

Death Of William McCabe

WILLIAM McCABE, life-long friend of Henry George, and candidate for governor of New York on the Commonwealth Land party ticket, is dead after a short illness and a long career of service to the truth as he saw it.

As fellow compositors Henry George and William McCabe worked together on the San Francisco *Times* and later on the San Francisco *Post*. During that period McCabe accepted the doctrines taught by the great reformer and became his enthusiastic supporter in the campaign of 1886 when Mr. George polled the phenomenal 68,000 votes.

It may be of interest to know that Inspector Byrnes, at that time Chief of Police, told Mr. George in the presence of Mr. McCabe that he had been elected to the mayoralty in that election, but had been swindled out of it by the juggling of the votes to the files of Theodore Roosevelt and Abram S. Hewitt.

In 1881 began the organization that led up to the campaign of 1886. In this Mr. McCabe was very active and when Henry George started the *Standard* he associated himself with that great teacher and wrote some characteristic sketches for the paper which attracted much attention.

McCabe was grand marshal of the first labor parade ever held in this city and never ceased his activities in the typographical union.

He was a civil war veteran and was over eighty at the time of his death. But up to a few months ago he was working at his case and there was nothing to indicate his early passing. At the time of his nomination by the Commonwealth Land party for governor he was sick in bed, but was persuaded by his wife to accept the nomination. So from early manhood to almost the very hour of his passing out, he may be said to have been in active service. He leaves a widow and twelve children, the youngest of whom is seven years old.

On the evening of September 30 a number of Single Taxers journeyed to his home where over his remains John J. Murphy read selections from the last chapter of *Progress and Poverty*, as an expression of the attitude of mind which in common with nearly all Single Taxers our dead comrade entertained.

Mr. Murphy said:

"We are here tonight to pay our tribute to a comrade who has fought the good fight and entered into rest. Unlike the mass of mankind which rests content if its rights are not invaded, he gave much of his thought and time to devising means by which the reign of justice might be realized.

"It was his good fortune to meet a little earlier than the rest of us, the master-mind whose brain had devised the key for the padlock of the chain which special privilege had forged to keep the masses in subjection.

"Early thrown into association with the supreme economist and social philosopher of all time, Henry George, his imagination caught fire at the blaze of that great man's

love for suffering humanity and burned with a clear and radiant light until the end.

"Seeking no advantage for himself which he was unwilling that others should share, he hoped that the light of truth might irradiate that opaque mass which, for want of a better name, we designate—public opinion. With charity to all, with malice toward none, he continued to believe that some day the self-evident truth would be recognized, that social value attaching to land because of the needs and presence of population would be recognized as common property and would be differentiated from true private property, which is the material sign and symbol of civilization.

"He estimated at their true value the devices by which a society straying in the paths of error endeavors to identify its interests with those of true civilization. Tariffs put forth as shields for the workers, but really intended to foster monopoly and enhance prices; immigration acts to close the door of opportunity to an impoverished world; monetary restrictions enabling concentrated wealth to take toll of production;—he saw through and condemned all these devices of exploitation and would have replaced them by institutions based upon the simple golden rule of Equal Opportunity for All, special privilege for none."

Death Of Frank Williams

FRIENDS of the movement will learn with sorrow of the death of Frank Williams, at the age of 71. The funeral of this devoted friend of the cause was held under the auspices of the San Diego Single Tax Society.

Frank Williams was a fine example of those who act on the principle that a Single Taxer is one who does something for Single Tax. He was a printer by trade, but most of his printing was done not for profit but to further the cause of freedom as he had learned it from Henry George. He had a little printing press in a shed back of his house at 1828 Cypress avenue in San Diego. His house was known throughout the city as Liberty Lodge and his press as Liberty Press, because both were used in the cause of liberty. For several years the San Diego Single Tax Society held its meetings in his house. He lived alone and was never happier than when entertaining Single Taxers and showing them his books and various scraps of printing that he had done for freedom's cause. He spent most of his time printing and distributing tracts on the freedom of land.

