

idle men, high rent, slums, crime, etc. Taxes are increasing by leaps and bounds; if you do not think so ask those who are paying taxes. The taxes now paid by the people are out of all proportion to the benefits received. How many people ever stop to think of the taxes raised in each borough and how much of the taxes are spent in the borough from which they are collected. In other words, should the revenue raised in a borough be spent in said borough? If ever the people awaken and abolish all taxation and collect their land rent for their public needs there will be a new world and the people of our country will be truly prosperous, not in spots or from time to time, but all the time.

To bring about that condition we will have to give the question of taxation much more time and thought than we have ever before given to the subject.

Those who desire to understand the question of taxation in all its bearings should read "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, wherein he outlines the cause of Poverty, War, Unemployment, High Rent, Slums, Crime, etc., and also tells us the remedy. He says there can be no cure for the evils that beset humanity until the cause of the evils is abolished. Henry George further says that the earth is the gift of God for the equal use of all the people, and therefore the rent of land produced by population should be collected for all public expenses instead of taxing the product of labor for government needs.

Our troubles are not political, they are economic. The overtaxed people should demand the abolition of taxation direct and indirect and the collection of the full rent of land for all public needs. Then the United States would be a tax-free nation and economic freedom come to all.

## Destroying Speculative Rent

**F**URTHERMORE, taxes on land values not only do not check production as do most other taxes, but they tend to increase production by destroying speculative rent. Because we allow the rise of land values to go to the owners of land who, as owners of land, do nothing to cause that rise of value we foster a holding up of land with the result that the rent of any land to-day exceeds its economic rent by a sum known as speculative rent. Economic rent plus speculative rent equals a rack rent, i. e., one which leaves to industry just enough to keep it going and to laborers just enough to keep them alive. In fact its tendency is to go further than this, crushing industry to death and forcing laborers out of existence—which tendency is resisted by industry or by workers, and we have the spectacle of a lock-out, a strike, or an industrial depression. These spasms of industrial depression are but the expression of the rise of rent above the limits of economic rent or natural rent to a point near the limits upon which laborers will consent to live—the habitual standard of living of the masses.

—H. G. PEARCE in Sydney, Aus., Address by wireless.

## Address of George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, President Henry George Foundation of America

HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MONDAY, SEPT. 10

**I** DESIRE on behalf of the Henry George Foundation and of the delegates who have assembled here from various parts of the United States to attend this Congress to thank Councilman Mills for the cordial welcome which he has extended to us and to express our appreciation of the splendid hospitality that has been shown us. It is gratifying, I may also say, to observe that the people of Chicago have chosen a man of the high type of Mr. Mills to represent them in the city's legislative body. We need more men of his ability and vision in public office.

It is also most fitting that I should take advantage of this opportunity to express our deep appreciation of the splendid cooperation that has been given in the arrangements for this gathering by Chairman Ewing and the members of the Chicago Convention Committee in particular and by the Single Taxers of Chicago in general.

In response to your most cordial invitation, we are assembled here today for the third annual Henry George Congress. It is a splendid programme that has been prepared and I am sure that we shall derive a great deal of instruction and inspiration from this gathering. This is not merely a convention of the Henry George Foundation, though it is held under its auspices; it is a national conference intended for all disciples of Henry George, regardless of whether they are members of the Foundation or of any other Single Tax organization. It has been our aim to have all elements and shades of opinion represented and this variety of ideas should make our conference very stimulating and profitable. We aim to make the annual Congress a clearing house for the presentation of helpful ideas and reports of activities in all lines of endeavor.

Just two years ago the Henry George Foundation of America was established as a permanent national institution in memory of the great philosopher, economist and exponent of freedom, whom we delight to honor, and for the purpose of popularizing his great idea which has come to be known as "The Single Tax." The Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania, with a responsible board of twenty-one trustees embracing in its number some of our leading Single Taxers. Associated with them is a National Advisory Commission which includes many prominent figures in the movement and is representative of all sections of the country.

Single Taxers have been prone to neglect organization and such organizations as have been attempted heretofore have generally proven to be short-lived, resulting in the loss of much valuable time and effort and tending to discourage many loyal supporters. Since the war days