

## Dinner to Charlotte O. Schetter and Grace Isabel Colbron

ON Monday, November 15, a dinner was tendered by the Commonwealth Land Party of this city to Miss Charlotte Schetter and Miss Grace Colbron at the Town Hall Club in this city. It was a notable occasion graced by the presence of Mrs. Anna George deMille, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, Frederic Cyrus Leubuscher and Mrs. Robert Schalkenbach.

Miss Schetter and Miss Colbron were delegates to the Third International Single Tax Conference at Copenhagen, and the dinner was called for the purpose of hearing them recount their experiences. The dinner was largely attended, and it was gratifying to see among those present so many who are not members of the party but have chosen other ways of popularizing the great truth. It is well that those who differ as to methods should meet and confer in this way, and so learn from one another the important lesson of toleration for opposing views.

Mr. Lawrence W. Tracy acted as toastmaster.

### SPEECH OF MR. TRACY

Mr. Tracy began his address by explaining what the Commonwealth Land Party stands for, and why, and in that connection called attention to the fact that the problem of man's relation to the source of his physical existence, which is the earth, has been a factor in the world's thought for several thousand years. There are records showing that in China in the 23rd century before Jesus was born, there was at least an elementary appreciation that the rent of land was a public value and should be used for public purposes, but whatever method was used at that time in the effort to give effect to that principle must have been, as all other efforts since have been, partial and unwise, and so nothing was accomplished.

In the 14th and 15th centuries some Spanish monks made statements of economic truth that were fine as far as they went, and in the latter part of the 18th century there was a group of French philosophers known as the Physiocrats, who further developed that earlier thought.

In connection with the work of the Physiocrats, it now seems safe to say that if their recommendations to the French King had been adopted, there would probably have been no French Revolution, and the whole course of world history from that time would have been very different.

In 1850, a Scotchman, Patrick Edward Dove, published simultaneously in London and Edinburgh, a book entitled, "The Theory of Human Progression," which marshalled the sciences in their rational sequence and gave prominence to the science of economics with clear and incisive comment on its prime importance in human affairs. That

was a scholastic treatment of the subject, however, and it remained for Henry George, with his fine mind, great heart and indomitable courage, to state this matter more fully, and to present it in simple, convincing and interesting form to all who could be reached by printed matter.

Some of those whose first impetus was received from Henry George and his associates, and who had worked for many years in various ways, finally became convinced of the superior opportunities open to those who would organize for political action, and in 1910 they organized the "Single Tax Party," which at its National Convention in New York City in February, 1923, changed its name to The Commonwealth Land Party, because of the growing appreciation of the inconsistency and confusion of thought resulting from the use of the word "Tax" in the title of an organization which strives to interest people in the study of economic science so that they may come to realize that all taxation is robbery. The fact that our co-workers in England had already adopted the name "Commonwealth Land Party" was an added incentive for using that name here in America.

Mr. Tracy emphasized the fact that the Party's work is educational and that political activity enables the Party to carry on this work of education much more extensively than it can be done by any other method.

Stating his own conception of the Party's purpose, Mr. Tracy said that it stands for the full measure of JUSTICE which can only be attained by the collection of all the people's rent for the people's use and by the abolition of all taxes; that this should be done all at once and as soon as possible; that the step by step method will not work in any aspect except the development of the public understanding of economic facts and the growth of sufficient political influence to make the necessary changes in our laws in a perfectly orderly and constitutional manner.

And so the Party should be forever true to that fine exhortation of Henry George, "The advocates of a great principle should have no thought of Compromise. They should proclaim it in all its fullness and should point to its complete attainment as their goal." This purpose is expressed in the Party's slogan, which is "The earth is the birthright of all mankind. The rent of land belongs to the people. The first duty of government is to collect it for public expenses and to abolish all taxes."

In the physical realm there is no right way to possess physical wealth except it be produced by one's own labor. The same law applies in the mental realm. There is no way to possess mental wealth, which is wisdom, except by doing our own mental labor. This is an old, old thought

and one of the forms in which it is best known to all of us is the saying that "there is no royal road to knowledge."

