

The first perceptions of men seem always to be that land is common property; but the rude devices by which this is at first recognized—such as annual partitions or cultivation in common—are only consistent with a low stage of development. The idea of property, which naturally arises with reference to things of human production, is easily transferred to land, and an institution which when population is sparse merely secures to the improver and user the due reward of his labour, finally, as population becomes dense and rent arises, operates to strip the producer of his wages. Not merely this, but the appropriation of rent for public purposes, which is the only way in which, with anything like a high development, land can be readily retained as common property, becomes, when political and religious power passes into the hands of a class, the ownership of the land by that class, and the rest of the community become merely tenants. And wars and conquests, which tend to the concentration of political power and to the institution of slavery, naturally result, where social growth has given land a value, in the appropriation of the soil. A dominant class, who concentrate power in their hands, will likewise soon concentrate ownership of the land. To them will fall large partitions of conquered land, which the former inhabitants will till as tenants or serfs, and the public domain, or common lands, which in the natural course of social growth are left for awhile in every country (and in which state the primitive system of village culture leaves pasture and woodland) are readily acquired, as we see by modern instances. And inequality once established, the ownership of land tends to concentrate as development goes on.

The Law of Human Progress, what is it but the moral law? Just as social adjustments promote justice, just as they acknowledge the equality of right between man and man, just as they ensure to each the perfect liberty which is bounded only by the equal liberty of every other, must civilization advance. Just as they fail in this, must advancing civilization come to a halt and recede.—PROGRESS AND POVERTY, *Book X., Chap. III.*

THE LAND SONG

(Air: "Marching Through Georgia")

Sound a blast for Freedom, boys, and send it far and wide!
March along to victory, for God is on our side!
While the voice of Nature thunders o'er the rising tide—
"God made the Land for the People!"

Chorus

The Land! The Land! 'Twas God who gave the Land!
The Land! The Land! The ground on which we stand!
Why should we be beggars, with the Ballot in our hand!
"God gave the Land to the People!"

Hark! the shout is swelling from the East and from
the West;

Why should we beg work and let the Landlords take
the best? [rest:

Make them pay their taxes for the land—we'll risk the
The Land was meant for the People!

Chorus

The banner has been raised on high, to face the battle
din!

The Army now is marching on the struggle to begin:
We'll never cease our efforts till the victory we win,
And the Land is free for the People!

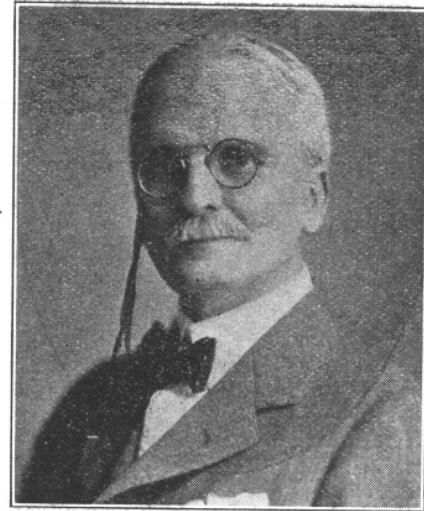
Chorus

Clear the way for Liberty! The Land must all be free!
Britons will not falter in the fight, though stern it be,
Till the flag we love so well shall wave from sea to sea.
O'er the land that's free for the People!

Chorus

HON. CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY

President of the Third International Conference to Promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, Copenhagen



Charles O'Connor Hennessy, formerly a senator of the State of New Jersey, is widely known in the United States as a writer and speaker upon co-operative banking as exemplified through the savings and home-building societies of the country, commonly known as building and loan associations. There are now more than 12,000 of these organizations in the United States and they are assuming great social and economic significance in the financial structure of the country, as may be inferred from the fact that membership of these peoples' savings banks now approximates ten million persons, and their combined resources exceed five billion (five thousand million) dollars, practically all of which is invested in mortgages upon small dwelling houses owned by the members of these societies. Mr. Hennessy has been honoured with the presidency of the national organization of these associations, and is now President of the Franklin Society for Home-Building and Savings of New York City, which was organized by the newspaper workers of the city thirty-eight years ago, and has grown under his leadership to be one of the largest institutions of its class in the United States. He is also Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Land Bank of the State of New York, a semi-public co-operative institution, which acts as the central credit organization of savings and loan associations of the State of New York.

