

foodstuffs that can be grown in its climate are concerned, but if this can only be accomplished by increasing the cost of living to the 60,000,000 urban population, there would appear to be little or no gain from that policy to the American people as a whole. If the city workers must pay more for food, they will soon demand higher wages, which will inevitably be charged over to the selling price of the manufactured articles the farmers must buy. How close the relation is between wages and prices of goods was shown in the statement by Senator Smoot, in the course of debate on the present tariff law, that the increased duty on women's stockings was made necessary by the high wages paid to operators of knitting machines. If it is accepted that high prices for cotton and all other farm products are desirable, it should logically follow that prices of manufactures should also be high, thus arriving at the conclusion reached by the English cotton workers, who showed their detestation of low prices by smashing the machines which made for cheapness by greatly increased production.

James A. Robinson

NATIONAL ORGANIZER COMMONWEALTH
LAND PARTY, AND FIELD LECTURER
FOR THE SINGLE TAX

EVERY Single Taxer knows James A. Robinson—"Robby," his intimates call him—but very few know anything about him. That is because very few persons have ever heard him talk about himself. He prefers to talk about the great cause he has at heart, and which he never wearies of explaining and discussing. Let him speak now from a recent letter received at this office:

"I am convinced that the divers forms of taxation imposed upon the people, inquisitorial and socialistic in tendency, are gradually creating a revolution, and the time to present our programme is now. Not merely as a relief from our tax burdens do I feel that our proposition should now be pressed, but because the public eye has discovered that all methods and social palliatives now being tried not merely fail to give relief from the economic evils from which we suffer, but in a greater or less degree involve an impairment of our ancient liberties."

Mr. Robinson was born in 1865 on Staten Island, attended public schools and high schools there, and then spent four years in law school. The reading of Progress and Poverty was a turning point in his life, for his attention was then diverted to political economy. He devoured all the economic literature extant, Smith, Mill, Spencer, Marx, etc. He found only the Georgian philosophy in accord with the true laws of property and the enfranchisement of humanity. He embraced it with all the ardor of his liberty loving nature.

Since that time he has found the greatest pleasure of his life in spreading the knowledge of our doctrines. After

many years of work in the field he is convinced of the necessity of conserving results by developing a political party with the sole objective, "The collection of the rent of land, in lieu of taxation." For the past six years the Single Taxers of the country have made it possible for him to devote all his time to the work. He has been able to do this by reason of the devotion and generous co-operation of his wife, Mrs. Kittie Robinson, to whom a debt of gratitude is due as great as that we owe to Mr. Robinson himself.

It is but recently that arrangements have been perfected by which Mr. Robinson will remain in the field as National Lecturer and Organizer. During a few days stay in Chicago preparatory for his departure for Ohio, the field selected for his present activity, he addressed the New England Forum, the Anthropological Society, and the Municipal Ownership League. Other invitations to talk may keep him in Chicago somewhat longer than intended.

Those who have not heard Mr. Robinson talk will do well to seize the first opportunity. They will hear our doctrines expounded without apology, not as a fiscal reform merely, but as a far reaching measure of emancipation. They will hear the best debater in the movement, a master of the platform, a rare combination of logic and emotion, and a moving orator.

Hon. Geo. H. Duncan

OWING to impaired health John Z. White will in future confine himself to local lecture work. His place as Field Lecturer for the Henry George Lecture Association, of which Mr. F. H. Monroe is Director, will be taken by Hon. George H. Duncan, of East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, who has already started on a trans-continental tour. (See Jan.-Feb. LAND AND FREEDOM page 31)

Mr. Duncan was born in Leominster, Mass., Dec. 23, 1876. His paternal ancestors settled in Hancock, N. H., in 1775. His maternal grandfather was a Methodist preacher, one of the early Abolitionists, and his house, in pre-Civil War days was frequently used as a station on the "underground railway." One of his maternal ancestors was wounded at the battle of Bunker Hill. He was educated in the schools of his home town (Jaffrey), and at Amherst College in the class of 1899, being forced to leave during senior year by the death of his father. He took up his father's business (druggist) which he has since continued.

