

July—August, 1927

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

An International Record of Single Tax Progress Founded in 1901

The Coming Henry George Congress

September 12, 13, 14

The Economic Conference at Geneva

News of the International Union

Poverty as Treated in a Text Book

Henry W. Hetzel

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

SINGLE COPIES 35 CENTS

PUBLISHED AT 150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK CITY

LAND AND FREEDOM

An International Bi-Monthly Magazine of Single Tax Progress

Published by

SINGLE TAX PUBLISHING Co., at 150 Nassau Street, New York

JAMAICA OFFICE, 72 Johnson Avenue, Jamaica, Long Island

JOSEPH DANA MILLER, Editor

WILLIAM J. WALLACE, Pres., 491 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark, N. J.

OSCAR H. GEIGER, Treas., 150 Nassau St., N. Y. City

GEORGE R. MACEY, Sec., 165 Broadway, N. Y. City

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:—In the United States, Canada and Mexico, \$2.00 per year. Libraries and Reading rooms, \$1.00. Club subscriptions, 5 for \$7.00. Payable in advance.

Entered as second-class matter Oct. 2, 1913, at the Post Office, New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1897.

JULY—AUGUST, 1927

Vol. XXVII

No. 4. WHOLE No. 143

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENTS

ENGLAND: J. W. Graham Peace.

GERMANY: Adolph Damaschke, Lessingstrasse II, Berlin.

AUSTRALIA: Percy R. Meggy, Sydney, New South Wales.

NEW ZEALAND: Hon. P. J. O'Regan, Wellington.

URUGUAY: Dr. Felix Vitale, Montevideo.

SPAIN: Antonio Albendin, Cadiz.

DENMARK: Abel Brink, Copenhagen.

BULGARIA: Lasar Karaivanov, Plovdiv.

HUNGARY: Prof. Robt. Braun, Budapest.

PORTUGAL: Dr. Herrera y Reissig, Uruguayan Legation, Lisbon.

MEXICO: Prof. R. B. Brinsmade, Calle del Apartado 27, Mexico City.

INDEX TO CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMMENT AND REFLECTION.....	99
THE ECONOMIC CONFERENCE AT GENEVA.....	103
RALLY TO THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS.....	104
NEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION.....	104
POVERTY.....	<i>Henry W. Hetsel</i> 105
AN INTERESTING REMINISCENCE.....	<i>Chester C. Platt</i> 107
THE AUCTIONEER AND REALTOR.....	<i>A. F.</i> 108
THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF MODERN TIMES	<i>C. Le Baron Goeller</i> 109
HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS TO MEET IN NEW YORK..	110
VISIT OF JAKOB E. LANGE.....	111
RIVADAVIA'S IDEA SPROUTS FORTH IN AUSTRALIA....	113
JOHN ADAM.....	<i>W. H. Bonwick</i> 122
HOW LONG, O LORD, HOW LONG.....	<i>Stephen Bell</i> 123
BOOK NOTICES.....	124
CORRESPONDENCE.....	125
NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS.....	126

WHAT LAND AND FREEDOM STANDS FOR

Taking the full rent of land for public purposes insures the fullest and best use of all land. In cities this would mean more homes and more places to do business and therefore lower rents. In rural communities it would mean the freedom of the farmer from land mortgages and would guarantee him full possession of his entire product at a small land rental to the government without the payment of any taxes. It would prevent the holding of mines idle for the purpose of monopoly and would immensely increase the production and therefore greatly lower the price of mine products.

Land can be used only by the employment of labor. Putting land to its fullest and best use would create an unlimited demand for labor. With an unlimited demand for labor, the job would seek the man, not the man seek the job, and labor would receive its full share of the product.

The freeing from taxation of all buildings, machinery, implements and improvements on land, all industry, thrift and enterprise, all wages, salaries, incomes and every product of labor and intellect, will encourage men to build and to produce, will reward them for their efforts to improve the land, to produce wealth and to render the services that the people need, instead of penalizing them for these efforts as taxation does now.

It will put an end to legalized robbery by the government which now pries into men's private affairs and exacts fines and penalties in the shape of tolls and taxes on every evidence of man's industry and thrift.

All labor and industry depend basically on land, and only in the measure that land is attainable can labor and industry be prosperous. The taking of the full Rent of Land for public purposes would put and keep all land forever in use to the fullest extent of the people's needs, and so would insure real and permanent prosperity for all.

Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

VOL. XXVII

JULY—AUGUST, 1927

No. 4

Comment and Reflection

THE *New York Evening Journal* says editorially: "Political economy is a difficult subject, one about which nobody really *knows* anything." And the average man reading all these learned treatises, and not thinking very deeply for himself, must conclude that this is so—that few of these fellows really know anything about the science they write about.

HERE, for example, is a book by Prof. W. C. Mitchell. The author is said to be "internationally famous as an expert on the business cycle." What is the business cycle? One of the chapters is entitled, "How Prosperity Breeds a Crisis." This is the way it does it. As prosperity increases wages rise and the cost of doing business increases. There is then a decline in efficiency because jobs are now more numerous than men, and men cannot therefore be driven at top speed. And when under the compulsion of prosperity press of orders occur, waste creeps in. And more of the same rubbish. When were jobs more numerous than men? And what are wages? And how can increase of real wages bring about a crisis that ends in the decline of prosperity and ensuing hard times?

THIS is the nonsense that gets into print, parades with ostentation, and is the subject of congratulatory comment from professors in their mutual admiration coteries. Each one professes to see some great illumination in so-and-so's discovery, but qualifies this praise with several "buts," as "perhaps this distinction has been overlooked." Then follows some elaboration or "improvement" on the point expounded by the learned professor, at which all the other professors express unbounded admiration for the writer and his critic, not forgetting to introduce some further refinements of their own. "I cannot believe it," said Alice. "Then shut your eyes and breathe hard," said the queen.

OUR good friend and Single Taxer, J. B. Chamberlain, of Kensington, Md., in a little publication of his own, *The Truth Teller*, writes as follows:

Political Economy is referred to as a science but the palaver of the professors and writers who get a living from the pretense of a superior knowledge of our social affairs is far from scientific. One of them writes: "The transference of property to those who have not earned it,

however, is quite a matter for regulation in the general interest, subject to the fact that a total prohibition of transference would seriously maim the central principle of property, viz: the right and need to realize a conception of well being relevant to the relation which makes the individual in society what he is." This is ridiculous or profound according to the disposition and intelligence of the audience. Fellow professors enthuse over its perspicacity and literary charm but a bright "fresh" refers to it as "the cat's pajamas."

Another tells us that: "It is of superlative importance to recognize that a complete acceptance of the private and acquisitive point of view is the only procedure possible in the analysis of the phenomena of society organized upon lines of individual activity for private gain."

This sort of nonsense is fed to students in our colleges to divert their attention from fundamental truth.

IF no one really knows anything about political economy as the *Journal* insists, then it is the fault of the teachers. For it is a simple science—at all events, in its essentials. It has been called "the science of getting a living." Its major factors are few and their relations entirely plain. The operation of the laws of rent, interest and wages is visible to all who will look. If speculation in land lays a heavy tribute upon labor and capital, thus tending to interrupt the progress of industry by a toll just sufficiently excessive to stop production, we have periods of industrial depression and the end of prosperity. There is no mystery about it. If some men get what they do not earn then those who earn must get less to live upon, less to move the wheels of industry, less wealth and capital, in short. In words of one syllable this can be taught to children by one who will essay the task and abandon this learned nonsense of "business cycles" and clouds of words that leave us gasping for breath.

ONE of the shrewdest political observers of England, "Senex," in the leading editorial in the *Middleton Guardian*, comments on the proposed political alliance consummated at the recent Cheltenham Co-operative Congress between the Labor party and the co-operators. The vote was 1960 in favor to 1843 opposed. The opponents of the resolution indicated that out of more than 1300 societies affiliated with the Co-operative Union only 600 were represented at the Congress.

THIS wise comment is made by "Senex": It may be fairly assumed that the combination with the Co-operationists will bring into the Socialist ranks a large element that is at heart essentially conservative; and this,

acting in sympathy with the middle class element, is certain to affect profoundly the mental outlook of the Labor party, which, under the influence of these new forces, will become more moderate, staid, respectable. Against this, however, there will be revolt, and the political kaleidoscope will become more many-colored and perplexing than it is today. In all probability there will be bitter disputes and desperate efforts for conciliation; incessant discussion and much tinkering with programmes; out of all which may come some clarification and growth of thought. For these reasons the new partnership seems to us rather an exhibit of tendencies well worthy of analysis than a mere political re-shuffle.

IT is inconceivable that the British Co-operative movement, which has attained such immense proportions, should be swallowed up by the Labor party, or that it should contemplate the effacement of those principles and policies which are among the very essentials of the co-operative movement. For though the British Labor party is only a union of incoherence, and though a speaker of the Labor party recently declared that there are 120 definitions of socialism, more than double the amount of the fifty-seven varieties supposed to exist in the United States, there is nevertheless something which is common to all socialistic proposals, and the British Labor party is definitely socialistic. That common characteristic is the minimizing of individual initiative, the extension of the powers of the state, and the consequent abridgement of the principle of voluntary co-operation on which the Co-operative movement depends.

IT is true that the British Labor party is not definitely socialistic any more than it is definitely anything else. But to the degree that it is socialistic its aims and purposes are opposed to the Co-operative movement. For that movement is "capitalistic," if you will—is profit sharing, and "profits" is a term abhorrent to your thorough going socialist. Above all it is not revolutionary, for its success is dependent upon orderly processes and recognized business methods. It has grown amazingly conservative—hence our very natural astonishment at the vote of the Congress even if the Co-operative movement were not adequately represented there.

WHETHER the Co-operators will now affect the policies of the Labor party, or whether the Labor party will react on the Co-operative movement, we shall have much interest in observing. It is an ill-assorted partnership and should trouble Ramsay Macdonald not a little. But he and his party will probably adopt what politicians call a middle "ground," which means that their principles will be "watered" a little while they indulge in friendly and acquiescent nods to co operators, trade unionists, Marxians and communists.

IN the meantime the Land Question grows ever more insistent. Politicians will ignore it as long as they can. The Lloyd Georges and the MacDonalds may keep it out of the political arena for a time, both being too cowardly to face it. They are wise in postponing its consideration as long as they can, for when the question of the centuries comes to be really an issue, when the hour strikes for the resumption by the people of their rights in the land, the politician and the deserter in their respective parties will find their occupations gone. They will be remembered only as politicians who played their minor parts in the prologue to a drama marking the death of an old civilization and the birth of a new.

A CORRESPONDENT takes us to task for calling Canberra a Single Tax city and points out that the twenty year re-appraisal of land values permits speculation in leases. This is true. But speculation under this system will hardly be as flagrant as under the freehold system. For under the leasing system of Canberra use must be made of the land.

Canberra is only a Single Tax city in intention—in actual practice it falls far short of the ideal. We should have preferred of course that freehold titles had been granted subject to a full rental tax in place of the leasehold system. Nevertheless, it is the nearest approach to ideal Georgism anywhere in the world. The government has done well according to its lights. It has fallen just short of the real principle. As Mr. Huie says in the *Standard*, of Sydney, Australia, "Our local reformers are not yet capable of teaching Henry George anything." They are not indeed.

IF you were asked what is the purpose of education would you not answer that its office was to enable you to minister to the minds of others, to enable others to share in all cultural advantages, to be able to convey to the young food for such intellectual hunger as you might be able to arouse in them? Would you not answer that the object of education was to enable you to participate more intimately in those indefinite yearnings for truth and justice which stir in the hearts of multitudes, to get at the secret of things, and to point the way to those that stumble in darkness for want of the guiding light that education of a real sort supplies?

BUT it appears that education is not at all that kind of thing, according to Prof. Hummer, Principal of the Binghamton, N. Y., Central High School. At the annual commencement exercises last June he told the pupils what education is: "It is the bootstrap by which you lift yourselves above the common herd." So education is to begin by teaching us to despise the commonality of mankind. In place of sympathy we are to preserve an intellectual aloofness; in place of knowledge of the latent aspirations of the average man, we are to seek

education as a means of domination over the "common herd." We say that this kind of education spells destruction to every ideal of a worth-while civilization, that Principal Hummer is a poor kind of educator, though typical of his class, and the pupils of the Binghamton Central High School are unfortunate in having to sit under the ministrations of such a teacher.

AT the open air meetings of the Commonwealth Land party carried on in this city by those two indefatigable workers, M. VanVeen and George Lloyd, one thing has given cause for reflection to both as a gratifying symptom. Whereas questions used formerly to consist of inquiries dealing with the application of the principle to individuals, or in detail, or the usual quizzes intended to "stump" the speaker, the prevalent question now is: Do you think it would be just to take the economic rent for public purposes and thus destroy the selling value of land without compensation?

WE agree with our friends that this shows a distinct advance in the minds of their hearers. Satisfied of the practicality and reasonableness of the proposal the question—and the last question of all—is, is it just to proceed without considering the advisability of compensation? The mind that has arrived at this inquiry is evidently one that has overcome the main difficulties and has travelled far. For such a mind is considering now only the justice of the proposed reform, to which on reflection it can but give one answer. The cause has almost won him. We say that this is both significant and gratifying.

LIEB FLEISHER, a young Jew from a part of Roumania formerly under Czarist rule, finds himself a man without a country, as he waits the decision regarding his case at Ellis Island. He was legally admitted to Canada and smuggled into the United States. Apprehended here as if he were a criminal he was deported to Roumania. That country because of his Czarist passport ordered him to Russia. Russia refused to recognize his pre-revolutionary passport and sent him to Trieste, Italy. The Italian authorities without letting him land sent him back to Canada, which promptly returned him to Trieste.

In enclosing a newspaper clipping containing this information our old friend, Mark M. Dintenfass, says:

"It seems unbelievable that a people of a nation whose forefathers had to leave their native birthplace on account of poverty and hardships, should have so quickly forgotten. Of course, as long as private property in land exists we need not look for any closer brotherly love, but it is incredible that we should observe without protest the working of unjust laws that declare a human being has no natural right to live anywhere on God's earth."

A Glimmer of Intelligence

THE rapid transit subway lines in New York and their elevated extensions, were built by the City with the proceeds of fifty-year bonds, and leased to private operators who furnished the cars; the supposition being that the bonds would be retired, and interest be paid, out of the proceeds from fares.

A five-cent fare being fixed in the contract, the proceeds are not sufficient, after paying the "preferentials" to the companies for their investment, to take care of the bond payments (except the earliest issue) and the city is taking \$10,000,000 annually from tax receipts for interest and sinking fund on the bonds.

Real estate interests and their newspaper allies have been clamoring for a higher fare, ostensibly to relieve the poor tenants from some of their taxes, but really to lessen the burden on landowners and also to help the transit companies to pay higher dividends.

The City is now constructing a new subway system, to cost \$600,000,000, and the present administration is pledged to continue a five-cent fare on the new lines. The Board of Transportation in a report, July 20, says that it will cost a little over three cents to carry a rider on the new system, but if the city issues 50-year bonds and expects to retire them from fares, the cost will be nearly five cents more per passenger, and necessitate an eight-cent fare. The Board argues, therefore, that short-term bonds be issued for 60 per cent. of the cost and paid out of current taxes, which in New York fall almost entirely on real estate. In support of this allocation the Board makes this ingenuous argument:

"Real estate derives enormous financial benefits from the city policy of building the rapid transit railroads beneath instead of above the surface of the streets. Elevated railroads would cost only one-third of the amount it costs to build underground railroads. It would be much more agreeable for the passenger to ride in the daylight on an elevated railroad and the transit would be as rapid. It is for the benefit of the real estate and the beautification of the city that city transit lines are placed beneath the surface of the ground. Hence it seems unjust that the excessive addition of two-thirds in the cost of construction should be imposed on passengers in the form of an excessively high fare and that the owners of real estate should contribute nothing from the remarkable and universal increase in the value of real property that always and inevitably occurs adjacent to rapid transit lines."

Of course this argument fails to distinguish between the value of land, which alone is increased by public improvements, and the value of buildings, which is fixed by the cost of production without regard to the proximity or otherwise of rapid transit lines. Nor does it provide for taxing only those landowners who benefit directly from the new lines, though with regard to this the Board

argues with considerable logic that "real estate owners" throughout the city are benefited. However, it is encouraging to see some thought being given to the ultimate financial beneficiary of public improvements and some effort being made to collect from those benefited instead of charging it all up to the straphanger.

