

confirms this emphatically. The disastrous bank failures in every large city in Florida were to a great extent caused by land booming tactics. School houses were built, not for educational purposes but to help sell lots in subdivisions. Hundreds of miles of broad paved streets were built, not needed at all for transportation purposes, but to enhance the selling price of land. Bond issues for all sorts of purposes were recklessly voted. The enormous aggregation of these bond issues soon resulted in the default of principal and interest on millions of dollars worth of paving bonds, school bonds and municipal, town and county bonds.

These defalcations ruined hundreds of banks and caused thousands of individual bankruptcies.

The Collier-Ten-Year-Plan people at first met the letter of Mr. Cramer and his associates in a typical land booming manner. Instead of answering the letter they said they would have his bakery boycotted. But the threat has not intimidated Mr. Cramer, nor any of the Ingram Institute group, but on the contrary it has put pep into their battle for a correction of the evils of unjust taxation.

—CHESTER C. PLATT.

Harry Weinberger Creates A Diversion

AT a luncheon held Jan. 3, 1931, by the Foreign Policy Association at the Hotel Astor, this city, the subject for discussion was "The World Wide Depression—Ways Out." The principal speaker was Professor Hamilton. In the course of his speech he was interrupted by a questioner from the balcony who asked, "What about the Single Tax?"

Professor Hamilton, who had admitted that he knew of no way out, attempted to answer. The answer must have seemed inadequate to the audience, for Chairman McDonald commented as follows:

"I am sure that answer hasn't been satisfactory to everybody. I know it hasn't been satisfactory to our Single Tax friends, and so we are very fortunate to have here at the guest-table a gentleman, a distinguished member of the New York Bar, Mr. Harry Weinberger, who says he would be delighted to show Professor Hamilton why Mr. Henry George's theory is a way out." Mr. Weinberger then addressed the audience as follows, his speech being punctuated with applause:

"Mr. McDonald wanted something with a little more excitement and perhaps the gentleman up in the balcony started it. If Professor Hamilton read 'Progress and Poverty' so long ago, the probabilities are he has forgotten most of the book and he ought to go back and read it over again. (Laughter). I say that without any intention to belittle the Professor's speech, which I enjoyed very much, especially his admission that he knew

no 'way out.' Henry George's idea of taxing the land, or rather taking the full rental value of the land and taking off all taxes from industry, is not a rural form of economics. The same thing applies today as it did then. The professor might read the speech of 1885 of Mr. George, called 'The Crime of Poverty,' and if he didn't look at the date when it was delivered, he would imagine that he was hearing a speech of today. There was then the same so-called overproduction, the same unemployment, the same question of free trade or tariff, except that Henry George did have, in his opinion, and in my opinion, a 'way out.'

One of our friends said something about having a tremendous building boom, lending people money to build houses. Certainly, let's say a building boom right here in New York,—that is a city problem, that is a so-called civilized problem that we have in the cities. Suppose we all began to build houses or wanted to build houses, what would happen? Why the price of land would go up so greatly that after a while building would stop and you would have the same stagnation that you have today. You read about the New School down on 12th Street paying \$200,000 or more for the mere fee of the land to build the building on. No one produced that land; no one except the community produced the value of that land. If I dropped 1,000,000 people in the City of New York tomorrow, the value of the land of the City of New York would go up tremendously.

Might I urge as an immediate way out that we take off all the taxes from all industry tomorrow. If we then put all the taxes upon the bare rental value of the ground, certainly there wouldn't be any less ground tomorrow than there is today, except that the speculative value of the ground would disappear.

You have recurring depressions, as one of the speakers stated. You find it every five years, or every ten years, or every two or three years, and the question is, 'why?' Some people talk of overproduction. I am glad most of the speakers here today did not take that fallacious point of view, though some of them hinted at it.

The most notable description of short-sightedness in history is one of the old fables of a king who said he would walk abroad in a marvelous costume. Everybody said, 'How beautiful and wonderful it is,' until one child said, 'Why, the king is naked.' We, too, are similarly short-sighted. We have this wonderful machinery making too much clothing so that millions are without clothes. We have agriculture—that produces so much wheat that millions have to go hungry. There is no limit to human consumptive power. There is only under-consumption caused by inability to purchase, and the question is, 'how and why?'

At the table here we were talking about emergency measures. There are certain emergency measures. That is not the thing I am going to talk about, except to mention one or two. We might say this is an emergency like war

and we will take 100 per cent. of all incomes over \$100,000 net for the coming year. We might say we will use the army for some purpose beside killing, by turning the army loose with its army kitchens to feed the hungry and use the armories for the purpose of giving homeless men and women a place to lay their heads.

