

solemn vow that he would not rest until he had discovered the cause and the cure for poverty. His search was richly rewarded. His conclusions were recorded in his masterpiece, "Progress and Poverty," and these have never been successfully challenged. Just as Sir Isaac Newton discovered the law of gravitation, so Henry George discovered an even more important natural law, that which controls community needs for revenue and the satisfaction of those needs and consequent prosperity. Wherever this philosophy has been put into practice, even in a limited way, it has fully justified the claims made for it.

For poverty is the greatest curse that afflicts mankind. It is the greatest hindrance to that heaven on earth which Christian people pray for and which we have every reason to believe was intended by the Creator for His children. Poverty is the parent of crime. Human nature is good and there is a divine spark in every human being. But, obeying the first law of nature, a man will rob others before allowing himself or his family to starve. Poverty is responsible for destitution, disease, and premature death, for illiteracy, child labor, and delinquency, for preventing the marriage of young people, for family separations, and for suicide; in short, for most of the misery which afflicts modern society. The abolition of poverty, therefore, will constitute the greatest social improvement ever experienced. To perpetuate the huge operations of organized charity while tolerating the existence of poverty is like fertilizing a garden full of weeds, instead of first removing the weeds, where a splendid crop might otherwise be harvested. The intelligent farmer would, of course, extirpate the weeds; and that is just what should be done with the economic causes of poverty, thereby liberating the beneficent forces of nature. Charity simply perpetuates poverty. Is it not worse than futile, therefore, to favor charity at the expense of justice?

It is urged, therefore, that you conclude to assist in the promotion of justice by arranging an endowment or contribution for the work now being successfully carried on by the Schalkenbach Foundation and the Henry George School of Social Science in New York City.

—HENRY WARE ALLEN.

IF the land belong to the people, why continue to permit landowners to take the rent, or compensate them in any manner for the loss of rent? Consider what rent is. It does not arise spontaneously from land; it is due to nothing that the land owners have done. It represents a value created by the whole community. Let the landholders have, if you please, all that the possession of the land would give them in the absence of the rest of the community. But rent, the creation of the whole community, necessarily belongs to the whole community.

—PROGRESS AND POVERTY.

Correspondence

LABOR UNIONS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The labor unions appear at this time to be in a somewhat chaotic condition.

Why is a labor union? There must be a reason for everything which exists, which is real and useful. As a matter of fact, the presence of labor unions is an admission of ignorance of economic law, and there is no real justifiable cause for their existence. There are plenty of arguments in their favor, based on expediency, self-preservation, and the like, but absolutely no reason which takes into consideration nature's plan of continuous existence and the proper relationships of man to man, and man to earth, and there is no argument for or against them which will stand the test of logic based on reason and justice.

It is largely claimed that injustice is a dominant cause for the organization of unions, but there is no such law as injustice. Apply the law of justice, and injustice disappears as light dispels darkness. The positive is, and there is always a negative which, as the name implies, has no standing except as proof of the positive—what seem to be injustice is failure to apply the positive—the law of justice.

One of the main arguments favoring unions is that there are not enough jobs to go around, and the prevalent thought obtains that some man or men give jobs to other men, when as a matter of fact nature gives jobs to all men, and nature is not niggardly; resources sufficient to give jobs to all mankind have been generously supplied. True, some will say, but a comparatively few men have already monopolized nature's gift. But that is another question, and one of expediency, and to be overcome by ethics intelligently applied.

No man engages in useful work, mental or physical, except in a demand for existence, and all must have an opportunity on equal terms to live, else civilization is disrupted. Individual capacity must determine the scale upon which man exists, but exist he must. The unions claim to have raised the standard of remuneration of the working man. They may have seemed to do so in instances and localities, but it is by no means general.

The law of supply and demand is bound to govern in the long run, if not improperly interfered with. Supply being the earth's resources, and demand the needs of mankind.

This continual warfare between capital and labor is not conducive to better conditions, and if people could only realize that the interests of capital and labor are identical, and that monopoly of natural resources is their common enemy, conditions would shape themselves on a new basis. Let us briefly sketch the situation:

Labor produces in excess of its needs, the result of which we designate as capital. And capital in turn makes it possible for labor to produce in greater volume through improved methods. Capital of today therefore is the salvage of yesterday's labor. Some man with capital has the genius, the courage and the vision to build a factory to manufacture some useful article on a large scale, or a railroad to transport it. He secures the necessary labor. The next step being a site for his factory, or a right of way for his railroad, which is where the first start is made toward contributing to monopoly as an overhead which the boss and the helpers must share in doing a useful thing for the community, and this will continue at every step of the way. Whether he is producing or transporting the product, he needs raw material and fuel in making the article or furnishing cars and engines to haul it to and from market, everything in connection with which has been tied down by monopoly which works so industriously and insidiously that neither capital nor labor has apparently as yet been able to discover the tremendous economic loss they are suffering for lack of knowledge of a few simple and fundamental truths.

Every previous civilization has been diseupted by an unequal distribution of power, either of wealth or man power. Rome and Russia are sufficient as illustrations.

Labor unions and their opposing elements are absorbing so much of their mental as well as physical energy as to preclude attention to more general and universal constructive measures, which would tend to obviate rather than enhance a repetition. Their thoughts, motives and actions are necessarily along lines toward minimizing their opponents' power and prestige which engender conditions of thought retarding cooperation.

