

July—August, 1928

# Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

*An International Record of Single Tax Progress Founded in 1901*

## On To Chicago!

The Henry George Congress Sept. 10, 11, 12

## A Great Debate Has Opened

Henry George and His Proposals in Parliament

## Palestine And The British Mandate

The Jewish Agency Commission Recommend the Henry George Principles  
—An Historic Document

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# LAND AND FREEDOM

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## 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. XXVIII

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No. 3

## Comment and Reflection

WE have just glanced through a recent work by Canon J. A. R. Brookes entitled "Murder in Fact and Fiction." The book itself need not concern us; it is the prefatory note by the Canon that gives us pause, and to which we draw attention. This prefatory note is an intellectual curiosity.

IT is perhaps impossible for any of us to enter the mind of a Canon of the Church of England. What can we know of the intellectual processes of a man so elevated above his fellows, to whom orthodoxy—that comfortable latitudinarian orthodoxy that asks no questions and that is part and parcel of the economic and social privilege which is its main support—has become a settled conviction and who lives remote from the rushing torrent of challenges, important and unimportant, with which the fixed standards of civilization must be more and more assailed? Enthroned in a serene complacency a Canon is a Canon with little chance of having his philosophy of life disturbed or modified by influences that beat upon the charmed citadel of his religious, social and economic beliefs.

LET us take the mental measure of the Canon in the page which precedes the recital of famous murders:

"The secret spring of Bolshevism is to be found in the inferiority complex, which causes the ignorant and the incompetent to envy and dislike their superiors \* \* \* Any one who praises the inferior or mediocre, and affects to despise the beautiful and good is a conscious or unconscious Bolshevik \* \* \* To prefer the ethical standards of Ibsen or Shaw to those of Moses or Christ is a still more dangerous form of Bolshevism \* \* \* Alike in Ethics and Art there must be certain fixed standards, and those who prefer the ugly, the bizarre and the vulgar are helping to overthrow those standards, forms and traditions upon which our Christian civilization rests. Bolshevism objects to fixed standards because it knows that its inferiority will thereby be rendered manifest, therefore it seeks either to enter upon side tracks where competition is evaded, or to throw scorn upon the great geniuses of the Past, whom they have to acknowledge as their superiors."

THIS insistence upon "fixed standards" in Art and Ethics extends of course to the civilization we know which it is not obvious to the Canon is constantly in process of

change. Had he lived in the days when chattel slavery was an established institution he could have contemned assaults upon that system as endangering certain "fixed standards." According to Canon Brookes one may not prefer Ibsen and Shaw to Tennyson, or even hold that both hold a message for this generation, without being classed as a political Bolshevik.

AS one who places Tennyson above Shaw as a poet, Shaw not being a poet at all, and Shaw above Tennyson as a dramatist, Tennyson being a great poet and hardly a dramatist though he wrote poetic dramas, we protest against this confusion of "standards," ethical or artistic, with political institutions which cannot be submitted to the same criteria as ethics or art. And we insist that notions of "fixed standards" are dangerous notions whether in art, ethics or politics.

AND the preposterous notion that Bolshevism is a manifestation of the "inferiority complex," and not a blind reaction from an unjust social system, is of a piece with the rest of this prefatory note lugged into a volume dealing with famous murder cases. It appears not to have occurred to the Canon that the teachings of both Moses and Jesus were assaults upon the "fixed" ethical economic and political institutions of the time, that neither one nor the other has been put to the test by either Church or State, and that every step in progress is an interference with "fixed standards", which are never really fixed. But such is the reasoning of the Canon, and how can a Canon, unless an exceptional and courageous one, reason otherwise?

SOCIOLOGY is a term supplied us by Comte, which at other times he called Social Physics. He would have dignified it as a science and taught that "social phenomena are subject to natural laws, admittedly of natural prevision." (Martineau's Positive Philosophy.) He held that the natural laws of progress can be ascertained. It is needless to say such speculations mark an epoch in social and economic philosophy, though no serious attempt outside of George has been made to ascertain the nature and consequence of such laws. This work remains to be done and may yet form the subject matter of a great and enduring work.

IF order reigns in the universe—and it seems obvious to us that it does—we may find it supreme in the realm of economics. Because disorder and not order reigns, we may look here for the secret of the failure of civilization, the one we live in as well as the innumerable civilizations of the past. It must be a law of the economic world that what a man produces shall be his; the result of depriving him of this must bring certain consequences, certain disorders in the place of order.

THOSE who deplore the wide-spread modern skepticism, the weakening faith in the natural order may find here the answer to the riddle that perplexes them. Asa Grey has said: "I confidently expect that in the future, even more than in the past, faith in an order, which is the basis of science, will not be dissevered from faith in an Ordainer, which is the basis of religion."

IT is because of this, among other reasons, that every earnest minded thinker and philosopher, should be interested in demonstrating the natural order, in discovering first what it is, and secondly in getting rid of conditions that interfere with its free operation. That there is such a natural order cannot be demonstrated by any single experiment, but it is not to be ignored in any rational system of social or economic philosophy.

AND this leads us to another thought. The aim of the movement begun by Henry George is not to give man more wealth, more things, nor even merely to make it more easy for him to earn a living, though that is a great deal. But it is to establish that order of progress in civilization which in conformity with the natural law will assure a beneficent future for mankind, and make of the food-grubbing, house-building animal a religious man on whom a new power will be conferred to raise the curtain revealing his immortal destiny. These are the supreme heights for his attainment, which Henry George, in completing the task he had set himself of outlining his great reform, has foreshadowed in immortal prose.

## The Land and the Race Question in South Africa

IN a recent issue of the *Missionary Herald* Ray E. Phillips, of Johannesburg, South Africa, begins a series of articles on "The Social Gospel and Interracial Relationships."

Mr. Phillips says that "the two outstanding factors that must be spoken of in any discussion of interracial matters as between these two great racial groups (black and white) are (1) the land problem and (2) the industrial situation in the big cities."

The writer tells us that the early white settlers of South Africa were land hungry, and that the whole land was eventually appropriated by the newcomers.

"And much of this land is not producing. There is no tax on land, and hence no inducement either to improve it or sell it. So there it lies in big holdings; tied up and much of it useless. This explains the fact that there is a land famine. For the large native population there is no land available for expansion. Although the natives constitute four-fifths of the population of the country, they own only one-thirteenth of the land, and they are now overflowing the meager allotments of past years. Thousands of natives of the younger generation are now finding themselves without land and faced with the choice between becoming serfs on white farms, or going to the big cities to work."

Mr. Phillips tells us that there is this difference between the black and white landless city dwellers: "While white men have the vote and are recognized a factor in South African politics, the natives are largely voteless and practically impotent politically. This means that political parties must provide for the whites even at the expense of the natives."

We quote the following:

"Second, there is no land which can be freed without serious trouble. A recent investigation by a Government Commission found no considerable areas free for occupancy by the blacks. White farmers stand solidly against any appropriation of good land for native settlement. Some scheme whereby natives can buy land in so-called "neutral zones" where either black or white may buy, but with safeguards to protect native interest, may relieve the situation. This is urged by certain thinking white men.

The recently enacted Color Bar Bill, which we have just mentioned, and which legislated natives out of employment in certain lines, makes the natives suspicious of the good faith of the present South African Government. They feel, and many thinking whites admit, that the segregation policy of the Government is dictated by fear—fear of the economic competition of the natives. And the natives, in their turn, are afraid that even though land is made available, and the line drawn about it, this line will not keep the white man from coming into their black territory if there is something in their area that the white man wants. A story reports an old native chief as saying to General Hertzog, the present Prime Minister, "Do you think, Sir, that you are better than God?"

"Why, no, certainly not," said General Hertzog.

"Well," said the chief, "God put a whole sea between you white men and us black men, and yet you white men crossed the ocean because there was wealth in the land of the black man. Do you think you can keep your white men from coming and taking possession of the black man's land merely by drawing a line down the country? Do you think you are better than God?"

Of course these conditions of grave injustice must cause deep resentment among the blacks, and Mr. Phillips says:

"They see themselves legislated against because of their skin color; they are embittered over the land situation, the low rates of wages existing in spite of increase of living costs; they rebel against the slum housing conditions in the big cities. They are becoming anxious and uneasy. It is not to be wondered at that there is a rapid growth of nationalist feeling quite comparable with that found in India and China."

Mr. Phillips sees the problem but he may not see the solution. But he would approach the problem in the spirit that will furnish the solution when he says in conclusion:

"What seems to be needed is a warm, Christian conscience on the part of the governing peoples; a sense of responsibility to God, and a sympathetic understanding of the other man, and of the fact that he, too, is a child of the same Father."

The children of the same Father are of course equally entitled to the Father's bounty.

## A Pennsylvania Editor Speaks Out

ONE of the fundamental principles of civilization is that what a man earns is his own, and another is that he has a right to dispose of it, at his death, as he chooses. Those rights should hold for rich and poor alike. The cure for swollen fortunes, huge unearned incomes, is not in taxation after they have been accumulated, but in laws preventing their accumulation.

Two wrongs do not make a right. *Tax laws unsound in principle cannot be made permanently just by removing always recurring "inequities," by robbing Peter to pay Paul even though Peter be inordinately rich.* One basic principle of law is that it shall apply to all alike. We would not think, for instance, of enacting a law against murder with the provision that it should apply only to persons with a certain income, or of a certain creed or race. Yet we make tax laws frankly applying to certain classes, frankly exempting certain others. That means that somebody must decide who shall be taxed, who exempted, and therein lies the fatal weakness of that sort of taxation.

Henry George's plan presupposes that what a man earns or builds or acquires is his own, not subject to taxation. Land is the gift of God to all men, not to be "owned" outright by any man but to be held by the government subject to use by all men. For that use men would pay rentals, which rentals would be used for the support of government just as are taxes now. For years the land tax plan has been opposed by wealthy men, simply because large land owners opposed it when first advanced. These same wealthy men who now find the income and inheritance and other taxes exorbitant might profit greatly by studying Henry George's plan. By that plan they might have attained a just taxation fair to all alike. As it is we are rapidly becoming mired in a morass of always changing tax laws, of eternal political dickering and lobbying and trickery, seeking justice and equity in laws that are themselves fundamentally unjust and inequitable.

—Editorial—Warren (Pa.) *Evening Times*.

THE September-October number of LAND AND FREEDOM will contain full reports of the Henry George Congress in Chicago, September 10, 11 and 12.

## Professor Beard and Henry George

IN the second volume of his fascinating history, "The Rise of American Civilization," Charles A. Beard writes:

"In spite of all this concern about the course of events in America during the gilded age, there appeared no social philosopher competent to survey society from top to bottom, plot the trajectory of plutocratic ascendancy, or interpret the sweep of things in the large. Of course, the socialists were active in obscure corners offering the gospel of Karl Marx in pamphlets and brochures, but they produced no critique of the capitalist procession in America worthy of more than a passing glance. Disgruntled populists, deprived of planting leadership and finding no clergymen or college professors to write for farmers as they had once written for slave owners, did nothing but pepper Mæcenas with bird shot.

"Perhaps the first approach to a critical diagnosis that made a rift in American complacency was Henry George's "Progress and Poverty," published in 1879, a trenchant volume drawing the deadly parallel of riches and misery, sun and shadow; proposing to apply to the complexities of the capitalist order a physiocratic doctrine of the eighteenth century in the form of a Single Tax designed to absorb unearned increment in land values and strike at the root of gross inequalities of wealth. By his vivid description of the carking desolation spread under the high noon of American prosperity and the assurance he displayed in prescribing a remedy, George sounded a new note in American criticism. Within a decade, he became famous at home and across the seas; radicals and trade unionists in New York tried to elect him mayor; owners of factories patronized him—he offered no disturbance to their economic operations. In England and Ireland he was hailed as a conquering hero, and, owing to the acuteness of their land problem, made a profound impression on current economic opinion. Through countless channels, George's ideas filtered out in varied types of American thought, helping to make the country at least dimly aware of the social question; but the Single Tax creed bore little fruit in legislation and gave no serious qualms to the managers of politics."

### COMMENTS

Henry George did more than draw "the deadly parallel of riches and misery." He recast the science of political economy by working out the natural laws of the distribution of wealth. He destroyed the current academic theory of wages and capital. He amplified and extended Ricardo's law of rent. He dug to the root of the wealth distribution problem by proving that—

"The reason why, in spite of the increase of productive power, wages constantly tend to a minimum which will give but a bare living, is that, with increase in productive power, rent tends to even greater increase, thus producing a constant tendency to the forcing down of wages."

This was an achievement that called for attention in a history like Prof. Beard's.

The professor says that "owners of factories patronized" George, for "he offered no disturbance to their economic operations." This sounds like a sneer, but perhaps Prof. Beard did not mean it that way. A few factory men had mind enough to understand George and the heart to follow him; but, on the whole, factory owners are not readers and thinkers in economic science. Those who heard of him were mostly prejudiced against him because of his free trade views. Many never heard of him at all; others set him down as a "fanatical agitator."

But, it is fair to ask Prof. Beard, why should disturbance be offered to factory owners? Legalized special privileges which may have been given to them should be withdrawn. George's philosophy calls for that kind of disturbance, but we certainly cannot wish to get rid of factories or interfere with their honest operation. Are they not desirable? Do we not want freedom to produce wealth?

We suspect that Prof. Beard's chief difficulty in understanding Henry George is that he has the Marxian conception of capital. When he uses the term Capitalism, the professor is thinking of various forms of legalized monopoly such as in land and franchises. He bunches everything together as capital that has exchange value. That is the confusing practice of socialists, and is unscientific. Real capital as Henry George defines it is a product of labor, and its private ownership is natural and harmless. Legislators should leave it severely alone. It is only legalized monopoly that needs "disturbance."

Prof. Beard says that "the Single Tax creed bore little fruit in legislation." To that it may be replied that the Single Tax creed is more intent on abolishing a host of bad laws than on making new laws.

George's teaching has gained considerable standing in collegiate circles, and is steadily influencing thought. It is also perceptibly modifying taxation practices in New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, South America, western Canada, and some portions of the United States. His ideas are under discussion in every session of the British Parliament.

Impatient souls often exclaim against the slowness of George's thought in winning general acceptance; but, on considering the powerful monopolistic interests it threatens, Single Taxers are usually encouraged. The idea, while radical, may be introduced without serious shock or panic. Men of business whose production interests exceed their monopolistic interests will gradually come to see that they must turn to Single Tax for their own safety. Organized laborers will be driven to the wall unless they break the bonds of land monopoly, as the more intelligent are coming to understand.

"IT is the thorough fusion of insight into actual facts and forces, with recognition of their bearing upon what makes human life worth living, that constitutes Henry George one of the world's great social philosophers."  
—JOHN DEWEY, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University.

## Norman Thomas Says Things

NORMAN THOMAS, Socialist candidate for President, has been saying things since his nomination which shows him to have a better grasp of economic principles than the Republican or Democratic nominee can boast, though we suspect that Hoover really knows more than his platform. In his column in the *New Leader* he writes as follows:

"Seventy-five per cent. of what President Coolidge had to say in condemnation of the McNary-Haugen bill would have come with good grace from a militant free trader. It sounds like amazing hypocrisy coming from a staunch defender of high tariffs who has just signed a bill subsidizing the American merchant marine. Yet the President is not consciously hypocritical. Subsidies and special favors to business men do not look to him like subsidies and he is not aware that he has provided sharp arguments against his own closest political friends and supporters."

And he goes on further:

"Finally it is to be observed that agriculture has been the victim not only of a faulty credit system but of inflated land values. Very earnestly do we ask you, the farmers of America, to consider whether you may not have been mistaken in thinking too much in terms of profits to be derived by sale or rent from an increase of land values and too little in terms of the reward of your own arduous labors. Mr. W. H. Kaufman of the state of Washington has recently reminded his fellow farmers that the equivalent of stock watering has been practiced on a large scale under our present system by farm owners. The unearned increment which society creates and individual owners take does not become a blessing simply because in some cases it does not go to one family like the Astors but to a multitude of smaller owners. Working farmers like city workers have need to face this problem of land values and their control by a just and equitable system of taxation which should fall on land rather than improvements.

In this connection we may find help in solving the serious problem of tenant farming which is increasing steadily. Rentals are based on swollen land values. Farm tenants in America, unlike farm tenants in other countries, have no security of tenure and no claim on the improvements these may have made save as leases may provide. Herbert Quick is authority for the statement that not the patient workers in the tobacco fields in Connecticut but land owners and land sellers have got the lion's share of such profits as have been made out of the tariff on tobacco leaf.

