law. An elaborate and extensive system of leasehold tenure has been gradually superimposed on these proprietary and possessory rights."

The writer of the *Progress* article was informed by a Government official at Buitenzorg that "Land speculation is forbidden in Java." The foregoing "Manual" states, "The leasing of land by natives and Europeans is hedged about with legal restrictions designed to safeguard the native landed interest." The writer in 1924 travelled by motor in Java for 700 miles and did not see one notice board "This land for sale," a sight so common in U. S. A., England and Australia.

The object of the *Progress* article was not to give a detailed account of the land system of Java but to show there was no excuse for Australia, nearly 60 times its size to shut out immigrants on the plea of "overpopulation." He greatly regrets that *Commonweal* readers would certainly conclude he claimed that in Java the "economic rent is collected and used for communal purposes in place of taxation."

F. T. Hodgkiss, Editor *Progress*.

Melbourne, Aus.

### JAMES R. BROWN IN WARREN COUNTY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

James R. Brown again brought the message of the Single Tax to Warren County, New York State, during the week of June 22nd. On the evening of the 22nd he spoke at Luzerne on "Civic Righteousness" at the annual commencement of the Luzerne High School. On Wednesday he addressed the Lions' Club at Newark, N. Y., returning Thursday to Glens Falls where he appeared for the fifth time before the Rotary Club. On Thursday evening Mr. Brown addressed the members of Luzerne Grange and on the following evening the members of all the nearby Granges at Mohican Grange near Glens Falls. On Monday evening he was heard at Salem, Washington County, where he spoke before the Lions' Club.

Mr. Brown was everywhere received with enthusiasm. His humorous allusions to and illustrations of the absurdities of our present tax system never failed to elicit from his hearers the laugh of appreciation

and understanding. His appeal went over big to the farmers in the Grange meetings especially.

Next fall when the Pomona Grange holds its meetings in Warren and Washington Counties, Mr. Brown will be sure to receive a hearty invitation to speak to larger groups of farmers and members of local Granges.

The message of the Single Tax only needs to be presented clearly (and genial James R. is a master hand at this) to be understood and acted upon by the Grange of this State. If the farmers themselves become "tax-conscious" and can learn what they really want by way of a just system of taxation, their united will, if expressed, is bound to produce results. The field, it seems, is ripe for the harvest and we welcome the workers.

L. F. PERKINS,

Dist. Supt. of Schools.

Luzerne, Warren Co., N. Y.

### WE LEAVE DR. HALE TO THE MERCY OF OUR READERS EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The paragraphs on page 36, March-April issue of your paper, referring to the common belief, as shown by Professor Hamilton, that the land question is largely an agricultural problem discuss a phase of Georgian propaganda that was once a deep puzzle to me. The following is offered as an explanation of the fact and suggests a presentation of theory that may overcome the difficulty.

A person is not conscious of using land when aboard ship at sea. Yet the sea has a land bottom.

Nor on an airplane does one realize that he is using land; yet the air is held up by land.

Likewise on a railroad train, but the track is built on land.

In drawing water from a faucet of a water distribution system one does not remember that the water fell from the sky on land and conveyed over land through pipes made from a product of land.

When one turns a key and has available electric light or power, he forgets that the light or power was generated by fuel that came out of the ground or by water that fell on land, was conveyed over land to a generator and the current again conveyed overland to the user.

Nor does a person who spends his life in a building either at work or play realize that all the time he is using land.

In fact, the one who works land is the only one who is fully conscious of using land, and one who wants to work land is the only one fully conscious of being denied access to land. Is it not then to be expected that the land question will seem to be an agricultural problem to almost every one?

The following presentation of our argument has won assent from every one of the small number of people so far appealed to:

The *ownership* of the land upon which it is conducted is not an essential part of any industry.

Then the giving to any person for owning land any part of the earnings of any industry is a gift for which the receiver makes no return.

More than half the current production of wealth in the United States is given to part of the people for owning land and a greater proportion in most other countries.

Can any improvement in social conditions be hoped for as long as this practice continues?

The easiest way to abolish this practice would be to have all titles to land revert to the State on the death of the present owner (in the case of husband and wife the survivor of them). This could hurt no one, as it would apply in no case until the person was dead, and a dead person could not be hurt.

In the case of a corporation, if such proportion of holding of stock of a deceased stockholder as the land value in the capitalization bears to the total capitalization were taken as an inheritance tax instead of a sum of money, a means would be provided for the acquisition of a majority of the stock all public utilities and a means of control of all other corporations by the people through their holdings of capital in each corporation.

For the purpose of flood control large areas of land must be reforested



in mountain regions and planted for grass in prairie regions. Such a project is hopeless under private ownership of land.

Some method of control of production of grain, oil and other products seems desirable for the sake of stability in social relations. Would not such control be vastly easier under public ownership of land?

Rent from land being a pure gift, would not the revenue from leasing government-owned land provide a perfect method of determining ability to pay taxes?

Or if one thought taxes should be levied according to benefits received, who receives as much benefit from government as one who receives a gift in the form of rent from land?