It will be understood we are in no wise criticizing the motive and seeming necessity for unions. Had employers met the first simple demand for better conditions in a spirit of friendliness, instead of antagonism, there would have been no reason for promoting unions. Now they are so firmly established they will likely continue. At the same time it will do no harm for both sides to contemplate truths regarding their presence and utility, and it may help when the next progressive step is taken in considering the future happiness of both capital and labor, as nothing of human character continues indefinitely without change or adjustment.

Chicago, Ill.

F. J. EDDY.

THE SITUATION IN CALIFORNIA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The situation in California relative to taxation and reform in our landholding system is for the moment one of relative quiet. Nevertheless, there are several things to note.

In San Francisco and the neighborhood Noah D. Alper is developing a large degree of interest in the Henry George Schools, continually forming new study groups in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, and other places. Like work is being done in the south. From among the students we can expect valuable assistance when the fight comes on in earnest a year from now. Through Mr. Alper's suggestion Major General J. C. Breckinridge has spoken several times at large gatherings. The general is an ardent student of Henry George and a convert of Colonel Harlee, also of the same *Marine Corps*.

Meanwhile public investigations are supplying us with valuable material. A detailed survey of conditions in the greater part of San Francisco made by relief workers shows that forty per cent of the city's population live in obsolete houses and buildings that are abnormal. Many families with children eat and sleep in the same room. With reference to this situation the city Health Director says truly that "infant mortality may rise even 50 per cent greater than in areas in which there is more than one room per person."

Could there be a stronger argument for the ends we are seeking than that put directly in our hands? In the face of the necessity of greater housing and at the same time greater employment, the Real Estate boards are insisting upon retaining taxation upon the necessities of life through the sales tax and continued taxation upon housing in all forms. Properly regarded such course seems fairly inhuman. But as campaigners we must regard such documents as material of the highest value.

Another circumstance of moment is that the State Railroad commission a few days ago made a report of campaign contributions by public utilities, and among them named two aggregating over \$1,000 to the Association Against the Single Tax. This committee was charged with the task of fighting our amendment doing away with the sales tax and with taxation upon tangible personal property and improvements. The significance of this revelation lies in the fact that the public was assured that the effect of the amendment would be to benefit the privately-owned public utilities and therefore increase taxation upon the householder. If the argument had any foundation it would be strange that the public utilities should be oblivious to it. Such political contributions demonstrate its falsity.

Meanwhile the legislature is in session. Some pressure is being brought upon it to diminish or make exceptions from the sales tax of 3 per cent. The real estate interests which have a most powerful hold particularly upon the governor and senate will not permit this. The result is likely to be that the situation as affecting taxation

next year will not be greatly different from that we have been confronting of late. As a consequence the next proposition we shall submit to the initiative will not vary much that stricken off the ballot by the Supreme Court for alleged defect in the subtitle of the petitions. There will be no excuse for a repetition of such action by the Supreme Court and the people of the state will have presented to them in the fall of 1938 the opportunity of striking down the sales tax and the other taxation spoken of and transferring taxation to such extent to land values. The effect will be the taking of 60 per cent of land values for public use. This will accomplish more than has obtained anywhere else in the world.

I have spoken of the disaster that befell us in the death of David Woodhead of Los Angeles, one of our best and cool-headed advisers. His place it will be hard to supply, although I may note that in various ways a lot of younger men and women are coming in to fill up the gap. At this moment we are disturbed over the serious illness of another veteran leader, Albert J. Milligan, but hope for the best.

Palo Alto, March 18.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

SANGUDO MOVES UP

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

You may be interested to know that it is expected this hamlet will be incorporated to the status of a village next month and that the No. 1 by-law, will in all probability be, to the effect that the sole basis of taxation shall be the Single Tax on land values. We are a long distance from the center of things, but if we remember George's quotation at the front of "Progress and Poverty" "Never yet seed of truth was sown in vain, in the world's wide fallow" we will not be discouraged, the first levy at 40 mills for municipal uses only will yield about \$1,500.00, later we expect to be able to have school taxes levied in the same way.

A little later on I would like to get something in the nature of a plaque bearing the likeness of Henry George and that of a copy of "Progress and Poverty," to hang in the village council hall; perhaps some Georgeist there could suggest where such could be obtained.

The Hon. Solon Low, provincial treasurer, of Alberta, is regarded by the Milk River, Alta. Georgeists as a very likely convert; in fact he is said to have expressed the thought that the Georgeists had the only solution for the present muddle.

Sangudo, Alta, Canada.

J. F. GOODE.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

It is a beautiful tribute that the Franklin Society has rendered to the memory of Charles O'Connor Hennessy, its late president, in the shape of an artistically printed monograph detailing the career of its founder. It is accompanied by an excellent portrait of our friend, personal and newspaper tributes to his memory and achievements, and resolutions of sympathy to his bereaved family. We are glad to see also his address on "This Discontented World" delivered at the Fifth Annual Congress of Georgeists in London in September, 1936.

WE are glad to welcome *democracy* (with a small d) a paper edited by Charles H. Ingersoll. It appears in enlarged form. We wish it success. It is mostly written by Mr. Ingersoll himself and touches upon incidents of topical interest with the inevitable lessons. The object has been to bring it up to date and we fancy it will be read with real interest.

ON March 21 Raymond V. McNally, teacher at the New York Henry George School, spoke before the Holy Name Society of St. John's Church, Kingsbridge Avenue, N. Y. The meeting was held at the well known Ben Riley Arrowhead Restaurant Inn, Riverdale, N. Y. There were about 250 in attendance, and Mr. McNally spoke for an hour. The response was good and several of the younger