In short, no system of tariff or subsidy, direct or indirect, can help the men who raise our food unless we inquire into the question of land values. Here we have only space to remind you that the prosperity of all workers whether in field, factory or office depends upon the end of special privilege and the extension of a wise and sound plan for adding to the wellbeing of individuals by social control in the interest of the workers rather than of the owners."

And he says, recognizing the importance of the removal of tariff barriers in the interests of world peace between nations:

"In the long run what is desired is lower tariffs on all sorts of goods. Good will, prosperity, even peace among nations, depend, in part, upon a careful lowering of those

economic barriers, which now divide them, with due regard for the workers in the period of readjustment. The relative prosperity of America has not been chiefly due to its protective system—every little tiny country in Europe has that—but to the fact that within our own boundaries the people of the United States have the greatest free trade market in the world.”

He also says: “None of our hesitant liberal friends have advanced one single reason for believing that the Republican or Democratic Party can be made the effective weapon of any sort of struggle for the things that most liberals profess to desire.”

The Socialist Party has done itself credit in placing in nomination for the highest office a man of liberal and advanced ideas and a good deal of real economic knowledge. Single Taxers unattached to any party can do nothing better than to give him a whole-hearted support.

We who are not prepared to go the way of socialism, who are disciples of the new *laissez faire*, who believe in the natural law of competition, can afford to ignore these considerations for the time for the sake of the candidate's clear-cut utterances on the tariff and land question. The plank of the Socialist Party platform which reads “Appropriation by taxation of the annual value of all land held for speculation,” is altogether meaningless and would prove utterly futile in practice, but it is a gesture and a recognition of the importance of our question. It may indicate the entrance of the party into a new and promising field in which it will rally to its ranks the liberal forces of the country. For almost the first time in any presidential campaign we wish well to the party and to its splendid standard bearer. For he not only feels and cares, as did Debs of revered memory, but he seems to *know*, and the union of knowledge and heart may mean a new era in politics.

## A Maine Editor Endorses the Single Tax

ONE theory that will not die is “Single Tax.” And that means tax on land values only. There must be value in the theory, because year by year it rather more than holds its own; maintains “house-organs” that put forth modestly but persistently its arguments to the public; gathers its advocates and maintains its position. Here and there as in certain cities in Pennsylvania, its practice is adopted in an amended form that is satisfactory because it works.

The arguments are so varied and extensive that no one can put them in a brief statement. Henry George wrote a great book on this subject. It has never been demolished as an argument. We merely sketch a single phase of it as to rent. Rent is paid for two services—use of building and use of land. Political economists do not call the part paid for the house “rent.” It is interest on invested capital of the owner. But what you pay for the land is

not the same. The land does not wear out; it does not grow old. It does not lose values; often it gains values. There is no depreciation on the land, in places where rent is commonly paid, such as towns and cities.

When a landlord buys bricks and mortar he buys produce, that cost labor and expenditure. When he buys land, he buys a privilege of charging you something for occupying it. It cost nobody anything in the first place, as did the bricks and mortar. No toil entered into its making. So when the landlord buys land, he buys a privilege of collecting from you.

This is a fundamental of the Single Tax argument and is rather hard to get past, without showing your coat-tails.

Now how does the Single Taxer propose to lower rents? It seems too simple. That is why people do not take very much to it. They propose to lower rents by taxing this land and not taxing the bricks and mortar. The land tax is a tax on a privilege or franchise conferred by society. The tax on bricks is a tax on toil.

The friends of this theory of taxation say that it works like a charm because the taxation on land values does not add to the rent—it lowers the rent. If you tax tobacco or gasoline (which is a better example) the price goes up. We are paying 22cts, for gas in Auburn and they pay 18 in Boston. There is a four cent tax in Maine. Every time I buy 25 gallons of gas, I pay one dollar to Maine roads and some other things, which are less essential; and which could be named easily, if we pleased.

But if we tax valuable land, will any less land be used? Not so. When anything lying idle waiting for prices to advance is taxed at its potential values, the first thing the owner does is to make it earn something. He puts it to use.

Here in Lewiston, we have had great stretches of land lying around idle, being owned by a wealthy corporations which can assimilate the taxes into other rents. Try to buy a piece of this land and you are asked a price for location—said location being in a community of 50,000 to 60,000 with water works, street railroads, schools, orderly law. This land did not establish these improvements. It has never shared much in the costs. It can afford to pay taxes because it enriches itself on the enterprise of others.

—Editorial—Lewiston (Maine) *Evening Journal*

PROFESSOR GILBERT MURRAY, speaking at a League of Nations Union Meeting at Matlock Bath, on Thursday, said: “A great many of the boys who join the O. T. C. (Officers Training Corps) do so with the idea of living a life of sacrifice for their country.”

This we believe to be the case. When the boys grow up they may learn that their sacrifice was for the Land Lords who claim to “own” *their* country!

—Commonweal, London, Eng.

# A Great Debate Has Opened

HENRY GEORGE AND HIS PROPOSALS NOW FORCED TO THE FOREFRONT OF POLITICS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

IT is probable that American followers of Henry George have a quite inadequate conception of the extent to which the land question is dominating the political scene in Great Britain at the present time. Certainly no adequate conception of the situation could possibly be derived from the London dispatches in American newspapers. There has been, on the part of the correspondents of the *New York Times* and other great newspapers in this country, a complete inability to grasp the deep significance of the debates that have recently been going on in the British Parliament.

As in 1909, when the proposals of the so-called Lloyd George Budget promised to raise the whole issue involved in the British system of landlordism—a promise that was sadly abandoned almost before the fight commenced,—so this year the issue again turns upon the complexion of the Budget proposed by the Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Spencer Churchill, one time uncompromising advocate of the whole programme of Free Trade and Land Value Taxation in a past Liberal Government.

This time, however, instead of a Government attack upon landlordism, the country is confronted with an unblushing proposal to fatten the purses and extend the privileges of a large section of the landlord class, all under the guise of correcting the depressed industrial condition of the country by relieving production from the burden of local rates, that is, taxes. To make up the loss of revenue that is involved in the Chancellor's proposal to entirely exempt all agricultural land and certain other properties from taxation, there has been enacted a special tariff tax on gasoline, amounting to practically eight cents a gallon, which is to be accumulated over a period, estimated at eighteen months, into a Treasury reserve out of which the abatement of rates (taxes) upon "productive industry" and agriculture is to be made up. As this extraordinary financial scheme is not to come into operation until after the next parliamentary elections, it is bound to be a storm center of British politics for some time to come.

The whole Budget scheme has been fiercely attacked as fantastic, unworkable and unscientific by the leaders of the Opposition benches, both Labor and Liberal, and it is significant that the whole question of land monopoly and the incidence of taxation is becoming the main subject of a great political debate. This debate must spread beyond the Houses of Parliament into the constituencies when Parliament is dissolved. The dissolution is expected not later than next Spring.

## LAND ECONOMICS AND HENRY GEORGE

All real estate, improved or unimproved, suitable for agricultural purposes, whether in use or not, is to be totally

exempt from municipal taxes, under the Government proposals. There are other features of the proposed Budget, of course, but these mentioned are the features upon which the debate in Parliament is chiefly turning. The land question in its fundamental aspects, has been brought into the debate by the Opposition leaders of both the Labor and Liberal Parties, and no such revelation of sound, as well as unsound economics upon the whole question of public revenue raising, has been witnessed in any great national legislative body in our times.

The name of Henry George has figured repeatedly in the debates. Once, during the discussion, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer was compelled to listen to quotations from his own speeches of eighteen years ago, when he was attacking landlordism with Henry George's arguments, he denied that he had recanted, saying:

" . . . I am not at all convinced that, among my arguments in favor of the rating of undeveloped urban land upon its true value, I employed any which were lacking in lucidity or reason. But in the years that have passed a good many things have happened, and we must take notice of these events."

Here is one interesting excerpt from the official record of the debate:

Mr. Churchill: " . . . Why did Mr. Henry George fail, and why is it that his disciples are unable to carry on their political faith in modern times?"

Colonel Wedgwood:—"Because people turn their coats too often."

Mr. Churchill: "The right honorable gentleman spoke then with less than his usual courtesy and with more than his usual obliviousness of his own record. I well remember the time when no one was more scathing in his denunciation of Socialism than he. . . . I do not in any way belittle the logic or the argument about the rating of land. What I say is that very great experiments in this field have been made and that they were found to have failed to such an extent that they were abandoned by their author. \* \* \* Henry George failed in his Single Tax proposals because he had been studying the world as it had been for generations and centuries, and arrived at certain conclusions on that basis, and the conclusion he arrived at was that land was practically the sole source of all wealth. But almost before the ink was dry on the book he had written, it was apparent that there were hundreds of different ways of creating and possessing and gaining wealth which had either no relation to the ownership of land or an utterly disproportionate or indirect relation. Where there were 100 cases 20 years ago, there are 10,000 cases now, and that is why radical democracy, looking at this proposition of the Single Tax . . . has turned unhesitatingly towards discrimination in the sources from which it is derived. . . . We have been guided in the main policy by a fundamental principle. It is this, that the instruments of production ought not to be taxed, but only the profits resulting from their use. That is our



principle. We hold that it is economically unchallengable. Why should we fear to apply it bodily?"

#### MR. SNOWDEN MINCES NO WORDS

Philip Snowden, who was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last Labor Government, in presenting his party's resolution of dissent from the government Finance Bill, made a severe denunciation of the bill, which he described as a measure more likely to aggravate than to relieve the existing evils, inequalities and injustices of local finance. In speaking of the proposed petrol (gasoline) tax, he adverted to Mr. Churchill's statement that the industrial greatness of the country had been built up on coal, but that petrol, to an increasing extent, was taking the place of coal. It seemed to him a strange way of helping industry to put a tax upon what is the fuel of industry. It would be just as wise, or just as foolish, to put a tax upon coal. It would increase costs of production, though the Chancellor had emphasized a hundred times in defense of his proposals that they were designed to reduce production costs. Coming to the essence of the proposals, Mr. Snowden said:

"You can have no relief of the rates so long as you allow land values to be appropriated by private individuals. All forms of relief of this kind go back to the landlord in the shape of land values. Every relief of this kind is ultimately passed on to the community, and finds its way automatically into the landlord's pockets. If there is a rise in wages, we are able to move forward a little because the worker is able to pay a little more for the things he wants. The opening of a new railway or tramway, the establishment of improved services for workmen, the lowering of fares, or a new invention very often confer a benefit on the workers in any district. But the ultimate result is that the ground landlord is able to charge more to the community for the privilege of living there. . . .

"The price that the landlord is able to exact for the use of these privileges is determined by a number of considerations. First of all, the price is determined by the extent of the need of the people, the amount of land they require, and the population.

"As a matter of fact, every child born adds to the rent of the landlord. The more people you have living on the land, the more the ground landlord is able to take from the community for the privilege of living on the land. Every scientific advance, every machine improvement, everything that adds to productive power, finds ultimately its place in the rent that the landowner is able to take."

#### A LIBERAL POINT OF VIEW

Sir John Simon, leading the debate for the Liberal Party addressing the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said this:

"I put this question to the right honorable gentleman: Does the government really think that it is a small matter that their method of relief, whatever its merits may be, is a method which is not going to provide any relief at all for eighteen months? I recall the language which the right honorable gentleman used in his Budget speech. He painted a gloomy picture of collieries shut down, of factories on the verge of closing, of firms working at a loss, of depressed industries holding on by the skin of their

teeth; and he has today actually had the parliamentary audacity to say 'after all, eighteen months is not very long to wait.'

"Under the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925, the whole of the land of this country is being revalued for rating purposes. An enormous sum of money is being spent on the process. In every single rating area, experts are at work putting a proper value under the existing rating law, upon every hereditament, rural and urban, in the whole country. It is a stupendous operation. They are valuing, for example, the whole of the agricultural land of the country, and the Act was passed in order that rates might be paid on the values thus ascertained. It seems an extremely odd thing that the government should come along, three years later, and say: 'Oh, there will not be any rates on agricultural land.' What is the purpose for which this enormous sum has been spent in valuing the agricultural land of the country? There is only one possible answer, and it is an answer that shows the absurd elaboration of the scheme which the government has adopted."

#### A LITTLE SIMPLE ECONOMICS

From the speech of Colonel Wedgwood, Labor M.P., this extract is taken:

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer has never seen that the landlord is as big a burden upon industry, and that he can be as ruinous to depressed industries as the rates which the Chancellor is now talking of removing. If he had arrived at the fact that land values are a creation of the community, he has now gone further, and observed, with the rest of the Conservative Party that the rates are a burden upon industry, and add to the cost of production, reduce output and increase unemployment. He accepts all that, but he cannot see the further stage, that the less the demands of the landlord, the greater the benefits to the producing industries. What we are suggesting in this Amendment is that the right honorable gentleman should see a little clearer, and understand finance a little better. If he is going to relieve industry of rates and pay for that relief by burdening industry with a tax on petrol of an equivalent amount, the products of industry will not be any cheaper as a result of that change. If he puts on a tax equal in amount to the amount of rates of which he relieves industry, and if that tax is levied upon industry, the ultimate results to industry will be to leave the product of industry exactly where it was before.

"We ask the right honorable gentleman in this Amendment to grasp in its entirety the Free Trade position, that any cheapening of production means a benefit to the consumer, and not to meet the cost of the reduction of the rates by tax on other industries in the shape of the petrol which they use, but to meet it by tax on land values, which he admits not only from his speeches of old days, but from his silence today, to be the creation, not of the individual land owner, but of the community as a whole. Further by putting a tax upon land values it will not merely benefit industry by relieving them of the burden of rates upon improvements, but will actually make all land cheaper, and put the landlord in a poorer position to demand excessive rents.

"In this Budget, at the same moment that he is making such an admirable shop-window effort to advertise relieving of the rates upon industry, the Chancellor is actually removing £4,500,000 of rates levied on agricultural land. A mere passing of this finance bill will give the landlords in increased value of their land £90,000,000 cash down.

"When is he going to carry this system further and remove the rates also from the distributing industries, and from the houses of the people, as well as from the factories in which they work? How much longer are we to wait before he carries to a logical conclusion the principles which the Conservative Party have been driven to accept, that of removing rates from the product of man's work and levying them instead upon that land value which is the creation of the community and which is the basis of all just taxation?"

### THE LOGIC OF A NOBLE LORD

A long speech by Lord Hugh Cecil, the eminent member for Oxford University, during the debate, put forward these propositions, among others:

"I can propound a better principle than that of taxing site values, namely, to tax always in proportion to wealth. It is quite proper that the wealthy owner of site values should pay taxes, not because they are site values, but because he is rich and able to pay. The only thing that is expedient or equitable is to tax wealth. That does not mean, of course, that those who are comparatively poor should pay nothing, but that they should pay in proportion to their means, that everyone should pay in proportion. Do not let us listen to the foolish nonsense that will turn this Budget debate into a crusade against land owners, and that would persuade this House and country that there is something peculiar about the value of sites of land, because all such ways of thinking are a delusion and a snare."

The subsequent debate was not lacking in argument opposed to the curious economics of the noble lord. Mr. Hardie, a Scottish member, observed:

"Every time that the question of land ownership is debated in any form in this House, you always find it met with a bitterness which does not seem to characterize any other subject. As soon as the House begins to deal with land and the revenues that accrue to landlords without any effort on their part, opposition at once becomes very bitter indeed. The noble lord who spoke just now, and who seldom takes part in our debates without creating a great deal of interest because he is so well-informed, as soon as he comes to deal with the question of land, forgets all his learning, and he is filled with the idea of the sacredness of private ownership. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was in a very weak mental attitude today. Everyone realized he was in real difficulties; he was talking against his own convictions, and no matter how he tries to gloss over the former statements, it is painfully evident, I am sure, to those who sat behind him that he was compelled to wriggle a great deal in order to find the way out of a really tight corner.

"The City of Glasgow, like other industrial centers, became prosperous not because Lord This, or Lord That owns the land of Glasgow. It has become prosperous because of the industry of the people there. There could have been no land values in Glasgow but for the industry of the working community. Yet, when we get to the point where a man receives sufficient to maintain his wife and his children, we discover that all above that point is absorbed by the landlords. When we want to widen a street in Glasgow, or tear out slums that are a menace to public health, and do so at tremendous expense, we have merely increased the power of the landlords to say: 'Now

that this land has been cleared, I am going to have a higher price for it.'

"Now we are asked to pass a bill that once more entrenches the right of the biggest swindler of our times, namely, the landlord. \* \* \* It is not stupidity so much as cupidity. It is just this idea: 'We want to protect our friends and our own class.'"

