

idle men, high rent, slums, crime, etc. Taxes are increasing by leaps and bounds; if you do not think so ask those who are paying taxes. The taxes now paid by the people are out of all proportion to the benefits received. How many people ever stop to think of the taxes raised in each borough and how much of the taxes are spent in the borough from which they are collected. In other words, should the revenue raised in a borough be spent in said borough? If ever the people awaken and abolish all taxation and collect their land rent for their public needs there will be a new world and the people of our country will be truly prosperous, not in spots or from time to time, but all the time.

To bring about that condition we will have to give the question of taxation much more time and thought than we have ever before given to the subject.

Those who desire to understand the question of taxation in all its bearings should read "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, wherein he outlines the cause of Poverty, War, Unemployment, High Rent, Slums, Crime, etc., and also tells us the remedy. He says there can be no cure for the evils that beset humanity until the cause of the evils is abolished. Henry George further says that the earth is the gift of God for the equal use of all the people, and therefore the rent of land produced by population should be collected for all public expenses instead of taxing the product of labor for government needs.

Our troubles are not political, they are economic. The overtaxed people should demand the abolition of taxation direct and indirect and the collection of the full rent of land for all public needs. Then the United States would be a tax-free nation and economic freedom come to all.

Destroying Speculative Rent

FURTHERMORE, taxes on land values not only do not check production as do most other taxes, but they tend to increase production by destroying speculative rent. Because we allow the rise of land values to go to the owners of land who, as owners of land, do nothing to cause that rise of value we foster a holding up of land with the result that the rent of any land to-day exceeds its economic rent by a sum known as speculative rent. Economic rent plus speculative rent equals a rack rent, i. e., one which leaves to industry just enough to keep it going and to laborers just enough to keep them alive. In fact its tendency is to go further than this, crushing industry to death and forcing laborers out of existence—which tendency is resisted by industry or by workers, and we have the spectacle of a lock-out, a strike, or an industrial depression. These spasms of industrial depression are but the expression of the rise of rent above the limits of economic rent or natural rent to a point near the limits upon which laborers will consent to live—the habitual standard of living of the masses.

—H. G. PEARCE in Sydney, Aus., Address by wireless.

Address of George E. Evans, Pittsburgh, President Henry George Foundation of America

HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MONDAY, SEPT. 10

I DESIRE on behalf of the Henry George Foundation and of the delegates who have assembled here from various parts of the United States to attend this Congress to thank Councilman Mills for the cordial welcome which he has extended to us and to express our appreciation of the splendid hospitality that has been shown us. It is gratifying, I may also say, to observe that the people of Chicago have chosen a man of the high type of Mr. Mills to represent them in the city's legislative body. We need more men of his ability and vision in public office.

It is also most fitting that I should take advantage of this opportunity to express our deep appreciation of the splendid cooperation that has been given in the arrangements for this gathering by Chairman Ewing and the members of the Chicago Convention Committee in particular and by the Single Taxers of Chicago in general.

In response to your most cordial invitation, we are assembled here today for the third annual Henry George Congress. It is a splendid programme that has been prepared and I am sure that we shall derive a great deal of instruction and inspiration from this gathering. This is not merely a convention of the Henry George Foundation, though it is held under its auspices; it is a national conference intended for all disciples of Henry George, regardless of whether they are members of the Foundation or of any other Single Tax organization. It has been our aim to have all elements and shades of opinion represented and this variety of ideas should make our conference very stimulating and profitable. We aim to make the annual Congress a clearing house for the presentation of helpful ideas and reports of activities in all lines of endeavor.

Just two years ago the Henry George Foundation of America was established as a permanent national institution in memory of the great philosopher, economist and exponent of freedom, whom we delight to honor, and for the purpose of popularizing his great idea which has come to be known as "The Single Tax." The Foundation was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania, with a responsible board of twenty-one trustees embracing in its number some of our leading Single Taxers. Associated with them is a National Advisory Commission which includes many prominent figures in the movement and is representative of all sections of the country.

