

The learned judge, perceiving that my main purpose was to move to dissolve the injunction, and despite the pleas for further delay, assigned the case for final hearing on next Monday, July 20. As though to preserve the dramatic unities, the mass meeting, previously announced, was held in Moose Hall that same evening, June 29.

### A GREAT MEETING OF PROTEST

The hall was crowded, the interest tense, for the happening in court was still vivid in the public mind. The knowledge that for some time Organizer Robinson had been active in the agitation, made his appearance as chairman of the meeting peculiarly fitting. His announcement that the National Committee of the Commonwealth Land party had instructed him to assist in the people's fight was received with warm approval. The action of municipal Judge Heffernan in declining to enforce the occupational tax ordinance had demoralized the forces of the administration and the successful mass meeting forced the city administration to announce that it would never again adopt the occupational tax as a means of raising revenue.

The announcement that 30,000 persons had paid the tax and that but 5,000 were delinquent was found upon investigation to be erroneous, the truth being that 20,000 persons are still defiantly delinquent.

### AN ACTIVE PROPAGANDA

Our expectations as to the outcome of the suit on July 20, will cause renewed interest in the matter of taxation and it is the purpose of the local committee to conduct a large mass meeting in the public square on Thursday night, July 25, at which we hope to increase the membership of our organization. To the end of dramatizing our proposition for collecting the rent of land we have secured 1000 copies of *The Pennsylvania Commonwealth*, several hundred copies of "Story of My Dictatorship," a number of the English *Commonweal*. We have also in process of printing a four paged *Ohio Commonwealth* containing a resume of the incidents of the local fight showing the fundamental cause of such financial troubles and presenting the principle of the Commonwealth Land party as a solution. We shall also distribute large numbers of LAND AND FREEDOM.

Among the people associated with us and who contributed valuable help in the fight were attorney Frank Jacobs, J. W. Gottlieb, H. C. Wolf, attorney J. B. Danks, W. H. Sowers, C. L. Covert, Frank Hernan, Margaret Brown, Katherine McCaughtry, F. R. Field, Helena Minich, Attorney W. E. Bachop, Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Blase, Frank Edwards, S. A. Finnie, Edith Morgan, Trevelyan Edwards, Lee Hosmer, E. J. Edwards, Deenie Hosmer, Ruth Scott, Frances Scott, Albert Davis, Chas. Mannen, W. J. Hammond, Philip M. Moore, Solomon Rossman, Bert Williams, Philomen Tavalario, Karl Kleeh, Estelle Assion, Alma Brenner and Julia Hurlbert.

Anent the Mill Creek case, and as I am writing this, Mr. Robinson brings me the evening paper containing clippings which indicate that the law department is preparing to agree to another adjournment. This I shall vigorously oppose and shall appear in court armed with legal authority supporting my claim to be joined as a party defendant in the case so that I may move for dissolution of the restraining order.

### ORGANIZER ROBINSON AN INSPIRATION

Our organizer has been a forceful, unique and leading figure in every move. He has been an inspiration to us and has given a fine tone to every note we have struck. Indeed I hardly think we could have succeeded in anything but for his aid. His assistance in briefing of the legal questions has been particularly valuable to me in the different actions in which we are involved.

—GEORGE EDWARDS.

## Impressions of an American Journalist in England\*

LONDON, JULY 10

LAST night at the Victoria Mansions Restaurant Mrs. Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George, was honored by a notable reception and dinner, given by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, the English League, and the Henry George Club of London.

As Allen McCurdy said on a memorable occasion, "The perusal of the public press is fast becoming an obstacle to the attainment of knowledge," and perhaps because I have spent too much time perusing the public press, and not enough time reading reliable land-tax journals, I had no idea that the philosophy and economics of Henry George had obtained the hold that they evidently have obtained on the mind and conscience of the English people.

Members of parliament, ex-members of parliament, prominent business and professional men, labor advocates, and many of the rank and file of wage workers turned out and filled the large banquet room of the restaurant; and although I have attended many gatherings of Henry George disciples, I have never attended one where his principles were expounded with greater clearness and eloquence or received with greater enthusiasm.

W. R. Lester, M.A., was the toastmaster, and among the speakers were P. Wilson Raffan, H. G. Chancellor, Sir Edgar Harper, John Paul, A. W. Madsen and Louis P. Jacobs. Besides Mrs. de Mille, there were present

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—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

from the States her two charming daughters, Margaret and Agnes, Lawrence Towe, of Michigan and J. H. Scully of New York City.