Any summary of this significant debate which the Henry George people of Great Britain probably rightfully consider to be the opening of a great national campaign, would be incomplete without reference to the fine speech of Andrew MacLaren, Labor M. P., from which a few quotations may be made, as follows:

### MACLAREN, M. P. SUMS UP

"I cannot resist the temptation of saying something in reply to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's exuberant and virulent attack on what he was pleased to term the Single Taxer, Henry George, and the taxation of land values. Our Amendment states that what we want is some fundamental reform in the rating system, and the levying of rates on site values, and my right honorable friend (Mr. Snowden) buttressed his argument with telling quotations from the Chancellor's speeches. I remember in my early radical days as a young student of Liberal politics what a devoted reader I was of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I admired the way he took up the challenge of the land owners, and I studied every speech he made. I never thought that the day would come when I should be addressing him as a Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer from the Opposition benches. His apologia today is somewhat half-hearted. When he came to follow my right honorable friend, the member for Colne Valley (Mr. Snowden), he was somewhat compromised, and what compromised him was nothing more nor less than the truth, which he cannot evade, still clinging to his mind as a convinced reasoner on these economic subjects—that the rating of land values is a thing you cannot reply to. You may sneer at it, or laugh at it, but as an economic student, you cannot reply to it, because it is an invincible case. If the right honorable gentleman, the member for Carnarvon (Lloyd George) were in his place, I should have something to say to him too. It was the conduct of the Liberal Party of that day that led to the scrapping of the Budget (1909) and its futile taxes, but none the less it was a Budget that aroused the faith and hope of the population of the country. Finally, we saw it scrapped, the taxes abandoned, and remittances made to the landlords. If I were asked what is the cause of the downfall of the right honorable gentleman, member from Carnarvon, and his party, I should say it was the conduct of the Budget, the hope that it aroused in the populace, and the failure it came to finally in this House.

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer today became a little exasperated in order to find weapons wherewith to meet honorable members below the gangway, and asked what about Henry George? I only wish Henry George were in this House! I happen to know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has done some very thorough reading of Henry George's writings, but I do not think it is altogether fair to make the statement which he did. He said that Henry George believed that land was the only source of wealth."

Mr. Churchill: "Almost the sole source."

Mr. MacLaren: "That makes it worse. Let me rejuvenate the right honorable gentleman's mind on his own reading. Henry George says that labor applied to land and the products of land is the source of wealth production, and he says that no wealth can be produced without the use of land in some shape or form, and that anything we do to help production will only increase the demand for [the raw material, land. That brings us to grips with the proposition now before the House. The right honorable gentleman and those who followed him rather infer that we are not all anxious to unrate and untax industry. I say again that we are. We are anxious to unrate and untax industry so as to give it a chance to get forward. The rates are crippling industry. We are at one with the Government insofar as that proposition is concerned. But you cannot discuss the relief of industry and leave the question there. You must also discuss ways and means of raising money to make up the difference that will be required by the relief given. Unless you take the monopoly values of land as your new basis for assessment, the relief you are now giving will find its re-expression in rent, and will come back to the land owners in some shape or form.

"I have been interested more in the proceedings of the House of Commons today than I think I have ever been on any day that I have ever sat in the House, because I consider this discussion to be fundamental. As a follower of Henry George, and a Single Taxer, if you like, I say that your political or economic beliefs may be whatever color you like, but they will not have the same success as you might hope for unless you deal fundamentally with this question of the land."

## Chester Platt Views the British Situation

LONDON—A superficial observer, and one not altogether grounded in sound land economics, and with an optimistic viewpoint, might suppose that a proper taxation of land value (or shall I say the collection of economic rent?) was about to be put over in England. If not by the present Government then by a Coalition Government after the next election.

Here is the Conservative Party, led by Mr. Churchill who has shown his proficiency as a disciple of Henry George by saying:

"It is quite true that the land monopoly is not the only monopoly which exists, but it is by far the greatest monopoly—it is a perpetual monopoly, and it is the mother of all monopolies. It is quite true that unearned increments in land are not the only form of unearned or undeserved profits which individuals are able to secure; but it is the principal form of unearned increment which is derived from processes which are not beneficial but which are positively detrimental to the general public.

"Land, which is a necessity of human existence, which is the original source of all wealth, which is strictly limited in extent, which is fixed in geographical positions—land, I say, differs from all other forms of property in these primary and fundamental conditions. Nothing is more amusing than to watch the efforts of our monopolistic

opponents to prove that other forms of property and increment are exactly the same, and are similar in all respects to the unearned increment in land."

And here is the Liberal Party declaring in its Manifesto that:

"The Liberal Party seeks to bring the land of Great Britain into its best and fullest use in the interests of the whole population \* \* \* The taxation and rating of Land Values, which will liberate enterprise and transfer to the public those values that have been created by public activity" we favor.

And here is the Labor Party saying in its latest Manifesto:

"The land, both agricultural and urban, the production and distribution of the coal and power which are the life blood of modern industry \* \* \* these and other fundamental necessities are too vital in the welfare of the nation to be organized and exploited for private profit. Without haste, but without rest, with careful preparation, with the use of the best technical knowledge and managerial skill \* \* \* the Labor Party will vest their ownership in the Nation, and their administrative in authority acting on the nation's behalf."

That looks as if all the English Parties were friendly does it not?

But here is the other side to the shield. The quotation attributed to Mr. Churchill was from a speech which he delivered several years ago, when he said a good many things of the same nature.

But since then, he has changed his mind.

As for the Liberal Party, what I quoted was what that party had to say about the taxation of land values in "Towns." As to agriculture land, they had a different proposition.

And the Labor Party, when I quoted from their recent manifesto, the reader probably noticed an elipsis where I put a couple of stars. I left out a phrase indicating that they are committed 'to due compensation.'

However, it is true that the taxation of land values is a very lively topic of debate in Parliament from time to time, and it is pleasing to know that most of the men in public life at least *understand* the fundamentals of the doctrines of Henry George.

And the rank and file of the people understand them too; better, far better than they do in the United States.

In Hyde Park and in Finsbury Park every Sunday, (and sometimes on other days) one may hear enthusiastic advocates of the Taxation of Land Values, or of the collection of economic rent, preaching sound doctrine.

J. W. Graham Peace of *The Commonwealth* has been responsible for a series of meetings which have been held at Finsbury Park which have attracted considerable attention and where converts to the idea of the collection of economic rent have been made, some of whom are now assisting Mr. Peace by weekly contributions to his journal *The Commonwealth*.

Mr. Peace says that *The Commonwealth* circulates in every country in Europe and that he not infrequently finds ex-

tracts from it reproduced in papers which have been translated.

I am unsound enough in my land economics to like Mr. Peace and his *Commonweal*, which denounces the phrase "Taxation of Land Values" as misleading and vicious, and insists that taxation ought to be abolished and that the earth is the birthright of all mankind, and the rent of the land belongs to the people, and the first duty of Government is to collect it and abolish all taxation.

So the Commonwealth Land Party, and its organ *The Commonweal*, demand that on an appointed date, the land shall be declared to have been restored to the people, and thereafter its economic rent shall be collected by and for the people.

I tell Mr. Peace that I am against him as to his methods, but I am with him as to his fundamentals, and I believe he is carrying on an educational work which might not inappropriately be compared to the work done in Anti-Slavery days by William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips.

I have expressed to Mr. Peace a wish that there might be a better cooperation between him and his journal, and John Paul and *Land and Liberty*. Mr. Peace says he wishes so too, but any fusion must be without any compromise on his part of essentials.

So much in recognition of Mr. Peace and the work he is doing. But the most effective and sensible work which is being done to bring about the practical application of the economic principles of Henry George is undoubtedly being done by the United committees for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade. Their publication is *Land and Liberty*, edited by John Paul. How firm a foundation it has, is indicated by the fact that it is now in the 35th year of its publication, and on Monday, July 23rd, there will be held at St. Ermins Restaurant, a dinner in celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the establishment of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Value.

Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation, is expected to arrive in London in a few days to be present at this anniversary dinner, and to also take charge of the meeting of the Committee of the International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade which is to be held at Edinburgh in the summer of 1929.

There has been a large circulation in Great Britain of a speech by Philip Snowden, formerly Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Labor Government of 1924 in which he presents the land value taxation doctrine mostly clearly and vigorously.

He is expected to be at this anniversary dinner and so of course will be present Andrew MacLaren and other members of parliament. It promises to be a notable occasion, and to put some pep into some of the Land Tax

advocates in parliament who are very lazy in their advocacy.

The Land Taxation Movement in Great Britain needs somebody to do for it what Mrs. Pankhurst did for the Women's Suffrage Cause. Members of Parliament were then convinced, but they would not act. Members of Parliament today are convinced, but they will not act. Where is the leader that will do for the Taxation of Land Value what Mrs. Pankhurst did for Suffrage?

—CHESTER C. PLATT

## Henry George Congress to Meet in Chicago

EARLY reservations for the third annual Henry George Congress give assurance that a larger number of states will be represented this year than at either of the previous national conferences held under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation. Not only will all the states of the Middle West send delegates, but also the East, the South and the Pacific Coast. And the enthusiastic support of the Chicago Single Tax Club assures a strong attendance upon the part of Georgists in that city, which has always been a leading center of Single Tax activities.

Many notable figures in the Single Tax movement will appear on the Congress programme which is now rapidly shaping itself, and all elements will be represented. This year the economic problems of the farmer will occupy a prominent place in the discussion, and most appropriately, since the farm question is very much to the front in connection with the political campaign now in progress, and the Congress will meet in Chicago, right in the heart of the farm belt, where the situation is keenly felt.

At the invitation of Chairman Clayton J. Ewing, of the Convention Committee, the American Farm Bureau Federation will assign one of its most able spokesmen to present the facts relating to the present farm situation, so as to give the delegates a clear picture of the actual conditions confronting the agriculturists. Following this address, a prominent Single Tax economist will undertake to analyze the economic elements of the situation and present the true remedy. Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, of the Department of Economics of the University of Missouri, who has attained special prominence of late through the publication of his "Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty," and who has accepted an invitation to address the Congress, will probably undertake to present the Single Tax view of the farmer's situation. This address will be supplemented by another discussion of the problem of farm relief by the Rev. Charles E. Snyder of Sioux City, Iowa, who at one time was President of the Single Tax Club of Pittsburgh, and who has made a special study of the farm problem and its relation to the land question.

Among other prominent speakers whom the committee is prepared to announce at this time are Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, President of the Schalkenbach Foundation and also President of the International Union, now on a European tour, Hon. Warren Worth Bailey, veteran editor of the *Johnstown Democrat*, former Congressman and first President of the Chicago Single Tax Club, Mrs. Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George and Honorary Vice President of the Henry George Foundation, John Z. White, veteran lecturer of the Henry George Lecture Association, Joseph Dana Miller, editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM* and Vice President of the Henry George Foundation, Dr. Preston Bradley, popular pastor of the Peoples Church of Chicago, Ernest B. Gaston, editor of the *Fairhope Courier*, Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow, noted leader of Ohio campaigns, L. V. La Taste, Director of the Texas School Guild, Carl D. Thompson, Secretary of the Public Ownership League of America, Will Atkinson, the indefatigable propagandist, Prof. Aage Moller of the Nysted (Danish) People's College, Emil O. Jorgensen, Secretary of the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League, Charles LeBaron Goeller, the young economist whose entrance into the lecture field is announced elsewhere in this issue, Miss Grace Isabel Colbron, the well known writer and lecturer, Fiske Warren, of Single Tax enclave fame, Hon. John J. Murphy, former Tenement House Commissioner of New York, Henry H. Hardinge, active Chicago leader, and Dr. T. J. Kelley, an outstanding Single Taxer of Iowa. The young peoples section of the Chicago Single Tax Club will be ably represented by Florence Goedde and Marien Tideman.

Reports of the national organization's activities will be presented by the officers of the Henry George Foundation, President George E. Evans, Secretary Percy R. Williams, and Assistant Secretary Francis W. Maguire.

With evidences of greater activity in the movement throughout the United States than at any time since the opening of the great war, reports of progress are expected to be one of the most interesting features of the Congress. Questions of policy and method are also scheduled for earnest consideration and will be dealt with by several of the speakers on the programme, in recognition of the growing interest on the part of Single Taxers in the effort to develop new and better methods of organization and popularization.

A liturgy dedicated to Henry George and his philosophy has been especially prepared for this Congress by Rev. A. W. Littlefield, of Middleborough, Mass., who took a prominent part in last year's Congress at New York. This will be an attractive feature of the Congress, which, while not held on the actual birthday of Henry George because of that date not being a convenient one for convention purposes, is nevertheless intended to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the world's great philosopher and economist.

As heretofore, the Dominion of Canada will be represented at the Congress and, while no definite announcement is possible at this time, the committee is hoping to have representatives of some other nations present. In any event, the very latest news from abroad will be conveyed to the Congress by the President of the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values, former Senator Hennessy, who will return to the United States early in September, and among other things will tell us of the plans for the international convention at Edinburgh, Scotland, to be held in July, 1929.

Invitations have been mailed to several thousand persons and the committee is planning for a larger attendance than was had at either of the very successful conferences that were held at Philadelphia and New York. Very appropriately, all sessions of the Henry George Congress will be held at the Congress Hotel and the hotel management is providing most admirable accommodations and is giving its hearty cooperation.

The annual banquet will be one of the red letter events and there will be a luncheon meeting each day during the Congress, including a special luncheon for the members of the Board of Trustees and Advisory Commission of the Henry George Foundation. A public meeting is planned for the opening night of the convention. Hon. Wiley W. Mills, prominent Chicago Single Taxer and member of the City Council, will deliver the address of welcome.

The official programme will be available about the middle of August and will probably contain the names of other prominent speakers, as well as those assigned to preside at the various sessions, and the topics to be discussed. The committee has received letters of regret from a number of prominent persons including Hon. Clarence C. Dill, of Washington, Hon. George W. Norris, of Nebraska, Orville Wright, Norman Thomas, Socialist nominee for President, Hon. Josephus Daniels, Hon. Newton D. Baker, Jackson H. Ralston, Lawson Purdy, Frank Stephens, Prof. John R. Commons, Hon. George H. Duncan, Frederic C. Howe, Hon. John J. Lentz, Arthur W. Roebeck, Hon. Peter Witt and Dr. Frank Crane.

Chairman C. J. Ewing has his Convention Committee thoroughly organized to take care of the various phases of the work and is ably assisted by capable sub-committee chairmen, including such active workers as Otto Cullman, Henry Tideman, Andrew P. Canning, Leo Heller and John Lawrence Monroe; George M. Strachan serving as Vice Chairman, Convention publicity is under the direction of Mr. Heller who is leaving no stone unturned to bring the Henry George Congress prominently before the public.

Those having either questions or suggestions with reference to the Congress, or desiring reservations, are invited to communicate with Secretary P. R. Williams at the national headquarters, 1306 Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

All indications point to a highly interesting and profitable Congress and a cordial invitation to attend is extended not only to Single Taxers of all shades of opinion, but to all persons interested in economic and social problems and their solution. Make your plans early so that you will not miss this notable gathering.

## Foundation Active With Summer Lecture Tours

**D**URING the past two months William N. McNair, the well-known Pittsburgh Single Tax speaker, has been unusually active and has filled many engagements throughout Pennsylvania before various clubs and other organizations. As the Democratic nominee for the office of United States Senator, Mr. McNair's public appearances attract special attention, but his engagements thus far have been with non-partisan groups and have been directed to the presentation of the Single Tax as a remedy for unemployment and a means for stimulating business and promoting general prosperity.

On his recent Pennsylvania lecture tour, Mr. McNair covered the following engagements: June 5, Springdale Chamber of Commerce and Homestead Kiwanis Club; June 6, Tarentum Kiwanis and New Kensington Lions Club; June 11, New Castle and Woodlawn Rotary Clubs; June 12, Zelenople Lutheran Brotherhood; June 13, Wilmerding Rotary; June 14, Ellwood City Kiwanis; June 19, Irwin Kiwanis; June 20, St. James Lutheran Church; June 26, McKeesport Kiwanis; June 27, Wilksburg Lions; July 5, Johnstown Rotary; July 9, Erie Lions; July 26, Washington and Mt. Pleasant Kiwanis Clubs; July 31, Steelton Kiwanis; August 1, Harrisburg Optimist Club.

Mr. McNair reports a general interest in taxation and economic problems and has a very encouraging response to his lectures in the form of questions and comments.

Secretary Percy R. Williams has been very busily engaged on arrangements for the Henry George Congress during the past month or two, but has continued to make occasional speeches as opportunities were afforded. His recent engagements included lectures before the Rotary Clubs of Braddock and Homestead, Pa., and the Kiwanis Club of Girard, Ohio.

