

licists in Europe, the plan for which originated in our Cobden Club Committee, is bringing fresh attention to the importance of breaking down tariff barriers if civilized relations are to be maintained among the nations."

A telegram from Detroit, from Harold S. Buttenheim, editor of *The American City*, said:

"Absence from New York, much to my regret, prevents attendance at dinner to Senator Hennessy tonight. It would have given me real pleasure to join in this well deserved tribute to one for whose services to mankind I have the highest respect, and among whose friends it is a real honor to be numbered."

Other regrets were from Hamlin Garland, Raymond V. Ingersoll, Dan Beard, Edwin I. Jones, Bolton Hall, Lewellyn E. Pratt, George L. Rusby, Mrs. Edith Hibbard and others. There was a cablegram from the Secretariat of the London headquarters of the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade, signed by John Paul and Arthur Madsen, who also forwarded compliments to Mr. Hennessy from the editor of *Grundskyld*, the organ of the Danish Georgeists.

#### MR. LEUBUSCHER'S ADDRESS

Mr. Leubuscher, in his introductory address, stated that, possibly excepting the banquet tendered to Tom L. Johnson in 1910 upon his return from England, this dinner had brought together the most distinguished body of Single Taxers gathered together since the death of Henry George. He alluded to the happy coincidence that he had acted as toastmaster at the Johnson Dinner. Proceeding, he said:

"Single Taxers sometimes say that it is not good policy to associate the doctrine of the land for the people, the doctrine that the economic rent of land that is the creation of all the people, belongs to the people,—to associate that doctrine with the philosophy of free trade. These people forget that the sturdiest blows ever struck at the fetish of Protection were struck by Henry George in his great work 'Protection and Free Trade.'" (Applause.)

"And so this great International Conference at Copenhagen by unanimous vote adopted resolutions that were sent to the Secretariat of the League of Nations at Geneva in favor of absolute and unqualified free trade. (Applause.)

"It is evident that that declaration was most timely,—for only a few days ago we saw big headlines in the newspapers announcing that the great bankers and industrialists of sixteen nations had made an appeal to the world to overthrow all tariff barriers, as a means of bringing peace and prosperity to the world. The question of the land for the people, the question of free land and free trade, are being discussed in the world as never before as a possible remedy for after-war ills. Now, to my mind the greatest event of the year 1926 was this International

Conference at Copenhagen in July. After going through a fine programme lasting about a week, the Conference, representing many nations, decided to form an International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade. It is no longer a local or even a national movement, but an active international organization, and as such has increased and is increasing the respect of mankind for the philosophy of Henry George. That is why I say it was one of the great events of the year 1926.

"In 1897 Henry George was a candidate for Mayor of this city for a second time. On his campaign committee was a young lawyer who had been or was soon thereafter President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club. That young lawyer has become a great lawyer,—in fact one of the great Judges of this state, starting at an early age in the City Court, then in the Supreme Court, and then in the Court of Appeals, the highest Court of a state of ten million people. This gentleman will now address you—the Honorable Samuel Seabury." (Applause.)

#### JUDGE SEABURY'S ADDRESS

"It is a privilege to sit at this board today in honor of Charles O'Connor Hennessy and of Anna George deMille. We delight to honor them not only for what they have done to promote a great cause, but because of their association, in our minds at least, with one whom we recognize as one of the greatest characters that the nineteenth century produced.

"Many years have gone by since Henry George gave his message to the world. In the early days, the days of our youth, we used to believe that that message would soon realize fulfillment. Henry George knew that was not to be the case, and we lived to learn that Henry George was right. The struggle against private monopoly, against economic privilege, against international jealousies, against hate and against ignorance is not a struggle that can be easily won. In the years that have intervened, the truth which Henry George made clear has progressed. It has slowly marched on. But the world has as yet refused to accept the truth to which he gave expression, and has paid a heavy penalty for its failure so to do.