As long as rent remains private property by law, every increase in rent makes life harder and more barren for every one, rich and poor alike; but as soon as our laws recognize that rent is the social value created by all of us together in spite of anything that we can do, and therefore is our natural automatic public revenue (since it is the only social value there is) and as soon as our laws require that every exclusive occupant of any portion of the earth shall compensate all others who have relinquished their equal right, by paying into the public treasury the value of his exclusive privilege, which is rent, a greater fund for the common use becomes available, and so under these circumstances, the inevitable increase of rent benefits everyone.

He maintained that economic science is the most important subject and its study is, next to keeping ourselves alive somehow, as honestly as our present laws permit, the first duty of us all because everything that would normally improve human conditions tends to raise rent, the use value of bare land. This fact is true whether the improvement is in personal qualities such as knowledge, skill, industry, endurance, responsibility, or whether the improvement is in the equipment and methods involved in production and transportation of wealth, or in communication.

Concluding, Mr. Tracy said that the present gathering was for the purpose of hearing from some who had been in personal attendance at two important events in the progress of organized effort to stimulate public interest in economic thought. The first of these events was the Third International Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade at Copenhagen, Denmark, last July. The second was the Henry George Congress, in Philadelphia, last September.

#### SPEECH OF MISS SCHETTER

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening, to meet old friends, to welcome strangers to the Commonwealth Land Party, and to tell you of my experiences at Copenhagen.

I shall speak only of a few aspects of the Conference, and advise all who have not already done so to read the full accounts in *LAND AND FREEDOM*, *Land and Liberty* and *The Commonweal*. It was delightful to travel by sea and land to Denmark, to which Single Taxers have looked hopefully in recent years as the country most advanced toward economic justice. Certainly it is the country where the name and philosophy of Henry George are most widely known and appreciated.

It was inspiring to meet in the Joint Sessions Hall of the beautiful Parliament House the delegates from seventeen different countries. Every preparation for their reception and comfort had been carefully planned, a work in-

volving weeks and months of labor on the part of the English and Danish conveners of the conference. The Danish authorities as well as the people gave us the warmest welcome and we were delightfully entertained in some of the Danish homes.

It was gratifying to have an American chosen as chairman of the conference, an office Mr. Hennessy filled with ability and unflinching tact.

Having been in Europe for ten months, I rejoiced to meet American friends, and felt very proud to be remembered and greeted by Mr. Hennessy whom I had rarely met since the years when we labored for legislature tax reform at Trenton.

The Danish Parliament has shown itself in sympathy with progressive economic measures, and the remarkable teacher Grundvig in founding the Folks High Schools (where people of all ages are able to study in the intervals of their work) prepared the whole peasant and working class for the acceptance of progressive action.

As Miss Colbron knows intimately the Danish land and people, she can give you a better account of the economic situation there than I can; therefore although I could talk at length of the impressive outdoor meetings in Copenhagen as well as the interesting trips to Elsinore and other places, I will turn to a matter very near my heart.

In Europe, as elsewhere, Single Taxers were true to form, absolutely agreed as to their goal, but differing widely as to the best method of converting the world to this truth. The bond which unites all followers of Henry George seems to me so strong and precious, I can never feel that differences in methods to attain our goal can weaken this bond of fellowship.

Before going to Denmark I spent six weeks in England and was delighted to find in both countries sympathizers with the Commonwealth Land Party of which I have been a member for some years. I also visited the headquarters of the United Committee in London. Mr. Paul gave me a very kind reception and I conceived a great admiration and liking for him, although he strove in vain to draw me away from the Commonwealth Land Party.

It seemed to me that the conveners of the conference feared that any discussion of the different methods of working for our cause would give an impression of disunion to the outside world; and I believe that the effort to ignore our group in the sessions, which seemed to us unfair, was really the result of conscientious convictions.

Great changes have taken place since I was present at the yearly meetings of the United Committee in London in 1903 and 1904. Leading democratic governments, as England and the United States, are adopting ever more and more socialistic methods to remedy the results of injustice; while countries that had had liberal representative institutions are now ruled by dictators. While Europeans really believe that all Americans are prosperous and many of our own fellow citizens have abandoned welfare work

on account of the general prosperity, we know that the powers of monopoly wield a greater power here than ever before, and that if political democracy is to endure we must achieve economic democracy as well.

The present situation seems to me to call for a new crusade which will boldly raise the banner of economic justice at the polls, where it will receive wider attention than by any other method.