President George E. Evans, of the Henry George Foundation, spent a short vacation at Fred Howe's School of Opinion on Nantucket Island during July, where he reports having a very interesting time discussing philosophy with Mr. Howe, Will Durant and other lecturers appearing on the summer programme there. Mr. Evans has also been active from time to time as a speaker for the Foundation. Recently he appeared before the Lions Club of McKeesport, Pa., and the Kiwanis Club of New Kensington, Pa., speaking with particular reference to the

Pittsburgh tax plan as an example of a scientific tax principle in actual application.

For the first time during its four years of constant activity, the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh has suspended its formal speaking programme for the summer months of July and August. Informal round table discussions, however, have been provided for and members, not absent from the city, are meeting as usual for luncheon every Friday at the Chamber of Commerce. The regular speaking programme will be resumed in September.

## Palestine, the Jewish Agency Commission and the Mandate

**W**E go back to February of this year when Mr. W. W. Norwalk published in *The Jewish Forum* his notable article entitled "A Simple Interpretation of Judaism," the appearance of which was briefly noted in May-June issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, in which notice we promised to print in later issue extracts from the article itself.

We confine ourselves in the quotations that follow to that part of Mr. Norwalk's article dealing with the land legislation of Judaism. He tells us:

"To have the earth yield its best continuously, all the fields had to lie fallow every seventh year and wild animals were allowed to pasture thereon. Together with the prohibition against the use of fruit of the young trees the first three years, this was best for the fertilization of the land. Every seventh year a moratorium was to be declared and all debts were wiped out. No one was humiliated by being compelled to go through the procedure of bankruptcy. Every one's credit was reestablished and one could start over again. Therefore after Shemita, the Torah says, "There will be no poor among you." But if this did not help and one sold out all of his possessions during forty-nine years, then came the fiftieth year, the year of the Jubilee. Let me quote, "And you shall proclaim economic freedom to all the inhabitants, and every one shall return unto his estate." So, having been freed from all debts by Shemita and coming back into his unencumbered estate, everyone would become an economically free man and would be able comfortably to take care of his family—and the whole nation will realize the blessing. "And I will instill peace in the land, and you will dwell securely in the land." The Talmud tells us that it was because the Jews did not obey the laws concerning the Jubilee and Shemita that they were driven from the land."

Mr. Norwalk goes on to say that these laws were for an agricultural country where each family possessed land, and that to accomplish the same purpose modern methods must be adopted for Palestine. He reasons as follows:

"Now as the selling price of the land depends on its rent and the rent is taken annually by the government, it would become unprofitable to pay rent on natural resources with-

out using them. Present possessors of valuable resources who make no use of them, would necessarily surrender them. In this manner would be accomplished what was intended by the Jubilee. Everyone would have free access to all opportunities, whoever had the inclination, ability, and desire and paid the annual rent to the government. The proceeds of this annual rent would be sufficient to cover the legitimate expenditures of all necessary governmental services required by a civilized population, because the better the services and the larger the community, the greater the proportionate increase in the rentable values of the opportunities mentioned. Therefore no tax would be necessary, and the citizens would cease being robbed through burdens (taxes) when they produce, import, or accumulate wealth.

As this rent is solely the creation of the aggregation of civilized population plus the necessitated government service—for this very reason the proceeds belong exclusively to the population for the maintenance of its governmental services.

Thus also would the injunction, "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue," be carried out. The user of the land would escape the payment of the purchasing price, or rent, to the supposed owner, and would not pay taxes on the products of his labor and capital. He would then be able to sell his products very cheaply."

Mr. Norwalk shows what would result from the adoption of this plan of simple justice, adequate remuneration to labor, reassurance as to the future peace with nations abroad and tranquility at home, and he concludes:

"Thus the promise of the Torah following the law of Jubilee, "And you will dwell in your land in safety", would be achieved. Thus we have learned that Judaism strives to instruct everyone how to enjoy life in this world. Of course, knowing that this world was created so that everyone might be free and happy, Judaism trusts that the world after death will exceed the present life in happiness."

Mr. Norwalk did not stop with the writing of this article. He interviewed Judge Brandeis, Judge Julius N. Mack, Louis Marshall and Dr. Weitzmann; he kept his typewriter busy with letters to Zionists and non-Zionists prominent here and abroad; he kept Jewish periodicals in Great Britain and this country supplied with material arguments in appreciation of our principles to the new government of Palestine under the British mandate.

In June, 1927, a committee was appointed jointly by the Zionists organization and by non-Zionists to visit Palestine and ascertain what could be done to facilitate the establishment of the homeland for the Jewish people. The committee consisted of Sir Alfred Mond, Lee K. Frankel, Felix M. Warburg, and Oscar Wassermann, they to go to Palestine, employ specialists and report their findings.

In June of this year the committee met in London and submitted their report to Dr. Weitzmann, president of the Zionists organization, and Louis Marshall, representing the non-Zionists, and this was printed in *The New Palestine*, weekly organ of the Zionists organization, which called the Report "an historic document."

At this juncture Mr. Norwalk addressed a letter to Sir Alfred Mond, resident member of this committee, enclosing the article from which we have quoted and another article entitled "The Best Way to Colonize Palestine," which was a treatment of the question from the economic standpoint. In this letter he states:

"You will notice that the proposition mentioned in the accompanying articles has been placed before the Zionists organization, the English Government and the local Palestinian Government many times and acquiesced in by each and every one of them as being the only means to prevent the periodical cataclysms in Palestine as a result of trying to colonize a people without giving them free access to natural opportunities.

Now that you are assembled at the seat of the English government would it be asking too much of your Honorable Body that you approach said government to work out some scheme akin to the one I propose in accordance with the mandate."

It should be stated that both Louis Marshall and Dr. Weitzmann were present at the deliberations of the Commission and that their suggestions must have had weight with the members. It should be noted too, that this Commission derives its powers from the Mandate which provides in explicit terms that the Jewish Agency for Palestine "shall take steps in consultation with His Majesty's Government to secure the cooperation of all Jews who are willing to assist in the establishment of the Jewish National Home."

Under the head of Agriculture (paragraph 5) the Commissioners urge that:

"No progressive colonization in Palestine is practicable until modification of the present system of taxation is effected. The Commissioners are aware that the government of Palestine has adopted as a temporary expedient a plan for the commutation of the Tithe based on the average of five years yield of the land. This, however, has been applied only in certain villages. Although this new system eliminates some of the major evils of the Tithe, it will not prove satisfactory, *since taxation should be based not on the actual yield but on the unimproved value of the property to be taxed.*

It is easy to belittle this as an innocent recommendation which does not go very far. But it starts something in the right way. The next move will be to raise the matter in the House of Commons and with the aid of the Land Values Group in the House to bring the whole question up for discussion with all it connotes.

Later we learn that on July 27 of this year the Executive Committee of the World Zionist organization met in Berlin and after a debate lasting over a week endorsed the Report by a vote of 34 to 4.

PEOPLE do not argue with the teaching of Henry George; they simply do not know it. Those who become acquainted with it cannot but agree. The teaching of George is irresistably convincing in its simplicity and clearness."—TOLSTOY.

## Local Activities

**D**URING the Spring and Summer the Commonwealth Land Party group have carried on open air meetings in this city at 97th Street and Broadway every Saturday evening. Messrs. Van Veen, Lloyd, Abrams, Goldsmith, Smacky and Miss Corinne Carpenter have addressed large and responsive audiences. On Saturday, July 28th, over a thousand persons, it is estimated, were in the crowd and there are seldom less than two or three hundred to listen. Both Mr. Van Veen and Mr. Lloyd have fine voices for out-door speaking. At all these meetings large quantities of literature are distributed.

Always there are some objectors who want to argue the matter rather than ask questions which are answered at the close, and many amusing incidents occur. At a recent meeting a man announced himself as a landlord at the conclusion of a speech by George Lloyd, and asked: "How many persons in this audience do you imagine agree with you?"

Mr. Lloyd replied that it made no difference how many agreed with him, that what he was saying was the truth which every man must seek to discover for himself, that it was only the truth that was important and not the number of men who accepted it.

The gentleman continued: "You are afraid to leave it to a vote of those in this crowd."

Mr. Lloyd answered: "It makes no difference, as I have said, how many agree with me. But the gentleman has challenged, so I will put it to a vote. So here goes: How many here are in favor of the Astors spending the land rents you pay them in lavish expenditure in England while your wages are used to run the city?"

Mr. Lloyd called for a show of hands. In the affirmative four hands went up to over one hundred in the negative.

"Now," said Mr. Lloyd, "I will put the question in another way: "How many are in favor of using the ground rents of the city to pay the cost of government while leaving your wages which now pay the taxes in your pockets?"

On the affirmative there was a unanimous show of hands, the four objectors having slunk away. The main objector made haste to get out of the crowd amid the laughter and calls of those gathered around the speaker.

The response must have surprised Mr. Lloyd himself.

In this mention of local activities we are glad to chronicle the news that George Lloyd has spoken four times from radio station W P C H on Saturday evenings and will continue for some time longer.

**I**N a study of salaries paid to priests of the Protestant Episcopal Church in a campaign conducted by the *Churchman* it is proved to the satisfaction of that authority that four-fifths of the clergy in that denomination receive less than a living wage.—N. Y. *Sun*.

## Charles LeBaron Goeller Enters the Lecture Field

**W**E are glad to announce that arrangements have been completed whereby Mr. Chas. LeBaron Goeller, of Union, N. Y., will be able to give his time to Single Tax lecture work during the coming Fall and Spring.

Those who were present at the Henry George Congress in New York last September when Mr. Goeller delivered his address, will remember the favorable impression made by his method of presenting the economic laws on which the Single Tax is based. This address, (later printed in *LAND AND FREEDOM*), has led to the present plan of bringing this aspect of George's teachings before a wider audience. Much of the lecture work in recent years has dealt primarily with the method proposed by Henry George and in the discussion of taxation has of necessity been restricted in scope. It is believed that there is need also, of reviving the discussion of those other aspects of George's teachings,—the relation of Rent and Wages, the functions of labor and capital—along the lines pointed out by Mr. Goeller in his address. Largely, this was the scope of the lectures and charts originated by Louis F. Post and used by a number of other Single Tax lecturers with much success.

Special effort will be made to secure a hearing for Mr. Goeller before school and college classes, as lectures which he has been able to give to such classes have been well received. But he will be glad to speak before audiences of a general character whenever this can be arranged.

Our readers are asked to co-operate in securing opportunities for such talks, before clubs, forums, church societies, etc.,—wherever opportunity can be had for a presentation of the moral and economic aspects of the Single Tax philosophy.

In order to keep down traveling expenses, Mr. Goeller will have to limit his trips, in general, to within a reasonable radius from his home; say within 200 or 300 miles of New York City; except as trips may be arranged for longer distances with stops en route. He will attend the Henry George Congress in Chicago September 10, 11 and 12, and would be able to stop off on his return trip, or to fill some engagements in or around Chicago. Later on in the Fall, it is the intention to arrange a number of lectures in and around New York City.

To avoid possible confusion with any other enterprise of this nature, Mr. Goeller will conduct this work under the title of the "Progress and Poverty Lecture Bureau," with the cooperation of a small committee consisting of A. C. Pleydell, Charlotte Schetter and Joseph Dana Miller.

For the present Mr. Goeller will continue to reside at Union and make that his headquarters. Therefore correspondence concerning possible engagements for lectures



should be addressed directly to Chas. LeBaron Goeller, Union, N. Y.

It is expected, however, that this lecture work will be carried on in close cooperation with the Henry George Foundation, which organization will assist in obtaining lecture engagements, supplying literature, and in other ways endeavoring to make this new enterprise a marked success.

## Common Lands on Long Island

THE southern shore of Long Island is mostly low, marshy land, with numerous bays and inlets; fronted by a series of long sand-bars, some of which have become extremely valuable as summer resort property, such as Coney Island, Rockaway, and Long Beach. These low lands were originally the property of the various Towns (townships) by grant from the King of England. As these common lands became valuable they gradually passed into private hands, usually for much less than they were worth.

The Town of Hempstead, however, still retains about 11,000 acres, just east of the New York City line and northeast of Long Beach. By act of the Legislature, 1928, these lands are put under the jurisdiction of a Planning Commission for development. Being marshy land considerable draining will be necessary, but the commission intends to develop waterways, establish parks and golf courses, and create sites for residence property. Under the law this common land cannot be sold; it must be leased for not more than 65 years; and if for more than a term of fifteen years, it must be re-appraised at the end of such time and every ten years thereafter and a new rent fixed. The land being owned by the Town will not be taxed, but charges may be assessed for public improvements; and buildings will be taxable at the same rate as other property.

The Town of Oyster Bay also owns as common lands, an area of some two miles square on Jones Beach, which adjoins Long Beach to the east. The State is planning a fine Shore boulevard which will span the channel separating these two beaches, and continuing along Jones Beach, open up this hitherto inaccessible spot.

Some speculative interests connected apparently with the Long Island Railroad have cast a covetous eye upon this beach property, and have come forward with a proposal remarkable for colossal impudence—offering to lease a square mile of this beach for 99 years at the rent of \$1,000 a year. Considering that this area would divide up into 10,000 lots, and that it is a poor bungalow lot along the shore anywhere near the city which does not rent for \$10 a year upward, the possible profit is obvious. And when the ocean front boulevard is finished in a few years values of course will soar.

The Hicksville Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting voted overwhelming to oppose this project, after it

had been vigorously criticized by Dr. E. Curtis, of Hicksville, as an effort to get possession of the beach before the people appreciated the enormous value this property would have when this highway was completed.

Dr. Curtis was well equipped to take part in this discussion as he has been educated in those matters by our old associate, Edward Polak.

## Providence Will Celebrate

AT a recent meeting of Single Taxers of Providence, R. I., it was decided to hold a celebration of the 49th anniversary of the birth of "Progress and Poverty" on September 29, 1928, at which meeting former Alderman John Kelso will preside. The meeting will be held at the Palestine Shrine Club.

Visiting Single Taxers and their lady friends are cordially invited. Those who can be present are asked to communicate with David Fraser, 25 Burlington street, Providence, R. I.

## William Bradford DuBois

ONE of the most consistent fighters for a cause that this city has ever had in its midst was William Bradford DuBois, who died Sunday night at 74.

It did not matter to him that the thing he fought for was a lost cause, and as far as his own lifetime was concerned, a hopeless cause. All that he knew was that to him the Single Tax seemed to be the only cure for whatever economic ills afflicted the world, and that its prophet, Henry George, was a great and wise leader worth following. And those who knew him will testify that William Bradford DuBois fought for the Single Tax standard with intelligence and gallantry.

To ascribe to him these latter qualities is to say in another way that Mr. DuBois was not a fanatic. Like Henry George, who was an undisputed master of reasoning and a writer who deserves to be read for his literary qualities alone, he appealed to men's minds rather than to their mob emotions. Nor did he forget that as a public-spirited resident of a growing city, he had duties quite aside from the self-chosen mission of radically changing a governmental system. Thus we find that in the course of his many years here he was instrumental in the establishment of the Free Public Library and in the organization of the Independence Day Association, a body which annually concerns itself with the proper observance of the birthday anniversary of the United States.

In the death of Mr. DuBois a great many people of the city have lost a fine friend and the city itself a worthy citizen.

—Editorial, Bayonne (N. J.) *Times*.

DOES not this issue show impressive evidence of advance?

## The Coming International Conference

THE International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade will assemble in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 29, 1929, and will continue to and including August 3.

Incidentally, it is to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "Progress and Poverty."

The auditorium and committee rooms of the United Free Church in Edinburgh have been engaged for the occasion. These are said to afford one of the finest and most spacious assembly places in Great Britain.

"We are building a framework of the greatest Conference yet held here or anywhere else to promote the Henry George plan of campaign," writes John Paul.

The President of the International Union, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, sailed for Great Britain in July to participate in the meeting of the Executive Committee for arranging a programme and details of the Conference.

## Taxation and How Revenue is Being Raised

PRESIDENT OF MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB GIVES HIS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT

AS a new added feature in the *Times* we will publish once a month an article on taxation. These articles are prepared by James R. Brown, President of the Manhattan Single Tax club of New York City. Mr. Brown is an authority on taxation and is well known to Batavians. He has spoken here on three occasions on the subject, twice before the Kiwanis club and once before the Rotary club, and through his talks on sensible taxation he has won many over to the method of handling taxation adopted by the club, of which he is president. The contention of the Manhattan Single Tax club is that all assessments should be made on land values instead of property values, and Mr. Brown has often pointed out how a citizen or taxpayer who improves a piece of vacant property by building a fine residence upon it, or a business building, and does a service to his community, is later punished by the community with an unjust tax, while the owner of the vacant property beside the one improved is let off easy with only a very small assessment for being a "land hog."

