

farm leaders don't look into this matter and "start something"? Do they think the farmers can not understand it and will throw over the leaders who advocate it? Or are they afraid of the opposition of land speculators? Or are our so-called leaders, in practice, usually *followers*, lest they lose their "leadership" by leading!

Such a tax system would be much fairer than the present system. In taxing bare-land value we are taxing a value which is due to the growth and development of the community rather than to individual labor and thrift. We all know that the annual rent which an owner could charge for a piece of bare land in Chicago's Loop district, to a prospective builder desiring a long lease, is not a consequence of the owner's saving the land or making the land, but is the consequence of the growth of Chicago and surrounding territory. An eighth of an acre at the corner of State and Madison streets in Chicago has been expertly appraised as worth, bare-land value, about two and a half million dollars or at the rate of twenty million per acre. Wherein is such an eighth of an acre better than an eighth of an acre of farm land worth twelve or fifteen or twenty dollars? Is the additional value of the land in Chicago due to the owner's activities? Everyone who is honest with himself knows it is not. It is the result of the growth and development of the geographically tributary country, and of Chicago as a port and a market center.

The same is true of the several billions of dollars of land value in New York City. New York is situated on a great natural harbor. If there were none to use it except a few pioneer farmers on Manhattan Island trading some of their surplus produce for the textiles and other goods of Europe, landing space for a very few boats or perhaps for a single one would be all that would be needed. But as the rich interior of the North American continent was settled, with its mines of iron ore, copper and coal, its prairie and river-bottom wheat and corn lands, and its other resources, more and more goods were produced to be poured through the port of New York into foreign countries and more and more foreign goods were wanted in exchange which could most advantageously pass through the same port. Today there is needed in New York City a large population to meet the requirements of this great *hinterland* (as the Germans would say) or tributary country.

If all the present working population of New York were whisked away overnight, the land of New York would still have great value because of the need for millions of men and women on it to serve the commerce of the back country. A new population would move in and take up the important work for the rest of us which can be done nowhere else so well; and those who own that part of the earth's surface would be in a position to make this new population pay handsomely for the privilege of working for us and of living where we need to have them live in order that this work may be effectively done.

The demand of the tributary country for this service

makes a demand for the use of the land by the people who must live and work there to render the service. Incidentally, too, it makes a tremendous demand—and correspondingly high rents and values for the use of especially well-situated lots for the location of department stores, lunch rooms, banks, lawyer's offices, etc., necessary to supply near-at-hand the requirements of those who live there to serve the non-seacoast sections.

It is fair enough, then, that the economic rent of valuable city land, which is due so largely to the development and trade of the surrounding country, should be taken in taxation and used for the benefit of all. Thus, the children of the more remote country districts, where bare-land value may be almost nothing, can have good schools, good roads, and other advantages, paid for by land value in the cities but which value their country communities help to create.

Why don't more farmers agitate for this change and work for and support it as do so many farmers in Denmark? These Danish farmers, some of our American "farmers' friends" politicians claim to admire for their development of cooperative marketing, but the Danish farmers' support of land-value taxation they say nothing about. Yet recently, and with large support from the farmers, Denmark has passed legislation providing for higher local rates of tax on land values than on improvement values. When will American farmers wake up! Let the farmers themselves answer whether a bare-land value tax would not be better for them than the present system?

—HARRY GUNNISON BROWN,  
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## Colorado's Amendment

THE campaign for the Single Tax amendment noted in March-April issue is proceeding slowly. Only 5000 names have been secured, but the committee have 400 petitions still out that may yet come in filled or partly filled. Five thousand names in four months is slow work and it is inevitable that it must be slow if our friends are to rely on volunteer work. Unless money is paid for soliciting signatures to the petitions the work must fail.

It is to be hoped that it will not fail. The St. Louis Single Taxers headed by E. H. Boeck, Percy Pepoon, Charles Lischer and Henry George Heigold have promised financial support to the campaign and will send out a general appeal. They say: "The importance of getting signers to a legal petition is that it makes it a live matter. People become interested and as the campaign advances the interest deepens, and though the measure may not carry the cause is advanced in proportion as there was means to present it."

The last Single Tax measure submitted got a big vote. The Lower Rent bill received 30 per cent. of the vote in Denver, and the Landlords got the scare of their lives.

