

the pressures of the recurrent panic periods prior to the creation of an effective Federal banking system.

Meanwhile the United States, stimulated by immigration, and carried forward by new applications of science, registered a vigorous development, with no serious interruptions up to the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. The War, and its disruptive and militant peace, thrust into the background the constructive thought of Henry George and wrought its divisive influence as well upon his followers. Since the close of the War, the United States, absorbed in an unparalleled exploitation and squandering of its basic resources, has given little heed to any thought other than that of driving prosperity faster.

During the last seven years, with only brief intervals of decline, the American stock markets have registered the national megalomania of Something-for-Nothing. The dramatic and resounding crash of the autumn of 1929 resulted in a price collapse unequalled in intensity and extent, and foreshadowed a decline of industry that promises to restore sanity and rationality to our national mode of thought and action.

The effect of the tremendous jolt of 1929 is to open once again the mind of the public to ideas of saving and economy. Unemployment begins to be a problem to be reckoned with. Monopoly now looms as a giant figure. Corporate consolidation has been piled mountain high, and the sources of production are more closely and centrally controlled than ever before in our history.

In a word, the stage is now set for the preaching of land values taxation, and the ear of our fellow citizens should be well attuned to that music.

Hence the rediscovery of Henry George by his countrymen is inevitable. Not only are wise teachers like Harry Gunnison Brown, and brilliant thinkers like Professor John Dewey, acclaiming the author of "Progress and Poverty," but from the lips of the English Fabians, such as G. Bernard Shaw, comes the testimony of George's significance to the British Labor Movement. And only recently the authorized Life of Ramsay MacDonald gives testimony to the effect of the teachings of Henry George in moulding the convictions of the British Premier.

Only a disturbed and struggling generation will listen to preachers of Land Reform. But as the shadows of harder times begin to lengthen, Single Taxers may rest assured that the truths which Henry George enunciated with such glowing genius will find wide acceptance and support, inasmuch as they offer a sound, just and constitutional means of breaking the stranglehold of non-social monopolies. These powerful groups have already transformed our democracy into a plutocracy, and bid fair to shape it into the conventional form of a callous and cruel imperialism, if they meet no effective popular challenge.

All this Henry George anticipated. He left us the key

to unlock the gates of the land, despite the attitude of any feudal proprietors. If we throw this key away, the gates will be battered down by violence, as of old. Upon us, therefore, rests the duty of imparting to the citizens of the United States the potent, yet pacific, secret of Henry George's "Open Sesame."

## The Jewish Forum And the Mandate

ACCOMPANIED by a striking cartoon suggested by M. W. Norwalk of this city, the following article appears in the November number of *The Jewish Forum*. It quotes from Article Eleven of the law conferring mandatory powers on the British government, as follows:

"It (the Administration of Palestine) shall introduce a land system appropriate to the needs of the country, having regard, among other things, to the desirability of promoting the close settlement and intensive cultivation of the Land."

*The Jewish Forum* then editorially comments:

To accomplish this the government, for its own maintenance, must collect the full annual rentable land value, which, in justice, belongs to the people who produce it. Since the effendi holds large areas of land with no intention of improving them in any way, he will not be able to pay the rent, and will have to relinquish his holdings. The felaheen (the poor peasant) and the newcomers would then have free land on which they would settle closely and which they would work intensively, and from which they could derive the full benefit of the labor and capital they invest, since they would not have to use their wealth for the purchase of the land and for government maintenance.

The Jew settling in Palestine with a higher standard of living, and giving the felaheen, who has been fleeced and exploited by the effendi, an opportunity of freeing himself from his yoke, has in consequence taken away the unearned income of the effendi, whose anger he thus incurred. Therefore, by fair means and foul, the effendi has striven to abolish the mandate and to drive out the Jews from Palestine.

The report of June 18, 1928, of the Commission of the Jewish Agency, to which Felix M. Warburg was one of the four signatories, states, in section 5, under "Agriculture," that, "No progressive colonization in Palestine is practicable until modification of the present system of taxation is effected . . . since taxation should be based *not on the actual yield but on the unimproved value of the property to be taxed.*" This is in conformity with Article Eleven of the Mandate, to which Mr. Warburg, who recently entertained the English Premier, Ramsay MacDonald, calls attention.

EDITOR *Jewish Forum*.