We know these articles will be very interesting and the feature we are bringing once a month will be educational on the subjects of assessment and taxation. The first article of the series is as follows:

"Taxation is the most important thing in civilized life. How we raise public revenue has a greater influence for good or evil in human society than anything else we do individually or collectively, it is the omnipotent hand that opens or closes the door of opportunity. It can give

food to the hungry, clothing to the naked, shelter to the outcast, or it can and does take property from the industrious and comforts from the thrifty. It can turn hell into heaven or heaven into hell.

"The power to tax is the supreme power of the whole people. It is the power to create, it is the power to destroy. The right use of this great power will make the desert bloom like unto a garden; the wrong use is to lay waste the garden like unto a desert.

"We can encourage industry, help development and stimulate progress, or we can do as we now do—punish thrift, give a premium to idleness, strangle industry, destroy progress and lay waste the natural opportunities of labor and capital. The important thing about taxation is the incidence. Taxes that fall upon labor values restrict production and increase the cost of living. Taxes that fall on land values open up opportunities to labor and capital, raise wages and interest and lower ground rent.

"Taxation is payment for social service. Honesty in taxation requires the community to charge for what it does for the citizen, but not to charge the citizen for what the citizen does for himself. Our present system of taxation is simply confusion worse confounded. Our tax lists are but collections of guesses from top to bottom and involve the crimes of grand and petit larceny.

"We rob the citizen of his private property when we tax labor products and we rob society of social property when we fail to take for social use all land value. We raise social revenue by taking from every man who can show tangible evidence that he has done something for himself, and at the same time we give millions every year of social value to those who cannot show that they have rendered any service whatever to themselves or to society.

"The only and the true measure of the value of social presence and service to a citizen, is the value of the land of which he has exclusive possession. Land value is the value that attaches to land, irrespective and independent of the improvements thereon, and reflects, not personal effort and production, but social presence and social activities. A large city with modern social utilities, will have much land value. A small village with few and poor public utilities, will have little land value.

"All social activities are reflected at once in increased value of land, not in the increased value of the buildings or personal property. When, for instance, we change from a low-pressure water system to a high-pressure system, the lots of the town, vacant as well as improved, increase in value because of the change, but the buildings do not."

—Batavia, N. Y., *Times*.

"I DON'T believe in anything else but free trade all around. I don't know what a tariff means, except that it means giving one crowd an advantage over another. Free trade is competition. . . ."—HENRY FORD.

## Iowa Farmers Need Square Deal

THE McNary-Haugen bill is economically unsound. Of course. So is the protective tariff. Dr. Haugen who has traded in unsoundnesses all his life, contended that two injustices would result in justice to the farmers. The cure for the farmer's ills isn't going to be found in some magic system in which everybody can ride on somebody else's back, and everybody can pick somebody else's pocket. The cure is to be found in everybody standing on his own feet and everybody taking his hand out of everybody else's pocket. Under such an arrangement, the Iowa farmer, who farms the richest land that the sun shines on, who has the best machinery human mind has devised, and who uses the best farming methods on earth, will not need government aid, nor the sympathy of scheming politicians. What Iowa farmers need is not charity, but a square deal.

—*Decorah (Iowa) Journal.*

## Henry George

EVERY young person should take the time to read carefully and to study Henry George's "Progress and Poverty."

Tolstoy said: "People do not argue with the teaching of Henry George. They simply do not know it. Those who become acquainted with it cannot but agree. The teaching of George is irresistibly convincing in its simplicity and clearness."

Anything that is thus wholeheartedly recommended by such a man as Tolstoy at least deserves our passing notice.

Many learned professors scout with scorn any suggestion coming from Henry George. They consider him as a faddist and a fanatical enthusiast.

It is certain, however, that there is something wrong with our present system of taxation. It does not bear equally upon the whole population and, in many instances, it is oppressive and unjust. Those who are doing the most to promote the welfare of the country are most thoroughly fined for their activities.

Do not take what other people around you say. Think for yourself. Read Henry George. I do not hesitate to say that it is the most instructive book on political economics that I have ever read.

Henry George's books have had a circulation of more than six million in English alone, and have been translated into Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Finnish, Danish, Swedish, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, Hungarian and Italian.

We cannot resist the conviction that there must be something to writings that have been so thoroughly appreciated by the population of the world.

Newton D. Baker, former Secretary of War, said: "I have re-read this address and come away with the con-

viction that Henry George should be studied in all our colleges as a master of style. I know no other man of American prose, with the solitary exception of Woodrow Wilson, whose elevation of thought and dignity of language are so overwhelming."

Elbert Hubbard wrote: "The logic of Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty' and its literary style have been so insistent, that it has been studied closely by economists of note in every country on the globe. Its argument has never been answered."

—DR. FRANK CRANE.

## Hon. George Fowlds Knighted

HON GEORGE FOWLDS, of New Zealand, has been knighted by the King and the Auckland papers have been full of accounts of his distinguished public services. The *Auckland Star* contains the fullest and most satisfactory summary. We quote:

"Sir George Fowlds has for many years been one of the best-known figures in the public life of New Zealand. Born at Fenwick, Ayrshire, in 1860, he worked on the farm of his father and at the loom, and left school at the age of 12. His father was Mr. Matthew Fowlds, a hand-loom weaver, who died as the result of an accident at the age of 101. Many people in New Zealand have heard of his interesting life and the hand-loom which he worked until the last year of his life may be seen at the Auckland Museum."

\* \* \* \* \*

"The Parliamentary career of Sir George Fowlds dates back to the year 1899, when he was elected as one of the three representatives of Auckland City. In 1902 he became the first member for Grey Lynn, a seat which he held until 1911. He joined the Ward Ministry in August, 1906, accepting the portfolio of Education and Public Health, and for five years ably administered these and other Departments of the State. A happy event in the life of Sir George was when in 1910 he returned to South Africa, not as a private citizen, but as the representative of the first Union Parliament. Sir George has the distinction of having been one of the ablest Ministers of Education in New Zealand."

## We Fancy Mr. McGroarty Knows

ONE day while we were talking with the owner of a very large tract of land which he had surveyed into comparatively small units and had advertised for sale on the public market, a man came up to him and said he would like to have about five hundred acres of the land.

The owner said very well, he said, and do you want to pay cash down or do you want terms, or is it that you merely are asking for an option?

The visitor made a strange reply. He said you would want money to pay for an option on your land, wouldn't you? And the owner said yes, of course. Then the man

said I have fifty families ready to move somewhere on land, improve it, make it valuable by their very residence and to make valuable all the vacant land around them. And this being a great opportunity for you, he said to the owner, I am here to ask your best bid on an option for these fifty families.

At first the big land owner was inclined to be angry at what he considered a piece of impudence. But, as the matter was argued pro and con, he began to see the light. It dawned on him that the presence of fifty families on a portion of his land would enormously increase the value of the vacant part of it in every direction.

Some of these days it will be better understood that every human being on the face of the earth has a specific value in dollars and cents. And when this doctrine is fully recognized and accepted, it ought to result in the total abolition of poverty and want.

The latest statistics tell us that there are six million idle men in the United States at the present hour. Of course, six million human beings out of a total of one hundred and twenty million is not very great. The wonder is that there are not a great many more men forced to be idle than there are. Our system of civilization is not only unwarrantably complex, but it is stupid to the last degree. Here is a country vast in proportion, inexhaustible in natural resources of every description, with almost boundless areas of fertile land unoccupied, and yet there are idleness and poverty and want.

Some day somebody will stumble upon a simple solution that will change all these unhappy conditions.—JOHN STEVEN MCGROARTY in Los Angeles, (Calif.) *Times*.

## No Place for a Baby

**G**OD called a Baby into the World. Its father had died a week before it was born. Its mother died when it was born. A kind Samaritan kept it for two years. Then the Samaritan died. So the Baby fared forth into the World, into which God had called it.

It traveled along the highway, but the Motorists shoved it away. "You have no right on the road," they said.

"But the World is my Home," responded the Child.

"Don't you know that the Pedestrian has no rights? You'll have to get off."

Then the child got off the road and soon the Owner of the Land came along and ordered the Child off his property.

"But God called me here," excused the child.

"Have you no property?" asked the Owner.

"The World is my home."

"That won't help you. You must get off my land. The Sacred Rights of Property must be preserved."

"But where can I find land for me to stand and sleep on?" asked the ignorant Child.

"There is none. It is all owned."

So the Child came to the City. It kept to the sidewalks. Wearing by much walking it sat down on the curb-stone. A Policeman came and ordered the Child to move on. It walked, walked, walked, until the streets were lighted and the lights danced queer little dances, finally went out. As the darkness came, the Child murmured, "I think God made a mistake. He sent me to the wrong world."

That night the little body lay in the morgue. In the course of time, the governors, legislators, judges, land-owners and motorists died. Then God asked them some questions about Law and Property.

Editorial—Freehold (N. J.) *Transcript*.

## Did Henry George Live in Vain?

**T**HIS is the title of a three page article in the August number of *The World Tomorrow*, by Joseph Dana Miller, published at 52 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City. In this article the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM reviews the history of the Single Tax movement and presents the formidable list of actual achievements in legislation, winding up with this statement: "Every instance given of land value taxation and accompanying exemption of improvements has occurred since Progress and Poverty was written in 1879."

Mr. Miller concludes his article by saying: "The sturdy little American who died in 1879 has set in motion an impulse which is felt in every Council Chamber and Legislative Hall in Christendom."

## From A Conservative Democratic Daily

**O**NE of the primary causes for the delay in the opening of Delaware river fronts to manufacture has been landowners along the waterway insisting on holding their acreage for prices in excess of its fair valuation. Perhaps the Henry George Single Tax plan would have crowded the factory sites with humming industries long ago.

—Wilmington *Every Evening*.

"**T**HE landowner has a monopoly of what individuals and the community must use. He can exact the utmost the users of land can afford to pay. If they get relief in any direction, or if from any cause such as increased production, their capacity to pay is increased the landlord can command a higher rent."

—PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P., in *John Bull*, March 24, 1928.

**J.P.** in *Land and Liberty*, for April writes: "No industrial equipment, no human ingenuity can better the conditions of things while land monopoly and land speculation exist to mop up the surplus and to force millions of citizens to search in vain for employment."

## The Pittsburg Half Rate Tax

PITTSBURGH, planning a national advertising campaign for itself, can find an excellent suggestion in an article by McAlister Coleman in the April number of the *Forum*. This relates to Pittsburgh's graded tax system by which building is encouraged through assessing improvements at half the rate applied to land. With this reduction made gradually, the effect of the principle was at first scarcely noticed, but in the past few years, with the full cut applying, building admittedly has been stimulated to a considerable extent through the virtual penalty placed upon holding land in idleness. It is a modified application of the Single Tax idea, and the Henry George Club naturally looks upon it as its special care or crown. But the success attributed to it must eventually give the entire city a keen pride in it. Mr. Coleman declares it well worth the attention of the rest of the country, saying:

"If in your community, taxes and the housing problem, land values and the rising costs of government conspire together to perplex and torment, take my advice—go look at Pittsburgh."

In this plan Pittsburgh has something in leadership to offer the country. It has demonstrated not only that this tax system will work, but that it will work well. At first there were some who fought it—the Legislature even was persuaded to repeal it, but it was saved by Governor Brumbaugh who vetoed the repealer. Years ago the opposition to it was dropped. The only conclusion is that it has proved its value.

What is good for one city ought to be good for another.  
—Pittsburgh *Post Gazette*.

WAR is not to be persuaded out of existence. Our only hope for an era of continued peace is to recognize and deal with the causes of international conflict. These are largely economic. They are not wholly so, and the economic cause is frequently overlaid with numerous layers of insulation made up of high-sounding protestations of patriotism, national honor and national rights. It is the task of the sincere worker for world peace to cut through these outer layers and lay bare the real cause of dispute, and to demand that the statesmen of the world deal with these sanely and constructively.

—From a recently published work, "Back of War," by HENRY KITTREDGE NORTON.

THE Presbyterian Hospital block is a part of the five acres that were bought by Robert Lenox in 1818 for \$500. Mr. Lenox admitted afterward that he thought he had paid "too much" for the property yet he urged it upon his son before he died in 1839 that he should hold on to the land because he thought it would be more valuable in the future. In 1864 some of the 198 lots that Mr. Lenox bought at an acreage value of about \$2.23 a lot

were sold for an average of \$5,557 a lot. In 1874 the value had risen to about \$30,000 a lot. In 1900 to about \$50,000. Today lots in the vicinity are selling for about \$250,000.

The five acres covered by the hospital were sold for about \$7,000,000. This makes the lot value about \$215,000.

—*Real Estate Magazine*.

THE establishment of permanent peace presupposes an entire revision of the purposes and functions of political government. More than this, it presupposes radical revision of our existing economic system. A pretense for anything short of this is a mere reversion to shamanism; and our politicians and our peace societies are simply incapable of contemplating anything of the kind. —ALBERT J. NOCK, in "Peace by Incantation," *Harper's Magazine*, May 1928.

TO guard against the loss of the family stake, through the improvidence of any of its members, provision was made for the cancellation of all debts against person or property in the year of Jubilee. At any time between the Jubilee years, debts might be contracted, individuals might even be sold into slavery, but the next Jubilee year annulled all such contracts. In that joyful year all Jewish citizens must be freed and all indebted estates returned without encumbrance.

Another section of the law which was calculated to preserve a middle class was the method of taxation. All taxes were to be levied on the income of land, which economically is a tax on rent, a provision which made land speculation all but impossible. The application of these laws left no place for the idle rich or the idle poor. Each man was at the same time capitaist and laborer, employer and employee.

The Apostles also deal with the labor question. Three things cried to God, the blood of Abel, the sin of Sodom, and defrauded labor, in an age when it took fifteen day's work to get a bushel of wheat. Paul enjoins workingmen to labor as for Christ, and the employer to remember that both they and their servants have Christ for their master. Both masters and men shall receive a second reward from Christ for faithful service.

May it not be that the Church of God has sinned away the centuries in failing to preach and to practice the economic ideals of the Word of God until the red revolution must come to urge the reluctant church to her neglected task. Even now the masses of the mills and the factories have turned away from the church, which had its institution among those who labored with their hands, and are eating the forbidden fruit of atheistic teachers, who have promised that through this eating their eyes will be opened on the good things of this life.

—Adopted by the Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian (Covenanter) Church, June 7, 1920.

## A Pamphlet from Palestine

A PAMPHLET by Elias M. Epstein published by Azriel Press on Jerusalem and entitled "The Case for the Jewish National Fund, A Challenge to Zionists," has reached us. Mr. Epstein begins his argument as follows:

The challenge to Zionists is not, therefore, so much to defend the integrity of the Keren Kayemeth: we may safely assume that the hundreds of thousands of Jews who love the land, who are inspired by the *Torah* injunction to redeem the soil, and whose devotion to the Keren Kayemeth has brought it in pennies and Pfennige over 2 million pounds—these men and women will not easily endure any change in the constitution of the Keren Kayemeth which would render its 213,000 *dunams* of people's land so many parcels of private property.

Further on Mr. Epstein says:

It is recognized by holders of all shades of political thought that land is too valuable a thing, not only monetarily, to be subject to the pranks and fluctuations of private speculation. In old fully developed countries reformers of all kinds struggle to remove or mitigate the land monopoly which strikes at the root of every economic and social problem. Many who are not followers of Henry George realize that land is the key to prosperity and to treat it as a commodity made by man is a false conception. The pressure of progressive opinion in these countries reveals itself in measures designed to break up large estates held out of use and so to "free the soil for the people."

In newer countries like Australia and New Zealand laws have been passed in time to ensure better distribution among all the inhabitants of the rent from the land. If elsewhere the land is vital to the nation, in Palestine, an old land which for us is new, it is trebly so. The argument that unless we possess the land we shall possess nothing, need only be stated to be understood. But when that is granted what is meant by "we"?

The writer of this pamphlet then states the inevitable results of rising land values under present conditions as population increases and industrial development advances.

Land inevitably rises in value wherever development proceeds. You cannot prevent land values from rising if population increases. The enhanced value is the product of improvements which are effected on the land by the application of the labor and capital of the population. Land being essential to life and there being a *limited* quantity, the growth of the community increases demand and reduces the available supply. The owner of the land need do nothing to improve it but it will become in time more valuable owing to the efforts of others—road and rail construction, building of factories and then villages in its vicinity, etc. It is clear, therefore, that the difference between what is paid for undeveloped land and what it is worth because it is surrounded by a thriving population should accrue to that population to which it is due. Actually it falls into the pocket of the private landlord. In the case of J. N. F. land, however, this increased value does revert to the community because the rent which the tenant pays to the J. N. F. for use of the land is a *percentage of its value* which is periodically determined afresh.