Single Taxers have been prone to neglect organization and such organizations as have been attempted heretofore have generally proven to be short-lived, resulting in the loss of much valuable time and effort and tending to discourage many loyal supporters. Since the war days

we had been without any recognized national organization, our active groups were scattered and un-coordinated, and many who had borne the brunt of the battle in years gone by had lost something of their fighting spirit. In undertaking our new forward movement, we therefore resolved to lay a firm foundation with a view to assuring the permanence of this national agency, so that the results of our efforts would be conserved and an aggressive fighting force maintained until the glad day when the great dream of Henry George is realized and the Single Tax "Unlimited" is in full operation.

Such a national institution, it was felt, ought to be supplied with large financial resources and there is no reason why there should be any lack of funds to promote a movement that offers to all the people such blessings as will flow from the attainment of real economic freedom and permanent and genuine prosperity. It is true that we do not have in the Single Tax movement at the present time a great many persons of large means and yet I believe that if we could but realize the great opportunity that we have, the resources would soon be forthcoming in sufficient volume to provide for a great extension of activities. Many have given very generously and we trust that many more will do so as the work progresses.

That the time was ripe for a more aggressive movement in behalf of the Single Tax was evident from the cordial welcome and many enthusiastic messages that greeted the announcement of the establishment of the Henry George Foundation of America. It seemed to be a signal for a general reawakening of interest throughout the entire United States and it is very gratifying, indeed, to learn that, in pursuance of our example, there has just recently been established, "The Henry George Foundation of Australia," with very substantial support assured. Many who have become discouraged during and since the war days took on new hope and rallied for a greater effort and minor differences are being forgotten or submerged in the interests of our great common cause.

The Henry George Foundation purchased in January, 1927, the birthplace of our great leader and the old homestead is to be preserved as a permanent memorial. The restoration, however, is not yet completed. It ought to be placed in first class condition and given an attractive setting as a spot of historic interest. We hope that those who feel an interest in this worthy undertaking will supply the funds necessary to carry through this project at a very early date.

The primary purpose of the Foundation, however, is to popularize the economic programme of Henry George and to hasten its adoption. We have been busy with the beginnings at least of this great undertaking. As announced at our first Congress, the Henry George Foundation stands for the preaching of the full gospel of Henry George. It would not be true to its illustrious name if it were to do otherwise. Through the constant and care-

ful distribution of a great many books and pamphlets setting forth the Georget philosophy and through hundreds of lectures before clubs and audiences of various sorts, we have brought to the attention of many some knowledge at least of the great truths taught by Henry George. We have a very ambitious programme for the multiplication of such work and are seeking the most effective means for the wide extension of true economic education among the people, for the lack of economic knowledge is most distressingly evident. The work of Assistant Secretary Maguire, in charge of literature distribution, is particularly deserving of commendation.

We do not regard the Single Tax as a mere fiscal reform and we have no thought of confining our efforts to such modest tax reforms as the Pittsburgh tax plan. Nevertheless, we cannot but recognize the widespread interest that has been manifested in Pittsburgh's policy of concentrating the principal burden of municipal taxation upon the land values of the community. That such a large and conservative city as Pittsburgh has made so significant a gesture in the direction of the Single Tax appears to have given substantial encouragement to loyal workers not only in our own country, but in foreign lands as well. Pittsburgh has not gone so far toward the Single Tax, but at least it points to a practical manner of approach.

We have sought to encourage the organization of local or state groups or clubs throughout the country and are glad to note at least some evidences of renewed activity in this direction, which we hope may be attributed in part at least to our efforts. The Henry George Club of Pittsburgh, organized four years ago, continues to thrive and prosper and has maintained interesting weekly luncheon meetings, winter and summer, without interruption. We are particularly pleased to observe the splendid life and activity that is being manifested by the reorganized Chicago Single Tax Club, which is favored with such an able and enthusiastic group of the younger men and women.

We are glad to report to this Congress an important extension of lecture activities through the inauguration of the "Progress and Poverty" Lecture Bureau, an announcement of which will be made by our Vice-President, Joseph Dana Miller, who is the able chairman of the committee directing this enterprise. This bureau will specialize in the field of schools and colleges and seek to acquaint them with the science of political economy as taught by the master, Henry George.

Our Executive Secretary, Mr. Williams, recently a member of the Pittsburgh Board of Assessors, has traveled extensively during the past two years and has made many addresses before audiences of various types in a number of states. Because of his personal experience with the administration of the Pittsburgh tax plan, he has naturally been in special demand for speeches dealing with the nature and effects of the Pittsburgh tax experiment and has taken a very active part in the Pennsylvania campaign recently.

