

stimulated the public treasury would be fattened enormously. Furthermore new opportunities would be opened. Land would be cheaper, and speculation in and monopoly of land would be extirpated, so that an abundance of land now debarred from offering man its fruits would be put to its best use. Labor would be the object of competition, demand and supply would balance, and trade, which marks paramount advantage of the social state, would be unchecked.

Man has held poverty to mean shame and degradation as well as deprivation. It is the consequent fear coupled with other emotions which urges man to guard against poverty, sometimes by the foulest means. A more positive impetus is given him in public esteem as a winner if he frees himself from poverty. Give nature its just right to distribute wealth according to capability, and take for society that which it creates, and fear and suffering will be removed. That intangible force which is immortal in man existing above the material will be given free rein.

It was stated earlier that maladjustment underlay the enigma presented by the coexistence of excessive wealth and poverty. We have found that this is due to the fact that as material progress goes on, the possession of land lends more and more force to appropriation of wealth produced by capital and labor. By relieving the two of all taxation we would counteract this tendency. Wealth produced would be divided: one share would go to the producers in wages and interest; the other would accrue to society to be distributed equitably to its members. With the disappearance of poverty the incentive for the ardent quest for wealth would be moderated: a riddance of that quality in man which is the least human and most disgraceful of all. The change would be a gain to all those who live by wages directly, and to those who live by the joint application of labor and capital. In a word, individual reward would follow the dictates of intelligence, skill and prudence.

The evils arising from the unequal distribution of wealth are not incidents of progress but rather obstacles which must halt it if not removed. They spring from the shunting of natural laws, the denial of Justice, the ultimate law. We must give to every man the liberty to live his life and enjoy the product of his labor under nature's principles. It is the liberty which invites virtue, wealth, knowledge, and strength. The course is hard and paved with obstacles of prejudice, selfishness, but there can be no cause worthy of greater sacrifice.

THE masses of men, who in the midst of abundance, suffer want; who, clothed with political freedom, are condemned to the wages of slavery; to whose toil labor-saving inventions bring no relief, but rather seem to rob them of a privilege, instinctively feel that "there is something wrong." And they are right.

—HENRY GEORGE.

Henry George Foundation To Feature Political Action

SINCE its inception in the summer of 1926, the Henry George Foundation of America has been devoting its efforts chiefly to the field of economic education and, while not entirely disregarding opportunities to advance legislative efforts, the Foundation has not undertaken to develop or sponsor any programme of political or legislative action. This policy has been pursued because its founders appreciated the great need for popular education in fundamental economics and sought to concentrate upon this one task. As the result, however, of longer experience and careful study of the situation in its various aspects, the officers and trustees of the Foundation have reached the conclusion that in the long run Single Tax education cannot be advantageously divorced from political expression. Accordingly at the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees the resolution as printed on page 18 was unanimously adopted.

Under the new plan it is intended that education and political action shall go hand in hand. In this way an outlet will be afforded for the talents and energies of various types of Single Tax workers who are eager for activity. It will also be possible to develop organization to a much greater extent than heretofore,—a consideration of outstanding importance.

Since the days of Henry George, who himself took advantage of every opportunity to bring the land and tax questions into the political field, a very large section of American Single Taxers has always been keenly interested in working concretely to put the Single Tax into practical operation. The decade just preceding the great war witnessed live Single Tax campaigns in many parts of the United States and, while immediate success could hardly be reasonably expected, these campaigns gave evidence of life and progress and valuable experience was gained.

Again there comes a call from many quarters for political activity and the need is recognized for a strong national agency to plan, foster and support organized campaigns directed toward the practical application of the Single Tax principle. The Henry George Foundation is now prepared to assume this responsibility and will welcome the cooperation of Georgists throughout the United States.

A policy of organized concentration is believed to be essential for the success of this plan and will be recommended by the official board of the Foundation without, of course, presuming to dictate, but simply offering its leadership and cooperation. Naturally, a beginning must be made somewhere in the United States before strong popular support can be expected for campaigns embracing a wide territory.

