

selves upon reflection. There are innumerable matters of deep interest about which known Georgians of ability can write in a way never before attempted, i.e., presenting the facts before the enlightening background of a Georgian philosophy, more by suggestion than by direct propaganda for Georgeism, revealing to what degree the land problem, as we understand it, is the father of most of the folly and distress to which our poor is heir. . . .

"The foregoing suggests that dynamic authors, with special knowledge and something new to say, would receive encouragement to present the Georgian viewpoint. The History of Mankind needs re-writing from that viewpoint in order that the great mass of the people shall be permeated with the Georgian philosophy. There will be plenty of work for the men of the New Pen-Age to do, and still more for the readers. . . .

"Thus, by scientific method, and armed with modern and efficient weapons (including the spiritual equipment of the Georgian philosophy) can be created the—

"New Democracy, resting upon the enlightenment of large masses of people, sustained by the eternal vigilance of an enlightened and active minority, whose purpose is not to stir up discontent or strife and strikes, but to enlighten those about them. Movements of a small group of men have done much towards saving civilization in the past, and such Movements as this Liberty Readers' Book Club, may well become the means of saving our civilization."

### South Africa

At Johannesburg, there is at work a Georgeist organization, called the Farmers' and Workers' Party. The chairman is F. A. W. Lucas, and the secretary is Mather Smith. The official organ, *The Free People*, tells us something of the aims of the Party:

"In February, 1936, four men, and three of them very poor men, seeing that none of the existing political Parties had any intention of tackling the root causes of the ever increasing poverty in our land, decided to start a new political party on their own. Since then, the Gospel of Deliverance has been preached right through South Africa, and has been accepted by many."

The Party leaders are at present active in spreading economic truth to the masses of unemployed that collect at the Labor Bureau in Johannesburg, looking for jobs. Mr. Lucas points out to them the absurdity of capable men having to parade up and down with placards marked "We Want Work" (and "Ons Vra Werk"), and he urges them to demand the cure for unemployment as presented by the Farmers' and Workers' Party—which is, of course, the Georgeist reform. The Party leaders report that their appeals are well received.

## An Appeal for Action

By HENRY J. FOLEY

I BELIEVE that the time is ripe for the formation of a society to work toward placing the principles of Henry George on the statute books. Not that we can hope to change the laws this year or next, but to work intelligently and unitedly and everlastingly until the law is changed, whether it be in ten years or a hundred. The purpose is to capture and put to work the energies which have no outlet now except in hopes and prayers, and in describing to one another the beauties of the Single Tax. The grains of powder which now give us interesting fireworks displays could be massed in a cannon which would batter down the walls of monopoly and privilege.

The aim of the society:

1. To spread the simple doctrine that rent is the creation of society, and that the appropriation of rent by individuals, and the resulting taxation, are a double form of robbery.

2. To coordinate the efforts of Single Taxers who are now unacquainted with one another, and to get concerted action which will (ultimately) bring our desires to the attention of legislatures, and thus bring Single Tax out into the open and make it a live issue.

3. To enlist in the cause the dissatisfactions of those who do not understand the land question nor the rent question, but who are complaining bitterly of the government restrictions and government confiscations which we know are the results of the present land system; the ten millions out of work and helpless, the industrialists hampered with a thousand forms of taxes, with "5,000 laws and 17,000 regulations," and pressure groups organized to save themselves from government at the expense of other groups.

The only thing which will bring in the Single Tax is the placing of a law on the statute books, abolishing taxes, and decreeing that all ground-rent shall be collected for the public revenue. This change in the law will not be made until the people demand it, and they will not demand it until they understand that the private appropriation of land rent by individuals is legalized robbery, making prosperity impossible.

Single Taxers have spun the doctrine through all the mazes of economics and philosophy and ethics and religion. Not that we have settled the questions. We still dispute on the fine points of interest, the exact definition of rent, whether rent enters into price, and a dozen other questions, while "all this poor world really needs" is the knowledge that the legalized theft of the rent is the cause of its miseries.

These questions are fine things for the education of teachers, and in books for the intellectually inclined, but they should be left to these fields, and the programme of Single Taxers should be rigidly held to the collection of rent for public expenses. I believe that Single Taxers should unite upon this one fundamental. The man who believes in this is a Single Taxer no matter how he regards any other topic on earth, and he should be a member of the proposed society.

This fundamental fact is simple enough to be understood by every man who has to pay taxes on his house, on his income, and on his cigarettes. It should get the ready assent of every one except the men who make a living by keeping the world out of work, and they are a negligible minority at the polls. But we shall have to keep the programme as simple as that. At the same time, it is broad enough to take in every believer in the doctrines of Henry George, and it offers a field of action wide enough to enlist all the energies of all Single Taxers regardless of their ideas on the moot questions which have divided them and distracted them, and rendered them impotent.

An organization based upon the demand for equal liberty, and the restrictions of the powers of government to protecting those liberties, should be able to secure the enthusiastic approval of the vast majority

**A Free Copy of LAND AND FREEDOM  
is an invitation to become a subscriber.**