Prosperity?

O PROSPERITY, what crimes are tolerated in thy name! For a long time prudent people have tabooed agitation for social reforms on the ground that the United States was so prosperous that public attention should not be directed to a proposal to alter, in any important particular a social order which had produced such beneficent results. Some were reluctantly compelled to admit that prosperity, abounding and overflowing, had its drawbacks in the demoralization of youth due to inevitable and concomitant luxury, incident to unaccustomed wealth in the hands of parvenus who had not been brought up to the proper use of extravagant fortunes. One had to concede the claim that probably at no time in history had one hundred millions of people in a single nation possessed so much wealth or had so large a percentage of people able to live in moderate comfort.

As companion pictures to this possibly gratifying state of affairs, however, come certain considerations which may well justify the belief that prosperity like beauty is little more than skin-deep. Wages expressed in dollars have risen strikingly during the past ten years, but while in certain avocations they have risen more than living costs, in the majority, especially in unorganized industries, they lag far behind the cost of living. The housing situation in New York is an outstanding illustration; there is no longer a shortage of housing in New York, but the price of the simplest apartments of the new construction is beyond the reach of all but the most highly paid workers.

At a recent Convention of Building and Loan Associations, figures given out by the Secretary indicated that 69% of the wage earners in New York did not receive enough wages to enable them to become home owners, no matter how strenuous the efforts made to keep down costs.

Again in the prosperous City of New York from the best figures obtainable \$90,000,000.—\$15. per person or \$75. per annum per family—is expended annually on charitable relief by public and private agencies. Perhaps some will argue that the raising of such a sum of money is a proof of the prosperity of the Community, but what about those upon whom it is expended?

Recently the city of New York was threatened by a strike which would have paralysed its transportation system. The figures given out indicated that 26,000 men were involved. These men were employes of the big traction companies. In order to be hired these men had

to join the "Company" Union and to declare that they would not join the "free" Union. In doing this they were acting counter to their desires and abandoning their rights as citizens, and yet they did it for the sake of jobs, which, all unbiased authorities agree, do not pay living wages.

The economic plight of the farmer has been held up to the pity of mankind for several years, yet the universal prosperity has left him unaffected. The tariff, which bears with especial severity on all wage earners, leans upon him with especial force for it raises the price of everything that he must buy while leaving him to sell at prices determined by world competition.

From these and other considerations which might be urged, if there were space, we are justified in deducing that our widely heralded prosperity means merely that a relatively small fraction of the total population have been able by the use of special privileges to absorb a disproportionate amount of the admittedly greater wealth produced by invention and organization, but that for the average man the problem of making a living remains the complicated task that it has been since the coming in of the industrial era.

There never was a time when it more behooved thoughtful and patriotic men to consider how the dream of democracy, which has never been more than a mirage, can be brought to realization, nor was it ever more incumbent upon those who have, or who think they have, a remedy for the tragic injustices which are apparent in human relations, to bring their projects before the people by all the means in their power.

The Race Problem An Angle of the Land Problem

I WAS one of many a few years ago that joined in a gold rush to Tierra del Fuego. There was gold aplenty, and Americans, Chinese, Chileans, Hungarians, and Negroes worked side by side without any great friction. Presently the Argentine Government stepped in and granted a land concession to one Julius Popper, who promptly ordered us off the earth, his orders being backed by Remington rifles. We moved to free land, but found ourselves crowded—and then race hatred reared its head; for race hatred is born of greed or fear. And the mildest went first, and after the chasing of the Chink came the chasing of the Chilean, then the hunting of the Hunk and the negation of the Negro, while each in turn gouged the Gringo. Now, clearly, to reverse the order of things, you will have race hatred disappearing with given elbow room. The moral to be pointed out to those disturbed over race antagonisms is to release the land by application of the Single Tax when these imagined problems will disappear, they being not problems in themselves but angles of the land problem.

—CHAS. J. FINGER.

The Economic Conference at Geneva

THE report before us of the World Economic Conference at Geneva is distinctly disappointing. If 194 men attended by 157 experts drawn from fifty countries of the world can offer nothing better than this the outlook for human intelligence is dark indeed.

The President in his introductory thanks the members for their generous efforts at *rapprochement* by which the dangers of controversies were eliminated. Perhaps this is the explanation of why so little appeared that touched on fundamentals. Now and then something is said that indicates a more or less clear perception of the real problem. The following, for instance, might lead to something more of vital significance, but the subject is pursued no further:

"No machinery for the settlement of international disputes can be relied upon to maintain peace if the economic policies of the world so develop as to create only deep divergencies of economic interest between different masses of the world's population and a sense of intolerable injury and injustice."

When we look for something on Free Trade we find under "Liberty of Trading" the following:

In the first chapter of "Commerce" the Conference makes a number of recommendations under "Liberty of Trading"—an expression not to be confounded with Free Trade but embracing all measures calculated to liberate international commerce from artificial restrictions and obstructions."!

And the report definitely says:

"In enumerating the causes and ideas which are responsible for the super-protectionism of post war years the International Economic Conference does not attempt to pass judgement on the fundamental principles of protection and free trade respectively."

The Report indicates an opposition to "excessive" protection and that is all. But the Conference fought shy of any discussion that would lead to an examination of the claims on which tariffs are founded. The avoidance of all consideration of fundamental economic principles must strike the reader of this Report as typical of the whole proceedings.

It must not be thought, however, that there were not some speakers who gave utterance to real principles showing that an increasing number of public men in all lands are not without clear convictions on economic problems. From this point of view the Conference may be said to have served a useful purpose even if officially the pronouncements seem ridiculously timid and hesitating.

We cite a few of the extracts from remarks made at the Conference and printed in the June number of our contemporary *Land and Liberty*, of England.

The President, Mr. G. Theunis: We have long been familiar with the singular contradiction between the enormous efforts made by nations, working tenaciously for the means of communication for passengers and goods,

by constructing railways, ports and canals, and the fiscal and administrative measures by which they are apparently striving to render their heavy expenditure and their persevering labors nugatory.

Prof. Karl Gustav Cassel, (Sweden): We shall have to deal in the Conference every day and almost at every step in our deliberations, with forms and effects of monopolization. (But he failed to develop this point, so we do not know just what Prof. Cassel meant.)

Mme. Freundelich, (Austria): Barbed wire entanglements have given place to new frontiers in the form of high Customs tariffs which imprison goods and men as if in a trap and prevent national economic life from developing on normal lines.

M. Shidachi, (Japan): We must of necessity make it our national policy to remove Customs barriers and to establish freedom of communication and commerce, as far as possible in co-operation with other nations. . . . As the development of natural resources through the freedom of economic enterprises is extremely important for the promotion of human contentment, it is the duty of every nation to bring about this realization.

M. Urzua, (Chile): Political economy holds the magic key to the enigma and has in its hands the vast treasury of the laws which rule the moral world, as physical laws create the wonderful harmony of the universe. . . . Neglect of the principles of justice lies at the root of the social upheavals and fratricidal wars which have marred the course of centuries. The general tendency of this Conference is to seek a solution in liberty in certain forms of economic activity. This ideal has prompted the suggestion to do away with the useless or dangerous Customs barriers, which stand in the way of commercial and industrial progress.

M. Tibbaut, (Belgium): Countries of dense population and intense culture, for example, Belgium, Denmark, Norway, produced special products, which they used as an exchange for raw materials and for the cereals necessary to feed their dense population. Small holdings must be encouraged by removing fiscal and legislative obstacles to the acquisition of land. Agriculture must be on its guard against protectionism, for which the demand was greater in industry than in agriculture.

Professor Hight, (New Zealand): gave the reasons for the rapid development of agriculture in New Zealand, including an enlightened system of land tenure, the encouragement of land settlement by taxation of large and unused holdings, assistance in the provision of loans, provision for scientific research, the organization of credit, the official grading of produce for export and the thorough co-operative organization of the dairy industry.

Mr. Weber (Switzerland), Secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions: The resolution made no mention whatever of the problem of the rent paid for agricultural land, which was the most important question before the Committee. Almost every advantage obtained for agriculture by Customs tariffs, subsidies and other measures were reflected in an increase in agricultural rents. Even an improvement in credits and the work of co-operative associations had the same consequence over a period of years.

"NO man shall be received into our commune who sayeth that the land may be sold. God's footstool is not property."—*St. Cyprian (Latin, A.D. 200-258).*

Rally to the Henry George Congress

ON another page will be found a notice of the Henry George Congress on September 12, 13, and 14 at the Hotel Pennsylvania in this city. It is impossible at this date to include the names of possible attendants, but it is bound to be a red letter event in the history of the movement. Hopes are still held out that among those present will be Brand Whitlock, Judge Seabury, Dan Beard and Poultney Bigelow.

George H. Duncan will positively attend and address the Congress. Single Taxers of New York will want to meet the man better known in the West and New England states than here for his brilliant lecture work, in which he has scored a signal triumph. He is a tactful and attractive speaker, having the facility to present our message in sheer simplicity, not ignoring the ultimate purpose of our philosophy as a constructive remedy for social ills.

We urge upon all followers of Henry George to get behind the men who are trying to make this gathering a success. Rally to the Congress! Let it be the beginning of united work for the cause.

We bespeak for the officers of the Foundation the confidence of all Single Taxers who read this notice. A great national organization has at least been started—let it be perfected to include all who seek for a renaissance of Henry George's social teachings in the land of his birth. No movement anywhere commands the adherence of so many men of intellectual standing in the community; it is only necessary to make audible the voices hitherto silent of men and women who await the word to make a declaration of faith.

Let all our friends realize that despite the apathy of the masses, due to a variety of causes, our time is coming—is almost here. Henry George told us that the accidents would bring it about—let us have a solid, unbroken army to take advantage of these "accidents", and if they do not quickly arrive to precipitate them.

AGRICULTURAL depression in Japan has affected landowners and tenant farmers alike, although the latter have been the more turbulent in their protests. Recently the proprietors have come forward with a proposal to sell their estates to the government for a moderate sum equivalent to upwards of nine billion dollars. Even Socialists in that country have not jumped eagerly at this proposal for nationalization. Critics point out that interest at current rates upon this purchase price would absorb a very considerable fraction of the total value of the country's annual crops, and also, that if the latter is worth the price asked the landlords are absurdly undertaxed."

Around the World, 1927.

News of the International Union

THE Memorandum of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade presented to the recent Economic Conference at Geneva has been given a world-wide circulation and translated into eight languages. (The full text of this document was given in the May-June issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.)

Copies in various languages were distributed to all the delegates in attendance at the International Chamber of Commerce meeting at Stockholm, June 27.

The Danish translation by Jakob E. Lange (translator of "Progress and Poverty") was sent to members of the Danish Parliament and many others.

More than 1500 of the German text were sent to members of the Reichstag, state parliaments, press and persons in public life. Similarly, 1200 copies in Norwegian were distributed in Norway.

Sr. Antonio Albendin made the Spanish translation and distributed copies to the press and members of the government, also to our many friends in South America. The *Journal of Cadiz* printed the document in full.

The French text has been circulated by Mr. Sam Meyer. The German text has been widely circulated in Austria and the French text in Greece. A Dutch translation has been circulated in Holland and a Hungarian translation is under way.

Land and Liberty, of London, informs us that one of the new members of the International Union, is Alice, Princess Andrew of Greece, who in her letter enclosing subscription for membership, says, "I think the International Union is of real value." She asks for copies of the Memorandum in French and in the Athens daily *Proia* she announces that she has joined the Union and indicates her great interest in the work. She has also brought a new member into the Union, a countryman and member of the Greek legation in Paris. It will be remembered that the Greek government sent its official representative Mr. Pavlos Giannelia, to the Copenhagen Single Tax Conference.

The Committee of the International Union will hold a meeting on Saturday, August 13th, at Copenhagen. The president, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, will attend. Others who will be present include Ashley Mitchell and A. W. Madsen, of London, and Dr. Arnold Schwarz and Dr. Otto Karutz, of Germany, and Mr. Halfdan Hansen, of Sweden. Mr. Hennessy will make a brief tour of Great Britain and leave for home on September 3rd, to be here in time for the Henry George Congress, September 12, 13 and 14.

"THE land is no man's property; none shall possess it as property."—*Tertullian (earliest of the Latin Fathers, A. D. 155-222).*

Poverty

AS TREATED IN A CERTAIN HIGH SCHOOL TEXT BOOK

ALL writers on social science agree that any violation of economic laws brings to certain individuals, classes or to whole communities widespread deprivation of material comforts. And all recognize that this deprivation is itself the cause of many evils that afflict, not only individuals, but society at large. Thus in "Problems of American Democracy," a text book for high schools by Henry Reed Burch and S. Howard Patterson, (hereinafter mentioned as "B. and P."), we read that small families, emigration, development of slums, child labor, crime, intemperance and the divorce evil are each caused in part, at least, by economic impoverishment. Without criticising the limited number of these effects or their unscientific classification, we observe that the authors regard "The Problem of Poverty," to quote the name of one of the chapters, as extremely important.

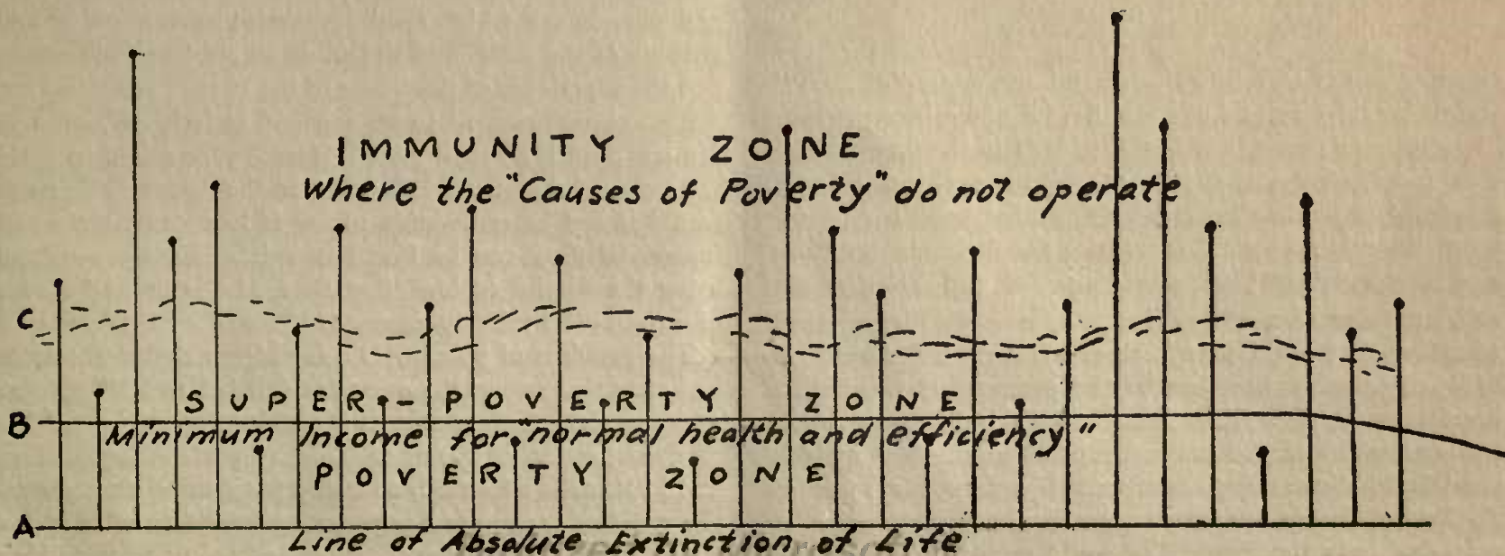
The word "poverty" is defined at the outset. Not the fact of having less wealth than one's neighbors, nor even the condition of one whose contribution to society in goods or services is greater (or even much greater) than the recompense rendered by society, "poverty" is "the condition of only that group whose income, and therefore standard of living, is so abnormally low that neither normal health nor efficiency can be maintained." Though the terms may be given too narrow a meaning here, according to popular usage, we must concede the right to sociologists to so employ the word, as many of them do, as long as it is used with the same meaning in every case. Concerning the figure of income below which a man, a family or a class becomes part of the "poverty" group, our authors are properly quite vague, although to give an idea of the extent of "poverty" they quote the expression, "the submerged tenth" as being fairly descriptive of the country as a whole. Thus, while accepting the defini-

tion of "poverty" given above, but without attempting to fix its boundary in terms of money income, we may draw a diagram to make clear the relation of the "poverty" class to others in economic society.

