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VOL. XXVIII No. 5

WHOLE No. 150

September—October, 1928

# Land and Freedom

FORMERLY THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW

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

The Story of the Henry George Congress  
September 10, 11, 12

A Great and Inspiring Gathering

Addresses by George E. Evans, P. R. Williams, Prof. Harry Gunnison  
Brown, Hon. Chas. O'Connor Hennessy and others

George Lloyd on the Radio

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# LAND AND FREEDOM

An International Bi-Monthly Magazine of Single Tax Progress

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### INDEX TO CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMMENT AND REFLECTION.....	131
TOLSTOY AND HENRY GEORGE.....	132
A BIT OF BRITISH HISTORY.....	133
TAXATION..... <i>George Lloyd on the Radio</i>	134
ADDRESS OF GEORGE E. EVANS.....	135
ADDRESS OF PERCY R. WILLIAMS.....	137
ADDRESS OF JOSEPH DANA MILLER.....	139
BUNCOMBE ABOUT PEACE AND WAR ..... <i>Hon. C. O'Hennesy at Henry George Congress</i>	140
RUNNING REPORT OF HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS...	142
FARM RELIEF..... <i>Address by Harry Gunnison Brown</i>	147
RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS.....	150
HENRY GEORGE MEMORIAL DINNER IN NEW YORK	152
YOUNG SINGLE TAXERS ..... <i>Address of Marien Tideman</i>	154
EXTRACTS AND LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS.....	154
CORRESPONDENCE.....	155
NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS.....	157

## 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

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER, 1928

No. 5

## Comment and Reflection

**M**AY we plead for a little seriousness on the part of book reviewers, editorial writers and essayists of the day? We are sick of their eternal cleverness, their addiction to phrase-making, their insufferable pose. We name no names, though these qualities are characteristic of ninety per cent. of those who are doing the writing of the day.

**W**E hearken back to the essayists who were funny with a difference, Charles Lamb and Tom Hood. They had heart and conviction; beneath their humor lay a profound current of seriousness; they had a background which impelled Hood, for example, at other moments to sing his immortal *Song of the Shirt*; their humor lay close to tears, hence the perennial and indestructible character of their work. The modern humorist is not a humorist but a farceur.

**W**HAT is the real difference between the more modern essayists and the early Victorians or later pre-Victorians? We think it is that these writers had a far finer social consciousness. Lacking this, too many of our present-day writers fall back on a certain superficial smartness, clever turns of phrase, and a careless impudence and flippancy with which they face the eternal verities.

**I**T is due of course to our methods of education in which the essential verities play a small part. Fundamental principles of art, or literature, or sociology do not exist. There are no natural laws; principles exist subjectively, not objectively; political laws of action and interaction are what the latest professorial dicta declare them to be. And current literature, speculation and philosophy, along with the lucubrations of our smart little essayists, reflect this attitude.

**T**HERE are innumerable magazines devoted to business and business technique. There are also colleges devoted to business, and calling themselves business colleges. That these enterprises are laudable enough may be granted, though they give themselves a factitious importance. It is impressive to read of Bachelors of Science in Commerce, Masters of Business Administration, and other degrees which are dealt out to the more proficient

graduates of these institutions. A writer in a recent issue of the *American Mercury* has a lot of fun with them.

**W**E want to say that not a single one of these institutions or periodicals makes any attempt to teach the fundamental laws on which business rests. They may teach bookkeeping and accountancy, but these are not *business*; they may attempt to teach the pupils how to organize a department store, or hotel, but that is specialization which is better learned by experience. Certainly nothing learned of these particular businesses named would fit a man to take charge of a manufacturing plant. They may try to teach salesmanship, but salesmen like poets are born, not made. The same is true of your organizer, who proceeds by rules learned of experience and invention born of the imaginative faculty. These can no more be taught than youthful John Miltons and John Keats can be tutored into writing *Paradise Lost* or the Grecian Urn.

**T**HERE are other objections to these educational business institutions. They give themselves entirely too many airs, they teach too many things under one head, and they make no attempt at all to teach the principles of business. For business is production, the making of wealth. It rests upon certain fundamental laws; its factors are land, labor and capital. Do these institutions ask why so large a percentage of business men fail; do they ask in what degree the three factors named divide the proceeds, and why? Oh, that is political economy, we may anticipate their telling us. But that is just the trouble. To teach business and leave out political economy and its laws is to ignore the most important lesson of all business. Will they teach us what causes panics and industrial depressions and how to avoid them? That is of keen interest to business and business men.

**T**HE students of these institutions are for the most part sons of privilege. They cannot safely be told that their fathers if they are the beneficiaries of privilege are the enemies of business—we mean hardly with safety to the institution and the endowments. Yet it is necessary if the student is to know what business is. It is, too, of little advantage to learn the technique of business and go out into the world unequipped with the necessary

knowledge of what it is that makes good or bad business. Until they are prepared to do this these institutions of higher business learning are sadly pretentious and ninety per cent. inefficient.

**I**F business knew its opportunities it would establish real colleges to teach principles of business rather than theories of technique of business. And this would be something worth while, for there are fundamental laws of production and distribution. For of these the institutions named are in the profoundest ignorance. A college of commerce run by protectionists with protectionist teachers should make the angels laugh. A business college whose tenets call for the acceptance of the status quo, or at least refrain from questioning it, is not likely to get the world much further along in producing wealth for the multitude, or in advancing the business success of the individual. The secret of failure or success in business—which after all is service—is dependent upon principles which business colleges in their very nature are not likely to approach with an open mind.

**H**ERE in our world is a system of society in which we have what Asquith called, though in another connection, "the apparatus of illusion." We have a so-called democracy in which nearly everything is undemocratic; a system of society in which we boast that everybody has a chance, sometimes we say an equal chance, yet in which most of the prizes are for those who come first—really the forestallers. We boast that business is founded upon confidence, yet every one distrusts his neighbor, and in making loans we are particular about the collateral. We talk boastfully about the "ethics of business," yet the ethics of the race track and the gambling fraternity is, generally speaking, far superior, and is the only business founded upon confidence. Here, it is true, some of those engaged get something for nothing, but at least they are quite frank about it. They do not boast, as your social philosopher does, that "nobody can get something for nothing"—how often we hear that phrase—yet that is just what goes on continually. In fact the whole basis of our economic system rests upon the practise of "getting something for nothing"—and much of it.

**B**UT "the apparatus of illusion" conceals the process. The great social land rent fund, increased and intensified by speculation, is so combined with actual earnings, or returns to capital, as to seem indivisible. Deeds of sale include house value as well as land value; in what is called "profits", earnings and returns to privilege are intermingled; and even in some of the so-called salaries paid by corporations to favored employees are included some of the dribblings of economic rent and monopoly profit. To separate these into their component parts is not possible to theoretical analysis. Yet by one stroke, or gradually, if you please, the land rent fund can

be diverted into the public treasury, and the whole "apparatus of illusion" disappear, wages—under what would then be free competition—would go to labor, and interest—or what would then remain of interest—to capital, the only division possible under the operation of natural unhindered economic law.

## Tolstoy and Henry George

**T**HE one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian humanitarian, was made the occasion of a special celebration by the Soviet government, which stressed the work of Tolstoy in arousing a consciousness of human brotherhood. Although Tolstoy was a Christian and a pacifist, and thus in opposition to policies of the present Russian government as in other ways he was arrayed against the Czarist regime, the Soviet government not only established a school in his memory, but has agreed, in deference to his teachings, that neither atheism nor war shall be inculcated in the school.

In connection with this anniversary, many articles on Tolstoy have appeared in America, but practically all glorify him as a novelist; his views on social questions are either ignored, or glossed over as amiable idiosyncracies of a literary genius. The younger generation would never guess that Tolstoy had towered like a giant among his contemporaries, challenging one social institution after another—divine right of kings, warfare, slavery, private property in land. Even such articles as mentioned Tolstoy's interest in social questions carefully omitted any reference to his scathing denunciations of what he termed "The Great Iniquity"—private ownership of the land which God had made for all.

One notable exception, however, was an article in the *New York Times* of September 9, 1928, by Count Ilya Tolstoy, a son of the philosopher, from which we quote the following:

Speaking of father's American friends I have also to mention the great economist, Henry George. His book on "Single Tax" was a revelation to my father.

It must be said here that the land question in Russia is far more acute than in this country. The population of Central Russia is very dense and land hunger is the normal condition of the peasantry. It was especially so before the Revolution, when the large estates were in the hands of the nobles and the peasantry had not enough land to live on even in a state of semi-starvation. My father believed that land ownership was the "slavery of our times" and together with the Russian peasantry he thought that land belongs to God and cannot be man's property.

He was feverishly seeking for a solution of the land question in Russia when he ran across Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." This was exactly what he was looking for. Here was a peaceful and righteous solution of the problem. Let the land belong to the nation as a whole and give the use of it to those who work on it with their own hands. My father believed in the practical possibility of such a reform in Russia so deeply that he

even wrote to some of the members of the Russian Government and to the Czar himself advocating the abolition of land ownership and the institution of the Single Tax in Russia.

My father never met Henry George, but his son, Henry George, Jr., made a special trip to Russia to meet him. My father was certainly very happy to know the son of the man whom he so much admired and to hear from him of the life and activities of the great reformer. When they were parting my father turned to Mr. George and said: "Good-bye; we will probably never meet again. I am much older than you are and I will probably see your father in the beyond before you get there. What shall I tell him?"

"Tell him that I am continuing his work as much as it is in my power," said Mr. George, smiling.

However, fate decided differently. Young Henry George died the next year after his visit to Russia and my father survived him by a score of years. The picture of Henry George is another picture of an American friend that he always kept on his wall.

## A Bit of British History

**L**AND AND LIBERTY, London, the monthly journal for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, was first started in Glasgow Scotland, under the title *The Single Tax*. The twenty-first anniversary number in June, 1915, contained a leader by its first and present editor, Mr. John Paul, frankly acknowledging that "The idea of the paper was first mooted by Mr. J. O'Donnell Derrick, a young Glasgow Irishman," who for 20 years was United Irish League Organizer for Scotland, acting under the direction of Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., its president, and of the late Mr. John E. Redmond, M.P. Mr. Paul related "There were many conversations over the proposal to start the paper but no great enthusiasm for it." But Derrick was insistent. He was a man with a vision. He had made up his mind that the need of the movement was a monthly organ. The idea took complete possession of his mind and he made it the main topic of all discussion at the rooms or wherever he met anyone interested. In Derrick's eyes there was only one barrier to meet and overcome, and that was a reliable guarantee to the printer that his account would be paid. A special fund for the purpose was accordingly added to the financial obligations of the day."

There is the story in brief of how the paper now known as *Land and Liberty* came to be founded and Mr. Derrick in its first year collected the money to pay the printer's bill without fee or reward, all as a labor of love in the first year of its existence.

A word of explanation is due LAND AND FREEDOM readers. Mr. Derrick is now and for some years has been the correspondent for Scotland of *The Irish News* a daily paper in Belfast, and of *The Irish Weekly*. He is not a member of any British political party. Consequently he is found acting as an independent Henry George man viewing political and economic questions always through

"Progress and Poverty" spectacles. In LAND AND FREEDOM our readers found several critical letters addressed to Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., because of the latter's views on Surtax. In *The Evening Citizen* of Glasgow there appeared a sarcastic reference to Mr. Philip Snowden. Above the pen-name of Bootagh-Aughagower there appeared in the issue of *The Citizen* of date 31st May, the following letter from Mr. Derrick:

In Saturday's issue, page 4, you published a quotation in reference to site values, suggesting that Mr. Snowden, being a near neighbor of Mr. Lloyd George, pinched the latter's discarded Land Values breeches, and now proudly wears them. As a matter of historic fact, the Liberal ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer could not discard what neither he nor his Budget possessed. The greatest critics of the Budget were the Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values. That ill-conceived, fantastic Budget was easily breached by landowning interests. What Mr. Snowden is wearing is not Lloyd George's, but Henry George's breeches, which are unpuncturable, a splendid fit, and adorn the figure of a logical mind, harnessed to the great cause of making more jobs than men, through the simple taxation and rating expedient which will compel all the useful land of Britain to be fully developed.

—BOOTAGH-AUGHAGOWER.

Mr. Snowden was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the last British Labor Government and is looked on as likely to occupy again that position, if the Labor Party triumph at the General Election in Britain next year.