These are economic advantages—the prevention of speculation with the exploitation and ruin which it in-

volves, the gain for the whole people of the increased land value which their activities produce.

The question is now up in Palestine—the eternal question of the right to the use of the earth and the wrong involved in the private appropriation of those values which are due to population and its activities

WE need disinterested public service, moral and spiritual leadership in America rather than the notion of a country madly devoted to the invention of machines, to the production of goods and the acquisition of material wealth. Machines, goods and wealth, when their benefits are economically distributed, raise our standard of living. But it requires the higher concept to elevate our standard of life.

Intellectual, moral and spiritual progress are not the products of poverty. Upon this structure of material progress as a base we are erecting a structure of idealism that would be impossible without the material foundation. Of all human ideals one of the most vital is achievement for men and women of freedom from anxiety about tomorrow's food. Only in peace of mind can man's spirit flower and his humanity expand toward his neighbor.

The abolition of poverty in the individual and the nation has been the dream of idealists since the beginning of time.

—HERBERT HOOVER.

THE radical cause of the World War was the ill-will our social system engenders by harassing and obstructing free intercourse and trade with our fellows, notably by high tariffs. The Economic Council of the League recently blamed them for preventing the recovery of Europe. Then there was the urge of expansion, a "place in the sun," a scare of overpopulation, because, although the earth was given to the children of men, a few have monopolized it. Restore to the people their heritage that all who would use land may do so by paying to the State a uniform tax on the unimproved value of the land. Our social system is the negation of Christianity, hence wars and strife. Small wonder that a spirit prevails which would "Grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire, . . .

Remould it nearer to the Heart's Desire!"

—E. KAYS, West Maitland, Australia, in *Current History*.

AS the city grows, an industrial or commercial center (down town) develops. It will be the place where men can most readily trade and otherwise co-operate with one another, and will therefore become valuable, and its few owners will become wealthy as an inevitable result of necessary law.—JOHN Z. WHITE.

OUR country is bursting with power and desire to grow, but this impulse is everywhere met by the two increasing overhead costs mentioned, and these are the inevitable results of our present revenue system.

—JOHN Z. WHITE.

## Taxes

I KNOW of three new metal trade industries that Lorain lost within the past 90 days by reason of Ohio tax laws.

All conditions were perfectly satisfactory in the way of labor and shipping until the attorneys for these concerns figured up their state and local tax bills.

Two of them then went to Erie, Pa., and the other to Huntington, Ind.

Just as I have said before: Not very many new industries are going to locate in Lorain or Ohio with our tax laws as they now stand.

Price taxes right over the state line in any direction and it will be seen exactly what I mean.

As an inducement to locate here in Lorain I do not favor a reduction in taxes to new industries unless the same reductions were given industries already here.

It is just as important to keep the industries we now have as to get new ones.

The reason there is a muddle in Ohio tax laws is a quarrel between the real estate interests, manufacturers and public service corporations as to which will stand the burden of taxation—one trying to shift taxes to the other.

But in the fight the real estate interests are just cutting off their noses to spite their faces, while neighboring states are getting our industries, population and wealth.

These three new industries that Lorain lost within the past 90 days would have employed in all about 400 workers. And figuring three to a family and about 300 in the way of store clerks and others in service to these workers and their families why, this would have meant 1,500 additional total population to Lorain.

This would have added one million five hundred thousand dollars to the land values of Lorain, the way most economists figure it—there being \$1,000 in land value for every unit of population.

It seems to me that the real estate interests could well afford to consent to a slight increase in the assessment on their land value and to a reduction of taxation upon industry, if by so doing they could add industry, wealth, population to the community and in turn increase the selling and rental price of their real estate.

If you are a small property owner and do not see how this would be absolutely to your selfish interest, show this editorial to your lawyer, doctor or preacher—any of them will figure it out for you.

—DAVID GIBSON in *Lorain (Ohio) Journal*.

“A TARIFF war is like a race in armaments. Nations double their land, sea and air forces, and find at the end that their relative positions remain the same. All that has been done is to burden themselves with vastly increased expenditure. It is just the same with tariffs.”

—PHILIP SNOWDEN.

## The Disinherited

I N our opinion this is the greatest poem extant on the land question. Do our readers know who is or was Vorley Wright?—EDITOR, LAND AND FREEDOM.

1

I saw a million rabbits  
Where a thousand men might be,  
Yet a bent and ancient husbandman  
Was the only man to see.

And amazement leaped to a question  
“What manner of land is this?—  
Voiceless and vermin-ridden,  
Empty and man-forbidden,  
Where the field hath forgotten the harvest,  
And the furrow forgotten the plow.”

(The face he turned was a Viking face,  
His hair was white as the white sea-mew,  
And his eye was a Viking blue.)

“I remember the time, m’marster,  
When the countryside was filled  
With flock and herd and folk, sir,  
And a mort o’ the soil was tilled;

But the lords o’ the land dwell elsewhere,  
And the rents were racked and short,  
So the land was leased to a millionaire  
Who coveted it for sport.”

“And where are the folk, O ancient friend,—  
The heritors of toil,  
Who clogged with their impoverishment  
The profits of the soil?”

“What comes o’ the birds, m’marster,  
When the breath o’ the winter blows!  
Some o’ them live and some o’ them die,  
And nobody counts or knows;  
An’ many a man’s turned vagabond,  
And many a woman worse;  
Many a young un’s over the sea,  
To be shut o’ the landless curse;  
And the old, they wait in the poorhouse  
Their turn in the parish hearse.”

2

I saw a hundred gentlemen  
Where a million men might be,  
Yet gentlemen and serving men  
Were the only men to see—  
Save one of a tattered raiment,  
Who quickened his steps from me.

But I flung out a word and checked him:  
“What blight-bitten land is this?—  
Wasted and weed-perverted,

Barren and man deserted,  
Where the forest reconquers the farmstead,  
And the meadow succumbs to the moor."

(The stamp of his race was on his face,  
As he stood there, stark and stern:  
He spoke—and I heard:  
But my fancy ran, far past the man,  
To the clans at Bannockburn.)

"Time was—and I mind it well, sir—  
When yon braes were dotted thick  
With herds of kye and sheep, sir,  
And many a cotter's rick;  
But the laird o' the land dwelt elsewhere,  
And the rents were racked and short,  
So the land was sold to a millionaire  
Who coveted it for sport,"  
"If the braes be all for the huntsman's call,  
And the fallows won for the hound and gun,  
Why tarry here, O landless one?"

"I was born in a crofter's cot, sir,  
Not far frae where we stand,  
And every year I gae m' way  
Back to the bit o' land;  
And I sit b' the road and remember,  
Where I played as a bairn alone;  
Then I look for the housie, and find there  
Just a crumblin' cairn o' stone.

"They call me a tramp, and I am, sir,  
And a thief when I needs maun be,  
Since to beg at best and steal at worse  
Is the trade that is left to me;  
For the honest work I ken, sir—  
The toil of the croft and the mere—  
Was taen when they ousted the crofters  
To re-forest the land for deer."

3

I saw a million lackeys,  
In the pomp of a liveried land,  
Smug with the scorn of the flunkey  
For the grime of a callous hand.

And my thought made bold to a question;  
"What manner of brood is here?—  
Servile and supple and slavish,  
Stealthy and subtle and knavish;  
Helotry feathered of peacocks,  
To grace us at board and at bier."

(The eyes that I turned to clouded  
With a bitterness that crowded  
Into the answer I heard.)

"These are men of our manufacture,  
Branded as national ware;

Whatever they be, we made them,  
Whatever their shame we share;  
Yet their sires were English yeoman,  
Who measured with mates or foemen,  
For these are the issue of men who stood  
Shoulder to shoulder with Robin Hood."

4

I saw a million starvelings,  
In the streets of a hundred towns,  
And a million sotted fingers  
That clutched at the draught that drowns.

And my doubt made bold to a question:  
"What manner of men be these?—  
Stunted and meagre and craven,  
Brutal and rum-enslaven,  
Abasing themselves to the stranger,  
And whining their mendicant pleas."

(The eyes that were on me glittered  
With the flash of a thought embittered,  
And the voice spoke as before,)

"These are men of our manufacture,  
Branded as national ware;  
Whatever they be, we made them,  
Whatever their shame we share:  
Yet their sires were English bowmen,  
An 'tis an evil omen  
That such are the heirs of the men who bore  
The brunt of the burden at Agincourt."

—VORLEY WRIGHT.

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## Plots of Satan

(Found out by Henry George)

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That people have lords, who lay claim to the land;  
And for use of the planet, to better their rents,  
Rob tenants with taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That Toil beg permission to work on the land;  
An Sloth give him leave, upon payment of rents,  
An taxes unnumbered the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That men enact laws to fence men from the land—  
Make toilers to starve, to feast idlers on rents,  
And give bread to pay taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That thieves are let steal all the fruit of the land—  
May seize Heaven's gifts, force a ransom with rents,  
An the revenue taxes the devil invents.



'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That labor be robbed of the use of the land,  
An to beg, steal, or starve, be driven by rents,  
An the bread-eating taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That fathers, for jobs, go roaming the land,  
While children, to toil, be driven by rents  
An the home-wrecking taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That the most of all toil be for leave to use land,  
And the most of all lives be wasted by rents,  
An the vampire taxation the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That people be slaves, to serve lords of the land—  
From babies take milk, to eke payment of rents,  
An the ravenous taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
To let war-dogs be loosed on the homes of a land,  
That robbers possess its resources an rents—  
Rob it daily with taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
That mothers bear sons to spread war o'er a land—  
To be mangled an slain, for the pirates of rents,  
Cursing nations with taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
Of blood to make wine, for the lords of the land—  
That people be grape, in the wine press of rents,  
An be crushed under taxes the Devil invents.

'Tis a devilish plot—by Satan 'twas planned—  
To keep people in torment, for lack of God's land—  
Turn the world to a hell by the looting of rents,  
An the grinding of taxes the Devil invents.

\* \* \*

Will toilers to torture for ever consent!—  
For places in hell, for ever pay rent!—  
Will the sword be avenger, as Satan has planned,—  
Or the scales rid the world of the lords of the land?

Ah, listen, ye lords! By the Fiend it is planned,  
To let Folly an Ravin run wild o'er the land,  
An the Furies ye fed, with taxation an rent,  
Be drinking your blood, when too late to relent.

—ASHER GEO. BEECHER.

A PUBLIC-SPIRITED citizen of Indiana paid \$5,000 for a pedigreed bull. The conscientious assessor, following the letter of the law, assessed the animal at \$5,000. Whereupon the owner took the bull into a county whose assessor—appreciating the value of good stock in the neighborhood, counted the animal as one of the herd, and assessed it at \$50. The farmers of the first county are now wondering whether a conscientious assessor is worth as much to them as a pedigreed bull.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE INTELLIGENT WOMAN'S GUIDE TO SOCIALISM AND CAPITALISM\*

This book is a formidable work of 463 pages, preceded by a foreword for American readers, 5 pages in length, and a table of contents 34 pages long.

It contains an appendix of six pages, and an index of 25 pages. Examining at random, the letter "B," I find under the 136 classifications, references to

Babies, Bachelors, Baked Potato Men, Barbers, Battle Ships, Bees, Bibles, Birth Control, Blacklegs, Bonar Law, Book Makers, Bootlegging, Boy Scouts, Breaking a Bank, Bulls and Bears, Burglars.

Truly the mountain has labored. Shaw says of this book on which he has been working for over six years, "It has been more difficult to write than all my plays—it is my last will and testament to humanity."

America, he writes, "can claim that in this book, I am doing no more than finishing Henry George's job."

Shaw is no coward. He assumes full responsibility. "This book is not a compilation; it is all out of my own head."

But wait. Shaw is also modest. He dedicates it to his sister-in-law, "The intelligent woman to whose question this book is the best answer I can make." True humility.

Let us now examine the mouse this mountain has brought forth. In the very first paragraph Shaw states, the discussion is to concern itself with the *distribution* of the wealth we produce every year. We can agree with him "that the existing distribution is so anomalous, monstrous, ridiculous, and unbearably mischievous, that it must be radically changed if civilization is to be saved from the wreck to which all the older civilizations we know of were brought by this very evil." (Page 5).

"When wealth has been produced, each gets his legally appointed share." (Page 7).

What should that share be?

"That must be settled by law." (Page 8).

That there is a natural law which should govern the distribution of wealth does not dawn on Shaw.

There are, Shaw writes, seven plans of distribution.

1. To each what he or she produces.
2. To each what he or she deserves.
3. To each what he or she can get and hold.
4. To the common people enough to keep them alive while they work all day, the rest to the gentry.

5. Division of society into classes, the distribution being equal or thereabouts within each class, but unequal as between the classes.

6. Let us go on as we are.

7. Socialism; an equal share to everybody.

Shaw's conception of socialism is to divide up the income of the country equally between everybody, "making no distinction between lords and laborers, babies in arms and able bodied adults, drunkards and teetotallers, arch-bishops and sextons, sinners and saints." (Page 93.)

How is this to be brought about?

"By Law." (Page 93).

"The first and last commandment of socialism is 'Thou shalt not have a greater or less income than thy neighbor; but before such a commandment can be even approximately obeyed, we shall have not only to pass hundreds of new Acts of Parliament and repeal hundreds of old ones but invent and organize new Government departments; train and employ no end of women and men as public servants.'" (Page 97).

"Socialism is from beginning to end a matter of law. It will have to make idlers work." (Page 98).

"If you will encounter a lazy slut you will lambast him with a stick until he is black and blue." "If the slattern is to be whacked it must

be done by order of a court of law by an officer of the law after a fair trial by law." (Page 99).

"Socialism insists that the first duty of the Government is to maintain equality of income and absolutely denies any private right of property whatever." (Page 101).

"Socialism, the equalization of income, involves the complete substitution of personal for private property and of publicly regulated contract for private contract with police interference whenever equality is threatened, and complete regulation and control of industry and its products by the State." (Page 103).

"Compulsory social service is so unanswerably right that the very first duty of a government is to see that everybody works enough to pay her way and leave something over for the profit of the country and the improvement of the world." (Page 357).

"Socialism would impose compulsory social service on all serviceable citizens just as during the war compulsory military service was imposed on all men of military age." (Page 356).

"Socialism is an elaborate arrangement of our production and distribution of wealth in such manner that all our incomes shall be equal." (Page 377).

How is the State going to bring about this equal distribution of wealth among all its citizens?

According to Shaw, "Practical Socialism must proceed by the Government nationalizing our industries one at a time by a series of *properly* compensated expropriation after an elaborate preparation for their administrators by a body of civil servants who will consist largely of the old employees but who will be controlled and financed by Government departments manned by public servants very superior in average ability training and social dignity to the commercial profiteers and financial gamblers who now have all our livelihoods at their mercy." (Pages 382-383).

"Socialistic legislation means an active interference in the production and distribution of the nation's income; and every step of it will require a new department of extension of the civil service or the municipal service to execute and manage it." (Page 384).

But halt. Even after the State shall be operating all business for the benefit of all of us private business will still be in operation according to Shaw.

"Long after Capitalism as we know it shall have passed away more completely than feudalism has yet passed away there may be more men and women working privately in business of their own than there ever can be under our present slavish conditions." (Page 386).

In fact under Shavian Socialism "A Socialist Government should not only tolerate private enterprise but actually finance it." (Page 388.)

"In fact, if only we can attain and maintain the equality of income a Socialist Government will tolerate private enterprise or subsidize private enterprise, or even initiate private enterprise." (Page 389).

I have quoted from Shaw *in extenso* in fairness to him, and because I believe that the veriest reading of his words will disclose their folly.

Equality of any kind is impossible. Nature in unmistakable terms has so decreed. In a world wherein no two grains of sand are alike or equal it is against all natural and psychical law to advocate a system wherein all men shall have equality of income.

Our goal should be to establish among human beings as nearly as may be, equality of opportunity, realizing however, the great natural differences between human beings. When we shall have established equality of opportunity, we shall have done as much as may be reasonably expected of finite beings.

How to do this has been clearly shown by Henry George, the greatest economist the world has yet produced, in his works on Political Economy, particularly *Progress and Poverty* and the *Science of Political Economy*.

Political Economy is the science which deals with the production and distribution of wealth. No discussion of this subject can lead to right conclusions which concerns itself only with one phase of the subject, whether it be production or distribution.