There are many other points in favor of this proposal, but these would seem to be enough to start discussion.

Santa Cruz, Calif.

C. K. HALE, M. D.

### SANE AND CLEAR IN ITS OUTLOOK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In my opinion the one activity which absolutely must be kept up is the publication of LAND AND FREEDOM. Without that I would feel totally lost. It is the only first class publication we have in this country which keeps us in touch with Single Tax activities all over the world and it is so sane in its outlook and clear in its statements that it is a joy to read it. For all this I thank you personally.

Fort Atkinson, Wisc.

CHAS. B. ROGERS.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THE State Unemployment Committee of California recently met at Sacramento and declared with due solemnity that the unemployment evil is a menace to the State, that it causes waste and lasting harm to the community, etc., etc. But no effort was made to determine the cause.

A LETTER from Waldo J. Wernicke in the *South Pasadena News* urges that assemblages be called together to ask that a bill be presented in the legislature to collect a \$1. rental upon every dollar of land value increase due to water and power development, and so forestall a monster bond issue.

HAMLIN GARLAND was the principal speaker at the recent meeting of the Ulster County Historical Society which met at Saugerties, N. Y. on June 5.

THE Free Trade Federation of Japan publishes a monthly journal *Jiyuatsuho*, at 118 Osaka Bldg., Osaka. It contains messages from leading business men urging the removal of trade barriers.

A BILL introduced in the California legislature proposing to disfranchise all save property owners from voting on irrigation projects has been defeated. Charges have been made that Harry Chandler, owner of the *Los Angeles Times*, was the principal supporter of the bill.

BETWEEN eighteen and twenty thousand Americans kill themselves annually.

"HERE is a subscription for your unrivalled paper," writes Jerome Underhill, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

ROBERT E. URELL, former postmaster of Mansfield, Pa., was eighty years old on June 4 of this year. He is a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, the Henry George Foundation, the International Union. He is a constant writer of letters to the newspapers on the Single Tax.

EDITOR HODGKISS, of Melbourne *Progress*, writes: "Congratulations on your great work in LAND AND FREEDOM."

A RECENT sketch of Hon. Newton D. Baker, former Secretary of War, appears in a recent issue of the *Herald-Tribune* of this city. The article recounts his association with Tom L. Johnson and calls him "a ruthless fighter for what he called special privilege, and a Single Taxer."

OUR old friend James Malcolm, of Albany writes: "Your May-June number is full of good things. The world is in an awful mess. How blind are the leaders not to see the sovereign remedy. It looks as if the coming winter will be worse for the unemployed than ever and the prospect makes those in fairly secure circumstances tremble for the outcome."

HAROLD SUDELL has written a letter to President Hoover in which he says: "In your Monday's speech at Indianapolis you say 'Our American system holds out the major purpose of a state to protect the people and give them equality of opportunity.' You have used this phrase on a number of occasions. Might I ask you as a special favor that you tell me just what you mean by it?" It would be interesting, wouldn't it?

WE have received an announcement of the graduation of Miss Virginia Huppert Ryan, of the Senior Class of Cornell, on June 1. This young lady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Ryan, as a baby was the darling of the Manhattan Single Tax Club when she crawled over the desks and was greeted as "Ginnie." We are certain that many of her old friends will wish her a brilliant future, of which a gratifying proficiency in her studies is a real assurance.

THE Eden, Auckland, New Zealand, *Gazette* announces the retirement of Fowlds and Son after a business activity of forty years, a retirement brought about by steadily increasing high rents which slowly strangled the industry. Sir George Fowlds at a luncheon given in his honor said: "I bear no grudge and voice no grouch, and I include the landlords in the general exoneration. So long as the people of any country believe in the private appropriation of rent, landlords are entitled to it; but the people of New Zealand have gone absolutely crazy on the subject of rents, and we are victims of that temporary insanity."

THE *Daily Colonist*, of Victoria, B. C., in its issue of June 20 gave column report of the address of Alexander Hamilton before the Henry George Society of that city. Excerpts from this address appear in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

EDMUND VANCE COOKE, well known poet and lecturer, sends his subscription and says: "There is no magazine to which I renew my subscription quite so willingly."

NICHOLAS A. VYNE, of Camp Verde, Arizona, has passed away very suddenly from a heart attack. For a long time he has published a Single Tax paper which was constantly growing in interest and importance. He wielded a vigorous pen and was a man of sterling courage. He had looked forward to resigning a small official position he held to devote his whole time to travelling about the State, lecturing and distributing literature. We remember Vyne in the earlier days of the movement and spoke with him at open air meetings in this city. He was a picturesque character and his language, because of his vigorous expression, might at times require some editing. He was a Rough Rider during the Spanish-American war and his friend, Captain "Bucky" O'Neil, at that time mayor of Phoenix, Arizona, himself a believer in Henry George's principles, was killed at his side during the battle of San Juan. We shall miss him, for he was one of those to whom the title of moral hero and devoted soldier of a great cause belongs.

JOHN H. MEYER, of Fresno, California, appears with a number of well written letters in the *Fresno Bee*.