Recently in *The Forward*, Glasgow, the official weekly organ of the Labor Party, of which Mr. Thomas Johnstone, M.P., is editor, there was a statement from Mr. Snowden of

"Suggested aims as distinct from general objects for the lifetime of the next Labor Government." First place in that statement was—"I see no reason why a Labor Government with four or five years of office, should not carry a great scheme of land reform—including the taxation and rating of land values."

Single Taxers in Britain are praying and working for the return, mainly of the Labor Party to power at the next General Election. Their hopes are high that Philip Snowden and the Labor Government will fulfill their promise and Tax and Rate Land Values.

The coming year is the one where intensified Single Tax propaganda is most needed in Britain.

Progress is undoubtedly being made. Recently the Scottish Liberal Council passed a resolution in favor of the rating and taxation of land values. This progress has mainly been achieved by the activities of Henry George adherents in and outside of political parties and by men in every center conducting press propaganda by means of "Letters to Editors." The Land Value Taxation Leagues have these unpaid correspondents in every centre, Glasgow, Edinburgh, London, Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, Inverness, Falkirk, Dublin, etc. And so the work goes on.

## Taxation

GEORGE LLOYD ON THE RADIO STATION  
W.P.C.H., SATURDAYS 6.15

**T**HE question of taxation is one of the most important questions now confronting the people of the United States.

Chief Justice Marshall of the Supreme Court of the United States is quoted as having said, 'The power to tax is the power to destroy,' and that is true.

A nation can be destroyed if the taxes are enough to drain the earnings of the people from them, leaving them less than sufficient to purchase the necessaries of life. As a matter of fact to tax is to take and that is why a tax levied on a house or other product of labor ultimately equals the value of the house or the other product of labor and often equals more than the value of the things that are taxed. Under the present unjust and unnecessary system of taxation those who have buildings erected, thereby lowering rent and providing work directly and indirectly for every worker in the United States are heavily penalized by a tax levied on the building. While those who withhold land from use, thereby causing high rent, unemployment, slums, etc., stand to make a profit when they sell the unused land, and yet it is not everyone who keeps land out of use that makes a profit, for many are ruined.

One of the strangest things is the number of people who are owners of vacant land wondering why rent is high and why unemployment persists when the cause is due to holding land out of use. Nevertheless, many people are beginning to realize that the present system of taxation is the cause of our economic troubles as it discourages those who put land to use while it encourages those who keep land out of use with the hope of profit. The greater part of taxes are now paid by tenants, as the rent consists of three major items, namely, the rent for the rooms or loft, the taxes on the building and the rent for the land.

Very few people realize that a tax levied on anything produced by labor is added to the price of the article, while abolishing all taxation and collecting the entire rent of land for public needs would greatly lower the cost of living and also make land free, because the rent of land would be returned to the people in the form of schools, fire houses, subways, bridges, etc.

At present nearly 70% of the land in Greater New York is out of use or inadequately used, thereby causing high rent, lack of business, unemployment, slums, etc. Just now many people in Staten Island are protesting the high tolls charged those who cross the new bridges. As a matter of fact there is no need to levy one penny of toll on those who cross the new bridges, because the bridges have increased the land values sufficiently to pay the cost of the bridges if the people were wise enough to collect their land

values to pay for the bridges instead of taxing the money out of their pockets as they are now doing.

How many people realize that the seven cent subway fare question is closely connected with taxation? But it is because the people are being taxed to maintain and operate the subways while the increase in the rent of land due to the subways, amounting to millions of dollars, is not collected to maintain and operate them. If the rent of land due to the subways was collected to run the subways there would be no need to charge the passengers any fare. Just think of riding in the subways every day without paying fare; would it not be wonderful?

Do you know that every public improvement such as schools, fire houses, bridges, subway tunnels, boardwalks, etc., increase the rent of land enough to pay for the improvements, without levying one penny of taxation on the people. Unfortunately the city only collects 25% of the land rent due to population while 75% of our land rent is not collected for public expenses and it amounts to some \$500,000,000 a year. \$500,000,000 is a tremendous sum of money to escape from the people of the city.

There is a growing army of people who complain that their homes are overtaxed. That is the reason the city of Pittsburgh has reduced the taxes on buildings 50% less than the taxes on land, thereby encouraging those who have buildings erected while discouraging those who withhold land from use. The people of Pittsburgh are now working to have all taxes on buildings abolished and the full rent of land collected for public use. Many a family have lost their home on account of being taxed out of house and home, as the saying goes. Today all of the necessaries of life such as foodstuffs, clothing, building and machinery, automobiles, gasoline, etc., are heavily taxed, and that is why everything we consume or use is so dear. The taxes are added to the price and that increased price comes out of the wages and salaries of the workers.

No wonder the housewife cannot maintain the home with the money she receives. If the taxes levied on the necessaries of life were indicated by a tag then we could know how many billions of dollars we were indirectly paying when buying the things we need. Some day the people of the United States will demand the abolition of all taxation and the collection of their land rent for all public needs and the people will live as they are entitled to live.

There is considerable talk about the wonderful prosperity of the people. It is true that some are very prosperous but the great majority of the people are not prosperous. For instance, take our farmers and miners and the millions of workers in the towns and cities who are out of work. Today an advertisement brings 50 applicants and sometimes a hundred seeking employment. How can the people be truly prosperous under a tax system that discourages those who provide jobs by putting land to use by levying a tax on improvements, while encouraging those who keep land idle with hope of profit? Idle land means

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

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

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

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

## Destroying Speculative Rent

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

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

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

HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MONDAY, SEPT. 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We might congratulate ourselves upon the signs of progress. But we have no illusion that we are yet on the royal road to the Single Tax. While taking advantage of such opportunities as are afforded us, we frankly admit that our biggest problems are yet unsolved.

In the present state of public opinion, the only kind of legislative work that can be undertaken with an actual prospect of early achievement, is, of course, along the line of minor tax reforms, such as the Pittsburgh tax plan represents. For work such as this there appears to be no more promising field than the state of Pennsylvania. At least, this is the judgment of most of those interested along these lines, and it was felt that if the graded tax system in effect in Pittsburgh and Scranton could be extended to all cities of the state, or even to a few more of such cities, the achievement would be of great encouragement to those who are eager to see advances made in legislation. Hence, we have given our aid and encouragement to the promotion, through state and local organizations fostered by the Henry George Foundation, of the movement for the extension of the Pittsburgh plan. We have also sought to pave the way for the further exemption of improvements from taxation in Pittsburgh so that a larger share of the economic rent may be collected for public purposes, and there are indications of substantial support for such a measure.

But the Pittsburgh plan is a mere gesture in the direction of the Single Tax. Though perhaps the most significant advance for land value taxation that has been made in the United States, it is at best a very timid approach toward our economic goal. Many are coming to feel that there is need for a more courageous policy in the field of education and perhaps in the field of politics.

During the lifetime of our great leader, Georgism spread rapidly to all parts of the so-called "civilized" world and a host of zealous and whole-hearted converts were made who have kept the torch burning and carried on the work in this and many other lands with a persistence born of strong conviction. This work has resulted in many achievements worthy of note in the direction of raising more public revenue from land values and exempting more of labor products from taxation.

It is fortunate that the Single Tax is so readily adaptable to a step-by-step procedure because it makes it possible to obtain some legislative progress while we are prosecuting the great campaign of education which is needed to develop the popular support essential for a far-reaching change in our economic system. But there is at the same time a real danger to the Single Tax movement in the fact that the Single Tax programme is capable of being divided into a great number of small "steps." For while these "steps" sometimes could hardly be identified as having much relation to the ultimate goal of Henry George, it appears that many have attached so much importance to them that they have virtually abandoned the preach-

ing of the full gospel of Henry George on the ground that "practical" work is the only thing that counts, no matter how small or even insignificant the steps may be. If the great work of education in fundamental economics is to be sacrificed, the price we must pay is too great.

Just a few days ago my attention was attracted to a motto displayed on the walls of one of our Pittsburgh department stores, which conveys an idea that is worthy of some serious thought. It read: "The line of least resistance is a broad highway to failure. The easy way to do a thing is the best way only when it is the right way." I wonder if there is not a truth in this statement that we Georgists might well consider. Are we not in these days too much obsessed with the "line of least resistance?" Is it not rather the line of *greatest assistance* that we should seek? It is hardly possible to develop the line of greatest assistance, or in other words, of strongest support, if we allow fear of opposition to be the controlling factor. For that which is so "harmless" as not to arouse opposition must be too petty to attract great support. In raising this question for your consideration, may I quote these impressive words from Henry George which have perhaps not received the attention which they deserve: "Even those who oppose help forward as well as those who toil to advance. Truth grows clearer by opposition. All we need fear is to be ignored."

I think it is unnecessary for me to reiterate at this time that the Henry George Foundation, true to its name and great ideal, stands for the collection by government for the benefit of the whole people, of the entire economic rent as advocated by George. We who proclaim the obvious truth that the earth is the common inheritance of all mankind are all moved by a common desire to see the early realization of the dream of equal rights for all and special privileges for none. We deplore the great injustice and the cruel hardships that characterize the present economic order, and we know that Henry George has discovered the true remedy. But sometimes we seem to be of little faith. We appear to lack the courage of our convictions, that courage that characterized the life and work of our great leader.

Many have doubtless reached the conclusion that nothing more than a very slow and very gradual advance is possible and, having adjusted their minds accordingly feel that the only practical thing to do is to work along conservative lines. Some, on the other hand, taking what might be termed an ultra-radical position, would repudiate the entire ideal of any gradual adjustment and contend that we should sanction nothing but a demand for the immediate collection of every penny of economic rent. And yet, on the whole, I believe that the differences as to policy and method that seem to divide us are off times magnified out of all proportion to their importance. Such honest differences of opinion as persist after free and full discussion as between friends, are not of such a nature as

to break the tie that binds Georgists throughout America and the world in devotion to a great common cause. Firm in this belief, in view of many expressions of approval for the undertaking, the Henry George Foundation has sought to develop one great brotherhood that shall strive manfully for the abolition of poverty and the attainment of true freedom.

But ours is a great social reform, a far-reaching economic programme. How can we expect it to be regarded seriously as such unless we offer the people large enough "doses" to reach close to the root of our economic ills, unless we can go far enough toward the Single Tax to have some real effect on the production and distribution of wealth. Otherwise, the people can hardly be blamed for turning to other social "remedies", for they could not regard the Single Tax as much more than an academic question, something that might be of interest to some future generation in a rather distant day, but of no avail for those who would help their fellow men today.

I think it is safe to say that all of us would welcome a "half a loaf" but we cannot be content with mere crumbs while the great evils of poverty and injustice persist and inequalities in the distribution of wealth are, if anything, more pronounced than ever before. How can we make the Single Tax of Henry George mean something to the present generation—to ourselves and our children?

## The Vision

ADDRESS OF JOSEPH DANA MILLER  
HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPT. 10

**I**N the great imaginative literature of the ancient Hebrews which we call the Holy Scriptures it is said: "Where there is no vision the people perish." Is the American nation so lacking? Are we so busy running after the things we call wealth, are we so engrossed in the pursuit of self-indulgences that we have left the vision behind us? It would seem so. Our age is the apotheosis of material achievement. In the chorus of ephemeral overtones the still small voice of the spirit is unheard. There does not seem in all the volume of sound from press and pulpit and politics a single authentic voice. No wonder Chesterton is provoked into saying that it is unfortunate that the invention of the radio enabling us to talk to millions with enormously increased facility comes at a time when nobody has anything to say!

I think this audience would be puzzled to name a single writer of popular eminence, a single man in public life, a single group movement outside our own, that glimpses any real vision even in broken lights. We are to remember that even in our own life time it was not always so. The vision was with us in fitful gleams. The Populist movement, the Non-Partisan League, the Committee of 48, we all remember. But every vestige of these movements embodying some vague aspiration has departed. Most people seem content to drift along with the two old time-

serving parties, Republican and Democratic, both now wedded to the economic Bedlamite policy of protection. It is a time when the self-respecting citizen may serve best the cause of the Republic by staying away from the polls, or voting the Socialist ticket, a refuge always open to us. There never was a time when in politics the citizen's vote was less important.

A few years ago I sat in a great hall in this city as a delegate to the convention of the Committee of 48. It was an inspiring spectacle, those 1500 delegates from nearly every state in the Union, with banners flying and a great hush of expectancy over all. Here was not a gathering of office seekers—not a man or woman among them but was animated by a hope of something better for the nation. It was good to be here—for a few hours at least one could feel the exaltation and share the hopes that throbbed in the breasts of so many. But how soon it was to melt away.