Vertical lines (as many as you like) represent individual lives or economic units; their upper ends, their present economic status above starvation line A. Line B of varying height, according to time and place, is higher in the United States than in Europe generally and dips even lower, as it were, through Asia and other eastern lands. It may be argued that line A should also show a varying level, according to time and geographical factors, but this is not vital to our discussion. It is plain that anything which brings down the economic status of a man or a group below this line B can be called a "cause of poverty" and our authors list a number of these "causes" as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Environmental: | 2. Individual: |
| a. Physical environment | a. Degeneracy |
| b. Economic " | b. Disease |
| c. Social " | c. Intemperance |
| d. Defects in government | d. Crime |
| e. Defects in education | e. Desertion |
| | f. Death of main support |
| | g. Old age |
| | h. Defectives |
| | i. Indolence |

It is evident that large numbers of people barely above line B are in imminent danger of falling into the "poverty zone" by reason of any of the causes noted above, especially those under "Individual." Then, according to the accepted definition of "poverty," were a man with his nose an inch, so to speak, above line B to commit some indiscretion listed here, even in ever so slight a degree, and were he thereby to be submerged below line B only one thirty-second of an inch he would then be in the "poverty" class!



All these "causes of poverty" would be perfectly rational as causes if they operate upon all men alike. But do they? What rich man was ever reduced to "poverty" by temporary unemployment? Or by being sick abed? Or by breaking a leg? Or by old age? It is evident that the "causes of poverty" are operative upon only a portion of the super-"poverty" group. Many, if not every one of these listed causes, making hardly a ripple in the current of some men's lives, are sufficient to put other men far below the line of income necessary to maintain "normal health and efficiency." People of means can, and do, easily obviate some of these causes, such as unfavorable environment, in their own cases. "The destruction of the poor is their poverty" is not a complete enough statement of the truth. The destruction of the near-poor, unless they walk the chalkline of prudence, thrift, industry, temperance and all the other observable virtues, is their near-"poverty." Thus there is needed in our diagram a new line which we may call C between which and line B are those forever with their noses to the grindstone, fearful of making a misstep and numbering, all will agree, a large fraction of the total population. Line C is, for obvious reasons, neither a straight line nor one with a definite position, as either A or B, hence the peculiar manner of its rendering in the diagram.

Now the strange thing about all this discussion in "B and P" is that the cause of near-"poverty" is never even mentioned; it is no problem of their kind of sociology that a man far above the lowest in wealth producing efficiency receives less wealth than he creates,—as long as he barely holds his head above the line B; nowhere a word that the "science" they teach concerns itself with impoverishment (I do not say "poverty") in its broad aspect; that it has to do with lowered incomes of *all* workers, no matter how high in the diagram the vertical lines representing them may reach. Nowhere do "B and P" raise the question (nor apparently do they wish their student-readers to ask it): "Does any wealth producer, as such, get all that he earns?"

It will at once occur to any thoughtful person that the classification of men into "poverty" and super-"poverty" groups is arbitrary and unscientific, for like causes produce like effects on one side of line B as well as the other. Except for charity organizations and welfare-workers who must "draw the line" somewhere as a limit to their operations, there is no logical reason for the distinction. Here is a sample of the "science" which "B and P" give us:

"A number of social reformers have made the error of assuming that poverty had but one cause. Thus Malthus believed poverty was due to the pressure of population upon food supply. Karl Marx sought its explanation in the ownership of the instruments of production by the capitalistic class. Socialism was therefore his remedy. To Henry George, poverty was the result of the rise in rent, and only the Single Tax could remove it. Poverty,

however, is a complex phenomenon and its causes are manifold."

Then follows the list of "causes of poverty," already quoted. It is presumed that "B and P" have read the works of the authors referred to. However, any one with even a superficial knowledge of these philosophers knows that they dealt with causes which (they claimed) reduce the incomes and scales of living of *all* workers; causes which, while not necessarily bringing the unfortunates below the arbitrarily staked-off minimum of "normal health and efficiency," nevertheless are the premises and the arguments for the remedial measures that Malthus, Marx, and George proposed. Unless "B and P" are grossly ignorant of the doctrines of these philosophers, they have by their reference to them committed the sin, unpardonable in a scientific work, of using the word "poverty," a strictly technical term, in two senses. Malthus, Marx and George proposed no remedy for "poverty" in the sense in which it is used; they would readily have agreed with "B and P" that any one of the "causes of poverty" mentioned (and a few more picayune ones thrown in for good measure) may reduce a family income from \$1200.01 to \$1199.99, (if the intermediate figure be taken as the deadline), and thus "cause poverty." I am sure that Marx would have admitted that an extra glass of beer has been the cause of many a man's "poverty," and that George would have agreed that "poverty" has often been caused by a man's stubbing his toe.

It is only fair to "B and P" to say that this is but a sample of the reasoning often put into text-books for students,—and in the holy name of "Social Science"! The list of offenders against common sense and elemental logic in sociological discussions is a long one. And yet, strange as it may seem to certain teachers of the science for us to say so, the world of thinking people, conscious of economic injustice somewhere and blindly groping its way for the amelioration of wrongs, has almost no interest in "poverty" and its thousand-and-one relatively trifling "causes." It *is* tremendously interested in those forces and phenomena which spell economic deprivation at any altitude of the scale, and which, as all students will admit and the experience of the "man in the street" corroborates, bring lessened returns to all engaged in industry, even to the comparatively well paid. If one were asked to state the cause of a person's being within the "poverty" group, would it not be reasonable to lay it to those large social forces,—if they can be found to exist, of course,—which bring the victim so low (line B) that the listed "causes of poverty" begin to operate?

The problem of poverty is a far bigger and much more inclusive thing than the one to which "B and P" give so much space. And as so many problems of our social life arise, in part at least, out of this very state of deprivation in which, as is admitted, so many people find themselves, the problem assumes an importance second to none in the whole domain of sociology. A high school text book which

recognizes this fact may not "sell" as well as the other kind, but it will, at least, be free of that quality which caused a well-known critic to remark, apropos of a similar work: "If this is social science, give me tiddledy-winks!"

—HENRY W. HETZEL.

An Interesting Reminiscence

I LIKE a back number. I don't know anyting that interests me much more than back numbers if they are far enough back. Rummaging in the attic of *The Batavia Times*, I made a find that I would like to tell LAND AND FREEDOM about, for I am sure some of your readers who are in the reminiscent age will be interested.

I found twelve numbers, Numbers 1 to 12 inclusive, of *Spread the Light*, the dates running from March, 1885 to November, 1886; publisher, M. Battle, 9 Spruce Street, New York: 42 years ago, if I substract right.

"Land Restorationists", the Land Taxers called themselves in those days.

Number 1, of Volume 1, of this little paper tells of a Land Restoration Dinner at Beraza's restuarant, Duane Street. It gives the names of those who attended, and Louis F. Post's name leads all the rest. Then follow: Henry George, James Redpath, Dr. Smith, Aug. A. Levey, Col. H. Beeny, John G. Huhn, M. Battle, H. E. Sharpe, F. P. Williams, Robert Blissert, W. B. Scott, Jerome O'Neil, Richard George, Prof. L. E. Wilmarth, R. Victor, O. H. Wilmarth, Wm. McCabe, C. H. Baildon, A. J. Steers, S. Pearsall, Prof. J. P. Brophy, T. L. McCready, John Beverly Robinson, Henry George Jr.

A motto at the top of page one of *Spread the Light* reads: "Rent for Land is an Immoral Tax upon the Industry of a People."—Michael Davitt.

Each number of the paper contains a biographical sketch of some tax reformer, together with his picture. Besides Henry George and Louis F. Post, the following appear: John Beverly Robinson, Alphonso J. Steers, Antonio M. Molina, Dr. E. B. Foote, Augustus A. Levey, James D. McDade, Rev. Edward McGlynn, D. D., Wm. Camm, Capt. J. M. McGregor.

In those days, as now, thoughtful people were asking the cause of the increase of crime. Mr. Post writes an article on this subject.

Mr. Post concludes that the genesis of crime is coincident with the robbery of labor, and that its increase is in a parallel line with the depression of wages.

The September number tells that Henry George has been asked to stand as a candidate for Mayor, and that he agrees to run if 30,000 voters express their wishes by petition that he should run.

Mr. George, we are told, cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. When the question of slavery was settled, he voted for Greeley, being a member of the Baltimore Convention, and one of the committee that delivered the

nomination to Greeley. After that he stumped California for Tilden.

Another find in our attic was twelve numbers of *The Freesoiler*. These go back to April, 1884. The publisher was John Beverly Robinson, and the paper was published as the organ of the American Free Soil Society, at fifty cents a year.

Mr. Post was president of the organization and there were vice presidents as follows:

George Pyburn	from California
F. O. Stewart,	" Colorado
Chas. W. Peckham,	" Connecticut
Wm. Rose,	" Illinois
R. Spencer,	" Iowa
E. V. Boutwell,	" Kansas
Christopher Moore,	" Kentucky
J. H. Ralston,	" Maryland
M. R. Thomas,	" Massachusetts
J. G. Malcolm,	" Michigan
Otto Haesse,	" Minnesota
Frank C. Butze,	" Missouri
Thomas Skelly,	" New Jersey
A. J. Steers,	" New York
E. M. Leonard,	" Ohio
Robert Stephens,	" Pennsylvania
John Collins, M. D.,	" Texas
John Kelly,	" Wisconsin

Rev. R. Heber Newton was treasurer of the society.

The April number tells that Mr. George is expected to return to this country in May and that a reception will be held for him at Cooper Union.

I would like to place these back numbers where they will be the most available at any time to any person who may be writing the history of reform movements. I would like suggestions from the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM.

—CHESTER C. PLATT.

Malthus Again

THE Manchester (Eng.) *Guardian*, June 3rd, publishes a report of The Economic Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva.

It says "One speaker after another said his country was overpopulated, and advocated high tariffs as a solution of unemployment."

So it appears that War, Doctors and Famine have so far failed to keep down population—or maybe to keep down liars.

Great Britain, for example, has less than 600 persons to the square mile (although two-fifths of Scotland is in deer parks). If there were 600 to the square mile still it would give each family of four persons nearly five acres.

Europe appears to be over-populated only with big land-holders and big liars.

The Auctioneer and Realtor

The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all its might;
He did his very best to make
The beach look clean and bright—
And this was odd, because as yet
Day had not come in sight.

The sea was wet as wet could be;
The sands were not so dry;
You could not see a cloud, because
The bill boards hid the sky;
No birds were flying overhead;
There was no room to fly.

The auctioneer and realtor
Came strolling on the strand;
They grinned like anything to see
Such quantities of sand—
"If we could only sell it off"
They said "We'd clean up grand!"

"If a thousand men with thousand bucks,
Would read my 'ads' a year;
Do you suppose", the realtor said,
"To buy they would appear?"
"They'll eat it up", the other said,
And leered a wicked leer.

"O, Suckers, come and play with us",
The realtor did beseech;
"A bus ride free, a cup of tea,
A lovely map of beach;
We cannot sell you more than four,
To give a chance to each.

The eldest sucker looked at him;
He seemed to understand;
The eldest sucker winked his eye,
And waved his wise old hand;
Meaning to say he did not choose
To change his gold for sand.

But plenty others hurried up,
All eager for the treat;
With rolls of bills their purses filled,
Their check books clean and neat;
And this was odd, because you know,
There was no need for heat.

And plenty others followed them,
And yet again some more;
And thick and fast they came at last,
And more and more and more;
All struggling hard and most intent,
To buy their bit of shore.

The auctioneer and realtor
Chatted a little while;
And then the auctioneer arose
With a magnetic smile,
And every little sucker stood
Counting his little pile.

"The time has come", the realtor said,
"To talk of many things;
Of deeds and dunes and mortgage tax,
And cabbage farms in Kings;
And why the sea shore's never hot,
And whether wealth has wings!"

"A nice plot", said the auctioneer,
"Is what you chiefly need;
Sunshine and salty air besides,
Are very good indeed;
Now if you're ready, suckers dear,
Just make your bids with speed."

"Oh, noble man", the suckers cried
"Just tell us what to do!
After such kindness, we are sure
That all you claim is true!"
"The day is fine", the realtor said,
"Do you admire the view?"

"It was so kind of you to come
And you are very nice."
The auctioneer said nothing but,
"Who'll name the upset price?
I wish you were not quite so slow
I've had to ask you twice".

"It seems a shame," the realtor said,
To play them such a trick;
After we've brought them out so far,
To make them rich so quick".
The auctioneer said nothing but—
"Don't smear it on too thick".

"I weep for you", the realtor said;
"I deeply sympathize",
With sobs and tears he sorted out,
Bills of the largest size;
Holding his pocket handkerchief,
Before his streaming eyes.

"Oh, Suckers", said the auctioneer
"We've had a lovely sale!
Shall we be trotting home again?"
They stood there mute and pale;
And this was scarcely odd, because
They all had lost their kale.

The Greatest Discovery of Modern Times

WE are accustomed to think of the great inventions of the past couple of centuries as very wonderful. We have unbounded admiration for the steam engine, the electric dynamo, the telegraph and telephone, the phonograph, the wireless, the airplanes and the dirigibles, and the many other things which these suggest to the mind. It is very true that these are wonderful inventions and man has reason to be proud of his success in harnessing the forces of nature to make them do his bidding.

Granting the wonderful advances made in the physical sciences during the last few centuries, we want to call to mind that there has been an advance in the abstract science of Political Economy that is of greater import than that of any other department of human knowledge.

This great advance was made by Henry George, the latest and greatest of all Political Economists. His great book, "Progress and Poverty," which appeared in 1879, marks an epoch in human achievement.

As is well known to whoever has given thought to social problems, involuntary poverty always stalks in the wake of material progress. "The 'tramp' comes with the locomotive, and almshouses and prisons are as surely the mark of 'material progress' as are costly dwellings, rich warehouses and magnificent churches." We find that material progress does not benefit all of the people, for while some make an infinitely easier living now than before the introduction of labor saving machinery, some find it hard to make any living at all,—some are raised while others are crushed.

This is because, under our present economic regime, "wages tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living." Henry George's great discovery was this:—Wages (1) are low because rent (2) is high; therefore the way to raise wages to the full earnings of the worker with brawn or brain is to lower rent; rent can be lowered by taxing it, thereby raising wages. Taxes on labor and the products of labor increase the cost of living. But a tax on ground rent (or land values) cannot increase the cost of living,—cannot add to price, because land is not a product of labor, and the rent of land is the price of privilege (the price of land being that land rent capitalized.) The surface of the globe is limited and the effect of a tax on the monopoly of the surface of the earth is to destroy that monopoly, and when the full ground rent is taken by the government, society will be freed of those "dog-in-the-manger" land monopolists who toil not, neither do they spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them. (3)

The tax on rent (or land values) cannot be shifted because the law of supply and demand governs the price of land as well as other prices. Price can only be increased

by decreasing supply or increasing demand. But a tax on land according to its value cannot decrease the supply of land because the surface of the earth is definitely fixed. And when land owners are compelled to pay the land rent to the government whether they use the land or not, non-users will be forced to let go their holdings and this will destroy speculation in land. Users will be the only land owners. Usufruct is the only right land tenure.

When the land owner pays the land rent to the government (under the manner generally termed Single Tax) monopoly and speculative rent, now appropriated by land owners, would under the right and just system we propose, go to the people who produce it; and economic rent would go to the government for governmental purposes.

The application of this great discovery of Henry George would have a more far-reaching effect in the raising of wages, destroying involuntary poverty, creating good will where hate now rules, than all the other discoveries of modern times—this recognition that God did not make rich men and poor men, but "male and female created he them," and "the earth hath he given to the children of men"—not the landlords. All people have an equal right to the *use* of the earth and the *method* of securing this right in a highly developed civilization is, not to divide up the land, but to take the rent of the land to run the government, utilizing for this purpose the machinery of the tax department.

Notes—(1) Wages is that portion of produce that goes to the worker, and this term includes salaries, commissions, fees, etc. Natural wages is what the worker produces. Actual wages is what the worker gets after rent is taken out.