Therefore, although I am interested in and sympathetic with all sincere efforts for our cause, I returned home more in favor of the Commonwealth Land Party than ever.

#### SPEECH OF JOSEPH DANA MILLER

Mr. Miller reviewed his impressions of the three inspiring days at the Henry George Congress in Philadelphia. He spoke of the fine spirit of harmony that prevailed there and the many admirable speeches delivered. He paid a high tribute to the men who had called the Congress together.

He said, "Of course we will continue to differ as to methods. Individuals will prefer to work in their own way, and groups will amalgamate for the work which seems to them the most practicable or the most important at the minute. That is inevitable. But it may be done without discord and with that personal affection that should exist between men and women animated by a common aim in so great a cause."

Mr. Miller pointed out that Robert Schalkenbach, with the cooperation of Frederic Leubuscher, selected as the board of trustees to administer the fund for Single Tax work men of various shades of Single Tax opinion. "And," said Mr. Miller, "I violate no confidence in saying that despite differences of opinion we are getting along very nicely. We are working out our agreements."

Mr. Miller paid a tribute to the late Robert Schalkenbach and asked that his spirit of love and gentleness continue to animate our labors. In conclusion he said, "I plead for the broadest spirit of toleration in the work that lies before us."

#### SPEECH OF ROBERT C. MACAULEY

Mr. Macauley made a vigorous presentation of the Single Tax. He reiterated his faith in independent political party activity but spoke tolerantly of those who differed with him. He said this might seem strange coming from Bob Macauley, for he had inherited a fighting instinct from his Irish ancestry. But he was going to do his own work in his own way, and not bother about the other fellow and the work he was doing.

Few men have the ability to present our cause more forcibly than Robert C. Macauley, and his speech on this occasion was well received. It was not thrown away, for there were a number of non-Single Taxers in the audience, some of whom heard the militant expression of our principles for the first time.

#### SPEECH OF GRACE ISABEL COLBRON

Miss Colbron said that she would tell little of the Conference itself as that had been taken care of by others. But she would prefer to take the time to tell of important developments along economic lines which made Denmark a peculiarly fitting place for this Conference. Denmark, Miss Colbron said (and she speaks from thorough knowledge of that country) takes its Henry George straight. There has been no dallying with the idea of land nationalization or communalization, a pet theory of some Single Taxers in England and Germany for instance. Even when Denmark got the land back to the farmer and set him on his feet by making farming pay, there was no talk of land nationalization. It was a business proposition entirely. The Government bought land (landlord compensation, of course, but that was some years ago) and sold it to the farmers on easy terms.

Now that the Danish farmer, in the overwhelming majority, is a free man on his own land, he knows that if he still has some economic troubles "land nationalization" isn't going to help. He looks about for another cause and another remedy. And the Danish "small-holders," farmers working anywhere from five to fifteen acres of land, form the great majority of "Georgists" in Denmark. He is an individualist, this Danish farmer. He comes of a race of sea-rovers, and the sea-rover, the pioneer, is the man who goes it alone. His splendid team-work in the Co-operatives has not been handed out to him by a paternalistic government. He found the idea himself, as the best way to run his business. So that, with such a people back of them, even the half-way measures now going through the legislature in the matter of taking land value taxes for local needs, can be of importance as the opening wedge to better things.

The Georgist movement in Denmark, from the composition of its adherents, and from the nature of the people, is of the greatest possible value to the movement everywhere. Miss Colbron said that, to her mind, Denmark would be the ideal center of any movement for an International Union, as the Danes are the only really internationally-minded people she knows. They have no imperialistic ambitions and they are setting the whole world an example of sane nationalism which means merely setting one's own house in order while keeping an open mind for whatever the rest of the world has to offer.

#### SPEECH OF LE BARON GOELLER.

"I like the idea of taking a text for my talk, and I find that the ministers have an excellent reason for selecting a text for a sermon, as it concentrates the attention on the one thought to be put forward.

"I take my text from the Gospel of Single Tax, according to Croasdale, 'A Single Taxer is one who does something for the Single Tax.'

"Notice carefully what this says;—it says to 'do something.' And that something may be much or little, the main thing being that we should do all we can.

"Sometimes we may be a little doubtful as to the value of what we are doing so I will read a few lines from Browning:—'There is no first nor last'—there is no great or small.