For many years, Mr. Hennessy resided in a New Jersey suburb of the metropolis and took an active part in all public affairs. Being a Democrat in politics, he was closely associated with the administration of Woodrow Wilson as Governor of New Jersey, and was elected twice to the Lower House of the legislature and then served for three years in the State-Senate. During this period (1911-1917) his name was associated with many measures of progressive legislation, including bills for the reform of the State's financial system; for municipal home rule in taxation; for the revision of the State constitution; for reforms and economies in the construction of State highways; for greater freedom of public discussion through the use of public schools; for the abolition of capital punishment; against sectarian

religious exercises in public schools, and other measures that distinguished him as a statesman of a liberal point of view. In 1916, Mr. Hennessy's name was put forward in the Democratic primaries as candidate for the Governorship of the State, but he withdrew because of ill health brought on largely by his constant public labours. The following year, he received the nomination of his party as a candidate for a seat in the United States Senate, and his election was warmly supported by President Wilson. The bitterness engendered by opposition to certain of the President's war policies was a factor operating in the defeat of Mr. Hennessy for a seat in the highest council chamber of the nation, although he won the distinction of running many thousands of votes ahead of his party ticket in the State-wide poll.

Of late years, Mr. Hennessy has made his home in New York City, and has devoted his energies chiefly to the upbuilding of the great co-operative society of which he is the President.

Mr. Hennessy's activity as a supporter of Henry George began more than forty years ago, and he enjoyed the privilege of friendship and confidence of Mr. George and his family, and of such noted exponents of the George philosophy in the United States as Tom L. Johnson, Thomas G. Shearman, Father Edward McGlynn, Henry George, Jr., Joseph Fels, and Louis F. Post, all of whom, except the last named, have now passed away.

He is a Director in the Free Trade League; Vice-President of the International Benjamin Franklin Society; Vice-President of the American Baconian Society; and Trustee of the Schalkenbach Foundation, which was incorporated to administer a large estate left by the late Robert Schalkenbach for the purpose of advancing the public acceptance of the philosophy of Henry George.

"WOMEN'S PROBLEMS OF TO-DAY"*

Mrs. Eyles frankly confesses that this little book is ephemeral. Her courage and her common sense are to be admired. Such a book as this was needed. It treats of a score of things which perplex and worry the housewife, and especially the working-class housewife, and it deals with them in a rational helpful, and sympathetic manner. Mrs. Eyles is not afraid to deal with subjects so dissimilar as cookery and birth control, trade boards and osteopathy. But while she discusses such subjects as this she does not forget to keep a firm hold on the fundamental question of the distribution of wealth. She continually emphasises that many of the problems she discusses owe their origin to the inequality of distribution and that this is mainly due to our unjust systems of taxation and landholding. The ultimate remedy, therefore, is political change which will alter these things; anything else must be regarded as a palliative.

This work is, we assume, principally intended for circulation among the members of women's sections of Labour parties. We think it is admirably suited for such a purpose because it does not neglect the immediate problems with which women have to contend, and it yet helps to build up a wider and more constructive attitude to life and points the way towards the realization of a freer and happier society. We hope it will secure a wide circulation.

F. C. R. D.

* WOMEN'S PROBLEMS OF TO-DAY. By Leonora Eyles. Labour Publishing Company, Ltd. Price 1s. paper, 2s. 6d. cloth.



E. J. EVANS

We are happy to welcome on this side Mr. E. J. Evans of East London, South Africa, who with Mrs. Evans is spending some months' holiday and rest in his native land. On page 174 we report the fine victories gained in East London and Pretoria where the whole of the local taxation is now levied on land values and all improvements are exempt. Mr. Evans brought this good news with him and our account of it is based upon his information. The great advance that has taken place in East London and the adjoining town of Cambridge is very largely due to the devoted services of Mr. Evans himself. He went out to South Africa in 1903 as a young electrical engineer and has since built up a well established business. In his trunk he had with him a copy of Henry George's PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE which he bought by chance in London just before his departure from this country. And so the agitation was begun. A group of active spirits got together whose educative propaganda has resulted in the victory we are able to record. Mr. Evans has thrown all his energies not alone into the Land Values Taxation movement, but into Proportional Representation (now also in operation in East London) and into every good cause where the public spirited citizen is called on to assist. In the latest campaign for land value rating he was not able to take his usual active part. Ill-health compelled him to be more of a spectator. Chief among his colleagues and co-workers who have the success to their credit are Messrs. C. J. Neale, F. L. Gregg, J. Carrington, and A. R. Cooper; and to them we were proud to cable on 28th June last very warm congratulations in behalf of the whole British movement.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans will be present at the special meeting called by the United Committee in connection with the forthcoming International Conference at the National Liberal Club on Friday, 16th July. All our readers wish them a pleasant stay in England and Wales and a safe return to their home in South Africa.

COUNCILLOR WM. NOBLE

All readers of LAND & LIBERTY and particularly his associates in the Manchester League, warmly congratulate Mr. William Noble on his victory at the Municipal by-election in Stockport, where he has been elected a member of the Council for the Reddish South Ward. Mr. Noble stood as Labour candidate in a three-cornered campaign and made Land Value Rating the issue.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an Invitation to become a Subscriber. Monthly 3d.; by Post 4s. per Annum.