(2) Rent is that portion of produce that goes to the owner of land. It is the price of privilege. It has three forms, i.e., Economic, or true rent, monopoly rent, and speculative rent. House rent itself is not rent of any kind but is interest. The amount paid for living in a house in "a certain location" is rent. The location value is true rent. By far the greater part of what is commonly called interest is, scientifically speaking, rent. The term rent applies to the value due to location and monopoly of land, and also the speculation in land.

(3) See "Progress and Poverty," Book 3, Chap. 8.

—C. LEBARON GOELLER.

"THE land question means hunger, thirst, nakedness, notice to quit, labor spent in vain, the toil of years seized upon, the breaking up of homes, the miseries, the sicknesses, deaths of parents, children, wives; the despair and wildness which spring up in the hearts of the poor, when legal force, like a sharp harrow, goes over the most sensitive and vital right of mankind. All this is contained in the land question."—CARDINAL MANNING.

Henry George Congress To Meet In New York

DISCIPLES of Henry George from all sections will gather in New York City, September 12, 13, and 14, for the Second Annual Henry George Congress. This meeting place is particularly appropriate as the year 1927 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the death of the great founder of the Single Tax movement and recalls the second of his memorable campaigns for the Mayoralty of New York.

Invitations have been mailed to several thousand persons and early returns indicate a large attendance and that all parts of the United States and Canada will be represented. All sessions will be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, where admirable facilities have been provided for the annual banquet, luncheons, conferences and public meetings which are scheduled for the three-day convention.

While the formulation of the final programme awaits responses from a large number of prominent persons invited to address the Congress the following speakers may be announced at this time as among those from whom definite acceptances have already been received:

Jakob E. Lange, noted author and lecturer of Odense, Denmark, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union, Jose Miguel Bejarano, Secretary of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Mrs. Anna George de Mille, Hon. Frederic C. Howe, Hon. Lawson Purdy, Frank Stephens, Frederic C. Leubuscher, Hon. George H. Duncan, George E. Evans, President of the Henry George Foundation, Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, Hon. Warren Worth Bailey, Dr. James H. Dillard, Miss Charlotte Schetter, Charles H. Ingersoll, Hon. John J. Murphy, Hon. Edward Polak, Joseph Dana Miller, Miss Amy Mali Hicks, Bolton Hall, Ernest B. Gaston, Benjamin C. Marsh, Cornelius D. Scully, Charles R. Eckert, Harold Sudell, Alfred N. Chandler, Charles LeBaron Goeller, Will Atkinson, Oscar H. Geiger, Robert C. Macauley, Allan C. Thompson, Herman G. Loew, Frank T. Stirlith and Whidden Graham.

Among other notables whom the Convention Committee expects to obtain as speakers are United States Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, recently elected a trustee of the Henry George Foundation, Dr. W. E. Macklin, of Nankin, China, translator of "Progress and Poverty" into Chinese and intimate associate of Chinese statesmen, and Hon. Samuel Seabury, former Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

Letters expressing regret at their inability to attend the Congress have been received from Hon. Newton D. Baker, Hon. Louis F. Post, Hon. Clarence C. Dill, Hon. David I. Walsh, Hon. George W. Norris, John Z. White, Orville Wright and Allan T. Burns.

All arrangements for the Congress are in charge of the Convention Committee, of which Joseph Dana Miller,

editor of LAND AND FREEDOM, is chairman, with the following members: John J. Murphy, Edward Polak, Charlotte O. Schetter, Amy Mali Hicks, Will Atkinson, Benjamin W. Burger, Thomas P. Beggs, Josiah Dudley, Paul de Moll, Wm. B. Du Bois, Warren Worth Bailey, Charles R. Eckert, Mrs. M. Cebelia L'Hommedieu, Charles H. Ingersoll, Herman G. Loew, Dr. Mark Milliken, James F. Morton, Louis B. Parsons, Thomas Ryan, William Ryan, Cornelius D. Scully, John H. Scully, Harold Sudell, and Alan C. Thompson.

Chairman Miller has appointed the following as members of the Press and Publicity Committee: Whidden Graham, Chairman, Charles LeBaron Goeller, Stephen Bell, Grace Isabel Colbron, Warren Worth Bailey, Chester C. Platt, Edmund Vance Cooke, William Everett Hicks, Gavin D. High, Lincoln Steffens, James Malcolm, George Geiger and Charles H. Ingersoll.

These committees have made ambitious plans and are working hard to make the New York Convention a big success. They invite co-operation and suggestions from all friends of the cause.

For reservations and general information, communicate with the office of the Henry George Foundation, Percy R. Williams, Secretary, 1306 Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

EXHIBIT OF MEMORABILIA

There will be placed on exhibition at the Congress in the Hotel Pennsylvania, through the courtesy of Benjamin W. Burger, a fine collection of Henry George memorabilia, including many rare manuscripts, books newspapers and pictures gathered from all corners of the world. This exhibit will be of great interest to all followers of the great philosopher and founder of the Single Tax movement.

Josephus Daniels, former Secretary of the Navy, writes as follows:

"Upon my return to the city I find your esteemed favor of July 20 in which you do me the honor to invite me to speak at the second annual Henry George Congress to be held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City on September 13, 14 and 15.

"I consider this a very high honor because I regard Henry George as one of the greatest thinkers and leaders of his day. I very much regret that my engagements are such as to compel me to decline this invitation which I value most highly."

From a letter received from Dr. W. E. Macklin we extract the following:

"I should consider it a great honor to have my name associated with such a galaxy of great names I hold in high esteem.

"I have an appointment to a convention in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, from the 13-15th of September and will try my best to be in New York before the 15th, but I am not absolutely sure. In leaving China I saved 2 boxes of my

translation of Progress and Poverty and Protection or Free Trade. I am asking Mr. B. W. Burger to take charge of them. They will help in working with prominent Chinese in this country."

Visit of Jakob E. Lange

JAKOB E. LANGE, of Odense, Denmark, who comes to deliver lectures under the auspices of the Country Life in America Association, which is holding an international conference at East Lansing, Michigan, in August, is also to make an address at the Institute of Politics, Williamstown, Mass. Mr. Lange is a prominent figure in the educational system of Denmark, and at present head of the Husmansskolen at Odense, a high school specializing in technical and practical education for small farmers. He is the author of various text books, including a work based upon the philosophy and economics set forth in "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George. He has written and lectured much upon practical agriculture and the efficient cooperative marketing system in Denmark. Recently at the request of an organization headed by Lloyd George, Mr. Lange made a study of and report upon conditions affecting the small farmers of Great Britain. He expects, while in this country, to make an extensive study of the farming situation here. Before his return to Denmark, Mr. Lange will be the guest of the Henry George Foundation at a banquet on September 13th at the Hotel Pennsylvania, this city.

Jakob E. Lange first became acquainted with the teachings of Henry George when he was a young student of Botany at Kew Gardens, London. That was in 1886. He read "Progress and Poverty" and the book not only made a powerful impression upon him, but has influenced his whole life. In 1888, he first raised the standard of Henry George's teaching in Denmark by writing articles in the weekly journal of the Danish Folk High Schools, and for a year or more the controversy continued in which Jakob Lange showed his profound knowledge of the subject and his ability to reply to every objection. In 1889, when Henry George came to England, Lange paid a special visit to that country in order to take part in his meetings. He became personally acquainted with George, and the close friendship between the two was continued afterwards in correspondence.

The agitation in Denmark which started in 1888 had other pioneers as well, particularly V. Ullmann, a Norwegian, who first translated "Progress and Poverty" into the Danish-Norwegian language. Later, Lange made his own translation of "Progress and Poverty" into pure Danish, and somewhat abbreviated the book in the course of translation. Lange's version is the text-book which has done more than anything else to promote the cause in Denmark. Lange also translated the "Condition of Labor," the third edition of which is dated 1907. He is also the author of

a very excellent text-book on Political Economy, which has been and is being used widely in Folk High Schools in Denmark and in other scholastic circles. Lange has written a number of Single Tax pamphlets, the latest of which is his "Unemployment." It would be difficult to tell briefly all that Lange has done to promote the cause. He is the outstanding figure in the movement in Denmark, and has shown great gifts of leadership as a practical man, an able politician, and a devoted disciple. He is equipped with a fundamental knowledge of the subject.

Apart from Lange's interest in our movement and his place there, he is a renowned authority on Botany and Physics and has written a standard work on the Fungus in Denmark. Added to these gifts, he is a scholar so far as the English language is concerned, which he writes and speaks with great fluency.

In all his interests he has the competent help and close association of Mrs. Lange.

Lange, as a younger man, was a teacher in the Folk High School at Dalum, near Odense, and in that capacity he did his pioneer work for the George movement. He is now and has been for many years Principal at the Folk High School at Odense, which was built and is owned by the "Housemen", or small peasants of the Island of Funen in Denmark.

Pittsburgh Club Activities

THE Henry George Club, of Pittsburgh, which holds a luncheon meeting every Friday, winter and summer, has been conducting a summer school in Single Tax economics and philosophy, as well as in methods of presentation and the present series will be continued till September.

County Controller Charles C. McGovern addressed the club on June 3rd on "Reclaiming Farmland," advocating lower taxes on agricultural land. On June 10th, Dr. William J. Van Essen, a member of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, discussed the principal factors causing decline of past civilizations.

Attorney William N. McNair, who is shortly sailing for Europe, gave an address on "Prosperity for the Farmer" at the meeting of June 17th. He quoted startling figures showing how large a proportion of the farmers' earnings is absorbed by taxes of all varieties and also illustrated by maps the extent to which farm land is monopolized and held out of use in Allegheny County. He advocated the exemption of farm improvements as a practical means of aiding the farmer, pointing out the fact that the unimproved land values of farmland are exceedingly low by comparison with urban lands and that in many cases lands are offered for sale for less than the value of the improvements. Former Mayor William A. Magee and Councilman Robert Garland were guests at this luncheon and contributed to the discussion by favorable comments.

"A Psychological Analysis of Justice" was the subject of an interesting address by C. E. Willis, of the New York Life Insurance Company, on July 1st.

A testimonial dinner to George J. Shaffer, one of the founders of the Henry George Club and a trustee of the Henry George Foundation, was held on July 8th. Mr. Shaffer is leaving for California, where he plans to make his home for the next year and perhaps longer. President M. S. Robinson presided and Judge James H. Gray, a member of the club, was the principal speaker. Many fine tributes were paid to Mr. Shaffer by his associates, a majority of the members present participating in the speech-making, following which Mr. Shaffer thanked the members of the club for their kind expressions and voiced his keen regret in leaving so many pleasant associations behind. Attorney Shaffer is the author of the "New Declaration of Economic Independence" adopted by the Henry George Congress at Philadelphia last September.

Secretary Percy R. Williams was the speaker on July 15th on the subject of "Land Ownership and Land Monopoly." Mr. Williams devoted his address chiefly to a careful analysis of the teachings of Henry George on the question of land monopoly and land ownership, and in the interests of clear understanding at this point, showed how the Single Tax would destroy land monopoly and establish the equal rights of all men to the earth by making land in actual effect common property. He indicated the important distinction, however, between ownership and possession, private possession, of course, being maintained under the Single Tax system in order to fully safeguard the private ownership of all improvements. Referring to Canberra, Australia, which is now being widely cited as an example of the Single Tax principle in operation, he pointed out the very close resemblance between the system in Canberra, which provides for State ownership and private leasing for long terms, and the Single Tax system of Henry George, which continues the present system of private titles but establishes virtual common ownership by state collection of rent for the benefit of the whole people, who are in reality the joint owners of all the land, Rent, rather than mere title, the speaker declared, is the essence of land ownership; rent is the "kernel", the title the mere "shell". Manifestly, common ownership as understood and discussed by Henry George could never, by any stretch of the imagination, be construed to mean common occupancy or common use, which would be inconceivable with private ownership of buildings and all other improvements. Since, as George said "it is impossible to overestimate the importance of this land question," the need was emphasized of a better and wider understanding of the fundamental economic significance of our land policy.

Secretary Williams addressed the Rotary Club of Harrisburg, Pa., on August 1st, and the Rotary Club of Lebanon, Pa., on August 2d, both of these speeches dealing particu-

larly with the Pittsburgh graded tax and its possible adoption by other cities of Pennsylvania.

Death of Meyer Goodfriend

THERE passed away on July 15th, Meyer Goodfriend of New York City, in his 66th year. In early life he became a convert to the Single Tax, and during the intervening years he was a strong believer in its principles. He never failed to advocate the Georgian philosophy in its widest application when an opportunity presented itself. He was a modest and sincere man, loyal to the cause he espoused and to his friends. His business was dealer in precious stones, in which he was very successful. He was a devoted patron of the arts and sciences and assisted many poor and struggling artists. He was of a deeply religious nature and was Honorary President of Temple Anshe Chesed of New York City. He held the position of President for over twenty years and it was only through failing health that he was obliged to retire from this position. He was of a sociable and hospitable nature and his home was ever open to his many friends.

Religious services were held over his mortal remains at the Temple Israel, West 91st Street, New York City, where his numerous friends gathered to pay their last tribute to his memory. Rabbi Maurice H. Harris, of Temple Israel, paid a glowing tribute to him as a useful and upstanding citizen who put service to his fellow men above self. Rabbi Jacob Kohn eulogized him as a man and also as a co-worker in the cause of Zion, in which he was a devout believer. He told of his earnestness, sincerity and loyalty to his friends and to the causes to which he attached himself. He said if he believed in a cause no matter how unpopular it might be, he would give it his earnest support. He then cited how earnestly and faithfully Mr. Goodfriend believed in and advocated the doctrines of Henry George in the early days of the movement, when to do so was most unpopular, and how consistently he had advocated them ever since.

The Single Tax cause has lost a true and devoted disciple and the world is poorer for his going.

MAN has made more progress in conquering the natural barriers to trade, such as those of land, water and climate, than he has of the human institutional barriers. As the natural or geographical barriers are overcome, new human barriers quickly spring up. Man's ingenuity in creating new and unnecessary obstacles to the free flow of trade seems almost unlimited. The development of the country has been so rapid that we have not recognized the importance of foreign trade, have not felt the need of it. This condition is passing. More and more the markets become international and the fact that the world is one trading unit comes more plainly into view. —W. F. GEBHART, Vice-president First National Bank of St. Louis.

Single Tax Progress in Australia

SOME interesting information about the progress of the Single Tax movement in Australia is contained in the double number of the New South Wales *Standard* issued to commemorate the twenty-first year of its publication. It has been edited during the whole of that long period by Mr. A. G. Huie, secretary of the Free Trade and Land Values League. In addition to a number of portraits of prominent Single Taxers, past and present, there are numerous special articles from which we learn that New Zealand led the way in Single Tax legislation (in 1878), when Sir George Grey was in power, although it has long since been passed by Australia, where the principle was first made law in Queensland in 1890, Sir Samuel Griffith, the Premier, and Sir Thomas McIlwraith, Treasurer, in response to an influential deputation, withdrawing their own bill for taxing improvements and substituting another in which land value rating was made compulsory in the municipal sphere all over the State, and has remained so ever since. Henry George's visit to Australia in that year had a marked influence in promoting the movement.

In New South Wales in 1895 Mr. (afterwards Sir George) Reid, who was Premier at the time, imposed a tax of a penny in the pound on land values throughout the State with £240 exemption, coupled with an income tax (which legislation was afterwards abolished), but it was not till 1906 that the Queensland example was followed and land value taxation was made compulsory in the shires and partly so in the municipalities by Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Carruthers without the exemptions and graduations which have long marred the Federal Act. In 1916 the principle was applied to Sydney, which had previously been exempt. In 1910 a Land Valuation Department was created in New South Wales at the instance of Hon. Arthur Griffith, which a Premiers' Conference in 1916 recommended should be adopted in all the other States, but so far nothing has been done. The total revenue raised by the Local Government bodies in New South Wales from land values in 1924 amounted to £4,315,000, including a tax on city and suburban land values enhanced by the building of the North Shore Bridge.