"All service ranks the same with God:  
If now, as formerly, He trod  
Paradise, His presence fills  
Our earth, each only as God wills  
Can work—God's puppets, best and worst,  
Are we; there is no last nor first.

"Say not a small event. Why "small"?  
Costs it more pain, this, ye call  
A "great event," should come to pass,  
Than that? Untwine me from the mass  
Of deeds which make up life, nor deed  
Power shall fall short in or exceed!"

"From my earliest youth I seem to have been something of a Hero worshipper, and, perhaps am in danger of having too much veneration for certain people.

"My first hero was my father. I thought he knew everything. And whenever I asked him a question I received an intelligent answer. He never deceived me, and his fellow workmen called him the walking encyclopedia. And the final proof to me of his intelligence was that he was a Henry George man.

"My second hero was Henry George, the greatest philosopher in the world. 'Progress and Poverty' was the greatest book and I read it through twice before I was 20 years old.

"I was present in April 1910 at a meeting of men, called together in a hotel in Manhattan, to send out a call to establish a Single Tax Party. A person might ask what benefit I, or the cause had received from party activity.

"I ran for Treasurer of New York State in 1914 but didn't get much publicity. But in 1924 when I ran for Lieutenant Governor I obtained many columns of space and got in long articles that were pure propaganda. Most of all, personally, it gave me a prestige that no other form of propaganda had ever done. Before a person can get speaking dates he must have attained to considerable eminence. And the party backing surely looks big. So partly on account of this, and offering services free, I secured a date at Syracuse University, to speak before the Department of Economics. I had about 50 minutes for presentation and was allowed 20 minutes for questions, had the very closest attention from all, and expect to go back again some time.

"The only startling thing that occurred there was that the Professor of Political Science attacked my definition of science when I based it on natural law. He declared that natural law was a mere figment of the imagination and was not a fact. He declared that we believe simply

what we want to believe. This seems to be a modification of the philosophy of Immanuel Kant, brought up to date. It is evidently based on the modern conception of matter, molecular, atomic, electron theory, which resolves the universe into some kind of an unreal mental conception of human beings. Natural law, they say, is subjective, that is it exists only in the mind of the speaker. But anyone can clearly see that natural law (that is, the orderly regular processes or sequences of nature) is objective, and has nothing to do with the creature that observes the phenomena. This is clearly shown by Sir Oliver Lodge in his recent book on 'Relativity.'

"The philosophy that natural law is subjective is a very convenient attitude of mind because you do not have to really understand a subject, for you believe what you desire to believe. And it is very convenient morally because you cannot say that Single Tax is right or wrong; you are a 'Single Taxer because you want to be.' It looks as if it were the outcome of a system of cramming in the colleges where the students are rushed through much faster than they can thoughtfully master their subjects, thus forcing them to use their memory (without thought) in order to remember what the professor said, and get through the examination. The students graduate in a bewildered state of mind rather than with convictions of any kind. They become agnostic on all subjects. In fact a superintendent of schools of Endicott once said to the scholars that all that we can know 'is the last say of the last professor.' Such minds, as Mark Twain put it, 'have been reduced to an ineffectual mush through idiotic training.' "

Mr. Goeller closed with the reading of the following parody on Kipling's "Vampire" by Bert Leach. So well was this delivered, for Mr. Goeller is a finished elocutionist, that it was a treat to hear him.

A fool there was, and he cast his vote  
(Even as you and I.)  
For ragged pants and a ragged coat  
And some grub on which he didn't dote;  
He voted for G. O. P., you'll note.  
(Even as you and I.)

Oh, the work we do for the favored few,  
And the miserable wage we get!  
We crack the nuts, and they take the meat,  
They hand us the chaff, and they take the wheat,  
And to make our bondage more complete  
We vote for this system yet.

A fool there was, and he goods had none.  
(Even as you and I.)  
He worked all day, from sun to sun,  
He had no cash, so he worked for fun,  
And he voted as his dad had done.  
(Even as you and I.)

Oh, he worked like fun from sun to sun,  
 And he plotted and schemed and planned.  
 But he just could not make both ends meet.  
 If his head kept warm, then he froze his feet,  
 And his kids hadn't enough to eat.  
 But he couldn't understand.

The fool was stripped to his foolish hide.  
 (Even as you and I.)  
 They couldn't use that, though they may have tried,  
 And his legs lived on, though his head had died.  
 (Even as you and I.)

