

for those who want to organize. In short, we should attempt to use everybody's talents in a way most satisfactory to the individual.

On point No. 3—All who have been active in the work of spreading knowledge of the true basis of freedom ought to submit suggestions for the platform. The convention might be held at the time of the Annual Henry George Congress, and take up an additional session.

The fourth step can be taken whenever and wherever candidates speak in public. It can be done by personal calls, through the mails, or in the columns of the press.

Instead of forming a third party and trying to fight the strong political machines, the above program will enable us to utilize the strong parties to accomplish our purpose. It will make it possible for the people to demand of the politicians what they want, instead of supinely accepting a choice between party-made variations of our present unsound system. It will make it possible for the people to have a *real* choice at the polls for the first time in our national history.

The author of the above program would be interested in receiving comments on his ideas. Address Harry J. Haase, the School of Democracy, 1165 Broadway, New York, N.Y.

## American Alliance to Advance Freedom

A group of Georgeists have been meeting during the past few weeks for the purpose of launching an organization that will bring Henry George's proposals to the forefront "in the councils of world affairs." Calling itself the American Alliance to Advance Freedom (with the subtitle, "By Promoting the Principle of Natural Economic Rights"), this organization plans to issue pamphlets, conduct current events forums, and engage in related activities. The following aims have been formulated: 1—To awaken interest among non-Georgeists in the Georgeist doctrines, so that many whose curiosity is thus aroused will seek formal instruction. 2—To crystallize Georgeism in terms of specific goals in order to offer concrete objectives for men and women seeking a way out of the present social and economic crisis. 3—To bring the issue of Georgeism before legislative bodies throughout the country in order that the principles of equal right to the use of land and free trade will be adopted as the basis for making the coming peace a permanent and a just one.

The Chairman of the Alliance is Sidney J. Abelson, the Secretary is Elbert Josefson, and the Financial Secretary, Sara Wald. The Provisional Committee consists of Lloyd Buchman, Miles Shefferman, Roberty Clancy, Gilbert M. Tucker, Erna L. Nash, and Malcolm R. White.

The Alliance is issuing a "Proposal for Georgeist Action Now," to be submitted to followers of Henry George. Herewith are selected passages:

"What stands out in the life of Henry George, in his life as an author and his life as an active man of affairs, is his belief in immediate social reform and his faith that vigorous, zealous action could make that reform a reality.

"We side with Henry George in his belief and in this vision.

"The cry for bread and peace issues from the throats of nearly two billion human beings. Who can answer this call?

"So-called 'capitalism' (a misnomer for our monopoly system), Socialism, Communism, Nazism, Fascism, each in turn had its day and failed. There is no answer to be found in any of these.

"With each passing day the cry becomes deeper and more desperate. The organism we call society does not and cannot stand still.

"We believe that the doctrines of Henry George answer this call for a new way of life that will bring peace and prosperity through justice. We believe that the two billion human beings now inhabiting this planet, however indifferent they might have been to us before the various "isms" were tried and found wanting, are now hungry for the very doctrines we have to offer, and that they will listen to us if we speak up.

*"We believe that our time, the time of a Georgeist emergence into the councils of world affairs, is at hand."*

The Alliance has also issued a "Declaration of Principles." The complete Proposal, the Declaration, application for membership, or any other information, may be obtained by writing to the American Alliance to Advance Freedom, 22 West 48th Street, Suite 505, New York, N. Y.

## Women's Single Tax Club of Washington

REPORT OF GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE

The December and January meetings of the Club have been devoted to ways and means of promulgating the Single Tax gospel, as well as to the regular business of the Club.

At the meeting held December 2, the general subject for discussion was education, based upon the book being studied by the Washington Federation of Women's Clubs, entitled "The Purpose of Education in American Democracy," compiled by the Educational Policies Commission. The Federation speakers of the evening were: Mrs. Arthur C. Watkins, Chairman, Department of Education; Mrs. Charles H. Pierce, Vice Chairman, Department of Education; and Miss Mary E. Downey, Chairman, Committee on Public Safety. Among the other speakers was Mr. Matthew Ramage, a school teacher of many years' experience, who gave examples of the methods used by him to make school courses interesting; he explained that the secret of learning was learning how to learn. Mrs. Walter N. Campbell spoke on the true purpose of teaching—which she considered to

be enabling people to think clearly for themselves, mathematical training being particularly useful to gain this end. After some discussion it was suggested that the Washington Federation of Women's Clubs take up the study of "Progress and Poverty," after completing the present work.

