

# The Henry George Congress Sept. 23, 24, 25

THE fourth Annual Congress of the Henry George Foundation held in Pittsburgh on the dates named above was a most successful convention from the opening on Monday morning to the close on Wednesday evening when James F. Morton made a stirring appeal for a continuation of the same harmony and fine toleration that had characterized the proceedings. The addresses, some of which appear in this issue and others which will be printed later, were notable utterances and the discussions following were animated and helpful.

The thanks of those attending are due the management of the William Penn Hotel which accorded every possible courtesy. Outside the hotel a large sign informed the many thousands who passed during the day that the Henry George Congress was in session. A smaller sign was displayed in the main lobby.

The newspapers of Pittsburgh gave the event some notice, printing the picture of Mrs. Anna George deMille and summarizing some of the speeches.

Charles R. Eckert presided at the session of Monday morning and the invocation was given by Rev. W. I. Wisart, President of the Pittsburgh Council of the Church of Christ. Mr. George E. Evans, president of the Henry George Foundation, announced the death of F. H. Monroe and paid a deserved tribute to his work. Mr. Polak, of New York, moved that a committee be appointed to draft a suitable resolution on the death of Mr. Monroe, and Mr. W. H. Sikes, of Kansas, moved that a similar committee be appointed to draft resolutions on the death of V. C. Owen, of the *London Commonwealth*, which motions were carried.

Mr. Evans, addressed the meeting and said that it was the aim of the officers of the Foundation to make it a clearing house for Single Tax activities. Mr. F. W. Maguire, assistant secretary of the Foundation, explained that he was giving all his time to the work, and that literature was being sent out all over the land. Mr. Evans explained that he had been a Single Taxer for only ten years and that his conversion dated from the time he had heard John Z. White. And it was due to F. H. Monroe that he stood where he did on the platform of the Foundation. On the motion of Dr. Mark Millikin, of Ohio, a committee on resolutions was appointed.

At Monday's luncheon, Mr. Ward Bonsall, of Pittsburgh, presided, and Rev. James R. Cox, Ph.D., Rector of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, delivered the invocation. Mr. Bonsall said that those communities are most prosperous that take the largest amount of economic rent for their governmental needs. He reviewed the growth of the Pittsburgh Plan, and Mr. McMahan, Pittsburgh's assessor, followed with a description of the half rate tax in that city and its effects in some detail. Hon. Spencer

DeGolier, Mayor of Bradford, Pa., spoke at some length, declaring that the question of taxation was as much an ethical as an economic question.

Monday afternoon there was a symposium on Education in which Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, of Connecticut, Emil Jorgensen, of Chicago; F. C. Leubuscher, of New York; Robert C. Macauley, of Philadelphia; and others took part. It was at this session that Miss Colbron, illustrating her philosophy of individualism, told us that the mother is the proper person to wipe the children's noses and not some woman acting as governmental functionary in Room No. 7 of the Administration Building.

On Monday night Messrs. Leubuscher, Hennessy, Burger and Atkinson of New York spoke. Chairman Eckert presided. One of the high lights of this session was the lecture of Benjamin Burger on the Story of "Progress and Poverty," illustrated by lantern slides, and the eloquent eulogy pronounced by Mr. Burger on the life and work of our leader. Hon. Peter Witt, of Cleveland, closed this session by an interesting account of the British elections of which he had been a close observer while in England. He spoke hopefully of the prospect of getting some real measure of land value taxation.

On Tuesday morning delegates to the Congress made a motor bus tour of Pittsburgh, returning in time for the noon luncheon, when Carl D. Smith presided and Rev. William J. Coleman, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, delivered the invocation. The diners listened to Percy R. Williams, secretary of the Foundation, on a National Programme of Action, and George R. Somerville, of Johnstown, Pa., on "The Modern Single Tax Crusade."

Tuesday afternoon was given up to the discussion of Political Policy, Ralph E. Smith presiding and Hon. Edward Polak of New York, James B. Ellery, of Erie, Pa., Miss Charlotte Schetter, of New York, and many others taking part.

The banquet in the Urban Room of the William Penn Hotel was a brilliant affair. William N. McNair, of Pittsburgh, acted as toastmaster and Rev. Samuel Goldensen, of Rodef Shalom Temple, delivered the invocation. Music was given by Nirella's orchestra and spirited singing by well known local talent. Mrs. Anna George deMille gave some very interesting reminiscences of her experience at the Edinburgh Conference, her visit to the home of Philip Snowden, and her meeting with Rev. Thomas Dawson, an old friend of Henry George, and one of his earliest converts. She paid a fine tribute to Father Dawson who is now eighty years old but still in excellent health.