Power to rate on land values was first granted in South Australia in 1893, but it was not till 1907 that the principle was practically applied. Land value rating has since been adopted by 16 municipalities, and a bill has passed the Assembly empowering the District Councils to do the same. In Western Australia rating on land values was vested in the Road Boards in 1902, but municipalities still retain the old method, notwithstanding that frequent requests have been made by municipal conferences for a change to the new system. Land value taxation by the State was instituted in 1907-8, the rates now being one penny in the pound on the improved and twopence in the

pound on unimproved land values, an exemption of £50 previously imposed having since been abolished. Half of the proceeds go to the reduction of freights. In 1914 the Victorian Parliament passed two land value rating Acts, but it was not till 1919, when an amending Act gave valuation powers to the municipalities, that the principle could be enforced, since which date the reform has been adopted by 15 councils. The rates are 2½d. in the pound in the shires and on an average 5d. in the pound in the cities and towns.

The one flaw in an otherwise remarkable record (in the eyes of the Single Taxers) is that in the Federal sphere land value taxation is marred by exemptions and graduations, which Single Taxers will do their utmost in the future to induce Parliament to remove.

—PERCY R. MEGGY.

Rivadavia's Idea Sprouts Forth In Australia

Canberra:—A city where all will be able to live and work without being overloaded with the heavy burden of taxes and all will be able to have a house of their own without having to buy the land.

(Translated from *Mundo Argentino*, Buenos Aires).

IN this month of May, which is consecrated to the memory of the birth of the Argentine nation, the most positive tribute for the perpetuation of one of its most outstanding creators has been provided, not by Argentines, but by men of another country and another race; to be exact, by our antipodeans, in the Australian continent.

There, not with flattering words, but with enduring deeds, on the 9th of May was inaugurated the Federal Parliament Building and in the act celebrated the founding of a great city, which will be the capital of a great democratic nation like our own, but showing itself to be more capable, as we shall see, of real and transcendental progress.

The Australian nation, formed of autonomous states, was constituted in the year 1901, and thus arose the necessity of giving to it a national capital as seat of the federal government. It was considered advisable to found a new city, just as was done here in the case of the city of La Plata, in order to provide a capital for the province of Buenos Aires.

On studying the best way of organizing the economic bases for the new metropolis, the Australian authorities, in harmony with advanced science and enlightened patriotism, decided to establish, as regards the ground upon which it was to stand, a system of leasing which turns out to be similar if not exactly the same as the system which was conceived and implanted with success in our own country by our great Argentine patriot, Bernardino

Rivadavia.®

The incipient civic culture of our country in those first days of its national life was unable to appreciate sufficiently the extraordinary gift that was bestowed upon it. It could not resist the reactionary movement under Rosas, the tyrant, which annulled or postponed this and so many other advanced reforms.

But a great and true thought never dies. Soon or late, it revives. And it is with reflective emotion that we must observe the marvelous fact that, on the other side of the globe and a century removed in time, there arises in full vigor the same ideas which Rivadavia and his friends fervently upheld as the guarantee of the future greatness and happiness of the Argentine people.

Rivadavia's idea consisted, briefly, in affirming the principle that the land of the country must not be sold to anyone, foreigner or native; that said land must remain the common property of all men who at any given time live there. It also established that each man can use in any way any portion he may need in order to till it and occupy it with his dwelling, factory or business, the only condition being that of paying into the common treasury the economic rent attaching to the portion he occupies.

This fundamental idea and principle, inculcated in the teachings of the learned French physiocrats and the illustrious ministers of Charles II, Campomanes and Florida-Blanca, was completed by the enlightened intuition of Bernardino Rivadavia and shaped into a practical procedure for carrying it out, utilizing the advantageous position presented by the Republic, as a new country where at that time almost all of the land was public property, not having been sold, save to a very small extent, to private individuals.

By a special law decreed in 1826, the ancient Roman system of "enfiteusis" was adopted, but improved by an innovation as admirable as it was fundamental and fruitful. Instead of handing over the land to private individuals for a long and indefinite period and at a fixed rate or rental, it was conveyed to him at a variable rental. That is to say, for a term equally long and undefined, but subject to revaluation every ten years, after the first twenty years.

In this way the State accompanied step by step the natural course of rising values and in the name of the common interest, collected for the community the increased rental values which are the fruit, not of the effort of the individual, but of the general progress and activities of the community.

The ideal of Rivadavia may in concrete be described as creating a nation in which *all citizens would be equally landlords*, a nation in which *there would be no taxes* (since the rent of the common land would more than suffice for the public expenses), a nation, finally, in which all the inhabitants would be rich, since the above-mentioned economic bases would make easy for all the access to the land (which is the primary, inevitable and constant basis

of all industrial processes), and also make easy production and consumption, with all due respect for the private ownership by each individual of goods produced by himself.

That accurately conceived plan, which was so lamentably defeated, is what has just been revived, even though only locally, in the new city of Canberra. There the ground is not sold to anybody; it is given in lease for ninety-nine years, on a rental or rate fixed by public auction, said rental or rate being valid for twenty years, renewable every ten years after on a new valuation. Upon this economic basis, which has already been tested tentatively in the neighboring city of Adelaide and in many other Australian and New Zealand communities, there is no doubt that the new capital will develop extraordinarily, along the lines of the admirable plan prepared by the architect, Mr. Walter Burley Griffin, who incidentally is an old disciple of Henry George.

The analogy between the economic system implanted in Canberra and that of Rivadavia is complete, with the exception of minor executive details.

The genesis of this innovation did not arise in Australia from the direct study of Rivadavia's plan (although that is familiar to Georgists all over the world), but rather to the campaign which the great North American economist, Henry George, carried on there about the year 1880. (Incidentally it may be stated that, at that very time, the Uruguayan, Dr. Andres Lamas, was composing in Buenos Aires his splendid work upon the Agrarian Law of Rivadavia.)

Nevertheless, in the profound teachings of Henry George there is no trace of plagiarism, as might be supposed. On the contrary, the doctrines of George sprang spontaneously from his intelligence, in the natural evolution of his own observations and reasoning, without any acquaintance with the Rivadavian precedents. Others also, in other countries, have arrived close to the same solution. And this is comprehensible; because, when related facts are found incarnate in reality, it is not astonishing that several thinkers should discover and formulate them in scientific laws or practical measures of action. As Henry George once said, it is not impossible that, from widely different observation points, two men looking at the sky should discover the same star.

Looking upon the soil of his country, and filled with an intense desire to discover its secret possibilities for the luxuriant growth of the human flora, Rivadavia and then George saw the truth. The former established a plan for preserving the common property where it already existed; the latter, to restore it to common property when, as with us it happens, the ignorance and carelessness of past governments committed the frightful folly of alienating it.

Other men with good intentions have tried to remedy the grave evils of social injustice under the inspiration of false European doctrines, without realizing that here in

America they had at hand a solution that was higher and truer. As Lamas well understood (and experience has confirmed his opinion) the modern pseudo-science of political economy in Europe, whether posing as conservative or advanced, cannot be accepted as a proper and safe guide.

Down through the years the message of those great men reaches us, preserved and disseminated by the prodigious invention of the printing press. The greatest mission of the present generation is to bring it to pass. And the example of Canberra, a decisive experiment of world-wide importance, is a call to study and to action on the part of all men of heart and intellect, since our glorious constitution and the providential Law of Saenz Peña place within the hands of the people the possibility of bringing it to pass, with ease, in order and in peace.

What the people have first to learn is to hold as treason to the nation the sale to private persons of another inch of Argentine land still remaining public property.

—C. VILLALOBOS DOMINGUEZ.

Catholics and Housing

IN reply to "Chartered Accountant," may I state the taxation of land values is not a proposal to make "the State the universal landlord"! It is a proposal to untax say, all buildings and food stuffs and substitute a tax on the selling price of land apart from improvements. Idle land pays almost no local rates, and taxing the rental of buildings makes buildings dear and expresses itself in all the higher rents. All urban effort is handicapped by ransom prices for ground.

In agricultural districts, also, land suitable for tillage is withheld from use, and here in Scotland the price paid for land expresses itself in all the higher annual rent or annuity the small-holder, etc., has to pay, and therefore worsens his position. It would seem as if a brick would need to accompany this idea in relation to many land-buying jobs in order that the effects might dawn as to the burden-bearer.

Under the existing system all demands for land enhance its price. I suggest therefore, the first business should be to break monopoly prices. If that viewpoint is wrong where is the error?

Is the principle acceptable that all the valuable land should be in fullest use?

The parents of 11,000 Catholic children in Glasgow were last year unable to feed their children mainly through unemployment, according to statistics furnished by the Education Authority.

The solution of unemployment is the pressing immediate problem. A Budget can be passed irrespective of the views of the House of Lords. A favorable House of Commons could impose a Budget tax on the capital value of all land apart from improvements, so as to make it unprofitable for useful land to be idle.

Millions of acres of useful ground are lying idle or only partially used. The enormous demand for workers which would follow this taxation policy would solve unemployment, and so much land coming into the market for use would break monopoly prices.

The people are sick of cod reformers. Road-making schemes put thousands in the landlord's pockets and enhance land values along the new road, petty housing schemes, such as those in Glasgow, in five years involved paying £565,406 for sites for houses, and the unthinking wonder why rents are high.

These and other pettifogging devices are time-wasters. All of God's land for the use of God's children ought to be the slogan, especially of members of God's own Church who are not thrilled to privilege, and more concerned about the interests of landlordism than they are about the thousands of jobless men and women, condemned to a life of idleness, through the withholding of land from use.

The taxation policy suggested will bring about a great distribution of the land of the country, and thousands wanting small holdings will readily obtain land at a cheap price. Just now the farmer's improvements are taxed. No land value disciple that I know of proposes in any way to interfere with the producer of improvements, owning them, and with them free of local rates as in some parts of Canada, improvement making would be encouraged. In Manitoba and in the rural districts of Alberta the local revenue is solely derived from land values.

Why waste time fishing for a sprat when you can catch a salmon?

Thirty-six years have passed since his Holiness Pope Leo XIII said "some remedy must be found and found quickly, for the misery and wretchedness pressing so heavily and unjustly *at this moment* on the vast majority of the working classes."

With sorrow I write it, we have nothing in Great Britain from our Catholic public men (except Rev. Vincent McNabb, Q.P., and a few others, very few) but time-wasting expedients, the hackneyed devices of political tricksters in all parties, and no great public effort for the legislative enforcement of God's design—"The earth he hath given to the children of men". The taxation of land values, I urge, will accomplish that purpose.

Pope Leo XIII wrote: "To defraud any one of wages that are his due is a crime which cries to the avenging anger of heaven". For a bit of idle land in Glasgow I have witnessed £50,000 being paid before houses could be erected. There are thousands of similar instances all over Great Britain. Paying these sums means high rents and taxes. In essence the initial wrong is a step in the defrauding of the worker of his earnings.

What position have the Social Study Clubs taken on this question? Some Catholic public men on local boards in Scotland have spoken out magnificently on the taxation of land values, and carried resolutions demanding power

from the Government to rate land values. Is there any similar activity amongst Catholic public men in England and Wales?

Personally, I believe that if public opinion was aroused and demonstrations organized in every center, demanding all the usable land of the country must be put into its fullest use, emphatically pointing out the way, no State management, no Socialism, no more petty devices, but a good stiff tax on all land values, a year's active, strenuous work would compel the government to act.

Are the pettyfoggers to go their old road, direct attention to scholastic subjects, not discuss even the elementary point—is there a right and a wrong way of raising local and national revenues, and play the game of hush and wheest-on the L. V. policy and its economic effects? If Land Value Taxation is not the right policy to force the closed earth into use, let any other remedy have the light of day. Truth is mighty and will prevail.

Who is going to help to force the supreme issue in public life, the taxation of land values?

BOOTAGH-AUGHAGOWER.

In *Catholic Times*, (Leading Catholic paper of England)

The Land Question in China

NEVERTHELESS, the land question is beginning to appear in China, owing to the enormous increase in land values in the neighborhood of foreign settlements. For instance, the value of land in the neighborhood of Shanghai and of Canton has increased ten thousandfold in the last sixty years. Sun tells the story of a Cantonese who, in a fit of drunkenness, entered an auction mart and bought a piece of land for \$300. The next morning he had forgotten the transaction, and when the deed of sale was brought to him, he was forced to ruin himself in order to raise the money. But in ten years' time the value of the property had increased to such an extent that this drunkard found himself a millionaire, the richest man in Kwangtung.

Now this method of acquiring huge wealth is manifestly unfair. The landowner has never schemed or toiled for his gain, as the merchant and capitalist are bound to do. The value of the land is increased by the fact of other people coming to live and carry on business in the neighborhood. The increase of wealth is produced by the community, and not the individual; consequently it ought to belong to the community. In order to remedy this evil Dr. Sun proposes a tax of 1 per cent. upon all land. The value of the land is to be declared by the owner himself, and the State is to have the option of purchase. By this means the landowner will be compelled to quote a fair price for his property: for if he quotes too high he will be taxed proportionately; if he quotes too low the State may demand to purchase his land at his own price. After this Sun would confiscate to the State any subsequent increase in

value. Thus the profits derived from social progress and commercial enterprise will be reaped by the community instead of by private individuals. For the revenue thus collected by the State will enable it to dispense with all other forms of taxation. There will be no rates for water and electricity, and no levies to pay for repairing of roads and policing. This settlement of the land question will solve one-half of the problem of "The People's Livelihood." It should be added, however, that improvements made by the landowner himself will be exempt from taxation. Such improvements may consist in buildings, trees, embankments, drains.

It is noteworthy that, in outlining the above proposals, Dr. Sun does not condescend to mention the name of Henry George, just as in the preceding lecture he ascribes to German initiation reforms which are usually associated with the name of Robert Owen. It seems to be his set policy to ignore, as far as possible, all contributions which British Socialists have made towards the solution of these problems. But he is not ashamed to pluck the fruit, even when he despises the tree.

* * * * *

Having had one more fling at the foreigner, Dr. Sun returns to the much more vital question of agriculture. The development of agriculture, as he quite rightly insists, is China's most pressing need. Eight or nine-tenths of her population are farmers. The way to encourage food production is to protect and stimulate the efforts of the farming class. First they should own the land which they cultivate. At present a great many of the small farmers are crippled by having to pay rent for their land. In Kwangtung it is reckoned that six-tenths of the farmer's produce goes to enrich the landowner, only four-tenths to the cultivator of the soil. In passing we may say that it is questionable if Dr. Sun's statement is correct regarding China as a whole. In most of the inland provinces, at any rate, the small farmers do own their own land, which is handed down from generation to generation. But if Dr. Sun is correct regarding the position in Kwangtung, then the land question must be more acute than he has admitted in the previous lecture.

—REV. IVAN D. ROSS in the *Nineteenth Century*.

[EDITORIAL NOTE: The writer is noticeably unfriendly to Dr. Sun Yat Sen and to the reforms he stood for. But what he says, which is a free rendering of a translation of a part of Sun's economic philosophy, will interest our readers. It appears more and more that a great deal of good seed has been sown in China which will yet bear fruit.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.]

TRADE unionists among the image makers of Ephesus used, it is said, to drive out from among them the artist whose work excelled that of the others. Had they thought of an income tax they might have adopted that method of lowering the level of excellence.

Tribute to Tom L. Johnson

IN the City of Cleveland there are two graven images which the visitor should not fail to see, as well as several which he will be just as happy if he doesn't see. One is the statue of Mark Hanna, looking more like an ancient Roman than most ancient Romans, in University Circle. The other is the genial representation of Tom L. Johnson in the Public Square.

* * * * *

The new Cleveland has pulled itself out of the post-war stagnation by its own bootstraps. It looks ahead to an industrial growth upon which can be erected as beautiful and as cultured a city as money can buy. That is the Mark Hanna of it.

TOM JOHNSON'S EPITAPH

But it is only partially the Tom Johnson of it. Nor can Cleveland be explained wholly on the Mark Hanna basis. For Mark Hanna the success of a city could probably be measured by bank clearings, industrial output and increases in population—and there are doubtless worse yardsticks. But Tom Johnson wanted more—wanted the sort of attributes that are indicated in the inscription which "The People of Cleveland" put on his monument:

Beyond his party and beyond his class
This man forsook the few to serve the mass,
He found us groping leaderless and blind,
He left a city with a civic mind.
He found us striving each his selfish part,
He left a city with a civic heart.
And ever with his eye set on the goal
The vision of a city with a soul.