His lecture work has been supplemented by speaking tours of William N. McNair, who has done much effective work, and by a number of other volunteer speakers.

We deeply appreciate the fine spirit of cooperation that has been displayed on every hand. We believe in co-operation and have endeavored to foster this spirit by ourselves cooperating with other organizations and individuals to the best of our ability. We are naturally gratified by the many expressions of approval and confidence that we have received. We shall strive to merit this confidence and serve you and your cause unceasingly. But your officers can accomplish but little without real team work. Let's rally our forces everywhere, enroll every man and woman who stands for the great principles of Henry George, and build up a powerful national organization to restore the earth to the people as their common and rightful inheritance.

Address of Percy R. Williams Secretary Henry George Foundation of America

IT is a real joy to participate in such a conference of loyal disciples of the great philosopher and I fully appreciate the honor of being invited to address this third annual Henry George Congress assembled here today in the great city of Chicago, which has for so many years been a leading center of propaganda activities. We are gratified that so many have come to Chicago from all parts of this nation to participate in this Congress. It is a demonstration of their zeal for the great cause of economic freedom. Chicago has given us a royal welcome and we deeply appreciate her hospitality.

As Secretary I have been working for some months with the convention committee on the plans and programme for this Congress and I wish to take this opportunity to express appreciation of the splendid cooperation given by the Chicago committee, headed by our able chairman, Clayton J. Ewing. The thorough planning and aggressive work that have been done by this committee serve to further demonstrate the great value of having a live club such as this one in every city. While this Congress is held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation, it is not merely a Foundation meeting, but a general conference to which all Single Taxers are invited and in which many organized groups are participating.

The Henry George Congress is intended to serve as an open forum where everyone with an idea to present may come and convey his message, where we can exchange both ideas and experiences, and derive inspiration for new and better work. The programme has been arranged in a broad spirit of tolerance and we trust that this spirit will characterize the Congress throughout its sessions, and that we may have perfect freedom of expression and

yet maintain that cordial fellowship that should exist between all who proclaim the great name of Henry George.

Two years have passed since, under the impetus of a rekindled zeal, the first Henry George Congress assembled at Philadelphia at the call of a group of prominent Single Taxers who felt that the time had come to revive the spirit of Henry George as a motivating force and to launch an aggressive forward movement to advance the cause of economic freedom. It was my good fortune to have a part in the inauguration of the Henry George Foundation which sprang out of that Philadelphia Congress and it fell to my lot to serve as Executive Secretary of the new organization. I assure you that I appreciate the responsibility, as well as the honor attached to this office, and mindful of that responsibility, I come before you this morning to make a brief statement with reference to our ambitions, our activities and the real problems that confront us, as I see them.

Our worthy President has outlined in a general way in his report the nature and extent of the activities which have been conducted through this Foundation and it is therefore unnecessary for me to dwell upon these. I feel that it is a very creditable report and much of the credit must be accorded to our able President, for he has given most generously of his time, energy and money, and thus has given evidence that the philosophy of Henry George is to him a real religion.

We have not, of course, measured up to the high standard that we have set for ourselves. What has been achieved represents merely a beginning. The Foundation has not yet been provided with resources adequate to take advantage of the great opportunities for service that lie before us, and what we have been able to do has been accomplished with a very modest budget which has had to be very economically administered. The burden of financial support has been borne by a comparatively few persons. With the more general support, however, that seems now to be forthcoming, I feel confident that our activities will be greatly extended during the coming year.

That "the great work of the present is education" is still true today as it was when Henry George said it. The people are still ignorant of the great economic truths and ours is the task of educating them. But education must be reinforced with organization. Much of the value of the educational work that has been done and is now going on will be lost unless we develop a practical programme, unless those whose interest is aroused by lectures or literature are harnessed to some plan of organized action looking to the goal of appropriate political or legislative achievement.

It will be observed that much of the work that we have done is along conventional lines, both in the field of propaganda and legislative undertakings, yet our campaigns, particularly in Pennsylvania and Delaware, have attracted an unusual degree of support in influential official circles.