Perhaps it needed no political prophet to foretell its failure. In the absence of a harmony of purpose this great convention broke up into confused and bewildered groups and drifted apart. Only for a few minutes when our friend Oscar Geiger held the Convention in the spell of his eloquent appeal—and never had he spoken so well—did it seem that this great Convention might declare for the Georgian principle, find something that would hold it together and start a real movement for its accomplishment. But it was not to be.

A part of the Convention melted away and marched to another hall where the Labor Party was formed. The band played as they marched along and this led the late Mr. William Wallace to remark that it was the only instance on record of a funeral procession where the corpse provided its own music.

Such vision as this convention had failed because it lacked the necessary apprehension of how to attain it. And it was but a partial vision after all. Henry George gave us a practical vision, for he linked it with the natural processes; he showed us how it could be attained; he accommodated it to methods approved by custom, in ways grown familiar to civilization and communities. He seized upon the machinery of taxation to effect this great change in the social order.

It is easy perhaps because of this to make two great mistakes. We may magnify these fiscal changes we propose as something important in themselves. We have indeed talked of natural or scientific taxation; there is no such thing. This is to concern ourselves with the body rather than with the soul of our movement.

One of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to a Henry George man is for him to become a student of taxation; the next is for him to become a tax expert. He is then in danger of becoming atrophied, impervious to principle. He may even become like our good friend, Prof. Seligman, and there are worse than Seligman, I can tell you. I do not need to tell you; you know.

Sometime in 1975 another Isaac Disraeli will write a new chapter for his "Curiosities of Literature" in which he will make an examination of books and treatises dealing with the subject of taxation. He will find here doctrines confirmatory of the theory that the infallible way to make a country rich is to keep things out of it; that if you lend money to a neighbor in straits across a body of water you must clamor like a Shylock that he pay to the last penny, principal and interest, and then proceed to adopt measures that will make it difficult if not impossible for him to pay at all; on the subject of local taxation he will find taught in these books the strange theory that you can get more out of a hogshead by tapping it a number of times, which is analogous to the story of the man who built a dog house and made one hole for the big dog to get in and another smaller hole for the little puppies!

The other mistake we make and with which we are sometimes charged, is to talk too much of the realization while ignoring the method, so enamoured of the vision, so drunken with its beauty, that we are blinded by the sheer apprehension of a world of men and women made really free, a vision too dazzling for eyes yet unaccustomed to the light.

I do not know how you define the term a "religious man," though I know how I define it for myself. Henry George was in the sense I understand it a deeply religious man. It has always seemed to me that the men who have wrought the profoundest influence on the human race were the men who were possessed of the vision—Moses, Jesus, Mohammed, Buddha, and perhaps in no less degree but differently—Savonarola, Mazzini, yes, and Tom Paine, and the man we honor this day.

We may differ as we will on the meaning of the word "inspiration," but certainly George was genuinely inspired. He was a visionary, but a very practical visionary. He saw the vision, and all his life he made it his, from the time it broke upon him as it did to Saul of Tarsus, as it did to the Hebrew Lawgiver in the thunders of the Mount; it never left him; he lived for it—in a very real sense he died for it. And that vision he put into Progress and Poverty, and there it is, ineradicable for generation after generation as the tablets of Moses!

**I**NDIRECT taxes, while deceptive, are really the most costly of all and, both for the deceptiveness and the costliness, should be avoided in legislation for the frankness and economy of direct taxation. Hardly anybody appears to agree with us, though, and if the gasoline tax is ultimately wiped out all over the country what may be called an almost popular method of raising public money will go by the boards and our legislators will begin to hunt frantically for some new patch to add to our taxation crazy quilt.—*Ohio State Journal*, Columbus.

## Buncombe About Peace and War

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY, HENRY  
GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPTEMBER 10.

**M**R. HENNESSY said in part: Philosophy has been defined as critical and reflective thinking, and I submit that the promulgation of this Treaty as "a great step towards universal peace" sufficiently demonstrates the absence of critical and reflective thinking.

To me the dawn of the era of permanent world peace seems to be a long distance off, and the impressive event that came off in Paris the other day I would rate at best only as a gesture. At best it may be cited as a significant evidence that the political leaders of the nations have been moved by a rising tide of world opinion to at least a qualified pledge to put an end to the horrors of war and to the burdens which the wars of the past and preparations for wars of the future have laid upon the backs of the workers of the world. We may even believe that even unaccompanied as it is by a single act that would give it the spirit of reality, the Briand-Kellogg Treaty is still to be commended for the good it may do in strengthening the popular psychology that is everywhere tending away from war.

Behind all the noise and rhetoric and self-deception in which the world may indulge itself over this Treaty, the fact remains that War and the preparations for War still remain the greatest industry of the largest of the so-called civilized nations. In Europe alone, nine years after the war to end war, the countries that signed this Pact are raising, by taxation, and spending about two and a quarter billion dollars annually to maintain the organization of wholesale human destruction.

To say or think that we can banish war from the world by mere denunciation or renunciation without an understanding of and a disposition to remove the fundamental *causes* of war, is foolishness and futility. While I do not say or believe that there was hypocrisy or insincerity in the spirit moving those who signed the Anti-War Pact in Paris the other day, I find it hard to believe that some, at least, of the statesmen who negotiated this Treaty, are not aware of the fact that the causes of war are economic in their character, and that until nations are ready to face the realities and deal with the economic dislocations and iniquities which are at the bottom of the wars between nations, there will never be assurance of permanent world peace. Not even disarmament, which so many good people are striving for, will bring peace to the world, so long as we leave untouched the causes of poverty among peoples and those encouragements and rewards to greed and selfishness which breed the fears, the hatreds, and the jealousies between peoples, that keep alive the spirit of War.

Have we forgotten the great Economic Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva last year, at which the representatives of fifty-one countries were called together to find the causes of war and industrial depression? Reviewing the proceedings of the Conference, which lasted some weeks, the President, Mr. Theunis, of Belgium, declared, in effect, that they had uncovered the fundamental source of Europe's economic misfortunes. The main obstacles to economic revival were revealed in the hindrances set up by governments to oppose the free flow of labor, capital and goods.

Where, for example, there had been twenty-one tariff barriers before the Great War, there are now twenty-eight. So Mr. Theunis concluded:

"The main trouble now is neither in any material shortage of the resources of Nature nor any inadequacy in man's power to exploit them. It is all in one form or another a maladjustment; not an insufficient productive capacity, but a series of impediments to the full utilization of that capacity."

No statesman in the world has disputed the accuracy of this official diagnosis made by the International Economic Conference.

The followers of Henry George were not absent from that historic Economic Conference, for a committee was there representing the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, who presented a classic memorial to the Conference dealing clearly and logically with the interdependence of the economic causes of war and industrial depression. That splendid statement of economic truth is now, I am happy to say, circulating in ten European languages. I read the concluding paragraph of it:

"But beneficial as would be the establishment of Free Trade across national frontiers, it would not suffice to effect any permanent elevation of the economic status of the ordinary citizen in any country so long as the evils of land monopoly and the destructive internal taxation that now restricts the employment both of capital and of labor remain untouched.

"Both of these evils would disappear if governments could be led, upon the recommendation of this Economic Conference, to adopt the policy here advocated. The levy of taxes upon the economic value of all land apart from improvements would on the one hand immensely stimulate industry by forcing land into use, and, on the other hand, would provide a constantly growing source of public revenue, leading ultimately to the abrogation of the taxes and imposts of various kinds that in every country so grievously oppress and hamper the free employment of capital and labor."

And it was the followers of Henry George speaking through their International Union at the great conference at Copenhagen two years ago who pointed unerringly to the course that nations must be led to adopt before world peace can be secured. This is what was said at that conference:

"We believe that free commerce between the peoples of the earth would be the greatest civilizing influence that the world could know. As it would mean the free exchange

of goods for goods, of services for services, it would serve increasingly to promote those friendly human contacts and understandings that lead to an ultimate appreciation of the essential kinship of all mankind. Untaxed and unrestricted trade would put an end to the isolation or the self-sufficiency of any nation. It would in time bring into being a league of peoples more potent for peace than any league of political Governments could be. It would build the straight road to disarmament of nations by first disarming the minds of their peoples of the fears, suspicions and antipathies that now naturally grow out of the selfish national policies that seek to benefit one people by inflicting injury upon another.

"Finally we propose to end the curse of war, with all its barbarities and brutalities, and its grievous burdens upon the backs of the workers of the world by leading nations to recognize and remove the true causes of international contention and strife. These have their roots not alone in hostile tariffs and the struggle for markets, but in the economic imperialism which exploits the natural resources of distinct and undeveloped lands for the enrichment of favored groups of capitalists at home."

In closing let me remind you that the followers of Henry George, citizen of the world, lover of humanity, champion of economic freedom and social justice, are to gather again next year in the beautiful city of Edinburgh, in Scotland. The members from many lands of our International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade are then to assemble to fittingly celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of "Progress and Poverty," that wonderful book from which true statesmanship might today learn a way of life for the nations—a way that leads to enduring peace and prosperity for all the world.

J. H. KAUFFMAN of Columbus, Ohio, was an unsuccessful candidate for auditor of state at the Democratic party primary election, August 14, but his was the most useful publicity matter. In the Archæological Museum at Ohio State University is a large stone which in 1831 was over the east door of the first State capitol in Ohio. On this stone are cut the following words:

General good the object of Legislation perfected by a knowledge of man's wants and Nature's abounding means applied by establishing principles opposed to Monopoly.

—LUDLOW.

Ohio history says of Ludlow, the author of this sentiment, "He was a staunch Democrat."

Mr. Kauffman had an attractive and large photographic reproduction of this inscription printed on the back of his card for mailing purposes.

"LOWER taxes on human enterprise and higher taxes on the unearned increment of land looks right to me."  
—U. S. SENATOR GEORGE W. NORRIS, FROM NEBRASKA.

"I HAVE long been of the opinion that to tax industry less than the value of the land was absolutely sound."  
—U. S. SENATOR ROYAL COPELAND, FROM NEW YORK.

# Third Annual Congress of The Henry George Foundation

CONDENSED FROM STENOGRAPHIC REPORT OF MISS MILDRED TIDEMAN

MORNING SESSION, MONDAY, SEPT. 10

**T**HE Third Henry George Congress of the Henry George Foundation held at Congress Hotel, Chicago, Sept. 10, 11 and 12 was a largely successful gathering, characterized by real enthusiasm and a generous tolerance for differences of opinion as to methods.

The Convention is indebted to Messrs. Evans and Williams, president and secretary respectively of the Foundation, to Clayton J. Ewing, the very efficient chairman of the Convention, to Miss Marien Tideman and John Lawrence Monroe, for their labors of registration, and last but not least to Miss Mildred Tideman for her inestimable services in reporting without charge the three days proceedings.

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 by Chairman Ewing who said:

## REMARKS OF MR. EWING

"It is the purpose of the Henry George Foundation and of this Congress and of each one of us to grind and pound to pieces the doctrine and practice of the private appropriation of ground rent. At this time I want to thank Mr. Strachan and all the committee chairmen and members who have been so faithful.

"Single Taxers are individualists and thus there are differences of opinion as to methods. Let us be thankful for this. For by different methods our progress will be more rapid. Only let us be tolerant—let us applaud any earnest and sincere worker in the cause even if his way is not our way.

"Our cause is too big for any one man or any one method. It has grown and is now ready for differing methods of appeal suited to differing mental temperaments.

"We will remember that this Congress is not to discuss prohibition, the Republican or Democratic platform, or candidates, or records. The Single Tax cause is not the tail of anybody's kite. To bring in alien or controversial subjects is to serve poorly the objects of this Conference. Let us earnestly strive to hew to the line and to get into no quarrels among ourselves as to outside issues. We have plenty issues of our own to debate and consider here."

Chairman Ewing on concluding his remarks introduced Wiley W. Mills, and said, "Mr. Mills is a member of the Chicago Civic Council and we are proud of him as a fellow Single Taxer."

## REMARKS OF MR. MILLS

Mr. Mills said in part:

"If I understand your purpose you would abolish all taxes and have all expenses paid out of the natural public

revenue which goes into private pockets where most of it remains. In rather clumsy efforts to replace this natural public revenue, we endeavor to tax everything and build up all sorts of private monopolies. Moreover, far reaching private monopoly inevitable results from our failures to keep or recapture this natural revenue.