There are Clevelanders to whom this inscription seems vaguely libelous. Some of the rancors engendered linger, and his former opponents, or their descendants, do not like to admit that Cleveland had to wait for its soul until he presented it with one. But Tom Johnson did as much as any one man to make the city realize that the thing that was aching, far below the mantle of its rough prosperity, actually was a soul. He was one of the first Americans to teach that cities exist for the sake of their average men. The doctrine may be either sound or fallacious but it is the one upon which Cleveland, in its more creative moments, has been acting ever since.

Johnson's eight-year fight for the 3-cent fare cannot be considered a lasting victory—the single fare on Euclid Avenue is now seven cents. But the faith that a city is not only a place to work but also a place in which to live did win out. Cleveland did acquire a civic patriotism which went beyond bringing in new industries.

—R. S. DUFFUS in *New York Times*.

An Experiment in Prosperity

IN a broad sense, everyone in the United States is prosperous. Of course this is not literally true, but it comes so much nearer being true that it ever has been in our history that it is worth while to consider its implications and so far as we can to note some of its effects.

* * * * *

We may, for example, recall such visions as that of Henry George, who steadily preached the gospel of material prosperity, and headed one of his chapters "That we might all be rich."

Henry George's thesis was that poverty was not only one of the greatest curses of the human race but that to permit conditions whose fruitage was widespread poverty was a crime on society's part. He believed that with the abolition of poverty most human ills would disappear.

Were Henry George alive today he would, we think, be fortified in his belief. The present era of prosperity that has come to the American people may well prove to be one of the most important and beneficial land-marks in human history. The children that are growing up today have a fair chance of taking part in a vast experiment, conducted on a vaster scale and potent with greater possibilities for human betterment than all but a very few of the advances that have been made by humanity.

* * * * *

In short, the preliminary results at least tend to show that Henry George was right. Increase by a few jumps the distance between the average man and poverty, and it looks as though it were true that the fierceness, the life and death struggle marked by the play of every instinct of cruelty and desperation, do in fact rapidly abate. It is only now that the tremendous implications and possibilities of mass production, of manufacturing costs lowered by the development of power and its application, are beginning to find realization. As pointed out by Mr. Wells in a recent article in the *New York Sunday Times*, it is hardly more than a matter of yesterday that the common man has come into the picture in the way of actual betterment of his material lot. Could our prosperity be made really universal, its foundations definitely and durably established, we might indeed be on the verge of a brighter day in the long human story that has run for so long in the shadow; a day when we might begin an altogether different kind of history.

—MCCREADY SYKES in *Commerce and Finance*.

ENGLAND has the honor and glory (such as they are) of conquering Afghanistan, but the only influence over the destinies of the working masses of England has been to increase their taxation. France has had the glory of annexing Tunis, but the only difference it has made to the Frenchman who works for his living is that he has had to pay for the acquisition and retention of it.—MONGREDIEN.

The World Chaos—A Way Out

THE people of San Diego should be congratulated in regard to their daily instruction in respect to "land values."

I doubt if the people of any other city are better versed in the cause, development and importance of land values, for, thanks to the full page advertising, it is daily hammered into our minds, that increased population means increased land values; that increased civic enterprise means increased land values; that ninety per cent. of all great fortunes are based in land values.

Our citizens are familiar with the fact that land values are simply ground rents, capitalized: what the Political Economists call the unearned increment, because entirely unearned by the site or landowner. As a well-known illustration, a small corner lot down town was leased about forty years ago, for \$35 per month. At the present time the ground rental runs to \$2,000 per month, with no effort on the part of the owner.

Now, while our citizens are kept well informed, that ground rent is a social product, due to population and civic enterprise; they are not kept so well informed in regard to the fact that our tax system, like that of many other countries, allows about four-fifths of this social revenue to flow into the pockets of private landowners, thus inducing land speculation, necessitating taxation of industry and creating, in the last analysis, that whole train of evils we term in short, the world chaos.

Our tax system nullifies the laws of distribution. Community created value is given to the fortunate few, while the many are robbed to make up the loss. Present tax laws become in effect, a yearly method of transferring a good portion of the earnings of land-users to the pockets of landowners. * * * * *

The transfer of taxes from industry to land values can be accomplished without the slightest friction, as in Sydney, N. S. W., a city of a million inhabitants.

With this system comes the Golden Rule into our economic life; whatsoever the government does to its citizens in creating land values, just so do the citizens render the government an exact money equivalent. The old slogan, "Equal opportunity for all, special privilege to none," becomes a vital living truth instead of a dead aphorism. Justice and equity becomes the cornerstone of our national well-being; and the sneaking, prying governmental espionage into our private affairs, that induces perjury and false swearing will be abolished. Thus shall our nation *again* be entitled to respect, in the maintenance of those ideals of individual liberty and freedom of production, that have been the inspiration of all progressive leaders of the past; thus, shall three of the dreaded Horsemen, Famine, Pestilence and War, be banished from the earth.

—S. S. TABER in San Diego (Calif.), *Labor Leader*.

New Hampshire

REPRESENTATIVE George H. Duncan, of East Jaffrey, H. N., has been elected clerk of the special legislative commission, of which he is a member, to recommend a revision of the tax laws of the State.

The two principal papers of the state used this as a headline: "Governor says Expenses cannot be cut without foregoing undertakings." The state must find funds in "the least burdensome manner."

The Governor's stress not being the usual Coolidge piffle of economy makes these declarations more significant. There will be the usual deluge of proposals for sales taxes, occupation taxes, etc., et al., though a bill before the recent legislature providing for the occupation tax was not even advocated before the committee. On the other hand a bill to exempt manufacturers stock in trade had strong support from the Manufacturers' Association, while the Farmers organizations were insistent that if such concessions were made to manufacturers the farmers should have similar concessions on their live stock, and merchants demanded like treatment on their stock in trade. So it proved too big a proposition, and hence the Recess Commission. There are strong hopes of constructive results.

San Diego Single Taxers Celebrate the Fourth

A PICNIC of Single Taxers of San Diego and vicinity was held on July 4 at Dana Point, a beautiful location on the Pacific Coast, two miles north of Capistrano Beach.

Through the courtesy of Mr. S. H. Woodruff the parking space, playgrounds, tables and chairs were supplied without charge.

The diners listened to Prof. F. W. Roman who spoke on "The Foundations of Freedom." Over 300 attended from Los Angeles, Orange and Riverside counties. We congratulate Mr. Colburn, the Executive Secretary of the San Diego Single Tax Society.

AN absentee land-holder is one who holds land on which he neither lives nor works, (or ever intends to live or work)—and on which he will not permit any one else to live or work without payment of purchase price or rent.

Whether the holder lives in a foreign country or in the same town where the land is matters not, the suppressive effect on industry, trade, agriculture and homes is the same.

Absentee landholding is encouraged and made more widespread by land speculation, and notwithstanding it is sanctioned by law and custom it is the great injustice of civilized society.—ALFRED N. CHANDLER.

The Land Question in History

PARTLY by direct evidence, and partly by results, we gather that the lands of Egypt in the earliest times were parcelled out, not with the object of obtaining the best possible economic results from the fertile valley of the Nile, but for the purposes of maintaining the authority of the dominant Power for the time being. Of Greece we know hardly anything apart from the history of Athens. But we do know that the land question in ancient Greece, as in the modern world today, was almost purely a political question, and the economic consequences had to adjust themselves to the political views of the dominant faction as best they could. The history of Rome and the history of the Empire in ancient times is very largely a series of civil wars over the land question, with the result that, infertile as the land of Italy is for the most part, the difficulty of wringing a living from it was intensified by the fact that agriculture has at all times been treated as a political, as distinct from an economic, question. Throughout the middle ages in Europe the methods changed but the principle remained. The great feudatories regarded the land as it affected the interests of the dominant races for the time being which from time to time swept over Europe. During the 18th century the ideas which had led to a series of civil wars in ancient Rome were revived, and today throughout the world which draws its civilization from Roman ideas the principle is maintained that the land question is primarily and economically a political question; and that economic consequences must adjust themselves as best they can to the dominant political ideas for the time being.

—*The Statist*, London, Eng.

Everywhere the Land Problem

LATELY I have been struck with the great international importance of a right solution of the Land Problem. In reading your last issue I have been reminded of this constantly by allusions to "right of foreigners," Mexican oil and land laws, jealousies regarding the Albanian oil fields and the rich mineral resources of North Africa, and the "problems of migration," on which Mrs. Swanwick writes so well, but without offering any lead, excepting to say vaguely migration and racial problems must be tackled and settled by agreement.

We come to Chinese and Indian affairs, in which internal, as well as international, harmony is required. The land problem is seen to be ignored in Ireland. Roumanian difficulties reflect the problem of putting men and the source of their existence into a right relationship with each other. Kenya is a good example of what happens to the natives and their country when the natives are divorced from the land, and Dr. Norman Leys hopes that a leader will be found to demand equal rights for all, but does not show any means of getting them.

After viewing both international and internal affairs from this angle, it is quite clear that it is the same problem all over the world, and that we must obtain a formula that can be applied everywhere. Both international and internal harmony, and the establishment of equal rights for all, and a proper relationship between men of any color and creed and the natural resources needed for man's sustenance and enjoyment, can only be achieved when each country collects the rent of its natural resources, admitting all comers on equal terms. Rent is a natural balancer of natural advantages, and when fully collected for public purposes eliminates speculation, which is one of the biggest factors in international strife.

England is beginning to realize that the land problem is at the root of its domestic difficulties, and therefore it should be the proper member to advocate world action in this direction in the League of Nations. The problem of free land versus private ownership will not brook long delay. The writing on the wall is becoming very, very plain.

—J. W. MARSH in *Foreign Affairs*.

Speech Day at Canberra

THE opening effort of the Prime Minister was worthy of the occasion—and himself.

With the really responsible people—Arthur Rae and Henry George disciples—duly censored and excluded by Senator Sir G. Pearce, he was open to spread himself before the Prince, get on speaking terms with the Almighty, and tell everybody what a really fine man he was.

"He himself hath said it, and as an Englishman it does him great credit."

"We remember," he orated, "the fostering care of the mother country and the 'protection' (blessed word) of the flag."

As these noble words were caught by microphone, despatched by the radio plant, and mussed up long before they got to "the sea", the tariff board in Sydney was trying to devise means to make trade with the aforesaid old gray mother as hard as possible.

"In the future millions of the British race will people this land." Unless every land agent who controls real estate outside of the Territory is untruthing, this part is correct, and the future millions will be called up to pay pretty smartly for not being far-sighted enough to come earlier.

That is, unless the Consultative Committee and good people who rule our destinies change their tactics, and allow legislators to "Govern with justice, reason and equal favor to all . . . in humility and without self-interest."

Anticipating this change of heart, we now await a reply to our many courteously worded requests regarding recognition of Henry George, the real founder of Canberra as a community-owned utility.—*Standard*, Sydney, Aus.

A Noble Protest

DR. CHANNING, the great liberal preacher, abhorred slavery, but he could not make common cause with William Lloyd Garrison, whose methods and words were too violent and unreasonable for his taste. He outlined these objections to the harshness of abolitionist propaganda, to Samuel J. May, a lieutenant of Garrison's. At last May interrupted:

"Dr. Channing," he said: "I am tired of these complaints. The cause of suffering humanity, the cause of our oppressed, crushed colored countrymen, has called as loudly upon others as upon us abolitionists. It was just as incumbent upon others as upon us to espouse it. We are not to blame that wiser and better men did not espouse it long ago. The cry of millions suffering the cruel bondage in our land had been heard for half a century and disregarded. The wise and prudent saw the terrible wrong, but thought it not wise and prudent to lift a finger for its correction.

"The priests and Levites beheld their robbed and wounded countrymen, but passed by on the other side. The children of Abraham held their peace, and at last 'the very stones have cried out' in abhorrence of this tremendous iniquity; and you must expect them to cry out like 'the stones.' You must not wonder if many of those who have been left to take up this great cause do not plead it with all the seemliness of phrase which the scholars and practiced rhetoricians of our country might use. You must not expect them to manage with all the calmness and discretion that clergymen and statesmen might exhibit. But the scholars, the statesmen, the clergy, had done nothing—did not seem about to do anything; and for my part:

"I thank God that at last any persons, be they who they may, have earnestly engaged in this cause; for no movement can be in vain. We abolitionists are what we are—babes, sucklings, obscure men, silly women, publicans, sinners—and we shall manage this matter just as might be expected of such persons as we are. It is unbecoming in abler men who stood by and would do nothing to complain of us because we do no better."

—From a recent Life of WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

The Gasoline Tax

WHATEVER other result it may have, the increase in the gasoline tax, which has just gone into effect, is not likely to induce any motorist to keep his car in the garage. Nor will it even influence many to use their cars less, in the long run. The Ohio motorist undoubtedly has his opinion of the additional tax, but he is dependent upon his car and he knows that his protests just now would not undo the law, so he swallows his feelings, pays the tax and continues to drive.

The Ohio motorist at present is paying at least three taxes on the car he drives. If he has bought a new car this spring, he has still others to pay. On a new car, for instance, he had to meet the federal excise tax. His car is also returnable on the personal property duplicate. In addition, he has to provide himself with licenses and for his new car he has the recorder's fee to pay. On an investment of \$500 for a new automobile, for example, he now pays in Ohio, including the federal charges, something like \$40 a year in taxes, assuming that he drives his car 8000 miles with the gasoline tax at three cents. In addition, he pays insurance premiums against fire and theft losses, at least, and if he is wise he also carries insurance to cover personal and property liability in the operation of his car.

When he totals all of these items and makes an estimate besides for the upkeep and maintenance of his car in the way of repairs and replacements, it is plain that he has something to think about. It is generally estimated that the average cost of operating the ordinary automobile is about eight cents a mile. With all of the charges as saddled upon a car today, it is surprising that it is not more. The multiplicity of taxes and charges in the end will defeat its own purpose. When it comes to the automobile, we are for the *Single Tax*, first, last and all the time.

—Ohio State Journal.

Ramsay MacDonald on "Housing"

WRITING to the chairman of the National Association of Building Societies, the Labor leader says: "A house should be an expression of a personality, and wherever it is possible it ought to be owned, not merely rented. Would that every workman could own his own house, just as he owns his clothes."

There would be no difficulty whatever in realizing this aspiration once the C. L. P. plan were in operation. It is the mystery in which the lawyers have shrouded the business of owning a house that has contributed to prevent their ownership by those residing in them. Let the land be restored to the community, and its full annual rent be collected into the public treasury, and there would be no more "buying or selling" of land. The buying or selling of the house would then be a perfectly simple transaction, and as easily effected as the buying or selling of a loaf of bread, a hat, or any other product of human labor. No lawyer would be needed: the builder of the house would sell and give a receipt to the purchaser, which receipt would be evidence of title; subsequent sales would be a matter of mutual agreement between a willing buyer and an equally willing seller, and the original receipt, endorsed with a record of the subsequent transfer of interest in the house, would pass in return for the purchase money, and would remain with the

new owner as his title. This could be repeated each time the property changed hands. No matter who might own the house, the same obligation to pay the full annual rent of the land would rest and remain upon the occupier of the site. Just as the purchaser of a leasehold house today takes over the obligation to pay the agreed ground rent upon which the lease was granted, so the purchaser of the house (or other building or fixed improvement) upon the site would take over the obligation to pay the rent of the land.

If Mr. MacDonald really means what he wrote, let him have the courage to abandon the time-serving "Land Policy" of his party—a policy framed in the interests of the Land Lords—and come honestly into the open as an opponent of these parasites upon the community. Today, in spite of his words, he is fighting on their side.—*Commonweal*, London, England.

EVERY permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every bettering of the general condition of society, every facility given for production, every stimulus supplied to consumption, raises rent. The landowner sleeps, but thrives. He alone, among all the recipients in the distribution of products, owes everything to the labor of others, contributes nothing of his own. He inherits part of the fruits of present industry, and has appropriated the lion's share of accumulated intelligence.

—THOROLD ROGERS.

THE justice of the Pittsburgh tax plan rests upon the principle of equal rights to the earth that has been recognized by such great statesmen and philosophers as Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Henry George, and upon the fact that land values are socially created, growing with the growth of population and the extension of public improvements, and are, therefore, in a peculiar sense, a natural and logical source of public revenue.—PERCY R. WILLIAMS in *Kiwanis Magazine*.