Mrs. de Mille declared that genius is not hereditary, but her address proved that at least superior talents of speech may be handed down from father to daughter, for Mrs. de Mille recounted personal recollections of her father with fine dramatic power, and made a profound impression on the audience, which listened with breathless attention and moist eyes, as the story of Mr. George's last campaign, last illness, death and funeral were told.

Mrs. de Mille described the memorial exercises, and the speeches which reached a crescendo when Dr. Edward McGlynn uttered the words, "There was a man sent of God whose name was Henry George." Although broken in health and causing serious anxiety to his friends before he entered on his second campaign for Mayor of New York City, after the campaign opened Mr. George showed all his powers as a great orator, and often speaking several times a day, rose to great heights and roused his audiences to wild enthusiasm,—until the break came, only a day or two before election day.

Mrs. de Mille told of her father's love of sea stories, of Shakespeare, of the Arabian Nights, of his fondness for dogs, for ice cream, and for drawing little pictures of ships with sea gulls following in their wake. All these little touches of realism were most effective in producing an impression which caused one of the banqueters to say, with hushed breath:

"I believe Henry George himself is in this room."

Mrs. de Mille told of the work she has done in collaboration with Louis F. Post in preparing an abridgement of Progress and Poverty recently published.

There was also a hint that some day Henry George's birthplace in Philadelphia might be purchased and made a Single Tax historical museum.

The bust of Henry George, made by his son Richard, Mrs. de Mille said, is the most faithful likeness of her father extant.

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Several speakers at the banquet stressed as most significant that Mr. Snowden, late Chancellor of the Exchequer, had in parliament, on the reading of the finance bill, moved its rejection because it is based on the policy of relieving from taxation the rich, and adding to the taxation of the poor, "and makes no provision for the relief of local authorities and national taxpayers by the taxation of land values."

It seems that in presenting his amendment Mr. Snowden took occasion to remind Mr. Churchill that in one of his speeches he had said: "I have made speeches to you by the yard on the taxation of land values, and you know what a strong supporter I have always been of that policy."

I am told that preceeding the general parliamentary election of Dec. 1923 the organized land tax advocates

sent a letter to all Labor and Liberal candidates asking them, if elected, would they support legislation for the levying of local rates on the market value of land, and the exemption of houses and other buildings and improvements from assessment, and that 307 Labor candidates and 176 Liberal candidates said yes.

Of the 307 Labor candidates 138 who said yes were elected, and of the 176 Liberal candidates 60 were elected making 198 members of the former house of commons who were pledged to land tax reform.

A letter from the Editor of LAND AND FREEDOM to Col. J. C. Wedgewood of the House of Commons paved the way for a pleasant interview with this leader of the land reformers, and from him I learned much of the progress of the movement in England.

In the present parliament, the reduction in the number of labor members elected reduces the number of pledged land tax advocates to 123 in the Labor party and 17 in the Liberal party.

And the increased majority of the Conservatives has led, Col. Wedgewood tells me, to a Rating and Valuation bill which reduces inheritance taxes (which the English call death duties) and also reduces taxation on agricultural lands.

In the next election Col. Wedgewood says he expects the Labor party to take a more aggressive position than ever on land taxation.

"They must push this issue," said Col. Wedgewood, "everything else has failed."

—CHESTER C. PLATT

IN a parliamentary debate, Philip Snowden, chancellor of the exchequer in the Labor government, said that the motor omnibus "is enriching the ground landlords at a rate beyond the dreams of avarice." He referred to land worth \$150 an acre a few years ago, now selling for \$3,000 to \$4,000 an acre. "Is the right hon. gentleman going to stand still and allow this national scandal to go on." he asked passionately.

THERE are 1,000,037 dwelling houses in Scotland, 548,000 of which are of the one and two-room type. That's what land monopoly does.

THE Women's National Liberal Federation of England on May 6 adopted a strong resolution in favor of un-taxing buildings and the heavier taxation of land values as a means of solving the housing shortage. Mrs. Francis Acland made a radical speech against England's land system, and at the close a number of delegates sang the "Land Song."

THE reserved right of the people to the rental value of land must be construed as a condition to every deed.

U. S. SUPREME COURT.