"Ground rent is a product of community growth and enterprise. Its payment is inevitable and justified. Whenever and wherever any man or group is allowed to use any portion of the planet on any better terms than any other man or group is willing to pay, injustice is done. It is necessary and right that all should pay for all they use of the earth.

"This ground or site value rental, being the result of community growth and activity, the desire of many for the same locations or opportunities, is essentially a communal fund and would furnish an adequate revenue for public or common expenses. Of course it is paid out of revenue privately produced. As under our present system it is paid to and kept by other individuals or private corporations, another portion of the wealth produced must be taken to pay public expenses.

"But even this is not all; the producer having twice paid the public revenue must again come forward with an enormous sum to pay tribute to private monopolies in the form of excessive charges for so-called public utility services and increased cost of commodities due to licenses and taxes."

Mr. Mills concluded by saying: "To you I commend the little growing groups of boys and girls who have caught the torch which lights the way to freedom. That is our great work everywhere—to interest the young to carry on."

Other speakers at the morning session of the first day of the Congress were P. R. Williams, secretary of the Henry George Foundation, and George E. Evans, president and F. W. Maguire, the assistant secretary. These addresses appear elsewhere in this issue.

A motion for the appointment of a Resolutions Committee was introduced by Mr. E. J. Batten, of Chicago and seconded by Mr. Frank Stephsen, of Arden and carried. The following Committee on Resolutions was then appointed by the chair:

Mr. Andrew P. Canning, Mr. E. J. Batten, Mr. Frank Stephens, Mr. W. H. Holley, Mr. Jos. Dana Miller, Dr. Mark Milliken and Dr. T. J. Kelly.

MONDAY'S LUNCHEON, SEPT. 10

The assembly was called to order by Joseph Dana Miller whose address is printed elsewhere in this number, after

which Mr. S. H. Thompson, President of the American Farm Bureau Federation, made a few remarks.

Chairman Miller then introduced Charles LeBaron Goeller, of Union, N. Y. and announced that Mr. Goeller would soon start on a lecture tour of the east, speaking for most part in colleges and universities, and that the necessary fund had been supplied by unnamed parties to keep Mr. Goeller in the field for one year. Mr. Goeller's address will appear in coming issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON SEPT. 10

Prof. Aage Moller, President Nysted Peoples College, Dannebrog, Neb., gave a very complete and thorough explanation of the educational system in Denmark, and its results in the way of greater freedom in the educational life of Denmark, since 1788 when the farmer got greater political freedom.

He explained the rural school system in America, and urged that education be directed to the development of individual personalities.

Following the address of Emil O. Jorgensen to be printed later, Mr. Rose, of Kansas City, said:

"Some years ago I was going through this city on my way home. As I stood at the corner was struck by a little boy calling his papers. He said something about Henry George. Three years before I had read his book and had become a Single Taxer. I turned about and asked him "What about Henry George?" "He is dead." A great leader had fallen.

"That winter in Pittsburgh, I heard Father McGlynn for the first time—the only time. Now he is gone. We count those who were in the movement. How many of them have passed away! The grey heads and bald heads are in the majority. The problem that confronts those of us who want the torch held up in the future, is to fill up the ranks. In order to do that many things must be done. But we must not depend on the old or middle-aged. Somehow or other we must devise a way to reach the minds of the young people—when their minds are open, when they are ready for new truths."

Mr. Rose went on to suggest that perhaps essay contests could be started in high schools—a prize to be awarded for the best essay. Said it was a question of salesmanship. If the principal and presidents of the classes could be sold, they in turn could bring pressure to bear on the Board of Education and school superintendents. Convince them of the benefit of such a contest. Have the winning essay printed in the school paper. In this way the minds of young people will be inculcated with the ideas and ideals of Henry George.

Mr. Rose recounted some personal experiences which graphically illustrated that as soon as Henry George is explained to people, they become enthusiastic about it. They do not argue. Also proposed an essay contest among labor unions, the best essay of each union to be printed in that particular union's paper or magazine.

There followed a discussion on other methods of reaching the young in which A. L. Smith, Herman Forel, Prof Moller, Will Atkinson, Dr. Thos. L. Brunk, George E. Evans, Mrs. Anna George de Mille and Dr. Lychenheim took part.

Charles R. Adair, of Flint, Michigan, followed with an address on "What is Wrong with American Agriculture." Following this Dr. Kelly, of Marathon, Iowa, Will Atkinson, Chas. B. Rogers, of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, Edward White, of Kansas City, Billy Radcliffe, of Cleveland, Ohio, discussed the points raised by Mr. Adair.

#### MONDAY EVENING, SEPT. 10

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow spoke on the Abolition of Poverty. Mr. Bigelow wanted to postpone his speech until the next morning in order to allow time for discussion, but the audience insisted that he speak despite the lateness of the hour. Those present were anxious to hear him and would not hear of any postponement. This address is also reserved for a future issue. This session adjourned at 11.20 P. M.

#### TUESDAY MORNING SEPT. 11

At nine o'clock a Liturgy prepared by Rev. A. W. Littlefield, of Middleborough, Mass., who was unable to be present, was read, and this was followed by singing by Miss Hallbery of Chicago, who rendered "The Builders" and "If I Could Live." The Liturgy closed with a reading from Henry George by Mr. Strachan, of Chicago.

The morning session was presided over by Mr. Henry L. Tideman, of Chicago, who called attention to the small gavel which he was using, and told the Conference that it had been used by Henry George himself at the Single Tax Conference held at the Art Institute of the City of Chicago in 1893, and was a prized possession of the Single Tax Club of Chicago.

Miss Norma Goedde came forward with a bouquet of roses, which were presented to Mr. Tideman by the Young People's Single Tax group in token of their felicitations upon his birthday.

Motions being in order, Mr. Frank Stephens moved: That the vacancy on the Committee of Resolutions be filled by the election of Miss Marien Tideman. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Chairman then presented Mr. Fiske Warren, the first speaker. Mr. Warren made a brief statement of the Single Tax colony ideal and was followed by E. B. Gaston who talked on "Fairhope and the Progress of the Single Tax."

Rev. Charles E. Snyder, of Sioux City, Iowa, followed with a short address on "The Farmer and the Land Question," and Julius J. Reiter, of Rochester, Minn. spoke on "The Problems That Confront Us."

The morning conference adjourned at 12:15 and was followed by a luncheon of the Trustees and members of

the Advisory Commission of the Foundation. The official proceedings of this meeting appear later.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 11

This session opened at 2 o'clock, Henry H. Hardinge of Chicago in the chair. Mr. Hardinge introduced the first speaker, Dr. Mark Milliken, of Ohio, who talked on "The Ohio Situation."

As Miss Grace Isabel Colbron was unable to be present her address was read by Mr. Williams and will appear in next issue.

Chairman Hardinge said:

"The most appalling poverty is poverty of mind. Compare Miss Colbron's fundamentalism, as set forth in that very able paper, with the fundamentalism, of, for instance, a William Jennings Bryan.

"Our next speaker I first saw thirty years ago. Walking along Madison Street one day, I passed the Old Opera House. Outside was a sign which read, "Good Speeches. Come inside and Listen." I entered. On the platform was John Z. White. He made upon me an imperishable impression. Next on the programme was Clarence Darrow. He also made an imperishable impression upon me. I knew that Darrow would come to outrank White in popularity. But he was a superficial thinker in economics. I said to myself, White knows something. I learned that he was prominent in Chicago Single Tax circles. I saw him there, and have never ceased to admire him."

Mr. White spoke on Democracy and an interesting colloquy ensued:

Mr. Atkinson: "According to Mr. White, there are nine men in Washington who are flouting and destroying our liberty. Is not the remedy to discharge these unfaithful servants, to give the people the right of the recall of judges?"

Mr. White: "I was describing the disease, not prescribing the remedy."

Mr. Atkinson: "But I am used to having Mr. White prescribe the remedy after he has finished describing the disease, and I am disappointed when he does not."

Mr. White: "The President names these men. We, the People, have nothing to do with it. This is not a democracy, it only has some of the features of a democracy. We must complete it—then we'll have the power over our officials. We have delegated certain features of our sovereignty to our governments, the agents of the people's sovereignty. Get the machinery straight. We are in a legal tangle. The people must understand the nature of the machinery and the tangle or they will never control it."

Doctor Lychenheim:

"Is economic necessity the mother of reform?"

Mr. White: "No, but it is the mother of the people who make reform possible.

The Chairman: "Henry George says, the only enemy of the human race is ignorance. No statesman has ever been able to make a speech such as this we have just heard.

Slow and tortuous is the road to freedom. Our country is an example of a political republic within an economic despotism.

"Our next speaker is Mr. Robert C. Macaulay, of Philadelphia, editor of the *Pennsylvania Commonwealth*, who will speak on "An Efficient Method of Propaganda." Mr. Macaulay was followed by Mr. Edward White, of Kansas City, on "A Practical Approach to Land Value Taxation," and discussion followed in which the following delegates took part: E. H. Boeck, of St. Louis, Vernon J. Rose, A. S. Thompson, of Toronto, and A. L. Smith, of Detroit took part.

#### BANQUET, TUESDAY EVENING SEPT. 11

At 6.30 sharp the Congress assembled for the banquet. Beginning with this banquet, the headquarters of the Congress had been moved to the Gold Room of the Congress Hotel. This Gold Room is a very beautiful and elaborately decorated room, being a replica of one of the ballrooms at the Louvre. There were tables to accommodate eight persons, and the long table for the speakers on a platform.

We take this occasion to thank the managers of the Congress Hotel for the admirable service and the accommodations and conveniences placed at our disposal. In no respects, not even the smallest, was there the slightest cause for complaint.

President Evans opened the banquet festivities and introduced A. P. Canning, of Chicago, as Toastmaster, who put the audience in good humor by several cleverly told anecdotes. We suggest that Mr. Canning be retained as permanent toastmaster of all Single Tax banquets hereafter wherever held. A Single Tax quartet sung and Mr. Evans read a few congratulatory letters, after which he introduced as the first speaker, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, saying that he would dispense with the usual form of introduction since Mr. Hennessy had far more ably introduced himself at the Monday afternoon session than he (Evans) could hope to do.

Mr. Hennessy spoke of the growth of the Henry George movement in all parts of the world, and what it is accomplishing. The suspicion was almost raised in the minds of American Single Taxers that their cause had perhaps progressed further in some European countries than it had here in the United States, the birthplace of the movement. This suspicion almost became a conviction when the Hon. Hennessy mentioned that at the last Conference of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, at Copenhagen, the Danish government turned over its Parliamentary houses to the Conference. There was a very splendid German delegation at this Conference.

Mr. Hennessy also mentioned that the backbone of the movement in Great Britain, is in Scotland. The latest Scotch joke, fresh from Edinburgh, was also delivered by him. Because this joke was by a Scot, the famous Billy Reid, and not *on* the Scotch, Toastmaster Canning gave Mr. Hennessy permission to tell it.



"When I was in Edinborough," began Mr. Hennessy, "Billy Reid took me around Edinborough to show me the sights in a very beautiful new car (I don't know where he got it), and came to stop in front of a very old small house. He told me that was the home of John Knox. I of course expressed mild interest. He then asked me—'Do you know what the last Irishman whom I took around to show the sights of Edinborough said when I told him that was the home of John Knox? He said (Irishmen not being gifted with brains anyway), "And who the hell was John Knox?" And what do you think I answered him? I said, *My God, man, don't you read your bible.*"

Mr. Hennessy concluded by cordially inviting each and every person present to the International Conference which will be held at Edinborough, next summer (1929).

Then Mr. Evans introduced the next speaker to whom he paid high compliment. But no words could have equalled the silent tribute which was paid to the daughter of Henry George, when the audience acting as one person, stood up as Mrs. De Mille began to speak. Her talk, which was on the subject of the Prize Essay Contest for pupils of high schools and colleges, will be noted at another time.

Among other speakers at the Banquet were Dr. Frederick W. Roman and Dr. Preston Bradley, of the Peoples Church of Chicago. Dr. Roman gave a very interesting speech on "Modern Educational Thought in its Relation to the Social Philosophy of Henry George," and also explained the Parliament of Man, an organization which he is sponsoring. He traced the evolution and development of education from the Greeks to the philosophy of Henry George.

