

# It's Party Time for Georgists

**S**UDDENLY it's fashionable for Georgists to take a closer look at political life and offer themselves for duty, with or without tongue-in-cheek.

Carl Shaw of Oakland County, Michigan, with a firm push from James Clarkson, newly elected Mayor of Southfield, asks to be sent as a Republican Delegate to the Constitutional Convention—the election, July 25th. He is a public school teacher with two degrees, a war veteran, and a faculty member at the Henry George School in Detroit.

His policy statement calls for a tax shift from buildings to land. He opposes taxes on production, socialism and the welfare state, state income taxes unless voter-approved and regulated, restrictive zoning, and taxes on products entering Michigan.

Oscar B. Johannsen of New Jersey, author of the article on page one, has been active in local civics affairs for some time, occasionally with disturbing effects on his opposition. He doesn't really expect to be elected Republican Assemblyman from Union County, but he is nevertheless

invited to speak at numerous public meetings, and having nothing to lose, he speaks forthrightly out of his long experience with Fundamental Economics, often provoking consternation and even mirth.

His platform includes repeal of the 16th Amendment, plus getting the government out of competition with private enterprise. He is also fighting the high cost of education in New Jersey, and the attempt to pass a state income tax calculated to pay for the increased state aid to education recently voted into law.

Emanuel Segal of New York is the "candidate" of the "Justice Party of America" for Mayor. A group of New York Georgists have decided to draw up a straight land-value-taxation platform for a party to be patterned after the one in Denmark. The group is small at present but hopes to grow. They are encouraging people to write in the name of Emanuel Segal at the election this year, since he will probably not succeed in getting his name on the ballots. Incidentally this is the 75th anniversary of Henry George's mayoralty campaign of 1886 (see p. 5).

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Raymond Moley in the May 15 Newsweek devoted most of his column to a discussion of land value taxation as a solution to the Nation's housing needs. Quoting from the April issue of House & Home, he summarized the "Open Letter to the President," dealing with the housing situation, which is now available from the Henry George School (see p. 5).

An expert condensed analysis on "business conditions and their effect on the real estate, lending and building fields" prepared for the Security Title Insurance Company of Los Angeles featured a discussion of "The Land Tax Debate," evidently reflecting the activity of the Incentive Taxation Committee there. It was stated as "one possible solution" that "tax rates based on the highest and best use of land, instead of the quality and kind of improvement occupying the land," would "force owners of run-down property in good locations to give way to the development of the land in its most productive form." The prediction was made that "real property taxation" would receive intensive study during the next few years.