The petitions for the pending measure must be signed before July 1st by 25,000 qualified electors. The vote is on Nov. 6. Our friends are therefore urged to communicate with Barney Haughey, secretary Single Tax and Old Age Pension League, 1605 Larimer Street, Denver, Colorado. The pamphlet containing instructions to circulators of the petition is a carefully prepared argument which does credit to Mr. Haughey's committee.

Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown will send his "Tale of Two Cities" for distribution by thousands throughout the state in addition to which, if funds are available, reprints of Prof. Brown's article on the Farmer in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM will be widely circulated.

## Single Taxers Planning for Chicago Convention

COMMITTEES to take care of every phase of the third annual Henry George Congress have now been organized under the able leadership of General Chairman Clayton J. Ewing, who is also the popular President of the Chicago Single Tax Club, having recently been re-elected to that office in recognition of the good work accomplished during the first year of the re-organized club's activities. Stimulated by the success of the two Congresses which met in Philadelphia and New York, the Chicago Club is eager to do all that is possible to make the Congress in that city one that will be remembered as another milestone in Single Tax progress.

It is too early to make announcements concerning the actual programme for the Congress, but we are assured that there will be a number of prominent figures in the movement and that discussions will be provided to cover all of the more important phases of the Single Tax progress to the extent of the capacity of the three-day session which opens Monday, September 10th at the Congress Hotel. This Hotel has reserved for our convention, meeting rooms admirably adapted to the purpose and the management is lending its hearty cooperation.

The following sub-committees have been named:

Reception Committee: Henry Tideman, Chairman; George C. Olcott, Joseph L. Murray, John F. Connors, Mildred Tideman, Mrs. Angeline Loesch Graves.

Registration: John Lawrence Monroe, Chairman; Marien Tideman.

Press Publicity: Leo Heller, Chairman; Emil O. Jorgensen, E. A. Howes, Joseph Bauer.

Local Transportation: Otto Cullman, Chairman; Dr. Walter Verity, Edwin Hamilton.

George M. Strachan has been appointed Vice Chairman of the general committee.

Mrs. Henry Martin, Secretary of the Henry George Lecture Association, reports a keen interest on the part of her correspondents in various parts of the country in the approaching convention, and that a number have

indicated that they are planning to be in Chicago to participate. A goodly delegation from the Pacific Coast states is expected in view of the central location of Chicago as compared with the recent places of meeting.

The value of the annual Congress in the way of instruction and inspiration has been demonstrated by the gatherings of 1926 and 1927 and the Convention Committee appeals to all disciples of Henry George throughout the United States and Canada to rally to the support of the Chicago convention. A special effort will also be made by Chairman Ewing to have delegates present representing the international movement in lands across the seas.

The first announcement of convention plans will go out through the mails within a few weeks and fuller information as to the programme will be available for the July-August issue of LAND AND FREEDOM. Those who have the cause of Henry George and his philosophy at heart are urged to plan early for a great gathering in Chicago in September.

## Lecture Work of the Henry George Foundation

SECRETARY PERCY R. WILLIAMS, of the Henry George Foundation, responding to invitations from co-workers in several different fields, carried his speaking campaign into New York, Ohio and Delaware during April and May, in addition to carrying on the work incident to the movement for advanced tax legislation in Pennsylvania.

At Syracuse, New York, he spoke to the Rotary Club, one of the largest of its kind in the world, and found a keen interest in the idea of concentrating municipal taxes upon land values along the lines of the Pittsburgh plan. Journeying into Ohio, he spoke on Sunday, April 22d, to the congregation of the People's Church of Cincinnati, presided over by the veteran Single Tax leader, Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow. Mr. Bigelow himself gave a most desirable introductory presentation of the fundamentals of the Single Tax philosophy, in which he evinces the same deep interest he has maintained throughout the years. Mr. Williams was also the guest of a representative group of Single Taxers of Cincinnati at a luncheon in the University Club, arranged by Fenton Lawson, another member of the Advisory Commission of the Foundation.

Dr. Mark Milliken, chairman of the Ohio state committee, also spoke at this meeting, commenting favorably on the work of the Henry George Foundation and on its last Congress in New York City, and emphasizing the need for organized effort in Ohio. Through the cooperation of Dr. Milliken, Mr. Williams also addressed the Economics Class of the Western College for Women at Oxford and students of the Hamilton High School.

Visiting Delaware early in May, Mr. Williams spoke on the Pittsburgh Plan to the members of the Wilmington