About five years ago, when he became unable to set type (on account of an incurable paralysis,) he turned over to the San Diego Single Tax Society all his earthly possessions, consisting of his house and lot and little press, and went to the county hospital to await the inevitable. During these five years he has kept up a keen interest in the progress of the cause to which he had dedicated his life. He denied himself every little comfort, in order that he might see his money used to keep up meetings and other work for the freedom of land for all people of the earth. When he died he left only 36 cents and an old pocket one-cent piece coined in 1853, the year of his birth. Such

unselfish, patient and persistent devotion to the cause of universal freedom has seldom been seen among men. It seems fitting that some mention of this man's life be made in *LAND AND FREEDOM*, the representative of the Henry George philosophy throughout the civilized world.

CARY RICHARD COLBURN.

Economic Causes and Effects

INTEREST rates, professional fees, net salaries and wages, and profits from productive business are disproportionately low, enterprise in general stagnates, and living costs are needlessly high, only when and solely because land values and "economic rent" are inordinately high.

When interest rates, professional fees, net salaries and wages, and profits from productive business are reasonably remunerative, enterprise thrives, and living costs are low, it is invariably and wholly due to land values and "economic rent" being reasonably low.

These economic causes and effects are as unchanging and as immutably positive in their operation as the natural laws of attraction and gravitation. Their operation cannot be changed by gods, kings or democracies.

Why are banks now offering call money at only $1\frac{1}{2}\%$? What would cause it to command 6% ? What would be the certain condition of commercial business and agriculture in general, were call money in steady demand at 6% instead of at $1\frac{1}{2}\%$?

K. P. ALEXANDER.

On Dean Inge

S. A. J. writes:—Dean Inge, of London, who is known as the gloomy Dean, says, "It is notorious that the present conditions of labor do not satisfy the workers" . . . "The deadly poison of Marxism must be eliminated from the veins of the body politic."

To follow out the Dean's simile we could ask him to cure the pestilential ulcer of land monopoly which he apparently does not see because it is covered with the bandage of custom and privilege and which is daily poisoning the social system. Rulers, good or bad, in the past gave to their followers grants of land. In other words they gave to them the right that they and their descendants should live for ever on the labor of others.

Twelve landlords in London—the Dean's own home-town—draw £12,000,000 a year in ground rents which the people of London have to pay for the privilege of using the sites of London on which to build their houses. The Dean does not see this ulcer but he sees the effects of it in the poison in the life blood of the community and yet he thinks the people should be satisfied.

—*Standard*, Sydney, Australia.

Is It A Land Fight In Texas?

TEXAS is going to have a woman governor. Back of that event is some interesting history and in front of it is a knotty problem. Neither the history nor the problem to be faced really had much to do with the superficial issues of the campaign, as discussed most in Texas and featured elsewhere.

Texas has a "land question"—a more acute phase of the problem of landlordism and tenantry, than exists in all the states.

A few years ago when James Ferguson became a political power over night, the unrest over land tenure was very great. It still exists. There is more reason for its existence than in many European countries with celebrated agrarian struggles.

The census of 1920 seems to show that in the decade 1910-1920, the growth of tenantry began to abate in Texas as in the rest of the country, but while a natural solution of the issue may be in process, the issue is still alive and bound to remain so for a long time.

"Educated" Texans, "progressive" and "reactionary," didn't see the land question. They couldn't see the ocean for the water.

Ferguson's nomination was a thunderbolt to them—the emergence of an agrarian radicalism that they didn't suspect. In the southwest today rural radicalism makes the northwestern variety appear "bourgeois" by comparison.

Ferguson's rise to power recalled the story of young Saul seeking his father's asses and being elected king of Israel. But while strong on protest he was weak on practical proposals. He failed in office, because he was smaller than the issue and the forces he had evoked.

But the forces back of his elevation persisted and, aided by accessions of other elements because of new issues they have again prevailed.

"Ma" Ferguson will become governor largely as a result of a wholesome American opposition to the idea of a peasantry.

Politicians and business men alike would do well to study the land question, now that Uncle Sam is no longer rich enough to give us all a farm.

"Scrutator," Special Correspondent in *Chicago Tribune*.

Not Really Overcrowded

"UNCLE SAM isn't to blame for our birth rate, of course," a Porto Rico official told me. "But we're crowded now, 377 to the square mile. Even such a densely packed people might earn a living if the island was all theirs. But vast areas of our richest soil are farmed by big landlords, absentee and otherwise, whose ownership forces many natives to remain mere day laborers. Big landlords there must be,