Dr. Preston Bradley, Chicago, who addresses an audience of 6,000 every Sunday morning at the People's Church, and who reaches a great many hundred thousands more through the radio, gave a very entertaining and highly amusing conclusion to the evening's entertainment. He defended the "fair city of Chicago," and remarked that "We have not killed a decent man in Chicago in 25 years. We have 75,000 students of the fine arts. Last year there were 1,800,000 books in circulation from the public library. No library in the world, has or ever has had that many books in circulation." Dr. Bradley also told how Mr. Hardinge gave him Progress and Poverty to read ten years ago. He also told the things that he is trying to do in the way of inculcating in the minds of people that it is not so much the hereafter and the preparations for it that counts, but the present, and its immediate problems of poverty, sickness and suffering.

WEDNESDAY, A. M., SEPT. 12.

The morning session was called to order by Mr. Williams who read extracts from communications received.

Mr. Chas. B. Rogers, of Wisconsin, acted as Chairman of this session and Rev. Ambrose Griffin, of Hillside, Illinois, gave the invocation for which he chose the Lords Prayer.

Chairman Rogers then addressed the meeting in a few words:

"Nothing could be a more appropriate invocation than the Lord's Prayer. He recalled a meeting opened by McGlynn with that Prayer, and at the words, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven, the audience rose and cheered."

He spoke of the splendid sanity of Henry George, and read from his diary of the year 1893 his impressions of the Conference and the people who attended it.

Dr. T. J. Kelly, of Marathon, Iowa, then spoke on "A Question of Method."

Mr. Luis Lupian, Mexican Consul at Chicago, spoke in part as follows:

"I thank you for the kind invitation to speak to your Congress, and for this kind reception.

"No doubt you are acquainted with the present situation in Mexico. An agrarian policy had become a prime necessity.

"When this continent was discovered, an army was sent to take possession in the name of the rulers of Spain. The conquest of Mexico was a business proposition. The lands were given to the conquerors in large tracts, were held by individuals, and were passed down to the heirs. Thus the land was monopolized.

"The Church was the largest land owner. Prior to the revolution, the Church held more than one-third of the land. It controlled land and business, and through this monopoly controlled the people.

"The Church was also the only institution that fostered public education such as it was. After three hundred years only one-half of one per cent. of the people could read or write. This illustrates the complete failure of the Church in that field.

"It was clear that some change was necessary, if Mexico desired to continue its existence as an independent nation.

"After the declaration of independence in 1810 there were many problems that had to be solved politically. It was hard to know how to do it. We had no leaders, and all the educated classes were opposed to us. It is of interest to note that our liberators were all from the ranks of the Church. We started and intended to use political methods. For a hundred years we were struggling to meet these problems. Since 1910 a new generation has been dealing with them. Mexico has come to realize that a new economic change is necessary. From ten to fifteen years ago a series of measures which changed the structure of the country were passed. We needed a substitute for the feudal system which prevailed. For example of conditions in the central states, there was Morelos, which was owned by seven families. It is a wonder that the revolution did not break out before. The Mexican people have been patient as no others in such condition would have been. Due to the influence of the Church, they suppressed their aspiration toward liberty.

"What has been done lately regarding the agrarian policy?

The Government sought through an agrarian policy to solve the difficulties of the masses. The Agrarian Laws have been working since 1915. In 1927, 68,837 families were given possession of 717,968 hectares. (A hectare equals approximately 2½ acres.) Communal lands, in the use of which 7,938 families participated, were given to 38 towns.

"The people have organized cooperative agricultural societies. Six new agrarian banks have been organized for loans to small farms. The most recent, the agrarian bank of the State of Mexico, has a capital of 110,000,000 pesos (equal to about half that amount in American money).

"We are hopeful that in from five to ten years we will change entirely the economic structure of the Republic. In the last four years great irrigation projects have been begun. President Calles realized the necessity of irrigation, and the fact that it would have to be undertaken by the government. A nation-wide movement was initiated and successfully carried out. Two projects have been finished, at considerable cost and effort. We have gone as fast as our resources permitted.

"We have been fortunate in having energetic, forceful men like Calles and Obregon, to resist opposition from within and without.

"We will continue to struggle to free the peasant from the economic burden; to return the land to them; to aid in restoring their economic independence; to promote a better environment for them; to educate the children; to increase their efforts to create new necessities; to give real progress. In the future, our supreme aspiration, a finer and better people, will be realized."

Questions were asked by members in the audience, and Mr. Lupian replied.

"In the division of land, do the new owners have a chance to sell at increased value?"

"No. The land may be passed on to the heirs, but there is a provision in the Agrarian Laws against selling it at increased value."

Remark—"It would be best if the Mexican peasant would be left alone and not taxed."

Answer—"Real estate has always been very lightly taxed in Mexico. The new owners have been brought up in that tradition, and the land is still lightly taxed. There has been a revision in the assessments, and the owners pay in proportion to their holdings."

Question—"Are not the Mexican agrarian laws similar to out laws for the protection of the Indians?"

Answer—"It is the same principle."

The meeting then passed a motion that a vote of thanks be extended to Mr. Lupian for his kindness in addressing the Conference on a subject that was of great interest.

The Chairman:

"I spent five weeks in California, studying the Mexican land laws, and I wish to say that we don't need to ask Mexico any questions about the treatment of the peasants. They show a better conception of the rights of the people

than do the United States. And they don't need to learn anything from our treatment of the Indians.

"They hold that Diaz had no right to alienate the possession of the land and the oil under the land.

"The United States has been upheld in her claims on this subject, but in the agrarian question Mexico's sovereignty is questioned.

"But if Mexico had applied the principle of taxation of land values until the rental value of the oil lands had been absorbed, the United States could not have protested, for the rights of a Government to use the power of taxation are absolute."

Mr. Rogers then offered Mr. Lupian a copy of "Progress and Poverty." Mr. Lupian thanked him, replying that he already possessed one in English. He accepted the offer of a copy in Spanish.

Mr. Joseph Dana Miller then stated that fifty copies of the book in English had been sent by LAND AND FREEDOM to as many distinguished Mexicans occupying high official or educational positions and all but two had replied with certain favorable opinions.

The next speaker was Charles H. Ciliske of Chicago, whose topic was "Can We Promote Prosperity?"

#### LUNCHEON, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12

Mrs. Emily E. F. Skeel presided at this session and introduced Mr. Lucien Victor LaTaste, of Dallas, Texas, whose address was entitled "Brother or Victim, Which." Mr. LaTaste is Director of the Texas School Guild. He was followed by S. Warriner representing the Commonwealth Land Party of England, whose subject was "The Land Question in British Politics." The addresses will be printed in LAND AND FREEDOM.

#### CLOSING SESSION, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, SEPT. 12.

This session was called to order at 2:30, Henry H. Hardinge of Chicago, presiding.

Mr. Williams read letters and telegrams from Edmund Vance Cooke, of Cleveland, Ohio; Norman Thomas, James F. Morton, of Patterson, New Jersey.

The Committee on Resolutions withdrew to prepare the Resolutions for presentation to the Congress.

Mr. Hardinge spoke on "The Natural Law of Distribution," Miss Marien Tideman on "Young Single Taxers," and John Lawrence Monroe on "Our Common Cause." Mr. Stephens gave his opinion as to various methods of work that had been suggested to the Congress. He felt that it was an error in our work that the wisdom and devotion of Single Tax women has not been sufficiently utilized. He added that a division between the emotional and intellectual was impossible. His closing remark was that we should not quibble over the word tax, but each work for the advancement of the movement in his own way.

There was some discussion of the work of the Commonwealth Land Party and of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. Some people felt that there

was not enough difference in their views and aims to warrant the separation.

Miss Charlotte Schetter, of New York, then rose to say that there was a real difference; that the Commonwealth Land Party believes the question should be put before the voters at the polls now, while the United Committee still works on a programme of education only.

After this discussion the invitations to the next Congress were presented. Mr. LaTaste, of Dallas, Texas, offered the invitation of the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce of that City to the Congress for the meeting in 1929. Mr. Gaston invited the Congress to Fairhope. A personal representative of the Mayor and the Chamber of Commerce of Saint Louis extended a most urgent request that the Congress meet there. Mr. Carl D. Smith put forward the offer of Pittsburgh. Mr. Atkinson here made a motion that at the next Congress Marien Tideman and John Monroe should be the first speakers on the programme, as none had better sounded the keynote of the spirit of the work than they. Mr. White seconded this motion, and added that Kansas City be the seat of next years Congress. Mr. Evans announced that all these invitations would be considered carefully

The motion made by Mr. Atkinson was then voted upon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Williams then presented the resolutions, which were read, debated, amended and voted upon as they appear in this issue.

The Third Annual Congress of the Henry George Foundation had come to an end and all those who participated were enthusiastic over the three days' proceedings. Every minute of the time had been enjoyable; the East had met West; the union was cemented, and the great army for emancipation will now move forward to occupy an advanced post a little nearer the enemy's breastworks.

## Protecting the House Owner

**F**OUR HUNDRED mortgages were foreclosed in Baltimore during the months of June and July. This was no more than the normal number. There are more to come. Taxes on improvements, exorbitant ground rents and inflated prices make the burden too heavy for many home owners to bear. Abolition of taxes on improvements and on all other labor products would relieve the situation but since this would give offense to the gentlemen in charge of the Real Estate Board the legislature has so far refused to act. Consequently the foreclosures will continue. Every time the Real Estate Board has succeeded in preventing ameliorative legislation of this kind it has proudly announced in its organ that it is "protecting the home owner."

WHATEVER one may think of the Interstate Commerce Commission it cannot be denied that it tries to make each decision more fare.—*Commonwealth*, Ardmore, Pa.

## Honest Farm Relief and Fair Taxation

PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

**T**HE economic system under which we live, as contrasted with a caste system and with various proposed systems of communism and socialism, is a system of freedom of choice for each person as to lines of industrial activity. The needs of the community are supplied because the demand for the goods wanted keeps up their price and makes it profitable for some to choose each necessary industry. If any one industry is, for a while, much more profitable than others, more people go into it and their competition cuts down wages and profits. If any industry is, for a time, much less profitable than others, because it is supplying more goods than the public is willing to pay for at a profitable price, some of those who are in it become dissatisfied and withdraw, competition becomes less intense, and an approximate equality with other industries is restored. Meanwhile, whether in the temporarily, more or less temporarily, profitable industries, the efficient, hardworking and thrifty gain most and the inefficient, lazy and thriftless gain least.

This is what our economic system is supposed to be, by its conservative defenders. This, in part, is what it is. But the qualifications are numerous and important. The system is full of imperfections that make it rob some persons to profit others. And while a few of these imperfections may be the result of historical accident, involving no purposeful chicanery, others are the consequence, in some degree, of deliberately selfish political machinations. That is to say, one group or another uses its votes or political influence to work the economic structure to its own supposed advantage. Most of us, the farmers included, suffer from these imperfections and warpings, with the consequent unfair advantage or special privilege of the favored groups.

All such special privilege, whether accidental or otherwise, should be abated as inconsistent with our professed ideals of equality of opportunity, as contrary to the ideals of democracy, as alien elements in an economic system which exists to reward service. Legislative relief of any class, and perhaps of farmers most of all, should be directed to the abolition of all those forms of privilege which abstract from them their hard-earned wealth, to the correction of all those imperfections in our economic system which enable some to profit at the expense of others.

But what, in fact, do we find? Those who are most vocal in the movement for alleged farm relief are, almost without exception, advocates not of the abolition of privilege but of its further extension. Not only is it a fact that the farmers of the great grain-growing states, who are now said to suffer from but in no way to be benefited by the high tariff, have, in effect, voted for that and similar

tariffs during many decades. It is also a fact that the scheme which appears now to be the only one having large support among them is one which has all the viciousness of the worst kind of protective tariff, if not some special viciousness of its own besides. The only excuse for it—and this excuse comes with poor grace from those farm leaders who have always supported the high tariff on the plea that it helps the farmers—is that if the manufacturing population is to steal from the farmers then the latter are going to attempt some stealing on their own account. If the stealing were merely from those who in turn steal from them, the proposal might not be so bad. But there are other millions who are already robbed by the existing tariff system, which artificially raises the cost of much which they must buy and to whom an artificially induced scarcity of wheat, corn, cotton, etc., would be a still further injury.

For what is it that the advocates of so-called farm relief propose? It is to collect money to dispose of what they are pleased to call a surplus—as if the very existence of trade with foreign countries did not necessarily involve our having more of some goods than we ourselves want—in such a way as to create an artificial domestic scarcity and raise the price above a competitive level. To make the domestic price higher than it otherwise would be, through sending more of the supply abroad than would normally go abroad—and this it is proposed to do—will operate to reduce the foreign price. This means a loss on foreign sales, the loss to be covered by a so-called equalization fee or tax. In order that the producer should be benefited, the domestic price must be raised, by the scarcity artificially produced, not only enough to give him the coveted larger return on what he sells at home but also by a greater amount so as to offset the loss on what is sold abroad. And in order to benefit those farmers whose land is so poor or so unfortunately located that they really and greatly need relief, it compels consumers to pay a larger return equally to those farmers who are prosperous under existing conditions and to those owners of valuable agricultural land who would take the higher prices artificially brought about as a signal for charging higher rents to their tenants who do the actual work.