It isn't the shame and it isn't the blame  
 That stings like a white-hot brand;  
 It's the cursed foolishness of a jay  
 Who'll work ten hours for two hours pay  
 And vote for the thing on election day  
 And will not understand.

The hour was growing late at the conclusion of Mr. Goeller's remarks, but Chairman Tracy called on George E. Evans, president of the Henry George Foundation, to say a few words on the new national organization. It had been the chairman's intention to call on Mrs. deMille and Mr. Hennessy for a few words but the length of the programme precluded this, much to the disappointment of many present. But it can be said that this dinner was one of the most successful ever held under the auspices of the Commonwealth Land Party of New York.

The following cablegram was received from the Commonwealth Land Party of England.

"Join heartily in appreciation of your honored guest, Miss. Schetter, hoping her vigorous uncompromising faith in Georgism may inspire us until complete economic emancipation is the only live issue everywhere."

#### LIST OF DINERS

Bejarano, Mr. José	
Caffall, Miss Gertrude M.	Colbron, Miss Grace Isabel
Cornman, Mr. O.	Dintenfass, Mr. Mark
Daggett, Mrs. Alex. S.	Dintenfass, Mrs. Mark
deMille, Mrs. Anna George	DuBois, Mr. William B.
Evans, Mr. George E.	
Fodershom, Mr. Wm. A.	
Geiger, Mr. Oscar	Goeller, Mr. Chas. LeB.
Hennessy, Mr. Chas. O'Connor	Hollingshead, Mr. W. J.
Hicks, Miss Amy Mali	Hollingshead, Mrs. W. J.
Hinrichs, Mr. Frederic W.	
Kohler, Mr. J. P.	
Leubuscher, Mr. Frederic C.	Loew, Mr. Herman G.
Lloyd, Mr. George	
Macauley, Mr. Robert C.	Macgregor, Mr. James G.
Macey, Mr. George R.	McKay, Dr. Frederick S.

Miller, Mr. Joseph Dana

Pleydell, Mr. Arthur C.

Rogers, Miss Jennie  
 Rosenbaum, Mr. Nelson  
 Ryan, Mr. Thomas P.

Schalkenbach, Mrs. Robert  
 Schetter, Miss Charlotte O.

Tracy, Mrs. D. Carlton  
 Tracy, Mr. Lawrence  
 Tracy, Mr. William Dwight

Van Veen, Mr. Morris

Wallace, Mr. William J.

Pratt, Mrs. Harriet E.

Ryan, Mr. William  
 Ryan, Mrs. William

Scully, Mr. John  
 Similkjar, Mr. H. E.

Tracy, Mrs. William Dwight  
 Tracy, Mr. W. Ward  
 Tuttle, Mr. Leonard

Weir, Mr. Francis Scott

NO wonder corporations raise great slush funds; in nearly every state there are two bureaus—one to tax them, the other to regulate them. Get rid of the multiple tax system and commissions and we will also get rid of corrupt politics.  
 Lorain, Ohio,—*Journal*

THE Earth is our Mother; The Great Spirit teaches me that it is not to be bought and sold like other things.

BLACK HAWK.

## The Henry George Foundation Begins Work

IT has not taken long for the Henry George Foundation to get down to real work. The officers have let no grass grow under their feet since the organization meeting in Philadelphia on September 2, 3 and 4. They have begun with an intensive movement for as complete an enrollment of the Single Taxers of the nation as is possible to secure.

Here are a few of the specific activities outlined in a circular recently sent out:

Organization of local Henry George Clubs on a national scale.

Establishment of a national lecture service that will reinforce the good work now being done in this line.

Printing and distribution of pamphlets.

Extending the circulation of Single Tax periodicals.

Development of an Economic Research Bureau to gather and furnish information on the production and distribution of wealth.

Furnish expert service on taxation and assessments; inviting the submission of local problems.

Establishment of a central clearing house for Single Tax information and societies with a view to greater co-ordination of efforts for the advancement of the movement.

Hundreds of letters have been received endorsing the Foundation and promising support from such men as Frederic C. Howe, Darwin D. Martin, Whidden Graham, Frederick H. Monroe, Emil O. Jorgensen, John F. Dalrymple, F. B. Hamlin, James H. Barry, James Malcolm,