Mrs. deMille left soon after the banquet for Washington where she said she desired to convey to Mrs. Post the greetings of the convention, which on motion of James B. Ellery,

of Erie, Pa., she was asked to do by formal resolution. Features of the banquet which will remain long with those who were privileged to hear them were the extraordinary outburst of real eloquence from Rev. Herbert Bigelow, and, for a different reason, the valuable informative address of A. C. Campbell, of Ottawa, Canada, which we are able to print in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

On Wednesday morning Mr. Burger, of New York, presided, and Mr. Olcott, of Chicago, addressed the session in relation to "Chicago's Tax Muddle." Fiske Warren, of Mass., and Clayton J. Ewing, of Chicago, spoke on the subject of Single Tax colonies. At the close of the session Miss Antoinette Kauffman told of the work of the Schalkenbach Foundation.

Wednesday's Luncheon was a very interesting affair because it provided a rather different sort of entertainment. Mr. Mellor, of Pittsburgh, presided, and announced his intention to give his life from now on to the movement for industrial emancipation. The editor of LAND AND FREEDOM spoke of the writings and life work of Henry George, Jr., and David Gibson, of Lorain, Ohio, editor of the *Lorain Journal*, gave the diners a taste of his ability in the making of brilliant and flashing epigrams, combined with a keen analysis of business conditions and the effects produced by economic ignorance.

Wednesday's afternoon session at which Rev. Herbert Bigelow spoke was characterized by perhaps the most animated discussion of all the sessions. Mr. Bigelow had made an earnest plea for the cooperation by Single Taxers with the leaders of other reform movements. This ran counter to perhaps the majority opinion of those present, and in the discussion that followed Mr. Burger, of New York, Mr. Barney Haughey, of Denver, Miss Colbron, of New York, Mr. DeGollier, Mayor of Bradford, Mr. John M. Henry, of Pittsburgh, Mr. Edwards, of Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. McNeill, of Philadelphia, Miss Charlotte Schetter, of New York and others took part.

At the last session of the Congress at eight o'clock on Wednesday evening Mrs. Skeel, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., presided with her usual grace and dignity. Mr. Strachan, of Chicago, was the first speaker. General Coxey, of the far famed Coxey's Army, addressed the session on the money question. Whatever may be thought of the ideas and conclusions presented, on which we will not now comment, those present must have contrasted the man who spoke with the newspaper caricature with which we have been so long familiar. General Coxey gave the impression of great sincerity, he is an excellent speaker, and he is a gentleman.

James F. Morton closed this last session of the Fourth Annual Conference of the Henry George Foundation with an earnest and eloquent appeal for harmony and expressed his commendation of the work of the Congress. He said all those present would go home gratified by what they had heard, with a renewed faith in the cause, and a deter-

mination to do more in the year to come than they had ever done before.

Thus closed the Congress met to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "Progress and Poverty." Too much praise cannot be given to the officers of the Foundation, President Evans, Secretary Williams, Carl D. Smith and others who had helped to make the Congress the success it was.

The trustees held two business meetings during the Congress, and the present board of officers who had served so long and faithfully were re-elected. Frederick C. Leubuscher, of New York, on motion of Jos. Dana Miller, was elected trustee to fill the position left vacant by the death of Warren Worth Bailey, of Johnstown, Pa. It seemed to be the concensus of opinion that Baltimore should be selected as the place of the 1930 Henry George Congress, and this was left to the Board of Trustees.

## The International Georgist Movement

ADDRESS OF CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY  
HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPT. 23, 1929

YOU will appreciate, I am sure, that the length and diversified interest of the printed programme for this evening, and the high quality of the other speakers, makes it a little difficult for me to deal adequately with the large subject to which I am assigned.

I will be satisfied if I may, in the time allotted to me, just impress upon you the significant fact that there is an International Georgist Movement; that it is now effectively organized with headquarters in London, and with enthusiastic representatives and numerous followers in many countries beside our own. It is a movement that I can assure you deserves the interest and the support of every follower of Henry George, wherever his homeland may be.

Once, upon his return from an overseas speaking tour, I heard Henry George at a welcome-home gathering in New York, speak of feeling himself something of a citizen of the world. In spirit, this, indeed, he really was. A feeling of kinship and sympathy with mankind everywhere—of compassion for the lowly and unfortunate in every land—of hatred of injustice—was a part of the very nature of the man. This, I should say, implied no lack of fine Americanism in him. No braver or truer patriot ever lived in the United States. The great principles of the founders of the Republic, the immortal truths of the Declaration of Independence, were the principles upon which he based his philosophy of equality of opportunity and justice for all men. No more loyal, ardent, and eloquent expositor of fundamental American principles ever lived than Henry George.

Fifty years ago, when the great message of "Progress