At the January meeting, the speaker was Mrs. Barbara Crosser Sweeney, who gave an interesting and instructive talk on organization and also on methods of individual work in spreading the Single Tax gospel. In response to the question as to why Mr. Robert Crosser was the only Georgeist left in Congress, some of the methods used to defeat our other Representatives were explained. Mr. Walter I. Swanton presented an interesting account of the Single Tax, where it is advocated and where applied.

### Great Britain

At its quarterly meeting, toward the close of 1940, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, made plans for organizing its work for 1941. It is interesting to note that the scope of activities for the coming year are not to be less than it has been during 1940. The maintenance of the Committee's journal, *Land & Liberty*, is provided for, monthly, at its present number of pages (12), and for a surplus supply available for propaganda uses. Distribution of the journal has already given evidence that it is an effective means of propaganda.

At the headquarters of the Committee and of *Land & Liberty*, in London, is also housed an international Georgeist body known as the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. There are members of this Union in every part of the globe. At this time particularly, such an organization, devoted to the building up of international good will among workers in the Georgeist cause, is most valuable. Membership is open to all who embrace the Georgeist doctrines. The small sum of \$2.00 will bring a year's membership in the International Union and a year's subscription to *Land & Liberty*. (Larger donations are, of course, welcome.) Application for membership may be obtained by addressing the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, 34 Knightrider Street, St. Paul's, London, England.

St. Paul's, incidentally, is in the heart of London, where extensive bombing raids have been carried out by the enemy. It is gratifying to report, however, that the office of the United Committee has escaped damage, even during the severe City of London fires of December 29th. The quality of *Land & Liberty*, too, has remained unimpaired. The January 1941 issue is especially interesting. It carries many informative accounts of the current situation in Britain as related to the Georgeist proposal.

There is also the first installment of an article on the land question in Germany, by Bruno Heilig, entitled, "The Land Question Germany's Dominating Factor." Mr. Heilig was

the Balkan correspondent of the Berlin *Vossische Zeitung*, 1920-1928. He was expelled from Hungary for his criticism of the landowners' reactionary system. In his *Land & Liberty* article, Mr. Heilig asserts that Henry George's "How Modern Civilization May Decline," if written in the present tense, would be a description of Germany today. He traces land speculation as the chief cause of Germany's woes which led to the rise of Hitler. During the post-war reconstruction days, "land speculators had a fantastic time, some doubling and trebling their fortunes overnight. While the common people toiled feverishly and proudly to build up the new Germany that should be the world's most advanced community, money poured into the pockets of those who gambled in land values . . . The boom had lasted some seven years, and it ended with seven million men and women, one-third of the wage-earning people, rendered unemployed, and the middle class as a recognizable section swept away."

### January 20

THIS date, even prior to 1941, is memorable in history. It is peculiarly the date of both life and death with reference to democracy as a mode of government. For it was January 20, in the year 1265, which brought to life the first English Parliament. Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, after overthrowing Henry III, promulgated a Constitution, and called forth representatives from shires and boroughs to meet in Westminster Palace. Then and there were effected the rudimentary beginnings of the present-day bicameral Parliament in England.

Again on this date, in the year 1793, Louis XVI listened in silence to the reading of his death sentence. The guillotine thus marked the end of the throne of the Bourbons and the birth of a French democracy.

On this very same day, in the year 1941, of controversial significance to democracy, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as the first third-term President of the United States of America. Thus was a tradition terminated which had successfully withstood attack since the birth of the American Republic.

It is intriguing to suppose that January 20 was chosen as Inaugural Day because of its historic significance. But this is not the case—the date was arrived at by a compromise. When the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution was proposed in Congress, January 15 was the date fixed by the House of Representatives. The Senate voted for January 24. The Committees of both Houses met to adjust their differences, and by the simple expedient of splitting the dates, arrived at January 20 as Inauguration Day.

In the light of democracy's historic events, no more significant date could have been selected.