He has held about all local town offices, assessor, tax collector, school board, judge of police court, postmaster, moderator. He was a member of the New Hampshire Constitutional Convention of 1912 and 1918; also member of New Hampshire House of Representatives, 1915, 1923, 1925, in the latter body being Democratic nominee for Speaker. He became interested in the Single Tax after an experience as assessor, the unsatisfactory workings of

the present system showing clearly the need of something different. After becoming convinced that the principles of Henry George were correct, he decided that the most satisfactory method of bringing them to the attention of the people was through the Initiative and Referendum. Prior to the Constitutional Convention of 1912 he was secretary of the N. H. Direct Legislation League, in that capacity delivering speeches on the subject in some fifty cities and towns of New Hampshire. The I. and R. was defeated in this Convention by one vote on division, and ten votes on roll-call. Since then he has been active in Single Tax work, speaking whenever occasion offers; also active in the councils of the Democratic party, having been a member of the State Committee for twenty years, candidate twice for State Senator, once for Governor's Council and once for Congress.

In his own state Mr. Duncan bears a high reputation for his knowledge of taxation. He frankly avowed his belief in our principles when a member of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. "A forceful, interesting and experienced speaker on public affairs," says Governor Brown of that state, and adds, "He is a clear thinker and a deep student of public affairs and economic subjects, particularly that of taxation."

South River Studying a Problem

CONSIDERABLE newspaper publicity has been given to the "favorable" tax situation of the borough of South River, N. J. (adjacent to New Brunswick), where by reason of the profits from the municipally owned water and electric plants no local tax has been levied this year.

Advocates of municipal ownership will no doubt hail this result with joy. Of course the rates charged must be much higher than the cost of service in order to yield such a profit. The municipal ownership partisans will reply, with much truth, that this is frequently the case when such utilities are privately owned. Nevertheless, the fact remains, that the people who use water and electricity are being charged more than the cost of service, and that in addition they will find their rents raised.

For in reply to an inquiry, the superintendent of Public Works says: "The production of both water and electricity now returns a nice profit each year to the Borough. This eliminates all local tax (state and county tax being as heretofore) and the effect on the price of land has been marked trend upward."

No matter what the capabilities of land are, land can yield no rent and has no value until some one is willing to give labor or the results of labor for the privilege of using it. And what anyone will give depends not on the capacity of the land but upon its capacity as compared with that land that can be had for nothing.

—HENRY GEORGE.

Our British Letter

DESPITE his great majority, Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Tory Prime Minister, is not going to experience tranquility. Far from it, indeed, if the present indications are anyway reliable. The first duty of a Conservative Government, said the late Lord George Hamilton, upon one occasion, is to safeguard the interests of its friends. Having been a member of several there is no doubt he knew what he was talking about. The friends of the present ministry are now clamant for their quid pro quo.

TARIFF THIEVES BEHIND GOVERNMENT

The manufacturers are calling out for the Safeguarding of Industries. They want to protect the British workers from the competition of the low-paid labor of foreign countries, so they say, but, so far, none has explained to the said British workers how it comes about that the labor in the foreign countries—all of them Protectionist, by the way—is low-paid. Are we to suppose that the specific which has completely failed to safeguard the foreign workers' wages will in some mysterious way prove effective when applied here in Britain? The Tariff Thieves behind the present Tory majority would have us think so, and in this are supported by the Land Lords, who see higher rents following on the closing of our ports by tariffs against the the granaries of the world. Readers of this journal know better.

The latest example of protectionist humbug is the application of the National Light Castings Association here in Britain to have "Roman baths" put upon the Schedule of articles to be "safeguarded." These necessary conveniences are of cast iron, and before 1914 were in plentiful supply at something below £5 a piece. Following the greatly increased demand due to the many housing schemes set in operation after the war, the price had reached £10 by 1920. Foreign supplies were quickly attracted to our market, and the price fell again to the present figure of £5. Now the home producer is seeking to get a duty imposed on the foreign-made bath so that he may rake off an extra £5 per bath—in the interests of the wages of his employees—but only a fool nut, or a Socialist Trade union leader will believe that.

Meanwhile, Mr Baldwin has all his work cut out to hold the balance between his Protectionist followers and those, of whom there still are a few, who though Tories, hold to the doctrine of Free Trade. Both sections are contending for his body, and it will be interesting to see who will win.

THE POLITICAL LEVY AND THE DIE-HARD TORIES

Another matter that is causing some worry in the Cabinet is that of the present system of contribution to the Political Funds of the Trade Unions. Under the law as