

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

WE have just received the sad news of the death of Abel Brink, noted Danish Georgeist, and for many years a special correspondent of this paper. A fuller account will appear in our next issue.

ANOTHER good comrade has passed on; another ardent worker of the earlier days of the Henry George movement. Dr. Walter Mendelson, physician, died January 19, at his home in Germantown, Philadelphia, at the ripe age of eighty-two. We quote from the *New York Times* of January 20:

"A man of versatile mind, Dr. Mendelson enthusiastically embraced numerous activities in addition to his professional duties. He was an ardent believer in the Single Tax doctrine and was a close friend of the late Henry George, foremost exponent of the theory. . . .

"Henry George was one of Dr. Mendelson's patients. They became close friends and the physician did all he could to further the political fortunes of Mr. George and the doctrine of the Single Tax. In 1897, when Mr. George felt it to be his duty to run for a second time for the Mayoralty of New York City, Dr. Mendelson warned him that he would thereby endanger his life. Mr. George entered the race and died during the campaign."

There are those who recall Henry George's unforgettable answer to Dr. Mendelson's warning. "This campaign may prove to be too much for me," he said. "But if it does kill me, perhaps my death may do more for the truth I have tried to preach than all my life has done."

Dr. Mendelson retired from active work in his profession many years ago. But to the last he remained an ardent Georgeist who never missed an opportunity to speak for the truth, and bring it home to others.

MARY FELS has rewritten the life of her late husband, Joseph Fels, who was a believer and prodigious worker in the doctrine of Henry George. The book is now in the hands of the publishers, Doubleday, Doran & Co., and will appear shortly.

ELIZABETH MAGIE PHILLIPS of Arlington, Va., inventor of the Landlord's Game and that other game, Monopoly, which took the country by storm a few years ago, is now at work on a new game which will deal with Free Trade.

HAROLD S. BUTTENHEIM, editor of *The American City*, has an article in the February, 1940, issue of *Survey Graphic*. This is a special issue on housing, and Mr. Buttenheim's article deals with the taxation phase, and is entitled "Taxes in Search of a Resting Place." He analyzes the various possibilities of tax sources, and shows that land value taxation is the most stable. He also points out the absurdity of confusing land and buildings together in the term "real estate."

ALBERT L. MEGGINSON, violinist and pupil of L. D. Beckwith, is circulating a very interesting tract which expresses the Georgeist proposal in a simple chart which can be seen at a glance. On one side of the chart is the present system:—Rent, pocketed by landlords; taxes, levied for government; and the remainder for labor and capital. The other side represents the Georgeist plan:—Rent, to finance government; the remainder for labor and capital and no taxes.

WE have received a set of the tracts which Charles Le Baron Goeller prints for circulation. They are pithy little things, fine to hand to novices. In one of his tracts, Goeller urges Georgeists to read "An Introduction to Mathematics" by A. N. Whitehead. "When people become mathematically precise," says Goeller, "and employ logical reasoning, they are forced to become Single Taxers. Socialism, Communism, etc., are the result of loose thinking."

L. D. BECKWITH has reprinted in his paper, *No Taxes*, the article "Concepts of Rent" by John R. Nichols, which appeared in the Nov.-Dec. issue of LAND AND FREEDOM. Beckwith praises the article for its fair-mindedness, and answers it by upholding the concept of rent out of the West—which is, that rent is paid for public service alone and not for the intrinsic differential qualities of the soil.

THE Single Tax Corporation of Fairhope, Alabama (the largest enclave of economic rent in the United States), held its annual meeting on January 15. The treasurer reported that rent collections for 1939 amounted to \$27,020.88, of which \$19,664.13 had to be paid for the taxes levied on the land, improvements and personal property of the lessees. This consumed more than two-thirds of the total. The remainder was spent on improvements for Fairhope. The budget exceeded the rent income by \$1,532.52, and this was raised from other sources. The excessively high taxes levied prevented the rent income from taking care of all expenses, but on the whole, the report may be considered encouraging, since rent collections for 1939 were higher than in many years.

WE have learned from Don L. Thompson of Spokane, Wash., that William Matthews, veteran Georgeist, has passed away at the age of seventy-four. Mr. Thompson writes of Matthews:

"No sacrifice was ever too great for this untiring soul to make in his efforts to contribute something to the economic enlightenment of his fellow citizens. Very few people have had a better understanding of our economic problems than he, and no one has done more to help to solve them. He was always giving freely of his time and money to help usher in a better day for the forgotten man, even when it meant a loss of business and personal prestige.

"The Science of Political Economy has lost a real champion by the passing of this able disciple of Henry George. Were it not for the fact that the good work of men like him will continue to bear fruit long after their bodies have returned to dust, I would lose all hope for a better day for those who now live on this earth only by the sufferance of others."

SUPPLEMENTING our notice in the Nov.-Dec., 1939, issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, of the death of George White, we are glad to publish the following account, which was sent us by Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll.

"George White was one of the old timers of the Georgeian movement and a man of tireless and colorful activity in the cause.

"He was born in England and followed Henry George in his choice of the 'Art Preservative' as his trade and business. He was for many years manager of the New York branch of the Western Newspaper Union which was the pioneer in the 'Patent Inside' and 'boiler plate' country newspapers.

"I met George White along with a lot of the originals of the Brooklyn Single Tax Club, first in the year 1882, shortly after I arrived from Michigan. The names of Peter Aitkin, George Atkinson, John H. Maclagan, Nelson Gage, Martin Battle, Jerome O'Neill, and others were among these; all of them more or less active also in the Manhattan Single Tax Club whose organization had the distinction of being a little closer to Henry George.

"George White never sympathized much with the idea of the 'all-at-oncers' that taxation was not the best way to approach the land question; and his respect for Shearman led him, in the last year, to grow a luxuriant beard like 'Tearful Tommy's.' Shearman's firm, Shearman and Sterling, is still the Standard Oil Law firm.

"White was a good speaker and an even better writer and was always a leader in debates and very sound in his reasoning. In recent years he has lived in and around Long Branch; and besides all this mixing in civic affairs he was an inveterate letter writer and pamphleteer and rated high as a N. J. Single Taxer. He leaves a nephew, Frank, and in England many relatives."