The Stupidity of Officialdom

HOW the official mind works—or does not work—is exemplified by an extraordinary report furnished by the Paris correspondent of the Central News Agency. A ten-year-old girl named Piot, playing near the River Isere, fell in. Her younger brother ran to a kennel, unchained a dog and sent him to the rescue. As the animal was crossing to the water, a gendarme seized it, declaring that as it was not on the leash the owner must pay a fine. The boy pleaded, but the official refused to release the dog till the fine was paid. While the argument was going on, the girl was drowned!

And our politicians of every stripe are outbidding each other in their eagerness to burden this community with more, and yet more "officials!"

—*Commonweal*, London, Eng.

FIFTEEN years later Henry George, Jr., made a trip to Japan. I gave him a letter of introduction to Baron Tsuzuki and addressed a separate advance epistle announcing the date of his arrival.

The ship upon which the George party were passengers was met in the harbor of Yokohama by a Japanese gunboat and received a salute. During the whole tour through Japan the George party were showered with courtesies and made to feel at home. Tsuzuki afterward wrote me a gracious letter apologizing for what he called the "meagerness of the reception" and expressed keen regret that Marquis Ito had departed this life and rejoined his ancestors without having the great privilege of greeting my friends on behalf of Japan.

When Japan bursts into bloom she blooms all over.—"Bob Davis Recalls," *N. Y. Sun*, June 9.

Watered Land Values

THEY used to say in Connecticut that the actual value of a good 100-acre farm was a roof over one's head and a job for life at \$3 a day. As economic capital, it is probably true that farm lands have always been overvalued and are overvalued even now. Farm lands present one of the most flagrant illustrations in history of watered stock. Watered stock does not hurt the consumer. The only one it hurts is the person who invests in it in the belief that it does not contain water.

Farming has never been, on the whole or in anything like a universal way, a remunerative employment of capital. But under the illusion created by the wholesale watering or inflation of farm values, there is at present a vast amount of capital actually invested in farm lands. It is a capital that has to pay interest and taxes, and it is only the most efficiently and economically employed farm capital that can do this.

In short, the illusory mirage of high farm values, followed with delight by the unfortunate farmers a few years ago, is one of the grave underlying causes of their present pitiful state. It is a situation calling for the most sympathetic and enlightened treatment.

—MCCREADY SYKES in *Commerce and Finance*.

British Poverty

THE tremendous cost of poverty to the nation (as far as figures go, apart altogether from social and economic injury to all concerned) is shown in reply to two questions in the House of Commons on the 6th of December. In the eight years, 1918 to 1925, there have been paid out in unemployment benefit the sum of \$1,161,280,000. In the same period and in addition, the total expenditure on poor relief in England and Wales was \$1,249,103,700.

—*Land and Liberty*, London.

John Adam

THE whirling mist of years stayed in their flight, and I gazed down the echoing corridors of time. At first, dazed by the immensity of the scene, I looked incomprehendingly: but presently, I saw John Adam. Spawned in one of the foetid slums of Ezion-Gebir, 2000 B.C., his father was one of Pharaoh's slaves, engaged in the building of Pharaoh's navy, which was later sent to sack Ophir. At fourteen he was gathered in by one of Pharaoh's slave gangs, and for six long weary years he labored in the ship yards. At twenty, being a man full-grown, and of more than average strength, he was picked out for transportation. Pharaoh being full of years and good living, was preparing to die; and had given orders for his mausoleum, a gigantic pyramid. Thousands of slaves were hurled into the work—pitiless toil—of fourteen hours a day under the blazing sun—with burning sand under foot. The great blocks of stone were literally mortised together with the blood of the slaves who died in the building.

John was a man apart from his fellows. Deep down in his heart flickered the feeble flame of freedom. Dumbly he saw the injustice of it, the many labouring and dying for the few, and meditating in the soft desert night, he burned to right the injustice. A few months later the great Pharaoh arrived in state to inspect the work, surrounded by his body guard of gigantic Nubians, and nobles, he wended his way slowly through the debris of the building operations. He passed John Adam sweating under a load of stone used for rubble fillings. In a flash John rose to the full stature of his manhood, and, throwing off his load, he picked up a huge stone, and, dodging through the astonished Nubian guards he flung the boulder at the fat face of Pharaoh. The stone missed Pharaoh, and crashed in the head of Zoaster, one of Pharaoh's lieutenants. The enraged guards fell upon John, and tore him to pieces like mad dogs.

So ended the first round in the fight for freedom, with the blood of John Adam bedewing the thirsty desert sands.

The hurrying years passed on. Here and there I caught a glimpse of John Adam reincarnated in remote climes, always with the flame of freedom burning more steadily, in living, achieving mightily, and dying for the cause. The blurred scene cleared a little, and I saw the entrance of the Catacombs of Rome, then in the full flood of her might. It was night, and the moon was reflected wanly by the faces of a subdued crowd that made its way through the entrance, and wended its way through the intricate system of subterranean passages which finally opened up into a vast cavern. These people were the Christians who, in defiance of the orders of Rome, congregated in the dead of night to carry out manifestations of their worship. At the end of the service there arose a man of commanding presence, noble of head and mighty of limb. In simple phrases he laid before the people his gospel, the gospel of freedom. I marvelled at the growth of John Adam, and contrasted him with the miserable slave of Pharaoh. I followed John Adam through

the years of his residence in Rome. He was a familiar figure in the narrow bustling streets of that city. He was the leader of a league who aimed to destroy the government of the nobles, which was slowly bringing Rome and Romans into disrepute and weakening their power overseas by their licence and debauchery. There was, however, a noble named Liberdicous, who learnt of the existence of the league of John Adam, and determined to break it up, and scatter its members, before it became dangerous. He sent four of his men to bring John Adam to him. After a terrific struggle John was captured, and cast into one of the dungeons of Liberdicous. That night a sinister party wended its way down the noisome hole that imprisoned John, and confronting him, demanded as the price of his life, the names of the executive of his league. With a look of ineffable disdain the big man refused the information. They hurried him into the torture chamber, and trussed him up in Ceasar's cradle. This torture consisted of suspending him by the thumbs and toes from the ceiling, until his body was an arch of flaming agony. But he laughed in their faces. Infuriated, they tried one evil thing after another, but he resisted all their efforts. At last Liberdicous commanded the rack as a last resort, and they cast John Adam upon the strange bed of pulleys and ropes. Slowly the wheels were turned, and the ropes attached to his limbs drew out, and each joint of his body became a livid mass of pain. Grimly Liberdicous jerked the wheel full round. There was an awful snap and crackle of living flesh, and the soul of John Adam fled out unsullied as the ether into which it rose.

The wheels of time spun on through the flashing centuries. I caught glimpses of John Adam achieving here and failing there, but with his gospel of freedom rippling in ever widening circles throughout the world. Once a decade was etched in sharp relief against the passing aeons. I saw John Adam condemned to the Spanish galleys, and again, with the traditional chain of slavehood, fettering him athwart one of the big sweeps of a Mediterranean raider. For four years he was chained to the oar, and the only relief to this was death. An arrow from a Corsican opponent released his immortal soul, and his body was flung into the sea.

The majestic panorama rolled, and I saw Spain rise to the zenith of her power, and wax and wane under the hammer blows of England. The slow uprising of Britain, and the meteoric sweep of France across the known world, the rapid colonization of America—all the splendours of history were limned by a master hand on the canvas of illimitable time. Bewildered by the rapid sequence of events, I momentarily lost the thread of the lives of John Adam, until I observed, amidst the crudities of early pioneer life in U. S. A., two figures engaged in deep converse. They presented a striking contrast. One, an old man with seamed and wrinkled face, and hands that were a history of unremitting toil, and the other a lithe youth of perhaps seventeen summers, whose face was fresh and ingenuous, with a noble sweep of forehead, and grey eyes of uncompromising honesty. The older

man was a miner, who had followed his mistress—gold—to the four corners of the earth, and by his very faithfulness had had from her a contemptuous toss of a handful of dust, while her more fickle adherents she had rewarded with the treasures of Midas. The younger man was known as Henry George, but in him I recognised my friend John Adam, and knew that here was the quintessence of all the countless experiences that had been his through the centuries. The mind thus sharpened and strengthened by the years of tribulation alighted on the fundamental law that is to lead humanity from its chaotic groping into the broad pure light of reason and peace. In the wild rack and confusion in the formation of a great nation he found that as the country progressed, so the lot of the common people became worse and worse. Casting about to discover the cause of this he found that as the value of land increased, so the wages decreased. Years of travel and adventure followed, and in 1877, he started on his great work, "Progress and Poverty." Two years of intense struggle followed, and in 1879 it was finished and was received with acclamation by the thinkers of the day. The writer sprang into instant prominence, and in the years that came after he gave himself to the people. With pen and oratory he laboured to educate the masses, and lift them into economic freedom. Towards the end of his life he was asked to stand for the mayoralty of New York. At first unwilling, he at last consented to the pleadings of his friends.

During one of his election speeches he was asked by an interjector what political party he favoured. George answered gravely, "I stand for men." His opponents used all the vile arts at their command to defeat him, and in his strenuous efforts to overcome them Henry George collapsed, and was carried to his bed, from which he did not rise again. He died in the service of the people, but his name was illumined across the civilization of the world. Leagues were formed to fight the economic evils, and slowly but surely they are leading the peoples of the world to economic freedom.

Thus through the ages I saw the soul of John Adam rise from the cloudy obscurity of Pharaoh's slave into the flashing brilliance of Henry George. I was vouchsafed no glimpse of the future, but in my heart I knew that the man would again arise, and lead us into plentitude and peace.

W. H. BONWICK in *Progress*, Melbourne, Australia.

AT the annual conference of the Tasmanian Labor Party held on April 7, at Hobart the following motion was carried:

"That Labor principles and policy demand the earliest possible effective legislative recognition of the public's natural rights in natural resources, affirming that it is vital to progress and well-being that effective steps be taken to bring in legislation which will ensure healthy houses for the people."

How Long, O Lord, How Long?

NOT long ago I attended a dinner at which were a score or more of the pioneers in the movement to collect the economic rent of land for public purposes and use and abolish all taxation. I doubt if any there present were less than thirty years old in the movement, and most of them dated back to or before Henry George's campaign for the office of Mayor of New York in 1886, when I cast my first vote for George and could not for my life have given an intelligent reason for doing so.

The after-dinner talk developed into a free-for-all inquest into the whys and wherefores of the movement's slow progress—progress that seemed to some to be actually retrograde. The fact that no young recruits were present was commented on, though there was an obvious reason for this—the dinner was given on short notice to one of the pioneers who had been abroad for many years, whom the young recruits do not know.

The enthusiasm of the crusades of the 80's and 90's was recalled—where was it now? The dispersion of the movement after strange gods—Clevelandism, Bryanism, Watsonism, etc., was dilated on regretfully as having led us nowhither. Matters of policy were touched on—is it a great moral movement or merely a fiscal reform, Is it wise to try to run a political party, or must we still confine our efforts to the economic education of the people? Did our "howling dervish" enthusiasm, the spiritual exaltation of which has been felt by us all, get us anywhere, and would its revival, if this were possible, do any good?

Ways and methods of propaganda, form of argument to be addressed to men of varying degrees of perception, letters to the press, soap-box and other public speaking, private argument and appeal, all were canvassed and no new method was discovered, yet the fact of our small progress proved too stubborn to move.

Is it in ourselves, or in our stars, or in the public, that in nearly half a century we have failed to "put across" the gospel of Henry George which we know will set the world in the right direction for the millenium of which prophets and seers have been telling us for thousands of years?

Well, men are but children of a larger growth, after all. I can recall the days when I simply could not stand being "called names" or ridiculed. I'd "lick him" if I could and weep tears of bitter mortification if I couldn't, and all the wise counsels of my elders couldn't make me see the foolishness of it all. I had to outgrow it.

So with humanity. It hasn't grown up to mental maturity. Psychologists assure us the average mentality is that of a normal boy or girl of 14, and the extent to which mankind puts its happiness in superficial and unimportant things the course of which they cannot control seems proof that the psychologists are right. How many things men want that aren't good for them! How many things they need that they do not want! What ambitions they

cherish which, when realized, are mere apples of Sodom, vanity and vexation of spirit!

That they are immature children may be seen in the fact that they do not even know how to go about the realization of their ambition for wealth and ease, but insist on the erection of all manner of barriers to their economic endeavors, from tariffs to prevent trade to private "vested rights" in the table which God has spread for them. They have invented money for the facilitation of bartering with one another, trading the things they mutually desire, a means of cooperation in economic endeavor that no Socialist has ever improved, and proceeded to invest these poker chips with all the attributes of wealth itself, reckoning and thinking of wealth only in terms of the chips. What wonder that "economics" is a maze of irreconcilable contradictions?

It was suggested that we concentrate our propaganda work on the education of the young. There lies the way of hope. You may write on a white sheet of paper what you will. To write a palimpsest you must erase the old writing. The minds of the old are too filled with things which are not so to make erasure and rewriting a success.

—STEPHEN BELL.

Welcome Little Stranger!

TO every child born into this country we extend the greeting: "Welcome little stranger, your share of the National debt is £168!" Of course, this figure does not represent the share that the child will receive, but the amount it may be asked to pay. Few of those who complain of the "cost of living" realize that, in this present year, the few who own that debt will collect as interest £8 8s. per head for each man, woman, and child comprising the population of Great Britain.

No generation can bind its successor. When the children grow up it is to be hoped they will exhibit better sense than their parents. The proper attitude—the only just and normal one—is for the whole of these so-called debts to be wiped off. Those who "live on the Funds," to adopt the Victorian phrase, are just so many useless parasites sucking the life-blood of the useful members of the community—the producers of the wealth.

—Commonweal, London, Eng.

ALL taxes, other than land taxes, are a dead load on both labor and capital. It will never be known how great a measure of civic and industrial prosperity is really possible until the burden of taxation is removed from the personally created values of industry and enterprise, and placed where in all equity it belongs: on the community created values of land.

—People's Advocate, Adelaide, Australia.

The Nature of Trade

THE truth is that, aside from the menace of war and the fact that other nations raise barriers which create uncertainty as to each country's foreign markets, there is no more reason why any country should want to be self-contained and self-supporting than there is why an individual should insist upon cutting his own lawn, making his own clothes, and doing all his own work, instead of hiring as he finds it advantageous to do. Economically, the cases are parallel. Nations do not produce or trade as nations but through the spontaneous action of their citizens. The national wealth is most rapidly increased by having each citizen devote his time and abilities to those labors which under the circumstances will produce the highest net values.

—GEORGE E. ROBERTS

How an Indian Saw It

"MY reason teaches me that land cannot be sold. The Great Spirit gave it to his children to live upon. So long as they occupy and cultivate it they have a right to the soil. *Nothing can be sold but such things as can be carried away.*"—BLACK HAWK, in *Prairie Years of Abraham Lincoln*, by Carl Sanburg.

WHERE does Mr. Guggenheim get his money, anyway? Out of the ground, doesn't he? Well, I hold that all that should go back to the State. *I believe in the public ownership of natural resources, such as mines and water power.*—HENRY FORD, testifying before the Industrial Relations Committee.

I AM a Single Taxer. . . . The Single Tax would be the means of bringing about the sanitary conditions I so much desire. . . . For sanitation is most needed by the class of people who would be most benefited by the Single Tax.—The late SURGEON-GENERAL GORGAS.

"STRIKES against low wages, high rents, unjust taxation, absurd conflicts between capital and labor, rebellions against this or that form of government, are futile skirmishes, and very frequently are of the suicidal cock-fighting order, at which the real enemy elevated on a grand stand simply laughs. To contend successfully with these evils, society must learn to begin at the source thereof."—D. C. MACDONALD, in *Birthright in Land*.

BOOK NOTICE

AN IMPORTANT PAMPHLET.

"Labor Discusses its Agricultural Policy," 24 pages and cover, is another of the valuable little pamphlets published by the Commonwealth Land Party at 43 Chancery Lane, London, England. It is a report of the important conference held at Norwich last Autumn. It has a smashing Foreword from J. W. Graham Peace and running

comments on the speeches made at the Conference from the same versatile pen. The Henry George fundamentalists were not without their friends at this gathering.

The pamphlet contains the declaration of principles of the Commonwealth Land party. It should be widely circulated as propaganda.

J. D. M

EXPOSING THE MODERN "BUSINESS" FRAUD.