A few years ago it was common to hear complaints regarding some American companies, to the effect that they kept up the price of their output to home consumers, behind the tariff wall, while selling the same goods abroad for less. The idea was to avoid “spoiling the home market” from which the tariff shut out foreign competitors, while still producing and selling elsewhere a surplus. I wonder how many congressmen who recently voted for a so-called farm relief measure intended to enable the farmers to do what the wicked corporations are denounced for doing, used to be among the denouncers?

Let us face the facts frankly. The legislator or executive who uses his vote or his administrative power to advance measures favorable to his own financial ventures, the

corporation which employs lobbyists and makes campaign contributions that its financial gain may be maximized at the expense of the general public, and any group of people in a specific industry who force their representatives, often posing as “progressives,” to vote for measures artificially enhancing the price of their product at the general expense, are all in the same business, are all wearing cloth cut to the same pattern, are all participants in the discreditable game of seeking something for nothing, are all helping to betray the interests of the public.

However much we who have come together at this Henry George Conference may commiserate the condition of and sympathize with those farmers for whom a living is now so hard to obtain, I am confident that no arrangement for extending the domain of special privilege, for trying to create new kinds of special privilege to balance old ones, for thus making our economic system a crazy quilt of special privileges will meet with the approval of any of us. We are convinced, rather, that in abolishing special privilege, never in extending it, lies the true salvation of the masses, including therein those who make their living by their labor as farmers.

What are some of the imperfections and special privileges in our economic system from which the farmers suffer? Obviously tariffs which raise the prices of the things they have to buy constitute one kind of injury. Another injury is suffered from the fluctuating value of our money. It is certainly an injury to a man who has borrowed (say) \$20,000 to buy a farm, when he finds that he must pay back his debt, principal and interest, in dollars that will buy half again as much as the dollar he borrowed and that are half again as hard to earn.

But, to my mind, the greatest handicap that has to be met, alike for farming, for home owning and for industry in general, lies in our system of taxation. This system of taxation fails to distinguish between interest on capital and rent on land; it fails to note the difference between values produced by individual energy and thrift and those community-made values for which the individual is not responsible and which he can not properly be said to earn. Such taxation penalizes efficiency and thrift much as communism would; it lays an especially grievous burden on the owners of the more isolated farms far from the parallel streaks of steel and the concrete ribbons that make farming even now profitable to those whose location is most favorable; and it makes land so expensive that to get title to any but the poorest land a man must either first save a large sum of money or else he must burden himself with a mortgage which he cannot pay off for years, if ever. These are the conditions that demand relief, not the somewhat diminished returns to the well-to-do owners of the best located farms. Can it be the case that the noisiest advocates of so-called farm relief have actually no understanding of and no slightest interest in the evils that are really the fundamental ones?

A tax on community-produced land values, which is what we of this congress are urging, would not penalize thrift and industry; it would relieve especially those isolated farmers whose incomes are small because their locations are poor; and it would make easier the acquisition of land and so tend to lessen the evil of land tenancy and of prolonged mortgage debt.

I have said that our present tax system fails to distinguish between the individually-earned interest on capital and the community-produced rent of land. Let me emphasize this distinction for a few moments, because it is fundamental to all the practical conclusions which are to follow.

There is a widespread notion that the interest on capital is not earned as truly as are the wages of labor. The socialists regard all income from property as unearned and consider only the income from work as legitimate. The socialist is not necessarily a communist. He may not desire to have all incomes equal. He may not wish that the enjoyments of the efficient worker shall be decreased in order that the inefficient worker shall have more. His complaint is not that incomes from work are unequal—although he doubtless sometimes regards them as more unequal than they should be—but that many individuals receive income from *property*. The socialist would have the public own and operate industrial plants in order that individuals should not get income from investments but only from their labor. Yet the notion that interest on capital, as such, is unearned has not the least basis in logic. It is an utterly wrong notion. Capital can be brought into existence only by saving. To have capital we must produce more than we consume, i. e., save. By not consuming all of your income but instead investing part of it you really turn the use of the invested part over to laborers, et al., whose time is thus set free for the construction of capital—the tools and equipment of industry. If nobody saved, all the time of all laborers would have to be spent producing goods for immediate consumption; no time could be spared for producing equipment.

And capital is useful. Though to save it involves temporary sacrifice, yet much more wealth can be produced with capital than without it. So the person who works and, saving part of his proceeds, thereby makes possible the construction of capital, adds thereafter more to the annual output of industry than the person who works but does not save. To give him a larger income—in the form of interest on capital—is not to rob anyone else. It is merely to give him wealth which, except for him, would never have been brought into existence.

But the case is not at all the same with regard to land. Land is not humanly produced. The situation-advantages of land are not brought into existence by the individual owner. The rental yield which the owner derives from land or sites is not therefore, in general, the product of

any owner's work and is not the product of any owner's saving. Land is valuable because of natural advantages of location and because of community growth and development. The latter influence is recognized wherever the phrase "unearned increment" is current. We all know that the annual rent which an owner could charge for a piece of bare land in Chicago's loop district, to a prospective builder desiring a long lease, is not a consequence of the owner's saving the land or making the land, but is the consequence of the growth of Chicago and surrounding territory. An eighth of an acre at the corner of State and Madison streets in Chicago has been expertly appraised as worth, bare-land value, about two and a half million dollars or at the rate of twenty million per acre. Wherein is such an eighth of an acre better than an eighth of an acre of farm land worth twelve or fifteen or twenty dollars? Is the additional value of the land in Chicago due to the owner's activities? Everyone who is honest with himself knows it is not. It is the result of the growth and development of the geographically tributary country, and of Chicago as a port and a market center.

The same is true of the several billions of dollars of land value in New York City. New York is situated on a great natural harbor. If there were none to use it except a few pioneer farmers on Manhattan Island trading some of their surplus produce for the textiles and other goods of Europe, landing space for a very few boats or perhaps for a single one would be all that would be needed. But as the rich interior of the North American continent was settled, with its mines of iron ore, copper and coal, its prairie and river-bottom wheat and corn-lands, and its other resources, more and more goods were produced to be poured through the port of New York into foreign countries and increasing quantities of goods were wanted in exchange which could most advantageously pass through the same port. Today there is needed in New York City a large population to meet the requirements of this great *hinterland* (as the Germans would say) or tributary country.

If all the present working population of New York were whisked away overnight, the land of New York would still have great value because of the need for millions of men and women on it to serve the commerce of the back country. A new population would move in and take up the important work for the rest of us which can be done nowhere else so well; and those who own that part of the earth's surface would be in a position to make this new population pay handsomely for the privilege of working for us and of living where we need to have them live in order that this work may be effectively done.

The demand of the tributary country for this service makes a demand for the use of the land by the people who must live and work there to render the service. Incidentally, too, it makes a tremendous demand—and correspondingly high rents and values—for the use of especially

well-situated lots for the location of department stores, lunch rooms, banks, lawyer's offices, etc., necessary to supply near-at-hand the requirements of those who live there to serve the non-sea-coast sections.

Surely, the rent of land is in a very peculiar sense socially produced rather than individually earned, and ought to be sharply distinguished in thought from interest on capital produced by individuals.

The distinction between interest on capital—an earned income—and rent on land—an unearned income—is slurred over by socialists. They, as a rule, class both together. They would abolish both as private incomes. But our most conservative citizens, though many of them would be shocked and perhaps angered to be classed with the socialists, seem to share in some degree the socialists' notion. They, also, see no distinction between interest on capital brought into existence by work and thrift, and rent from sites made valuable by community development. They also see no essential difference between land and capital. Although they would not abolish private income from either, they insist on taxing the income from both—and at equal rates. Both socialists and conservatives are, in regard to their inability to distinguish between land and capital, like the farmer's new hired man who, sent to drive in the sheep, spent several hours at the task. Pointing to a little animal in the pen with the sheep, the farmer asked: "What's that Jack-rabbit doing in here?" "Oh, is that a Jack-rabbit?" said the new man. "Why, that's the little fellow that gave me all the trouble."

If we were not blinded by a prejudice which will not let us see facts, we could not help appreciating the logic of taxing land values more and other values less. Why should we penalize saving? Why should we levy a higher tax on one who improves his land than on one who holds his land idle? Why should we levy as high a tax on income from labor and capital as on income produced by the presence of the community?

[EDITORIAL NOTE: The second and concluding part of Prof. Brown's address will appear in next issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.]

## Resolutions Adopted by the Henry George Congress

### AFFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLES

The Third Annual Congress of the Henry George Foundation reiterates its faith in the principles of Henry George, and pledges itself to continue every effort to instill into popular apprehension, and make effective in legislation, the taking for public purposes of economic rent, (the rental value of land), and the removal of all obstructions to production and commerce.

We hold that all men are born free and equal, with reference to the use of the earth; that the earth is the birth-right of mankind; and that just conditions can only be

established among men and their inalienable right to the earth conserved, by the collection for government expenses of the annual rental value of all land. And we contend that this will do away with unemployment and industrial depressions, and all the consequences following in their train.

While pursuing such activities of education as opportunity offers, we will urge the adoption of laws that will take for the community these communal values, especially in such notable instances as Boulder Dam and Mississippi Flood Control.

We appreciate fully the devoted labor of our fellow workers throughout the world, that of our English comrades of all shades of opinion, and of our fellow countrymen of the Pittsburgh Plan, the Manufacturers and Merchants' Federal Tax League, the Commonwealth Land Party, the Enclavial Movement, and of each working along the lines which seem best for the success of our common cause.

### THE BRIAND-KELLOGG TREATY

Whereas the recently signed Briand-Kellogg Treaty proposing the renunciation of war and the settlement of international disputes by pacific means is now attracting serious public attention throughout the world, and is in some quarters hailed as an advanced step in the direction of permanent world peace, this convention of the Henry George Foundation of America feels moved to place on record a statement of its position on this vital subject.

We have not been able to discover in this much-heralded treaty any but the most timid approach to the solution of the problem of the outlawry of war. Its unreality and ineffectiveness are revealed not alone in the devitalizing reservations and interpretations by which certain European nations have qualified their adherence to the treaty, but by the fact that statesmen of all the signatory countries, including our own, now publicly assert that there is to be no reduction in the size or the burdens of the armaments on land or sea, or in the air, that are maintained for the prosecution of the wars of the future.

We can approve this treaty, therefore, not as a courageous or effective approach to the solution of the problems of war and peace, but only for such value as its seeming character may give it in strengthening the growing popular psychology for ending the curse of war.

Further, we feel moved to declare that neither denunciation nor renunciation of war can ever be more than an ineffective gesture of pious intention, until the statesmen of the world are led to recognize and seek to remove the economic causes of international fears, greeds, hates, jealousies and suspicions. These, as our International Union of Georgists has pointed out, are not due to economic dislocations founded in injustice, but to protective tariffs and to that spirit of imperialistic nationalism under which privilege and greed struggle for the control of natural resources in undeveloped and distant parts of the world.

We believe and assert that there can be no enduring peace established until a world opinion is created that will explore the notorious causes of international discord, and compel political leaders to address themselves to realities, and with courage and sincerity to aim at the outlawry of war by outlawing the causes which are the base of this greatest iniquity of civilized life.

#### FARM RELIEF

The difficulties with which the farmers are confronted are three, all of them connected with our system of taxation.

First, the tax system is a penalty on efficiency and thrift. The more the farmer improves his farm with buildings, outhouses, fertilization or otherwise, the more he is taxed.

Second, our tax system rests with peculiar severity on the farmer, whose remote situation already handicaps him in relation to his fellows who are located on the high roads of commerce, since it usually makes no distinction between improvement values and those values due to the presence and development of the community.

Third, our system of taxation, by failing to make this distinction and by thus leaving bare land rent high, and land speculation untouched, has been the chief cause which has made ownership difficult, has increased tenancy in place of ownership by many cultivators, and has made diffusion of ownership possible only through the assumption of heavy mortgage indebtedness, and thus has been the fruitful cause of those bankruptcies and foreclosures of which there has been so much complaint.