This is the great defect of Shaw's book, that it deals exclusively with the distribution of wealth and ignores how wealth is produced. Obviously, before we can determine how wealth shall be distributed we must clearly understand how it is produced.

The formula then should be: to those who have produced, shall belong the wealth they have produced.

Now, all wealth is produced from the Earth, and from the Earth alone. It is the application of human labor to raw material (Land) that give us potatoes, automobiles, buildings, suits of clothes and the like.

No discussion of Political Economy can be worthy of the name which fails to recognize the fundamental importance of Land as the source of all wealth.

Capital does not produce wealth. Labor does not produce wealth. Land does not produce wealth. Only the application of Labor to Land will produce wealth.

The trouble is that before Labor may have access to land to produce wealth, it must pay tribute to landlords which tribute is called Economic Rent. This latter term means the price exacted for mere permission to use the bare Earth. In short, labor finds the bare earth which the Supreme Power gave to all his children as a reservoir from which they might satisfy their needs, in the hands of a limited class denominated the land owning class. Labor finds that before it can go to work to produce its potatoes, automobiles, buildings and suits of clothes, it must agree to pay over to land owners a share of the wealth, it, Labor, will produce.

The portion of wealth which labor pays over to the land owners is called Economic Rent. Now, this land owning class renders no service to labor in producing wealth. Certainly it cannot be called a service for land owners to allow labor to use the Earth. Economic Rent therefore is that part of wealth which is taken from labor for mere permission to work.

Now Rent is constantly increasing. This must be obvious when we reflect that the earth we live on is fixed in quantity while the pressure of population is making increasing demand on the natural resources for food, clothing and shelter.

This constant increase in Rent is automatic. The land owners have nothing to do with bringing it about. It is due solely to the increasing pressure of population.

The Single Tax would socialize Economic Rent, in other words, make it the common property of all mankind. When once this is done, the Earth is, for all practical purposes, owned by all its inhabitants, since they share equally in the enjoyment of its Rent. A somewhat similar situation would arise if a loving father should desire to give his seven story building equally to his nine children. If he provided that the net profits of the building should annually be divided among them, they could, in truth, say that they were equal owners of the building. We propose to do the same with this Earth on which all of us live, and from which all of us must draw our sustenance. We say to those having possession of the Land "Keep it, use it, or not, as you wish, but pay over to the community, annually, what it is worth for you to keep your particular tract in your possession."

So far I have said nothing about Capital. This is the Big Ogre of Shaw, and indeed of all Socialists. Now, to understand a thing, we must be agreed to as to what we are talking about; in other words, we must be agreed on our definition of the thing we are discussing.

Labor, I think, we are all agreed, is the application of human energy to raw material. In its simplest forms, we may give as examples of labor the planting of seed and the cultivation of the ground from which finally comes fruits, vegetables, grain, etc., etc. Another example; the digging of coal or ore out of the bowels of the earth, the coal being relieved of its impurities and finally delivered to users in a form suitable for burning in our fires, the ore being finished into steel beams to form the frame work for our homes, factories and office buildings. A third is the raising of cows, sheep and other animals for their food, wool or leather or other products needed by human beings.

Now, as society becomes more complex all labor need not be applied directly to land to produce wealth. In fact, for the most efficient production of wealth, it becomes advisable to find new methods to make labor more productive. Inventions come into existence which render Labor a thousand times, yes ten thousand times more productive than otherwise would be the case. A machine is invented, for example, to drop seed into the ground enabling the farmer to plant one hundred acres where before he could plant only one acre.

First, the Wheelbarrow, then the Cart, then the Wagon, then the Railroad, then the Automobile, then the Aeroplane, were invented, enabling the man to carry himself and his products more speedily and more efficiently than before. Machines of all kinds are invented to enable the worker more efficiently to convert the raw cotton, silk and leather (Raw Material) into the finished products (Dresses, Suits, Shoes). The machine, in economics is termed "Capital."

In other words, Capital is that portion of wealth which, instead of being immediately consumed is set aside to assist in the production of more wealth. Capital is the creature of labor. It possesses certain characteristics. First: it can be produced in illimitable amounts. If we want more capital, all we have to do is to apply more labor to land.

Secondly: Like labor, capital must justify its existence. If the machine cannot help labor to produce more wealth than labor could produce without it, labor will dispense with the machine. Obviously, the farmer is not going to use a machine to plant seed if he can do it faster or better by hand. This is the same as saying that capital must find its reward in the increased wealth which it, in association with labor, has produced. To put it in other words, the wealth which labor assisted by capital has produced must now be divided between them, labor receiving wages and capital receiving interest.

The trouble is, that before these two factors can divide the wealth they have jointly produced, the landlord who has done nothing, comes along and takes his Economic Rent. The wealth, which labor and capital have produced must now be divided between three parties, although only two have had any part in its production. It must be clear that the bigger portion any one of the three, Labor, Capital or Land Lord takes, the less that there is left for the other two to divide between themselves.

Now, the land owner is constantly taking a bigger and bigger portion of wealth, due to the fact that Economic Rent is constantly rising as population increases.

Labor and Capital therefore having less to divide between themselves, take to fighting each other, (strikes and lockouts), instead of fighting their common enemy the Land Owner. As conclusive proof that the interests of labor and capital are not antagonistic as claimed by Shaw and Socialists generally, we find that wherever and whenever wages of labor are low the return of capital likewise is low.

True, capitalists are often land owners. That is, the same individual who owns a business of making silk dresses may own the land on which his factory stands, or other land, or shares of stock in a railroad or telephone corporation owning land or possessing an exclusive franchise.

To the extent that this individual is running a factory to manufacture silk dresses and hiring labor and buying machines, he is a Capitalist. To the extent that he owns the land on which the factory stands, or shares of stock in a corporation owning land or an exclusive franchise, he is a land owner. Only in his capacity as land owner is he reaping where he has not sown.

The same is true of labor. Very often, in the United States at least, the wage earner owns his little home and the lot on which it stands, or he holds one or two shares of stock in some public utility corporation, or is himself trying to speculate in a piece of vacant ground. So far as the ownership of the house is concerned he is also a capitalist; so far as the ownership of the lot on which the house stands is concerned he is a land owner.

Shaw's great mistake is in failing to distinguish between Capitalism and Land Lordism. In no other way can he be excused for such erroneous statements as the following:

"By Capitalism we mean the system by which the land of the country is in the hands, not of the Nation, but of private persons called Landlords, who can prevent anyone from living on it or using it except on their own terms." (Page 100).

"Capitalism therefore means the only duty of the Government is to maintain private property in Land and Capital." (Page 101).

Landowners "are quite justified in making the strongest laws to protect themselves against having their land intruded on and their crops taken by rascals who want to reap where they have not sown." (Page 125).

"Capitalists failed to find employment for not less than two million demobilized soldiers who had for four years been not only well fed and clothed but trained in the handling of weapons" (Page 147).

"By letting their (Capitalists) land and hiring out their spare money (Capital) to others." (Page 165).

"Similarly, when there is a difference between the business ability of one person and another, the price of that difference is rent." (Page 341).

"Privately appropriated rent, whether of land, capital or ability, makes bad blood." (Page 343).

If Shaw, as we contend, is in error in condemning Capital and Capitalism, instead of Monopoly and Landlordism and if the interests of capital and labor are not antagonistic, it ought to follow that when labor is receiving a low wage for its exertions, capital should be receiving a low return on its investment.

And such is indeed the case as I shall now show.

The biggest department store in New York City, R. H. Macy & Co., last year did a gross business of \$82,200,000. Its net profits were only \$5,800,000.

The total sales of the largest meat packers in the United States, Swift & Co., last year amounted to over \$925,000,000. The net earnings were \$12,200,000.

The American Telephone and Telegraph Company received revenues last year amounting to \$894,600,000. The net earnings were \$103,000,000 or at the rate of 6.4% of the amount invested in plant and other assets.

United States Steel Corporation did a business of \$1,310,000,000 and its net income was only \$105,000,000.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's operating revenues last year amounted to \$664,000,000, and the net income was \$68,000,000, and \$43,000,000 of this was dividends and interest from securities owned by the railroad. In other words, out of its own operating revenues the road earned only \$25,000,000.

Who will say that any of these corporations have not rendered services entitling them to the comparatively small reward they have received as above set forth.

Shaw has indeed labored, but he has not brought forth even a mouse.

—BENJAMIN W. BURGER.

#### THE MARRIAGE OF RELIGION AND ECONOMICS\*

John Emery McLean, now a resident of the Single Tax colony of Fairhope, Alabama, and former editor of *Mind*, the famous *Arena*, and *The Metaphysical Magazine*, has given us a book in which he has endeavored to fuse the spirit of true religion with the precepts of the material science of economics. And of a truth they are intimately related. Until men realize how close is this relationship between the aspiration that strives for a real union with the beneficent ruling spirit of the universe and the laws governing mankind in relation to the earth they inhabit, civilization must fail to grasp the essential spirit of religion. Until we truly love our neighbor, and by reason of the impulse of that love build institutions for the securing of justice on earth, mankind must endeavor in vain to realize the perfect Kingdom that all religions prefigure.

\*Spiritual Economics; A Plea for Christianity in Action. By John Emery McLean, 112 pages. Price, 75 cents, Post-paid. Henry George Foundation of America.

In clearer terms Mr. McLean says: "The dictum of God's Fatherhood cannot be disassociated from the brotherhood of man. And this concept of racial fraternalism cannot be realized while inequality of human rights is tolerated in any line of thought or action."

To bring this truth home to laymen and ministers of the gospel who deplore the decline of religious faith as well as all others who blindly grope for an answer to the contradictions presented by the doctrine of a divinely ordained universe of law on one hand and a social and economic system on the other in which everything is involved in cruelty, poverty and disorder, is the message of this work. The message is reinforced by abundant quotations from well known writers and publicists who see these contradictions and who seek, most of them in vain, for an explanation.

We shall not anticipate the pleasure awaiting the reader of this book by lengthy citations. We must content ourself with the following which is a summary, in a way, of the author's purpose in his appeal to religious teachers:

"I refuse to believe that the Church has abdicated its office as the center of moral authority, but I do contend that its power is waning by reason of its failure to cooperate with those reform elements of the community who have made a really scientific diagnosis of our social disease and who propose remedial measures that will bear analysis by even the clergy."

We think this work is bound to do much good and we bespeak for it a wide circulation. Its style is one of directness and simplicity. Mr. McLean is a practised writer and the clearness and lucidity of his English are the result of long experience in the art of putting his thoughts on paper. The reader will find no difficulty in following the arguments.

There is not much that is new to the man or woman who is conversant with our doctrines and their application, but it is not to this class of readers that the work is directed. It is intended for propaganda, and as such seems to us for those to whom it is addressed a singularly effective piece of literature.

The work appropriately concludes with a quotation from James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club:

"Could any injustice be greater than the law that despoils one part of humanity of their rights to the face of the earth and the natural bounties stored under the earth. When society thus degrades and despoils industry, when it thus makes unemployment and brings want to the home, is it any wonder that men are driven to steal, and that women. . . ? So long as we continue this tremendous injustice we may rend heaven with our prayers, we may erect monumental cathedrals, we may spread our missions from Greenland's icy mountains to India's coral strand, but we cannot have the Kingdom of God."

—J. D. M.

#### LANDMARKS OF A LIFETIME

This is a belated review of a book which appeared many years ago, fourteen to be exact, but which has just been brought to our notice and which should have had more publicity at the time of its publication.

On June 23, 1827, just one hundred years ago, Dorcas Helen Hayden was born in Wyoming. She was later Mrs. Dorcas Helen Ingham, and mother of Lona Ingham Robinson.

Here are her collected poems, some written when she was eleven years of age and others when she was 85, a span of nearly seventy-five years! It is a volume of 276 pages, neatly bound, and printed by Luke North for Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson in 1914.

We like these verses. They are instinct with a gentle philosophy, they are radical in their outlook upon life, and they are rhythmically well turned. Some are of suprising vigor of expression. There is a poem to Augustin Duganne, one of the poets of the middle century who saw the land question more clearly than it was seen by his more highly gifted contemporaries in poetry.

"And there was the cherished name  
Of my girlhood's lyric poet."

she sings, and this poem to one who was among the world's rebels is

instinct with her love for Duganne and the themes that animated his song.

There are some fine verses to Tom L. Johnson which have lines of real distinction. There are verses to Tolstoy on his death which have a rhythmic swing and there is a poem to Henry George. From this last we quote one stanza as typical of the rest:

"For those who have followed his trend,  
Have been to him brother and friend,  
Who faithfully met at the end  
The trust he had left to their keeping,  
Not on one may his mantle fall,  
But solemnly consecrate all;  
As watchmen at midnight they call  
To a land still sodden and sleeping."

There are poems on the Boer War and on our own little war in the Phillipines. Here are eight lines to Cronje when there was talk of exiling him to Saint Helena:

"There are those who deem it a shame  
That loyal Cronje's humble name  
Should stand by his whose olden fame  
Rings through the world's arena.  
Not till we try by truer test  
Than surface thought has ever guessed  
May we decide which honored best  
The prison of Saint Helena."

In this book we move in an atmosphere of quiet culture and make the acquaintance of a fragrant and gentle personality. The poetry in the volume is not great poetry, but it is satisfying verse and will appeal by reason of its sanity, its simple faith in justice, its acceptance of the full gospel of freedom, and its music, which, though in a minor key, is grateful to the ear.

Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson has a few copies of these poems of her mother which she will send for 75 cents, postpaid. Her address is 332 N. Maryland Avenue, Glendale, California.

—J. D. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### GREAT STUFF!

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Let no man think that Los Angeles is not just as funny as any other city that is trying to stand on its head. Municipal life here is just one great big expensive joke after another. A few years ago we said: "Go to, now, let us build us a library." So the boosters boosted and the "owners" of the site shoved up the price until there was hardly enough to buy a few sticks of library furniture. A little later we said: "Again go to, let us build us a Hall of Justice," and the boosters boosted and the voters voted and the "owners" of the site shoved up the price and busted the budget. And a third time we said: "Go to now, let us build us a City Hall" and the boosters boosted and the voters and site "owners" all did their stuff (especially the site owners) inasmuch as our kids and their kids unto the third and fourth generation will pay taxes all their lives to the alleged owners for sites that their great-grand daddies owned already. Great stuff!

Los Angeles, Calif.

A. J. SAMMIS.

### FARMERS AND LAND VALUATIONS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:—

It is true enough that wherever it is proposed to draw more fully by taxation upon the annual rental of lands farmers should be informed how changes may affect their interests, but they are entitled to more sensible, sound and practicable suggestions than those contained in the article "Let the Farmers Themselves Answer," printed in your May-June issue.

It is to me shocking that such an article was written by Professor Harry Gunnison Brown, a teacher of "economics" at a state university,

who has compiled significant paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty" and in other ways showed evidence of being both informed upon and sympathetic with the Henry George philosophy. The publication of this article in LAND AND FREEDOM without editorial reservation or cautionary comment is to me not explicable.

There is nothing novel in the italicized phrases in the article, regarding fertilization and taxable land values. More than thirty years ago Thomas G. Shearman, in "Natural Taxation," wrote that, as a matter of course, no assessments should be made upon such transient cause of value. In that book, it may be noted, the author concludes that bare land selling values of cultivated farms would, under a Single Tax system, be assessable at or nearly at 40 per cent. of the total valuation of such farm properties. Since that book was written there has been an enormous increase in the building and maintaining of the county and state highways, surely increasing farm land values, very probably out of proportion to increase in value of farm land improvements.

Professor Brown does our programme of taking all or an increasingly large part of land rental value for public purposes no service by explaining that the bare land value of a farm should be arrived at, not by estimating market value regardless of improvements, but by first valuing improvements and then subtracting this value from the total value of the property. This method is no more applicable to country than to city land.

The Professor is even less to be commended upon his attempt to show farmers how to calculate or estimate economic rent. In fact his endeavor to point out a relation between economic rent and income is ludicrous. A farmer's income is not dependent upon or necessarily related to economic rent. Economic rent is often a potentiality rather than a reality, and it can be estimated in the simplest and most practical way by market value regardless of profitable or unprofitable use or any use at all. If farmers are to pay in taxation "only their economic rent if and when they receive any," to use the Professor's own language, regardless of the value of their land holding privilege, a most fantastic and unworkable programme is before us.