[Your Money's Worth. By Stuart Chase and F. I. Schlink. The Macmillan Co., N. Y. City.]

Backed by the newspapers and popular magazines, the American manufacturing and commercial interests have for a generation been chorusing the praises of the great god Efficiency, who, they declare, has wrought wondrous works in producing and distributing commodities. Secured in the possession of a market of more than 100,000,000 consumers by a high protective tariff law that shuts out to a great extent foreign goods, the managers of trade and industry have formed a Mutual Admiration Society, dedicated to extolling the beneficent operations of "Free Competition" in the business world. How far their picture of great executives, masters of efficiency, ably serving the public's needs, differs from the reality, is to some degree told in this exposure of the humbug, fraud, incompetence, ignorance and dishonesty, that permeates so much of the American business public today.

The simple truth about a very large percentage of modern goods production and sale is: that blatant advertising exploitation, used to push the sale of shoddy and inferior merchandise, has replaced the old-fashioned reliable articles sold on their merits. What the authors of this book seem to see but dimly is the fact that the problem they deal with is but a small point of the great world-wide question: "Why does production so far outrun consumption?" If Messrs. Chase and Schlink know the relation of this query to the monumental humbug of profiteering and advertising exploitation of the ignorant consumer, they must know that they are merely criticising symptoms of a diseased social organism, for which a radical remedy is needful.

For the money spent on the thousand-and-one trashy articles forced upon the foolish public by dishonest advertising, the dupes of "crooked business" get something. For the billions of dollars paid as ground rents to the lords of the earth's surface the workers of the world get: nothing but permission to live and toil. Here would seem to be an issue really worth while investigating. Have the authors of "Your Money's Worth" the courage to tackle it?

—WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC COLLECTION OF THE FULL RENT OF LAND

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM and I am a firm believer in the doctrine of the Single Tax.

However, there is a point upon which I am not clear and I need "more light."

Under the heading "What LAND AND FREEDOM stands for" you state: "Taking the full rent of land for public purposes insures the fullest and best use of all land." That is absolutely correct when applied to the tenant on a farm. He expects to pay rent, and whether that is called rent or tax is immaterial to him, there has been no injustice to him.

But here comes the point:—Suppose I am an attorney owning a good farm, but I live in my own home at the County Seat, earning at the practice of my profession enough of an income to nicely support myself and wife and children. But there comes a time when by accident or disease, I am incapacitated from practicing my profession, and my

income from that source is ended. The rent from my farm is sufficient to support myself and family, in addition to my payment of all taxes. Now suppose that all of my rent from my farm is taken for public purposes, which would leave my family and myself as objects of charity. Have I been given a square deal?

Kindly advise me on this phase of the Single Tax.
Cincinnati, Ohio.

FRANK G. WHITE.

REPLY: The justification for taking the rent of land for public purposes is that land is not justly the subject of private ownership. The rent of a piece of land used for a farm is due, as the rent of a city lot is due, not to the labor of the owner but to the social and economic advantages which its possession confers. To this neither Mr. White as owner nor Mr. Black as tenant is entitled. All that either is entitled to is a return to his labor or interest on his capital—EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM.

THE CONTROL OF FLOODS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The system of levees adopted by the U. S. Government in its attempt to control the water of the Mississippi seems to be a copy of the dykes used on the River Po in Italy. The great defect of this system is that as the water of a flood recedes, the sediment is deposited on the bottom of the river and the bed is continually raised, necessitating a constant raising of the dykes.

At the present time the bed of the Po is said to be considerably higher than the valley through which it flows. It would seem that it is only a question of time when the Po will break its dykes and overflow the valley as it has before. This communication is an attempt to outline a rational system for the control of the waters of the Mississippi. Briefly the system would consist of dredging a deep narrow channel in the bed of the river, and moving the present levees two or three miles back from the margin of the river. The dimensions of the deep channel should be calculated so that at a low stage of water, the velocity should be sufficient to carry away any sediment that would be deposited during high water. This channel should be deep enough to float any ocean going steamer and the material moved would be transported by water through pipes to the new levees back from the river.

Chicago might hold its present position by completing the deep water-channel from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. The best location for a commercial city is as far inland as deep water can be secured, and when it is surrounded by a productive county. Very few of the great marts of the world are situated directly on the sea-coast. The material in the existing levees would be transported by construction trains to the site of the new levees and added to the material taken from the deep channel.

The space between the river and the levees would be annually overflowed, and after the subsidence of the water would be planted with suitable crops. The strip of land bordering the river on both sides would probably, with its favorable climate, be about the most productive land in the world. It would automatically be fertilized and irrigated annually. This kind of irrigation has been practised for centuries in the valleys of the Nile, the Euphrates and the Tigris. In Arabia, Syria and Turkey after the temporary water-courses or (wadys) run dry, the ground is ploughed and planted to crops which mature with the one irrigation. This strip of land is entirely unsuited for private ownership. All titles should be secured by the Government and the land rented to users.

The work should be begun at the mouth of the River, and while the work is in progress the existing levees above the completed sections would afford the same protection as they do now. Below the completed sections, the levees along the tributaries of the main river would remain untouched, as the deepening of the navigation channel and the widening of the water-way between the levees would so reduce the height of the floods that the existing levees along these tributaries would afford ample protection.

After the completion of the first section of the improvement, the increased land values caused by complete protection from floods could justly be drawn on for further work, as well as the annual rental of the land between the levees.

If my memory serves me properly, a scheme similar to the one here outlined was proposed many years ago by a Dutch engineer.
Don Oblast, Russia . W. A. WARREN.

PRAISE FOR DR. BRUNK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

YOUR Dr. Thomas L. Brunk, who contributes the excellent article on Feudalizing America, in the current issue, has been running a series of articles in the *Union Advocate*, the Labor paper of Sioux City, Ia., under the title Land Sharks—Their Control over Industry. It is an excellent and exhaustive study of the legerdemain by which the American people have been defrauded of their land. Possibly it will awaken a few readers. At any rate, he deserves the highest praise for his most timely contribution.

Marathon, Iowa.

DR. T. J. KELLY.

AMENDS DR. BRUNK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

May I correct a false impression arising from an inaccurate statement of the fact in your article by Dr. Brunk. In the reign of Henry VI of the bloody House of Lancaster the franchise for Parliament was restricted to freeholders paying forty shillings (equal to direct payers of tax on \$10,000 valuation in the United States today,) and this lasted till quite recently. From about 1340 to 1830 the House of Commons represented only landlords. About 1640 they refused to pay any more rent, (that is, direct tax to the treasury,) and offered to charge their tenants with licenses, excise and customs.

Charles I was executed, saying "I die the martyr of the people of England"—as he, struggling to uphold the dues of the Crown as trustee for the public, was as against the repudiating landlords. In 1661 Charles II was recalled and the landlords made a condition with him that he would accept all the rebel laws of the Parliament since 1642; he agreed to this, and it was in 1661 that he signed the Act surrendering to the landlords the public dues on their holdings and taking for the Treasury the customs and excise which Parliament had lawlessly levied for 20 years.

It was not adequate, and as Dr. Brunk says, the National Debt was initiated by loans from the defaulting tenants of the state of the rent they had refused to pay. Picture the morals of the hero Hampden who refused to pay a land tax for the navy as his property lay inland! Langley, Essex, England.
MERVYN J. STEWART.

HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY IN DENVER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We intend having a real Henry George celebration here this year.

I must congratulate you on LAND AND FREEDOM. It is an inspiration—that first trumpet blast of yours "What LAND AND FREEDOM Stands For" on the second page of each issue. You should have more subscribers in Denver and I shall try to get a few.

I quoted an extract from your "Population and Malthus" article in Jan.-Feb. issue when I was speaking before the high school students early in the year, and also in a series of articles I have been writing for the local Catholic newspaper. This last has developed quite a little controversy with a gentleman in Colorado Springs. We have been having a good time. The editor is delighted and now I have him reading "Progress and Poverty."

Denver, Colo.

J. B. MCGAURAN.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

WALTER DODD, of New Westminster, B. C., who as a member of the City Council, introduced the resolution providing for the total exemption of all buildings from taxation and for the raising of the entire revenue required for operating the city from land values, is a prominent furniture manufacturer. The election of the Hon. Wills Gray as mayor a few months since assures a continuance of this system.

WILLIAM MATTHEWS, the key man of our movement in Spokane, Washington, was converted to the Single Tax by Robert Cumming, the poet, over forty years ago.

WILLIAM BRAZEUR, Pres., of the Spokane Valley Bank, of Millwood, Wash., and secretary of the Inland Paper Company, one of the biggest producers of print paper in the United States, is a graduate of the Wisconsin State University. He studied political economy under Prof. Richard T. Ely, and it was at the suggestion of Dr. Ely that Mr. Brazeur read "Progress and Poverty" and became a full fledged convert to the Henry George philosophy. Mr. Brazeur studied law under John L. Gaynor, one of the early Single Taxers of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.

VICTORIA, B. C. and Vancouver B. C. now exempt 50% of improvements from taxation and New Westminster, B. C. 100% improvements.

In many western cities plans are being considered for an epoch-making celebration of the publication of "Progress and Poverty" on Sept. 25, 1929.

RICHARD W. MONTAGUE, whom Herbert Quick refers to in his "One Man's Life," is now a prominent attorney of Portland, Oregon, and was for years the associate of Col. Chas. Erskine Scott Wood, one of the leading orators and lawyers of the Pacific coast, and adjutant on the staff of Gen. O. O. Howard. Col. Wood has never concealed his Single Tax beliefs.

E. H. BOECK, of St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Here is \$10 to help in keeping our publication at its present high standard."

"MENSANA" is the name of the Health Home in Hollywood, (Calif.), under the direction of W. E. Park, M. D. and Dr. Charles James, Chiropractor. James' sequel to the "Story of My Dictorship" will soon be completed and ready for the press.

CHARLES OGLE, of Baltimore, who left for a visit to California in June, writes us, "Your last issue was especially good."

EDMUND VANCE COOKE, Single Taxer and poet of national reputation, writes: "I find I get more Ohio tax news out of your magazine than out of all the newspapers."

THE *Guardian*, Middleton, England, reprints the review of Joseph Dana Miller's "Thirty Years of Verse Making" from *Land and Liberty* of London.

FLORENCE GARVIN, daughter of the late Governor Garvin of Rhode Island, is gathering material for a life of her father.

BUENOS AIRES now has a "Henry George Hotel," and thus emulates the example of San Francisco, where Mr. A. J. Milligan has recently established a hotel under that name on Powell Street.

THE *Liberator* of Auckland, New Zealand, announces the death of Edward Withy, in the Island of Jersey. Years ago he joined the Anti-Poverty League of Auckland, later known as the Ground Rent Revenue League, of which he became President. Sir George Grey being at the same time Honorary President. He once occupied a seat in the New Zealand parliament, but found political life uncongenial. During his connection with the cause he converted many prominent men to the Henry George philosophy and wrote many pamphlets and articles on our question, one in the Westminster Review, entitled "Daylight on the Land Question." Mr. Withy was born in 1844.

Now it is Chile that proposes land legislation that may provoke a controversy, or worse, with the United States. The Chilean Congress has passed a law declaring that all oil lands belong to the State and providing for the cancellation of all concessions not developed by December 26, 1927.

COL. JOSIAH WEDGWOOD, of the United Committee of England, is gathering material for a work on Local Taxation in the British States.

EVERY old time Single Taxer will remember A. Freeland, of Waco, Texas, and his many excellent Single Tax articles between the period 1885 and 1910. He still maintains his active interest in the movement. He is now manager of the Transportation Securities Company, Seattle, Wash.

HON. GEORGE H. DUNCAN of East Jaffrey, New Hampshire, will deliver a number of lectures throughout the New England and Middle Atlantic States during the summer. He will start on a Pacific coast trip in the early fall. The details for Mr. Duncan's tour are being arranged by the Henry George Lecture Association, 538 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

MR. A. J. MILLIGAN, proprietor of the Henry George Hotel, 240 Powell Street, San Francisco, says it was Mr. Clarence R. Moulton, then a salesman of the Sprague Warne Co., of Chicago, that sold him the Single Tax. We must concede that Mr. Moulton did a good days' work when he secured Mr. Milligan's signature on the dotted line to the Single Tax articles of faith.

EUGENE W. WAY, of Seattle, who for nearly fifty years has been an active Single Taxer, was a member of the Washington State Legislature in 1897-8 and secured the passage of an act exempting \$500 of personal property and \$500 of machinery, which would have practically relieved the farmer of all taxes save that on land. Governor John R. Rogers signed the bill, but the State Supreme Court declared the law unconstitutional on the ground of its being class legislation.

THE Franklin Society for Home Building and Savings, of which Chas. O'Connor Hennessy is president, has moved from 15 Park Row to larger quarters at 217 Broadway, its building there occupying one half the site of the old Astor House. Of the other half, records show that in 1784 a carpenter named Stenton bought from Trinity Church a frontage of 70 feet on Broadway for \$300, and that John Jacob Astor bought that site with a house, for \$27,500. That frontage was the major part of the plot, just across from the Woolworth Building, upon which the new Transportation office building has been erected and which sold a couple of years ago for \$2,200,000. The Astor Hotel site cost in 1830, \$153,000 and is now worth more than \$4,000,000.

THE John Crerar Library of Chicago is a free reference library devoted to scientific and technical literature, of which it owns about 500,000 volumes and 300,000 pamphlets. Of these, 26,000 volumes

and 16,000 pamphlets are classed as political economy, as are 308 periodicals of the 4,000 received. The calls for these works on political economy during 1926 were 12,310 out of 240,000 total calls; about equals to the calls for works on engineering, and higher than for any other classification except medicine. This would indicate that of the 669 average of daily visitors, 33 are interested in some phase of the "dismal science;" if only in its relations to "business economics," of which there is now such an abundance of literature. This library is one of those being supplied with LAND AND FREEDOM by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, which also donated "Progress and Poverty" last year.

FAIRHOPE celebrated Fourth of July with fireworks, land and water sports, dancing and general jollity. Motor vehicles estimated at 200 invaded the colony and every available rooming place in the town was occupied during the three days celebration.

FREDERICK CYRUS LEUBUSCHER was a member of the old Free Trade Club in this city. Theodore Roosevelt was a fellow member. Mr. Leubuscher writes: "While he was President I had occasion to call on him with a delegation at the White House, and he was kind enough to state that he remembered me when I reminded him of our association in the New York Free Trade Club. I told him that not only was I still a Free Trader but that I had gone on and was now a Single Taxer; and he replied that he was inclined that way himself."

OUR readers will be pleased to learn that W. A. Douglass, of Toronto, veteran in the cause, has recovered from his recent illness and is able to be about. Mr. Douglass reached the age of 85 on June 21.

FROM the columns of the *Staten Island Advance* the attractive, smiling face of Miss Virginia H. Ryan, daughter of William Ryan, looks out at us. She is featured in the *Advance* as one of the two honor pupils at the Curtis High School to capture a Cornell scholarship. Virginia finished high school before she was sixteen and graduated with the highest honors Curtis can bestow. She also won athletic medals for running, high and broad jumping, hurdling, basket ball and swimming. We recall Virginia as a little tot who clambered over the desks at the Manhattan Single Tax, of which her grandfather, Fred Huppert, was an active member. Our congratulations to the young lady and to Mr. and Mrs. Ryan.

FROM a letter received from Mr. Charles T. Root we extract the following: "There is unquestionably a renaissance of our cause which must never again be allowed to flag. We go about in various ways and we all want the same thing. I wish LAND AND FREEDOM had a hundred thousand subscribers."

THE San Diego Single Tax Society celebrated Frank Williams Memorial Day on July 17. C. R. Colburn is Executive Secretary of the Society. The card announcing the event says: "Frank Williams was the most successful man who ever set foot in San Diego. He lived to make men free. He left an estate of 36 cents." This tribute to the memory of Frank Williams is well deserved. He thought not of himself but of suffering humanity. And he knew the cause of their troubles and the remedy.

W. A. WARREN writes us from Moscow, Russia: "I should be very sorry not to have LAND AND FREEDOM. I hope it will continue to exist until the principles it advocates are universally accepted."

THE G. J. Johnson Cigar Company announces its removal to Los Angeles, 108 E. Jefferson Avenue. Our readers will remember the personal and financial aid which Mr. Gerritt J. Johnson gave to the campaigns in California.