No scheme of trying artificially to raise the prices of farm products really meets the need. All such schemes will make more competition for the use of farm land, raise rents and raise land value. The next generation of farm owners will have to assume perhaps even heavier mortgages, with resultant bankruptcies, foreclosures and distress with each price recession.

While we feel that no permanent relief can come to the farmer except by the entire change in the method of raising governmental revenue which we advocate, we believe that a partial measure of relief may be given by reducing the tariffs on the goods the farmer has to buy and by exempting farm improvements from taxation.

#### THE LAND ECONOMICS INSTITUTE

Whereas, the purpose of our schools, colleges and universities is to carry on, not special propaganda for the few, but impartial education for the many, and

Whereas, numerous investigations have disclosed the fact that the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, directed by Prof. Richard T. Ely in the Northwestern University, has accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars from the National Association of Real Estate Boards, the public utilities and other monopolistic corporations and is now putting out through our schools and colleges—and under the pretense of “dis-

interested research”—teachers and text-books hostile to the welfare of the masses and advantageous to the privileged organizations from which its contributions are received; be it therefore

Resolved, that the Third Henry George Congress in convention assembled in Chicago, September 10-13, 1928, denounce the aforesaid Ely Institute in Northwestern University as a threat to economic freedom, a menace to democracy and a grave danger to the future welfare of the American people; and be it further

Resolved, that all members of the Henry George Congress are to use every honorable means within their power to have this fraudulent “research” Institute removed from the public schools, colleges and universities of the United States as speedily as possible.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES 1929

Whereas, the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, brought into being two years ago at a great gathering of the followers of Henry George in the city of Copenhagen, has called another Conference of the Georgists of the world to be held at Edinburgh, Scotland, next summer;

Whereas this conference of 1929 is to be in special celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the publication of “Progress and Poverty,” therefore be it

Resolved, that we tender to the officers and committees of the International Union our earnest and cordial wishes for the success of the Edinburgh Conference and our hope that the delegation from Henry George’s homeland to the Scottish capital may not be inferior in numbers to that from any other country.

We earnestly hope that this Conference may exemplify the fullest sympathy and cooperation between and among all groups of earnest adherents to the principle of the equal rights of all to the use of the earth.

We trust that the Conference may be conducted in a spirit of complete toleration with a full opportunity for all groups to express their viewpoint, and that no attempt shall be made by any group to superimpose their methods on other groups.

Let us all strive for a unity of purpose as to toleration and sympathy and zeal for our common cause.

“THE public do not always get the benefit of a reduction in fares. One of its effects is to raise the value of land, and in such cases the traveller may pay as much in increased rent as he gained by the lowering of his fare, the whole benefit going to the land owner.”

—BRITISH BOARD OF TRADE REPORT.

THE farmer who improves and uses his land will find that the Single Tax is a scheme for taking off his burden of taxes and laying them on the land monopolist.

—HERBERT QUICK.

## Henry George Memorial Dinner in New York City

A DISTINGUISHED group of Single Taxers convened at the Fifth Avenue Hotel on the evening of September 5th, 1928, to enjoy the addresses of two honored guests, Dr. Frederick W. Roman, and the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy.

Mr. James R. Brown, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, under whose auspices the dinner was given, introduced the chairman, Mr. Otto K. Dorn, who, after a few words of greeting, presented the speaker of the evening, Dr. Frederick W. Roman.

Dr. Roman after some preliminary remarks concerning the acute poverty in Scotland and England, the stability and apparent security of the German Republic, and the generally progressive situation of Europe at this time, announced that his topic would be "Fascism," as scarcely two weeks had passed since his return from Italian shores.

Fascism, he said, presents a difficult question for adherents of democracy to answer. We believe it to be a wrong system, but we are in a tight place when the Fascist, calling attention to Chicago, the Teapot Dome, Philadelphia and Tammany, insists that democracy is failing everywhere. Fascism challenges Democracy, for its essentials are opposed to everything democracy holds dear.

Let us see whether we can find a definition of Fascism. We must admit a certain sullen admiration for it, since it boldly declares its doctrine, and leaves us in no doubt as to its position and intentions. Il Duce voices tenets of this doctrine in his preface to a book "The Universal Aspects of Fascism" written by James Strachey Barnes, an Englishman, Catholic, and erstwhile officer of the Italian Army, and in this four-page preface are to be found several arresting statements which may be worth our while to examine.

"A destroying movement will arouse hostility." This is a flat admission of the destroying intent of the Fascist movement. Reading further, it develops that Fascism is out to destroy (1) The doctrine of Liberalism; (2) Democracy; (3) International Socialism; (4) Liberal Views; (5) Democratic Doctrines; (6) Masonic Doctrines; (7) Bolshevism.

"Italy is inaugurating a new form of political government and political doctrine, *for the third time in its history.*" Significant words, pointing to the glories of the Ancient Roman State, to the Michael-Angelo atmosphere of the Middle Age Hierarchies, and, finally, to the new movement, Fascism, which, we are asked to believe, shall spread its power and influence throughout the world, just as did the other two political forms. Note where each was bred—in the heart of Rome! Mussolini explains that Fascism is the answer to the needs of the Italian Nation and of the world, for a modern government, abreast of the times, and prophesies that by the year 2000, Fascism will be as popular throughout the world as democracy and liberalism were in the 19th century, for it will come to fill the twentieth century as did liberalism in the last century.

The ideals of democracy, especially as found in the writings of Henry George, can now be seen to be in con-

flict with the ideals of Fascism. Contrast such statements as "The sovereignty of the people is a myth."

"Man is not born to any rights whatever; he is only born with duty. He can therefore fit only into a hierarchy. The highest authority is the State," with the emphasis placed by Henry George upon the ideal factors of life, remarked by Professor Dewey in his "Appreciation of Henry George" in the first pages of "Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty." The strong, motivating thought in the philosophy of George was that the ills of society would be cured if individuals were liberalized and freed. Ideal factors would release the individual economically and intellectually, and thus the salvation of society would be mined out of its own depths.

Turning to the practical effects of Fascism, we must look for an answer among the people of Italy and we must ask questions of the various classes. Also, we can read the book of Gaetano Salvemini, former Professor of History at the University of Florence, who has written a book "The Fascist Dictatorship in Italy," which maintains opposite views to those held by Mr. Barnes. The Salvemini book is under ban, and exceedingly difficult to procure.

In speaking with the people themselves in various cities of Italy, it is evident that the owners, managers and business people are strong for Fascism. The laborers and workers, on the other hand, if spoken to alone and secretly, complain, saying the work is hard, the hours long, the slavery dreadful and the compulsion of belonging to a Fascist organization unpleasant.

The Fascist element, if confronted with these complaints admit that there is not much liberty but a great deal of order. In their opinion, the Italians have misused liberty and therefore do not deserve it. They will tell you the system is so successful that it is spreading its glory around the world and they prophesy that Japan will be the next nation to adopt it.

Always remembering that the Fascists were a minority party and that they wrested the power from a weak government by force of arms, the work accomplished by the movement and its Dictator is astounding. Apartment houses have been built everywhere; rent laws enforced; homes and industrial buildings exempted from taxation for twenty-five years; twenty million acres of marsh land reclaimed; eighty-thousand poor children sent to summer camps; the lawless secret societies of southern Italy abolished. Everywhere there is work, order, houses, and less taxes.

Fascism, with its many admirable aspects, is nevertheless dangerous and uncivilizing in its essence, so that it behooves the people of the United States to uphold the ideals of democracy to the limit of their abilities. This they can best do by striving to solve the problem of liberating the individual, economically, and intellectually. The manner of this release was clearly indicated by Henry George.

Professor Roman was asked to acquaint his audience with the work accomplished by him through the "Parliament of Man" conducted in Los Angeles, and explained that some two years ago he started a Public Forum with a small group of people in a Public Library auditorium in Los Angeles. The work progressed and the attendance grew, but the D. A. R. complained to the authorities about these lectures. The Unitarian Church auditorium was next obtained and many splendid meet-



ings were held, including a notable one where Will Durant was the speaker. Again D. A. R. pressure was brought to bear, and the church was threatened with \$5,000 a year taxes if these meetings continued.

The doors of that auditorium being closed, Prof. Roman originated "The Parliament of Man," and through the efforts of Mr. Swinney, conducted lectures throughout the year, continuing to draw a huge attendance. Eighty study groups have been formed, and many young people have enthusiastically enlisted in the work. Since a larger meeting place is needed, financial help is greatly needed.

Toastmaster Dorn then introduced the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

Mr. Hennessy called attention to the writings of Patrick Edward Dove, the great Scottish philosopher, and to his insistence upon credence as a great power which was responsible for the progress and enlightenment of nations. Henry George has said that education is the greatest work that can be done to achieve a reform. Reforms cannot be forced upon the consciousness of a community. The people must learn out of their experiences. And so, the finest, most patriotic and most humane work that can be done by the disciples of Henry George, is the work of spreading knowledge wherever possible.

THE cables credit Sir Alf. Mond with saying that the cause of our economic trouble is 15 per cent. over production. We don't believe that he did because he takes *The Standard*, and therefore knows better. Fancy telling starving people that abundance is the cause of their misery. Besides, the Tory Government tell us that the industry will not stand one hour per day less, which is less than 15 per cent. Of course Royalties and unjust distribution have nothing to do with it.

—*Standard*, Sydney, Australia.

## Rights of the Community

"THE value of land rises as population grows and national necessities increase, not in proportion to the application of capital and labor, but through the development of the community itself. You have a form of value, therefore, which is conveniently called 'site value' entirely independent of buildings and improvements and of other things which non-owners and occupiers have done to increase its value—a source of value created by the community, which the community is entitled to appropriate to itself. . . . In almost every aspect of our social and industrial problem you are brought back sooner or later to that fundamental fact."

(The late Herbert Asquith).

THE man who begs Congress to levy a protective tariff for his benefit may not be a bootlegger but is certainly a loot beggar.—*Commonwealth*, Ardmore, Pa.

## Address of Francis W. Maguire, Pittsburgh

ASSISTANT SECRETARY, HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPT. 10.

HAVING spent many years of my life in this city of Chicago up until my return to my native town of Pittsburgh some years ago, it is a special pleasure to attend the Henry George Congress this year and meet so many of my old comrades. Well do I recall how keenly we enjoyed the meetings of the old Chicago Single Tax Club, which for almost twenty years held regular weekly meetings.

I have been an humble follower of Henry George for almost forty years and to me there is nothing that compares with the Single Tax in importance. I know of no other way by which it would be possible to bring such great blessings to all mankind.

Every Single Taxer knows that the Single Tax will eliminate unemployment, raise wages, make better business, replace the slums with good homes, and abolish poverty. How then can we get the Single Tax? How can we bring this knowledge to all the people? To my mind, this is the great question that ranks above all others. Why should we allow ourselves to be sidetracked to the consideration of matters relatively unimportant, when we have such a mission?

There are many good methods of propaganda, but none appeal to me more than does the distribution to the people of Single Tax literature. Let us get people to read the great works of Henry George, such as "Progress and Poverty." Are not the real men in the movement today those who were converted by reading "Progress and Poverty?"

Since the organization of the Henry George Foundation at Philadelphia two years ago, I have been busily engaged in promoting the distribution of books and pamphlet literature, both by personal contact and through the mails. I am glad to say that many thousands of pamphlets have been distributed in various ways, first at the Sesqui-Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, later through the Henry George Club meetings in Pittsburgh and particularly through the mails to all parts of this country and considerable to other lands.

The eloquence and logic of Henry George was such that it seems to me we can find no printed propaganda equal to his writings, which have made such a strong appeal to so many eminent thinkers. As Tolstoy has well 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."

This is my own conviction, and so I say to all disciples of the great philosopher assembled here today:

"Let us then, be up and doing, with a heart for any Fate," and with a faith that never falters, let us press on!

## Young Single Taxers

ADDRESS OF MISS MARIEN TIDEMAN, HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS, SEPT. 12.

LAST evening Dr. Bradley spoke of the young people and of how they asked, "How do you know?" instead of answering just "yes" to everything that is told them. This sentence is the symbol of a definite turn, an immense step in the growth of the human race. It is the turning from a seeking after the unknowable to a seeking after the knowable. It is the symbol of an achievement in growth. In a measure it is a doubting of everything, yes, but still, it is in a far greater measure, the assurance of the capacity of self. Young people are not afraid of anything—not even truth.