A word must be said here about Professor Brown's contention that "the economic rent of valuable city land, which is due largely to the development and trade of the surrounding country, should be taken in taxation and used for the benefit of all." This is not so, and there is no agency except the United States government itself which could undertake such a work. Some states have more valuable city lands than others, and some states contain cities bordering upon other states where land values may be affected by the development and trade of the country over the border line. Courts, schools and jails, and, to some extent, roads, may well be financed or partly financed out of the funds of central authorities, gathered more from city than country districts. Nothing further can be expected. Cities need great revenues, and there is no reason why we should talk of taking the rental of city lands and spending them "for the benefit of all."

Long Branch, N. J.

GEORGE WHITE.

#### HARRY WILLOCK TELLS US OF HIS TRIP.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:—

Travelled from New York to California by water via Panama, stopping at ports in Columbia, Panama, Nicaragua, Salvador, and Guatemala, and from California to Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Java, Singapore, Manila, Hong Kong, Canton, Shanghai and Japan. Back to United States via Honolulu.

As you might expect I was more interested in observing social and economic conditions than the usual tourists "sights." I only came in contact with Single Tax groups in Los Angeles, New Zealand and Australia as I knew of none in other places. In Los Angeles I renewed acquaintance with Stoughton Cooley, George Briggs and others and met a number of new faces.

In Auckland I met George Fowlds and his son, and in Wellington, Hon. P. J. O'Regan. Wellington, as your readers know, exempts all improvements from taxation, largely through his efforts.

In Sydney A. J. Huie is the active head of the group working there and gives his entire time toward maintaining an office and keeping up a monthly paper and well organized speaking campaigns in city and country. Hon. A. J. Firth, mayor of Strathfield, a 40,000 population Borough of Sydney, is a valued member of the Single Tax group here.

In Melbourne the Single Taxers have excellent headquarters, and they gathered at luncheon to meet me. Dr. Paul G. Dane is president of the organization here, and R. E. Powell is an active member. In Adelaide the group command the active and full time services of E. J. Craigie, whom I unfortunately did not meet as he was out on one of his speaking tours. I was treated very hospitably by the president, A. Chappel, and other members of the group. I also met Sam Lindsay, of Thevanard, South Australia, an unusually vigorous man who gives the work much time, driving through the country in his own vehicle selling goods and holding meetings. He is a forcible speaker, and has spent years at this work.

Notwithstanding all this agitation Australia has much to learn. The American tariff is bad enough, but the momentum of 120,000,000 people in a comparatively new country is for the time being able to overcome the disadvantages and burdens entailed, but the Australian tariff is far worse in a country with only six million people. Unfortunately, Australians think America is great because of her tariff and they therefore think that a still greater tariff will be good for them. Their innumerable labor laws and labor restrictions, together with the tariff conditions, are strangling industry on every front. Practically every foot of land except desert land is in private hands and Australia has nothing to offer its new immigrants.

Exempting improvements from local taxation in Australia does not mean very high taxes on land as the local governments have little to care for beside streets. Sydney with complete exemption of improvements, only pays about 1 per cent. on land while Pittsburgh with 50 per cent. exemption of improvements pays about 4 per cent. on land. Australia's real fight is on the tariff which is 50 per cent. of total Federal taxes, and an income tax which is 20 per cent. of Federal and over 50 per cent. of State taxes.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

HARRY H. WILLOCK.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

OUR valued correspondent, J. O'Donnell Derrick, Scottish correspondent of the *Irish Weekly*, signs many of his communications "Boothag-Aughagower." That pen name represents two Irish districts where his father and mother were born, (his mother one of the old O'Donnell clan) and both suffered from Irish landlordism. In the Glasgow press he was once asked the meaning of the names. He replied Aughagower is a place in Western Ireland where in St. Patrick's time the people herded goats and a descendant of a native of that district has spent his life in Scotland trying to herd people into thinking aright on social and labor problems, consequently from the standpoint of Henry George.

C. H. BAILDON, of Ludlowville, N. Y., writes: "The May-June number of LAND AND FREEDOM is good all through. Professor Brown's article should have a wide circulation among the farmers. It ought to wake up a few of them."

WE regret to learn of the death of Oliver P. Hyde, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 12. He was 69 years of age and was born in Groton, N. Y., in 1858. He organized a Single Tax Club in Marietta, Ohio, and for a time maintained a lecture bureau from that place. He became a Single Taxer back in the '80's and contributed generously to the cause. On his visits to New York he always called at the Manhattan Single Tax Club. It was during one of his recent visits to New York that he was taken ill and on his return to Tulsa died two weeks later

in St. John's Hospital in that city. He was a friend of this paper almost from the beginning and helped in the successful publication of *Thirty Years of Verse Making*, (the collected poems of Joseph Dana Miller) by ordering a number of copies in advance.

E. M. EDWARDS, Boston, Mass., John J. Egan of N. Y. City and Walter J. Ingram of Toronto are all contributors of a good deal of verse to the press on various phases of the economic problem. Mr. Ingram is an engraver and has recently executed a plaque of Henry George which has been highly praised for the way in which the facial characteristics of the great economist are portrayed.

GEORGE J. BRYAN, whom most of our readers will recall as long an active worker for our cause in Toronto, is now editor of the organ of the humane society, viz., *The Human Pleader*. Mr. Bryan is the author of a pamphlet, "Chaotic Taxation." He published the Programme of the Pan American Congress and utilized this opportunity to incorporate Single Tax articles by Frank Stephens and others of the friends.

TORONTO, ONTARIO, a city of more than 700,000, owns and operates the street railways, gas and water supply and claims to give better service to its citizens than is provided by private companies in other cities of the same size.

WARREN S. BLAUVELT, formerly of Terre Haute, Ind., but now of Troy, N. Y., has had published recently a pamphlet of twenty pages entitled, "Lower Freight Rates and Adequate Railway Revenues." Mr. Blauvelt as a young man learned of the Single Tax through a copy of "Progress and Poverty" presented to his father by Mrs. Ida Hibbard of New York. It made no impression on the father but made a valuable convert of the son.

JOHN Z. WHITE who will be seventy-four years old on August 8 of this year is in good health mentally and fairly good health physically. He is still making occasional addresses in and near Chicago where he resides.

It is interesting to note that many sons of Single Taxers are now continuing the work of their fathers begun thirty, forty and nearly fifty years ago. Among the hundreds who might be mentioned are William Lloyd Garrison III, of Boston, Mass.; Robert Ring, of Houston, Texas; Charles Johnson Post, of N. Y. City; Prof. H. W. Hetzel, of Philadelphia; A. D. Cridge, of Portland, Oregon; Dr. J. E. Tuckerman, of Cleveland, Ohio; Paul Man, of Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Frederick Arnold, of Auburn, N. Y.; Wayne Heydecker, of N. Y. City; Dr. Fred B. Chase, of Webster Groves, Mo.; Philip Cornick, and George Geiger, of N. Y. City; H. W. Owen, of Minneapolis, Minn.; John Lawrence Monroe, of Chicago; Ernest A. Sinton, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Chas. K. McClatchy, of Sacramento, Calif.; and Burton Sale, of Los Angeles, Calif.

JOHN W. DAVIS, Minister to England during the Wilson administration and nominee of the Democratic party for president in 1924, told a visitor a few months ago that he considered Henry George had made the most valuable contributions to economics of any of the writers of the past century—that he had read "Protection or Free Trade" at the University of West Virginia and that later he had read the book each year before his campaign for Congress. He had indeed read all of Henry George's books with interest and profit.

AMONG our good and faithful workers in N. Y. City is Mr. Geo. von Auer of 520 West 122nd Street, who first became interested in the Single Tax through reading of it. Later he met Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow and this friendship resulted in von Auer's getting into harness for Single Tax in the Vine Street Congregational Church and cooperating in the work carried on by Mr. Bigelow. His father was

a Colonel in the German army and a son was killed in the World War. Mr. von Auer is now retired from business and since meeting with an accident has been in poor health.

DR. WILL MAYO, organizer of the great Mayo Institution at Rochester, Minnesota, told a visitor some months since that his father, who was one of the leading physicians and surgeons of Minnesota, had been a thoroughgoing and enthusiastic follower of Henry George and that both he and his brother Charles accepted the same faith because Henry George's teachings seemed incontrovertible. Dr. Mayo stated that when he and his now famous brother, Dr. Charles Mayo, started for the University the father placed an autographed copy of "Progress and Poverty" in the hands of each.

APPROXIMATELY 16,000 voters signed the recent Colorado petition for old age pensions and about 3,000 for the Single Tax. This is short of the required number of names, but the petitions have been filed with the Secretary of State's office.

THE National Party, with headquarters at Indianapolis, Ind., has this as Plank 2 of the Party Platform:

"We demand the gradual and progressive transfer of taxes from improvements and all products of labor to land values, so as to break up land monopoly."

MR. WILL ATKINSON has added to his list of activities the publication of a folder containing the recent syndicated article on Henry George by Dr. Frank Crane.

WALDO WERNICKE, of Los Angeles, Calif., calls attention to an error of spelling into which Single Taxers have fallen, Georgian for Georgan, the first being a native of Georgia and the second the only correct spelling for a disciple of Henry George.

FRIENDS of Mrs. Signe Bjorner are sending her congratulations on two counts. First, the marriage of her youngest daughter Karen to Mr. Licif Hendil, aviation authority and editorial writer on the leading Copenhagen daily, *Politiken*, and secondly on the escape from injury of the young couple when the Dutch passenger plane in which they were flying to Paris on their wedding trip crashed near Amsterdam. Mrs. Karen Hendil suffered some slight bruises and strain to one arm, Mr. Hendil was not injured at all. But happily the young wife was able to continue the journey at once.

THE *Evening Post* of this city in a recent issue contains an interview with Agnes George deMille, daughter of Anna George deMille, who is rapidly achieving prominence in the dance world and is now playing the backward pupil in the pantomime ballet in *Roxy's* in this city.

ASHLEY MITCHELL, of Huddersfield, England, whom New York readers will agreeably remember, writes: "Let me congratulate you on both the recent issues of LAND AND FREEDOM. You maintain your standard in the same way that Paul and Madsen keep *Land and Liberty* at par. How you manage it issue after issue amazes me. I suppose the only reason must be the inspiration of the theme. Consider the ordinary journals, they are good occasionally and at other times just empty, but your paper and Paul's are always a good meal. I feel that the two papers are splendidly supplementary to each other. Your Post Memorial number was well fitted to the memory of that great man. I was also especially struck by the article, 'Wrong Notions about Taxation' from the Coshocton (Ohio) *Tribune*, a very clear and simple answer to those who try to confuse the issue."

THE Henry George Lecture Association, 538 South Dearborn street, Chicago, invite all Single Taxers to visit its headquarters when in the vicinity. The Association begins the 25th year of its work October 19, 1928.

AMONG the group of enthusiastic Single Taxers in Rochester, N. Y. is George W. VanWinkle, a jeweller, formerly of Hornell, N. Y. Mr. VanWinkle was a personal friend of Henry George for whom he organized several meetings in the eighties and nineties. Mr. VanWinkle, like many of our Single Taxers, has a genius for invention, having invented a simplified form of lock and a watch having six smaller pieces than any watch now on the market.

AMONG others of our good friends in Rochester, N. Y., is John D. Lynn, former County Judge and during the Wilson administration U. S. District Attorney and later U. S. Marshall. Geo. T. Lynn and Maurice Lynn, sons of Judge Lynn, are also open and avowed friends of the Henry George movement. Both are prominent lawyers.

ANOTHER active Single Taxer in Rochester is Valarie Landry. It was at the old home of Mr. Landry that the first Single Tax Club of that city was organized, with an initial membership of less than a dozen, which later grew to more than eighty. Between 1886 and 1900 this club entertained practically every Single Tax orator of note. The list includes Hugh O. Pentecost, Tom L. Johnson, Jerry Simpson, Dr. McGlynn, John S. Crosby and many others. Mr. Landry is still full of the old time enthusiasm.

THE Civic Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce of Alexandria, Va., has been considering the tax problem, and recommends that the rate on machinery be reduced to a nominal fee of ten cents on the hundred dollars. It also recommends the increase of the rate on land and the reduction of the tax on improvements until such tax becomes the merely nominal one as recommended for machinery.

ROBERT J. BERKINSHAW, president Richmond Dental Co., of Niagara Falls, N. Y., has just returned from an extended tour to the Pacific Coast. While in San Francisco Mr. Berkinshaw was a guest at the Henry George Hotel and gives a flattering report of the hotel and its rapidly growing business.

JOHN MCFARLAND HOWIE, formerly manager of the Hotel Touraine in Buffalo, has transferred his interests to New York City and is now manager of the Fifth Avenue Hotel.

GEO. L. RUSBY has carefully revised the plates for printing another edition of his well known and widely circulated pamphlet, "Smaller Profits, etc." He has in hand the translation as published in France, Spain and Denmark. This valuable little pamphlet has been through several British editions.

A "STATE CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC RESEARCH" was held July 8 at Brookside Park, Pasadena, Calif. A. J. Samis was chairman and we note on the programme such well known Single Taxers as Harriet D. Prenter, Lona Ingham Robinson, Lucy Durham, George A. Briggs and others.

A RECENT issue of the *Liberator*, Single Tax organ of New Zealand, contains a portrait of Hon P. J. O'Regan who seemingly has changed but little since we printed his portrait in the New Zealand number of the *Single Tax Review* in 1912.

WE learn with sincere regret of the death of John H. Sheets at Loma, N. Dakota. He was near 80 years old, but up to his last-sickness enjoyed an active and happy life. He had always been a strong Henry George man and in late years a contributor to the Sustention Fund of LAND AND FREEDOM. Several days before he died he requested that a notice of his death be sent to this paper so that his old friends and associates in the movement might be apprised of his going.

THE announcement is made of the publication by Harper and Bros. of a novel by Joan Sutherland entitled "Onslaught", with General

Gorgas as the hero. The book deals with the work of the great sanitarian in exterminating the yellow fever. The *Times* Book Section calls the novel "an unusually fine one." It is dedicated to the memory of General Gorgas. Our readers know how earnest a Single Taxer was this great sanitary engineer.

WE have received a pamphlet containing an Open Letter to the California State Tax Commission on behalf of The Tax Relief Association of California by Jackson H. Ralston. Mr. Ralston seems to think it necessary to make his recommendations to the Commission in sugar-coated pellets, to which we have no objection if he thinks this is all that can be accomplished. But it is rather disconcerting to find him endorsing the inheritance tax and saying of it "It is too late in the history of the world to deny the justice of such a tax." It may be well in a pamphlet of this kind to ignore some of the least objectionable taxes, of which the inheritance tax is possibly one, but advocates of our principles do not consider this form of taxation just.

OUR readers will be glad to know that John Paul, editor of *Land and Liberty*, London, who has been seriously ill is now on his way to recovery and in a week or two will be at his desk at 11 Tothill Street.

JOSEPH H. NEWMAN, of New York City, writes: "I look forward to the coming of every number of LAND AND FREEDOM as my principal source of inspiration."

OUR old friend, and well known disciple of Henry George, William Bradford DuBois, died Sunday, June 17 at his home in Bayonne, N. J. For many years, practically since the publication of *Progress and Poverty*, he had been an active worker for the Single Tax and had distributed many thousands of books and pamphlets. He had himself written a number of tracts and leaflets and never wearied in his efforts to advance the cause. He was born in Saugerties, N. Y., but lived for forty years in the city of Bayonne, where he was active in civic work. He founded the first free public library in that city, now one of the public institutions on which Bayonne prides itself. His death at the age of 74 was due to paralysis prior to which he had been in good health. He leaves a daughter and a widow, Amelia B. DuBois, a sister of Frederic C. Leubuscher, almost as well known in Single Tax and civic work as her famous husband.

EVERY one who visited the Chicago Single Tax Club during the great days of 1895 to 1900 when the dues paying members numbered 800 will recall a clear, strong rather musical voice announcing the sale of Henry George's books. The possessor of this voice was Chas. H. Cileske, a "tonorial artist" of 5321 Carpenter Street, Chicago. Mr. Cileske and Mr. F. W. Maguire, now of the Henry George Foundation with headquarters at Pittsburgh, performed during this period a most valuable service to the cause. Mr. Cileske has written several pamphlets including one just published entitled "Permanent Prosperity," and has developed a unique plan of distribution under the name of the Henry George Prosperity Club. Our readers are asked to write to Mr. Cileske for particulars.

OUR readers will be glad to know that John Z. White is now in good health after a period of indisposition.

MR. AND MRS. MARMADUKE DYSON, of Fairhope, Alabama, have sailed for England for a three months' stay. A farewell dinner was tendered them on their departure and they were commended to the Land Values Taxation League and the Commonwealth Land Party of England whose headquarters they will visit.

GEORGE CARTWRIGHT is a frequent contributor of Single Tax letters to the Modesto, (Calif.) *Tribune*.