It is proposed as a first step to make a rather careful survey of the situation in each of the states from the Single

Tax viewpoint. It will be the purpose, however, to expedite this survey so as to avoid unnecessary delay in the development of a concrete programme which can be presented to American Georgists interested in this very practical phase of the movement.

Information, ideas and suggestions from Georgists in all parts of the country are especially solicited and may be addressed to the headquarters of the Henry George Foundation, Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

—P. R. WILLIAMS.

An Excellent Statement of Principle

THE first man who was condemned to labor and live by the sweat of his brow, when applying his labor to the earth and its resources, had as wages his whole product. It was immaterial whether he claimed this product as a landlord, a capitalist or a laborer, the product was his—all.

So today to the land-owning farmer, using his own improvements and tools—products of his previous labor—it is also immaterial whether he accept his crop as wages, rent for land or as interest on his capital; it is his—all. But if there were three persons between whom to divide the product, one representing labor, a second representing capital and a third representing land, it would make a vast difference to each just how the crop was divided.

It is plain that if the landlord as rent were to get more, then between them capital and labor must get less.

Now, since the production of commodities is not complete until they are marketed and are in the hands of the consumer, the producer must hire the warehouseman, the railroads, the commission man, the wholesaler and retailer, and in most cases a manufacturer or processor, and pay them out of the price paid by the consumer. Therefore, it makes a vast difference to the producer on what bases they charge him, because he can have only what is left after their charges are paid.

No farmer or other producer, it would appear, has reason to complain about the general wage scale, because working for wages is their line and the labor market is their line and the labor market is practically an open market, where all have equal opportunity to engage in any occupation which pays best.

Nor should any complain of the rates usually charged for the use of capital, because all can invest their capital where it will draw the largest pay, the same as labor. So it appears competition should fairly well equalize the earnings of both in all trades.

But how about land, a factor which both labor and capital must employ if they do anything? Is the supply of land open to competition, and does the law of supply and demand regulate rent the same as it regulates compensation paid labor and capital? What effect does this

factor—land—have on the retail price of products and the share that labor and capital receive? What share of present retail prices represents land rent or interest on capitalized land values?

Labor complains that wages are low as compared to retail prices. The farmer says the same thing about prices paid him for his products.

We all acknowledge that lack of purchasing power is the main cause of industrial depression. Is it not possible that excessive capitalization of land space in our industrial and trade centers, mines, water power, etc., is exacting an undue share that is unearned, thus reducing the purchasing power of labor and true capital?

Perhaps this would be a good field for one of Mr. Hoover's investigating committees.

—J. S. TINDALL in *Grand Rapids* (Mich.) *Herald*.

HENRY FORD is said to be having trouble in Brazil. His investment there involved the necessity of ousting a lot of tenants. An orphan asylum is listed as among the institutions to be disturbed. Not only are the natives displeased, but inclined to be violent in protest.

Apparently the Brazilians are not different from other people. Nobody yet has been discovered lavishing much affection on an absentee landlord.

—*Hollywood News*.

OUR beloved Will Rogers was this Christmas Day quoted by a large newspaper as saying, "We can hardly wait till the day is over to get back to our devilment again." In addition to what he may have meant by it, we wonder how many realize that therein he struck a cord that reverberates to thousands of homes where poverty and tragedy prevails by reason of our present land tenure system.

The most deceiving things in our social customs have the appearance of legitimacy. Today we celebrate the nativity of Him who said: "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these ye have done it unto me."

We inflict injustice upon millions "of the least of these," because the majority have been designedly kept in ignorance as to how our land tenure system and manner of raising public budgets visits these injustices upon the victims. As Mr. Rogers says, we will tomorrow return to the practice of this system; the newspapers will sell large advertising space and donate much publicity to the special interests to bait the masses into buying and holding land for a rise in selling price, thus using it as a gambling device.

—C. A. MCLEMORE in *Hollywood News*.

IF by machinery we produce more, or by economy we save more, or by virtue we improve the level of culture, then by that much the area in which this takes place becomes a better place to live and do business in and land values go up and rent goes up—forcing wages and interest down.—Stockton, (Calif.) *Forum*.