

labour, the League advocates a legal minimum wage system, employment and health insurance, old age pensions, extended recognition of the rights of organized labour, the abolition of the use of the injunction in labour disputes, and removal of the restrictions upon the negro and immigrant labour suffrage. Its policy on farm relief takes the form of a reduction of the tariff on manufactured goods. The League further proposes the independence of the Philippines, and 'a determined effort to eliminate the economic, psychological, and political causes of war.'

This assuredly is the result of the failure of the Democratic Party to proceed along the radical line of land value taxation and free trade. The new League comes into being to deal with problems that never need have arisen if the Republic had been true to its immeasurable economic opportunity.

CALIFORNIA

We are indebted to "M. J. S." for calling our attention to the article by Mr Edward P. E. Troy in *Land & Freedom* (New York), July-August issue. Here it is mentioned that at the request of the Modesto Irrigation District, the Californian Legislature passed its Bill to pay for cost of irrigation and water supply by means of land value taxation. In the same issue Mr George Cartwright has a letter from San Francisco saying that the Modesto Irrigation District has its own electric light and power system which was set up under the slogan "Public Ownership and Service at Cost." But as soon as some large holders of land began to get active, a movement took shape for making Modesto a "tax free" irrigation district, namely, to use the revenue from power and light to meet the charges for irrigation; in other words, shifting taxation from land values to the consumption of power and light. This is what is being done now. The farmers' irrigation tax is being lowered and Modesto City people are paying something like 80 per cent of power and light bills. The public ownership movement is being operated for the benefit of land speculators. And Mr Cartwright properly asks, how much progress in liberty do we make when we kill power-company-monopoly to establish public ownership as a revenue raiser to subsidize land monopoly?

A parallel of this exploitation of "public ownership" is found in New Zealand where the late Conservative Cabinet made a serious attack on the local rating of land values by levying an impost on petrol toward Road Fund grants, thus relieving land from taxation and making a gift of public revenue to landowners.

Public ownership is justified if it is operated at cost. If it is operated at a profit, it is simply an indirect tax on the consumer and, like the petrol tax, it makes a present to the landowner of the land value that should be taken in taxation for the common good.

NEW YORK

Prize Essay Competition

We are indebted to Hon. Edward Polak for a copy of the printed "Report of the Dr Mary D. Hussey Prize Essay Contest in New York City High Schools on the Economic Laws as Expounded by Henry George." This encouraging document states that the essay contests were conducted under the auspices of the Board of Education and the Principals of the High Schools of the Greater City of New York. More than 1,500 essays were submitted, and appropriately inscribed copies of *Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty* were presented to a number of students.

The rules of the competition provided that all

contestants were to read *Progress and Poverty* (abridged or unabridged) or *Significant Paragraphs*. Over 800 copies of these books, as well as a considerable quantity of other Single Tax literature, were supplied to the students, and during the course of the contest Single Tax speakers were allowed to give explanatory addresses to classes in the schools. The project received favourable publicity in the daily newspapers.

To have obtained the co-operation of the Board of Education and its officials was an important achievement. Without this the scheme would have been seriously handicapped. The first step was taken by Mr Polak himself, who as Chairman of the Dr Mary D. Hussey Fund Prize Essay Committee approached the Superintendent of Public Schools, New York City, giving full details of the project. The report mentions that Hon. William J. Weber, a member of the Board of Education, was largely instrumental in obtaining the Board's consent.

The total value of the prizes was 1,000 dollars, comprising five first prizes at 100 dollars, three second prizes at 75 dollars, three third prizes at 50 dollars, and five Honourable Mention prizes at 25 dollars each. Students belonging to 23 New York schools took part in the contest. Each of the 37 high schools in the city was supplied with a complete set of the works of Henry George and other writers on economics.

The scheme was made possible under the will of Dr Mary D. Hussey, a former resident of New Jersey, who was a devoted follower of Henry George and worked hard for the Single Tax cause during her life.

FREDERICK H. MONROE

We regret to announce the passing away on 26th August of Frederick H. Monroe, president of the Henry George Lecture Association of Chicago, which he founded 25 years ago. Mr Monroe was taken ill last June while on his Eastern tour and had been failing since that time. He was 64 years old. Services were held at Lain Chapel, Chicago, on 28th August, attended by many friends including John Z. White, Geo. A. Schilling, G. C. Olcott, Otto Cullman, Andrew P. Canning, J. Foerster, H. Hardinge, P. Kelliher, G. Strachan, Emil O. Jorgensen and H. L. T. Tideman. The Rev. U. M. Maguire, editor of the *Baptist*, officiated and ex-Alderman W. Wright Mills paid an affectionate tribute to Mr Monroe's more than a quarter-century devotion to the Henry George cause.

After a youth and young manhood spent in Kansas and Colorado, Mr Monroe moved to Chicago in 1895. He was active in the old Chicago Single Tax Club, becoming its president in 1898 and 1899. The Henry George Lecture Association, with Mr Monroe as its president, then was formed to extend Single Tax educational work in and around Chicago. In 1904 it was organized as a nation-wide basis with Mr John Z. White as official lecturer. Travelling becoming too strenuous for Mr White in 1927 the lecture field was covered by Hon. George H. Duncan, for 10 years a member of the New Hampshire legislature.

The Association has its offices at 538, South Dearborn Street, Chicago. Announcement has been made that its educational programme will be continued by John Lawrence Monroe who during the past five months has been actively engaged, with his father accompanying him, in the East and later making the annual trip through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Mr Monroe is survived by his widow, his two sons and niece. To Mrs Monroe and family we extend our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement.