

the door to real, unfettered competition and the utmost of individual opportunity.

The second great law of true economics is:

Natural monopolies should be owned and operated for the equal benefit of all the people.

And the third great law is:

No special privileges should be permitted by government which enable private monopoly to exist.

Recognition of these economic laws is all that is necessary to the destruction of any and all monopolies which enable any individual or group to take unfair advantage of the people.

—HERMAN B. WALKER in *Hudson*, (N. J.) *Dispatch*.

IN our time," said Henry George, "as in times before creep on the insidious forces that, producing inequality, destroy Liberty. On the horizon the clouds begin to lower. Liberty calls to us again. We must follow her further; we must trust her fully. Either we must wholly accept her or she will not stay. It is not enough that men should vote; it is not enough that they should be theoretically equal before the law. They must have liberty to avail themselves of the opportunities and means of life; they must stand on equal terms with reference to the bounty of nature. Either this, or Liberty withdraws her light! Either this, or darkness comes on, and the very forces that progress has evolved turn to powers that work destruction. This is the universal law. This is the lesson of the centuries. Unless its foundations be laid in justice the social structure cannot stand."

THE first thing to do for good homes, as well as permanent good times, would seem to be to increase the available supply of land through increased taxes on all sites worth owning, at the same time abolishing taxes on improvements."—Professor Lewis J. Johnson.

## The Work of Charles Johnson Post

THE publication by Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent* recently of the striking article by Charles Johnson Post, entitled "A Plea for Scientific Taxation," led to the writing of a letter to Mr. Ford's editor by Charles O'Connor Hennessy, the president of The Franklin Society for Home-Building and Savings, in which, after commending Mr. Post's article, Mr. Hennessy said:

"May I say that I speak out of a long and large experience with the repressive effects of unscientific taxation upon one industry that, in its social and economic effects, may seem as important as any that can be mentioned. I refer to the business of providing dwelling houses for the people of our country. In our cities, particularly, adequate and decent housing has become a continuous problem.

There is needed no considerable acquaintance with the factors that enter into the production of dwelling houses for those families of small or moderate means who constitute the bulk of our population, to impress the fact that unscientific taxation fills a large part of the picture of the housing problem in America. One need not be a Single Taxer to see clearly that if we could cheapen the production and maintenance of independent homes, it would be easier to produce more of them. Nor should it be hard to believe that a removal of the tax burdens, direct and indirect, that oppress manufacturers engaged in the production of building material, and that penalize the thrift and industry of the homeseeker after he has erected his dwelling, are facts tending to reduce the production of houses. On the other hand it is clear that there is a tendency toward a constant increase in land prices where dwellings are most in demand. This, of course, would be checked by the gradual transference of tax burdens from the products of labor and capital to those land values which are, in a large measure, produced by community activities. Land speculators would lose by this process, but the whole community and particularly the worthy homeseeker would gain."

Mr. Hennessy's competence to speak for homeseekers may be suggested by the fact that he is President of The Franklin Society for Home-Building and Savings of New York, an institution with more than 40,000 members, which has resources of approximately twenty-two million dollars, consisting chiefly of small mortgages on dwelling houses in the Metropolitan District.

## Oscar Geiger Talks in Plainfield

OSCAR GEIGER, of New York, speaking last night before a well attended meeting at All Souls' Unitarian Church on the subject of "Natural Law in Economics," referred to the life of Henry George as an illustration of the driving power which comes from an intellectual devotion to ideals. Like other great Americans, he said, Henry George was self-made and rose from poverty. He was a great economist, a master of English prose style, yet had only a common school education.

In the field of journalism, the speaker said, George distinguished himself by his fearless attacks on political corruption. In 1879 he wrote his masterpiece, "Progress and Poverty," presenting the ideas since known as Single Tax, but also discussing human life and social questions in brilliant language.

The moving force of George's life was said to be intense sympathy with human suffering. The misery of a great city would not let him rest for thinking of what caused it and how it could be cured. He concluded that it was the inability of men to obtain access to the bounties of nature that caused involuntary poverty. He formulated as his central principle that all men have equal rights to use the earth.

The simple solution of the whole problem, as seen by Henry George, the speaker concluded, was that those who occupy valuable sites should pay a tax in proportion to that value; that such taxes should be used for public purposes, and that all the present multitude of taxes on persons and improvements and industry should be abolished.

PLAINFIELD, N. J. *Courier-News*.

## Australia Tries Single Tax

PRACTICAL EXPERIMENT AT NEW CAPITAL OF THE THEORIES OF THE FAMED "PROPHET OF CALIFORNIA"

**N**EXT month the government of Australia moves to its new capital, Canberra, specially designed by an American architect and landscape gardener for the official home of the Australian Commonwealth. By all accounts, Canberra is beautiful, even in its raw beginnings; but there is one thing even more interesting than its beauty.

Canberra is trying out the land doctrines of Henry George. It is abolishing the land speculator. The entire Federal District of more than 900 square miles belongs to the nation. Most of it was "Crown land," or, as we should call it, "public domain," taken over free of charge. The rest was bought from private owners at its value for the purposes for which they were using it. The highest price paid was \$15 per acre.

Not a foot of this land will be sold. It is leased on the basis of 5 per cent of its value. Auctions have been held disposing of a few blocks by leasehold. In some of the business streets, bids were made of \$400 per front foot; which means that the bidder bound himself to pay a 5 per cent rental on this amount, or \$20 per front foot. Corner lots of a sixth of an acre went at \$18,000; that is, at a rental of \$900 per year.

Information is not at hand as to the exact provisions for revaluing the land periodically, but such provisions are made.

In this way, all profit from increase of land values comes to the nation, instead of to the speculator. It is expected that within a relatively short time, the government will have an income of several million dollars per year, and that the entire cost of government buildings and of other improvements will be returned in this fashion.

Also, by keeping control of the land, the nation is enabled to make the growth of the city symmetrical; thus profiting from the experience of Washington, which had a superb plan at the start, but which has been almost ruined by land sharks.

This practical experiment in the Single Tax will be watched with world-wide interest. Australians have no doubt whatever of its success.

Labor, Washington, D. C. *Florida home.*—New York *Tribune*.

## How to Get World Peace

**T**HE *Irish News* of Belfast in its issue of May 3rd quotes at length from the Memorandum of the International Union, and comments editorially as follows:

The International Union makes out a stronger case for all-round Free Trade than mere assertion. They point out that in order that the organization of production should be carried on with the maximum of efficiency and economy, it is necessary that the raw materials should be grown or extracted in those places where it is relatively easiest to do so, and that they should be transported with the minimum of expense and interference to those places where it is cheapest to manufacture them and to those places where they are required for consumption

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If the whole world constituted one State, no intelligent person would advocate tariffs between its administrative units. There is an evident inconsistency in supporting a League of Nations pledged to world peace, while at the same time advocating the maintenance of national tariffs on the theory that the producers in different nations are (in the economic field) enemies. In fact, the whole tenor of Protectionist literature is that tariffs are a means of making one nation rich at the expense of another. There go Tariffs! Now we turn to the Land Laws of countries; they "fail to prevent the speculative holding of land out of use." And—"What we are concerned to show is that Land Value Taxation supplies an essential link in the solution of most economic problems."

We are only drawing public attention to the views of an important and interesting group of thinkers who have devoted earnest attention to the subject. They advocate peace, justice, security, and the progress of an ordered civilization which require that the inter-related problems of international commerce and of the economic betterment of the common man in every country should be solved; they suggest that "the levy of taxes upon the economic value of all land apart from improvements would, on the one hand, immensely stimulate industry by forcing land into use, and, on the other hand, would provide a constantly growing source of public revenue, leading ultimately to the abrogation of the taxes and imposts of various kinds that in every country so grievously oppress and hamper the free employment of capital and labor." We do not accept their proposition whole-heartedly, because we know that there are obstacles in the way; but we believe they are right in the main, and their cause will find more and more believers in its practicability as time passes by.

**A**N alligator has been caught in New Jersey. He was probably headed for New York to find the speculator who located a real estate development on the site of his