"Henry George taught the lesson of brotherhood among the peoples, and we have seen nations divided into armed camps intent upon bringing about the destruction of one another. Henry George taught that the people of the world must cooperate in the spirit of good-will, and we have seen the peoples priding themselves upon their isolation from one another. Henry George taught the rule of the people, and we have witnessed a very different thing—the rule of great states oppressive of the personalities of their own citizens within them and grasping and blatant toward other states without. Henry George taught that freedom of trade and exchange among peoples led to the welfare and the happiness of all; we have witnessed

the erection of tariff barriers and the establishment of governmental restrictions upon the right of one people to deal with another. He taught that economic freedom was as essential as political freedom. We have witnessed the unprecedented growth of private monopoly and economic imperialism. Henry George taught that individual freedom could not exist coincident with the monopoly of natural resources. We have passed laws which, while they fulminate against monopoly, leave unrepealed upon our statute books laws which of necessity create and protect private monopoly. Henry George taught the lesson of tolerance and freedom of opinion. We have been passing through an era of bigotry and intolerance, under which the restraint both of public opinion and of law prevent the free expression of individual opinion. Henry George taught that the expenses of government should be borne by the taxation of socially created values. These great values which the community creates we have donated to a privileged class, while burdening and harassing the producers of wealth by a great multitude of inquisitorial, unequal and unjust taxes.

"I point to these self-evident facts not in any spirit of pessimism. Only the truth and a realization of facts can make us free, and it is an encouraging sign of the times that the truth in reference to these subjects is becoming more generally appreciated and known.

"When the world and its civilization passed through the Valley of the Shadow of Death in the Great War, men believed that when the War was over the governments of the world would act upon a higher plan, and that the world would then be made safe and free for democracy. It was a noble hope, but it remains unfulfilled. Like causes produce like results. Unless we can change the causes, the deep, the fundamental causes which give rise to social injustices and wars, we have no right to expect that we shall reap any different results.

"Is it not time to try to change these practices and policies which have resulted in injustice and in war? Is it not time that we should try other and different policies and practices? We have tried isolation. Is it not time to try cooperation? We have tried economic imperialism and aggressive nationalism. Is it not time to try the abolition of economic imperialism, and the monopoly of natural resources, the root from which they spring? We have tried jealousy and hate in international relations. Is it not time to try fraternity? We have tried intolerance and the suppression of opinion. Is it not time to try tolerance and the freedom of opinion? We have tried allowing the state to limit and to restrict the individual in a thousand unnecessary, meddling ways. Is it not time for the individual man and woman within the community to restrict the State and to curtail its powers of meddlingness and interference with personal rights? (Applause.)

"There is no short, no easy way. If we would aid toward laying the foundations of social justice, we must

abandon the practice and the policies which, wherever applied, have led to injustice and wars among people. We must try to remove the obstacles to free cooperation among the people of the world—insist that the state shall perform its primary state function of securing equality of opportunity by the destruction or the abolition of the private monopoly of natural resources.

"Apart from the personal feelings of regard which I entertain for your distinguished guests of honor, I feel, as I have no doubt you feel, that we are delighted to be here to recognize what they have done in the past for the cause in which we are interested, and we are glad to be here because we think that the efforts that they will exert in this cause will contribute toward the accomplishment of the realization of these great objects to which I have referred, and we are glad—and I am sure that I speak not only my own sentiments but the sentiments of all around this table—to wish them Godspeed and success in the future labors that they will engage in." (Applause.)

#### LAWSON PURDY'S REMINISCENCES

Mr. Leubuscher: "Single Taxers sometimes deplore the slowness of the world's appreciation of what seems to us an accurately logical economic doctrine and the only doctrine which, if applied, will abolish poverty. I think they have no cause for pessimism. Great fundamental reforms come slowly. It took thousands of years to abolish chattel slavery. Why, when I was a boy, and that is not so many years ago, woman suffrage was laughed at. The agitation for that reform lasted at least a century. The proposals of Henry George have in forty years made wonderful strides. What has helped to advance land value taxation in our country more than anything else, especially in the City of New York, is the work largely of a man who will now address you—Lawson Purdy—(Applause.) A former President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, for many years he was President of the Tax Commission of this great city. Largely through his efforts was adopted the separation of the assessment of land and improvements. (Applause.) That was a great entering wedge. It enabled people to realize what a great thing was the land value of New York City, now, I think, assessed for over six billions of dollars. In the year 1925 there was collected in taxes upon land value about one hundred and fifty million dollars, in one year. That is more of the economic rent of land than is collected in all of Great Britain, and I venture to say, without knowing it to be a fact, more of the annual value of land than is collected in one year in France and Germany combined."

Mr. Purdy said:

"I came here to reminisce about Charlie Hennessy and I have been thinking as I sat here tonight about the campaign of 1897. Some of us didn't want Henry George