Only one thing more in my five minutes. The most I can possibly do is drop a thought in your mind that may grow and lead you to investigate and read the book 'Progress and Poverty' as well, and find out whether, if you took all taxes off industry, if you took all taxes off buildings and put them upon the bare rental value of the ground, it wouldn't create more jobs, create more jobs than men. When you have more jobs than men, wages go up and the consumption power and the demand for goods and food are increased. By employing the unemployed you produce more goods and under the law of supply and demand prices will come down. By taking the full rental value of the ground and removing absolutely the speculative value of the ground, taking for the community that which the community creates, the value of ground today, you will not have building booms and speculations as we had in Florida, not building booms as you have down in New Jersey and also over in Queens every time they build a subway, every time they build a bridge. Whenever science creates a new and better form of society, and population increases, the man and the individual who gets the greatest benefit is the one who owns the land.

If we had the best police department, and the best fire department, and the best schools, and the cleanest streets, with the best of everything here in the City of New York tomorrow, what would happen? An influx of people, and an increase in the value of the ground, and higher rents.

I am surprised here today, with all these learned men at the table, I am surprised as I read all the articles on the 'way out,' that none of them talk about the need of rent coming down and the doing away with the speculative value of land which keeps people from the use of it. They tell you that in the pioneer form of society you did not have unemployment. That is the very thing which our complicated form of society stops us from seeing. If a savage, if a pioneer without the help of civilization and machinery, can earn enough money to support himself, where does the tremendous value of increase of products go to when science teaches man how to turn out by the millions and the billions things that man could not do with his bare hands? So I say, my friends, if I have left just one real thought in your minds, if I have helped Professor Hamilton, if I have caused him to think, maybe he will go back and read 'Progress and Poverty' over again. If so, this afternoon is not in vain as far as I am concerned. I thank you." (Applause).

UNTIL God's soil is rescued from the clutch of Greed and given back to Labor, let no man call this the Land of Freedom.—ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

Death of J. R. Hermann

IN the death of Jacob R. Herman, of Portland, Oregon, the Single Tax movement loses one of its bravest soldiers, one of its great Field Marshals. He died December 12, of pneumonia, after a brief illness.

Mr. Hermann was born near Rowley, Iowa, in 1870. At the age of 16 he went to Chicago where he learned the painter's and glazier's trade. After four years he returned to Iowa and entered the Northwest University, later called Morningside College, at Sioux City, Iowa. He worked his way through school and while studying law under Herbert Quick became a convert to the economic philosophy of Henry George. He then began to travel and lecture for the Single Tax.

He settled in Denver where he worked at his trade and led in the Single Tax movements in Colorado. He was instrumental in helping to nominate Judge Lindsay for judge of the first Juvenile Court. He worked and spoke for W. J. Bryan in all three of that gentleman's campaigns for the presidency. He had a great gift of natural eloquence and his services as a campaigner were much sought after. He also campaigned for the Single Tax in California during the war, and traveled through the East to raise funds for the amendment. In 1918 he went to Portland, Oregon, and opened Single Tax headquarters in the Stock Exchange Building in that city. He organized the Oregon Single Tax League which under his leadership placed a Single Tax measure on the ballot in 1920 and 1922 which each time polled a vote of about 40,000.

On the day he died he asked his sister to read a letter received from a Single Tax friend in California telling of plans for helping in a future campaign in Oregon. Hermann said, "My! what a responsibility he places upon me." Before midnight he had passed away, and that responsibility now rests upon other shoulders.

Mr. Hermann was a member of the Building Trades Council and his splendid sincerity won many converts among the rank and file of the workers. He never wearied in his labors for the cause, though his heart as well as his patience were often sorely tried. He was uncompromising in his advocacy of the truth he had learned from Henry George and he was a great campaigner. He was present at the Henry George Congress in San Francisco in September of this year and his speech delivered on that occasion was printed in the Nov.-Dec. issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

Hermann was a convinced spiritualist and the funeral service was conducted by Mrs. Zimmerman Smith, a minister of that faith. Mrs. Laura Lees read a beautiful tribute and there were flowers, music and song. In 1924 our friend published a book detailing his personal investigation over a long period of years into the phenomena of spirit return, under the title "Immortality Triumphant", and excerpts from this book were read at the service.

The Henry George movement has lost a great apostle, a fearless, rugged soul to whom the truth alone mattered.