Especially not young Single Taxers. Because an understanding of the Single Tax postulates a first conception of human relationship that is a just one; one that carries with it no sentimental sobbings, nothing that wastes time. Young Single Taxers give no mercy, ask none. All they want is justice. To each man, a chance to produce and keep for his own disposal that which he produces. And this same truth applies when young Single Taxers say that the value created by the community belongs to the community. Before this there is no justice. Is not this a truth around which all economic justice revolves?

Religious, artistic or cultural, political,—all social tangles will unfold themselves when each man is given an equal opportunity with all other men to make a living, and not only that, to do with what he produces as he sees fit. This is the first justice, and before it comes nothing.

This is what young Single Taxers want. This is that for which they work and talk. To declare this truth which has been discovered to them is the most vital thing in the lives of all us youngsters; it is the purpose of the Chicago *Single Taxer*, the little journal which we hope some day will be something to be proud of. And we will retain this truth as a working principle until something more basic, more just crosses our path.

AMONG the papers found after the recent death of Chas. F. Dole is an open letter from him to a certain Reform Society in which he says:

I wish it were possible for your group to plant yourselves definitely on the undertaking to unloose the burdensome injustice of our old system of land tenure. Here is a real and obvious and very great injury, on top of which much so-called "privilege" is maintained. Thousands of people who cannot see their way to be Socialists can be easily made to see that the natural wealth in the land is social, by no scheme of legal fiction individual wealth. Let us begin at once to set right an egregious wrong. We ought to be able to appeal to every right-minded citizen to help us. We need a fearless note of human right.

INTERVIEWED on his return from abroad Archbishop Wright, referring to his visit to the Holy Land, said:—"Under Turkish rule there was a tax on fruit trees, and a great number of owners cut down their trees rather than pay the tax. Now the trees are being planted again in many directions."

MR. W. AGER, writing to the Goulburn *Penny Post*, June 2, 1928, says: "realizing the great wealth that will accrue by getting possession of the free-hold of blocks of land in the growing city of Canberra, the speculative elements are out to grab those lands from the people of the Commonwealth, and silently rake in the unearned increment."—*Standard*, Sydney, Australia.

## Extracts from Letters and Telegrams to the Henry George Congress

JAMES F. MORTON, Paterson, N. J.—Am almost eating my heart out with the intense longing to be with you. The Henry George Foundation is still in the early days of its great work. My earnest wishes are with you for complete harmony in council and for a great and well-attended Congress which will mark a genuine epoch in the progress of the greatest and noblest movement on earth.

JOHN J. MURPHY, New York City.—Deeply regret inability to attend the Congress to which I wish full success.

J. W. GRAHAM PEACE, London, England.—Upon all us Georgests rests a grave responsibility. It is given us to point the road to human emancipation. Emblazon on your banner the one word Freedom. Let us show that we are free men in mind and unfettered by the past. Let not mistaken loyalty to old methods prevent us from presenting the truth that Henry George made so clear in all its glorious fullness.

POULTNEY BIGELOW, Malden-on-Hudson, N. Y.—Blessed be the name of Henry George, for he labored to emancipate humanity. He has joined the noble company of martyrs. This is a message from one who knew and loved Henry George from the first time I met him in New York near half a century ago.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Adelaide, Australia.—Our Henry George Commoration will be held on September 11th, and we have arranged an attractive programme. We usually have from three hundred to four hundred present. We read with interest of the work you are doing in America.

WARREN WORTH BAILEY, Johnstown, Pa.—May I not hope that you will excuse me to the good company who will gather in the city where as president of the Single Tax Club I feel I did something for the advancement of the cause. May the Congress stimulate interest in what I feel is the greatest cause of the centuries.

NORMAN THOMAS, New York City.—Am increasingly persuaded that appropriation of the rental value of land by taxation is the solution of the land problem and an important part of our Socialist programme. This truth I am giving in writing and speeches. Good wishes to the Conference.

F. F. INGRAM, Detroit, Michigan.—I would enjoy meeting those who have stood the storm and made sacrifices for truth in the cause that is deemed dangerous by those who sit in places of power and influence.

CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, East Orange, N. J.—The Foundation has injected new life into the movement and I hope it will continue to have active support.

JOHN FILMER, Brooklyn, N. Y.—I shall not be able to attend the Conference, and as I am in my ninety-second year I can make no promise to attend any future one. Success to the Congress.

EDMUND VANCE COOKE, Cleveland, Ohio.—Please picture me as standing on the side lines shouting plaudits and encouragement to your brave lads who are keeping the good game going. I trust that your television is working and you may see what a good little cheer leader I am. At some future time when some of the Star Players are a little bit overworked maybe I can be a little scrub substitute for one of them.

GEORGE L. RUSBY, Towaco, N. J.—Wish you a successful meeting and am sorry I cannot be with you.

BARNEY HAUGHEY, Denver, Colo.—Sorry my health will not permit me to attend. Would be glad to meet the splendid workers who will gather.

CHRISTINE ROSS BARKER, Toronto, Canada.—Thank you for the invitation to speak. Another time, another place, maybe.

P. H. CALLAHAN, Louisville, Ky.—Most of my family have gone to Europe and some of my business partners are away, which will interfere with my leaving the city.

BOLTON SMITH, Memphis, Tenn.—Sorry I cannot be present. I have no special suggestion to make except that serious consideration might be given to the English situation. England because she has suffered and has a problem of unemployment is ready to listen.

WILLIAM A. BLACK, San Antonio, Texas.—Our best work in Texas has been done through the press. I have advised you in former letters to send out a weekly letter of some three hundred words to the 90 odd weekly papers of the state.

#### ATTENDANCE AT THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

The attendance at the Chicago Congress was very gratifying. We do not print the full registration in this issue but shall wait for the next to give the names and addresses of those in attendance. It is not unlikely that despite the very efficient labors of John Lawrence Monroe and Miss Marien Tideman in securing the names of those present, a few were omitted. This is inevitable where visitors are going and coming.

But it is gratifying to report that the registration as secured numbered delegates from 19 states and totals 213. Besides, Alaska, Germany, England and Canada were represented. Our congratulations!

## CORRESPONDENCE

### PROF. BROWN REPLIES TO MR. GEORGE WHITE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am indeed sorry that Mr. George White thinks so poorly of my article. It is difficult to say everything desired, in so short a space. And I am probably at fault in not qualifying my statements as I have done elsewhere.

In saying that a reasonable interest on the *value* of improvements must be allowed for before we know what is the economic rent, I really did not intend to imply such ideas as (for example) that the value of a hot-house built on a North Dakota wheat farm, for the purpose of raising bananas there, should be reckoned at what the hot-house cost to build. Nor when I referred to taxation which would tax only their economic rent, "if and when they received any," did I mean to imply that the potential rent of a farm held by a lazy or incompetent owner who receives no actual rent, should fail to be taxed. If Mr. White cares to consult recent articles of mine in the *Journal of Political Economy* and a forthcoming article in the *Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics*, which just failed to get in the August number, along with various relevant passages in my books, he will find that I have argued favorably for the taxation of *potential rent*.

Again, let me say that I was not attempting to justify any particular assessment procedure on the part of assessors. It may be that "the

market value of the privilege" is what assessors should look to. Assessors would be guided directly, then, by the bidding of the market. But the *bidders themselves* are necessarily guided as suggested in my article. For how could a person who proposed to take a long lease of an unimproved farm or lot, with the purpose of himself improving it, determine the rent he could afford to offer *except* by estimating what it would yield him when he had improved it and then allowing (i.e., subtracting) a reasonable return on the improvements and for his labor (of direction and otherwise)? The annual value of a piece of land is not the same through all successive years. The "market value of the privilege" of holding and using agricultural land is less in a decade of agricultural depression. Thus land rent taxation "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." This was in my mind when I used the expression "if and when they received any."

My article was first written with the desire of helping make clear the general idea of a tax on economic rent to those farmers (many of them in my own state) who think it means taking all they can make from their farms. It is difficult for me—I am sure there are others who could do better—to be brief and clear in presenting a problem and yet present it in all its complexity. The article was offered for printing not with the notion of instructing competent students of the Single Tax but with the feeling that any later use of it (such as an active friend of the cause, who had seen it, contemplated) might be more effective in case it had been published. But I am quite ready to harbor a doubt as to its worth.

I have at various times seen estimates by Single Taxers aimed to prove that there is enough land value to bear the entire tax burden, which counted the farm value minus buildings, with no allowance for fertility. Yet I know that many Single Taxers are quite aware of the need for a distinction and I certainly did not mean to exploit the idea as an original one. I am sorry if I appeared, to Mr. White, to be seeking credit due to others.

As Mr. White presumably knows, a common objection to the Single Tax, among professional economists, has been that under it some communities could not, even though taking 100% of economic rent, meet the expenditures necessary to support the most important public functions. It was not my intention to argue that *all* taxes should be collected and spent by the Federal government or by the state governments and none by towns and cities, nor have I any expectation of the Federal constitution being amended in the near future to permit the first arrangement, even assuming it to be desirable. Perhaps Mr. White will insist that my failure to be more specific in my brief article means that I am committed to the idea of using the rents of American cities for the equal benefit of Americans and Hindoos! He might point out that when I said "used for the benefit of all" he was entitled thus to interpret me! I do believe that a considerable part of our public expenditures should be managed by the state governments. Of course, if one insists on the view that no matter how towns and cities are divided for purposes of political administration, no such division can ever fail to contain land of sufficient rental yield to provide for all public needs, the solution I favor will seem unnecessary and, perhaps, foolish.

Let me again express regret at having failed to make entirely clear what was in my mind. But in doing so perhaps I may be permitted to say, by way of a slight palliation of my offense, that perhaps all the pages of LAND AND FREEDOM, in place of the less than two which I used, would hardly have sufficed to make clear my meaning and forestall unfriendly criticism and misinterpretation. Then not the ordinary farmer but only careful students of the details of the subject would have the patience to read the article at all.

So, in conclusion, I can only ask the charity of your readers in not assuming my views to be altogether unreasonable and ridiculous ones unless the words and the context preclude any other interpretation. I fear Mr. White thinks they do.

Columbia, Mo.

—HARRY GUNNISON BROWN.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S IDEAS ON LAND

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Lincoln was the straightest and one of the most honest thinkers the world ever produced. His name, "Honest Abe," was given to him when a young man, and it was his greatest asset in life. And he had the reputation of possessing more commonsense than any other man in America. This was the point pressed upon the delegates in the Chicago Convention that nominated him, in view of the critical time sure to follow, owing to the repeated threats of the Southern Disunionists to secede in case a Republican were elected President. And the world now knows that he showed himself to be the embodiment of both commonsense and of Moral Sense—a vary rare combination. So it is very interesting to know what such a man thought on the buying and the selling and the speculating in land that was so rampant in his day, and is yet, for that matter. When in Congress in 1847, he voted for a resolution that was tabled, to the effect, that the public lands should be sold to actual settlers for the bare cost of surveying and conveying title. This shows that he saw clearly that the cheaper the land the easier for the people to have homes of their own—and vice versa.

Further, the long agitated for Homestead Bill did not become law till Lincoln became President—as the Southern slave holders, who had controlled the Government, always looked upon the advocates of free land to settlers with the same regard that they looked upon the opponents of Chattel slavery. They could see farther than than many of our so-called Statesmen seem to see now?

Robert H. Brown was a young man during the fifties when Lincoln was becoming active in Illinois to prevent the spread of Slavery all over the Union—North as well as South. Brown was often with Lincoln at meetings—often stayed at the same hotels, slept in the same room, sat on the same bed and talked over politics and progressive reforms. He is the author of the Life of Lincoln in two volumes. He became a practising physician in Illinois, and when a young man, spent some time in a law office. He gives closer up views of Lincoln than most of the other biographers. Here is the gist of what Lincoln told him one night when they both sat in the same bedroom just before retiring.

"On other questions there is ample room for reform when the time comes; but just now it would be folly for us to undertake more than we have now on hand. But when slavery is over and settled, men should never rest contented while oppression, wrongs, and injustices, are in force against them.

"The land, the earth, that God gave to man for his home, his sustenance, and support, should never be the possession of any man, co-operation, or society, or unfriendly government, any more than the air or the water—if so much.

"A company or enterprise needing land, should hold no more than is needed for their home and sustenance, and never more than they have in actual use in the prudest management of their business; and even this much should never be allowed when it creates a monopoly.

"All that is not so used should be held for the free use of every family to make Homesteads, and to hold them so long as they are so occupied.

"A reform like this will be worked out in the future. The idle talk of foolish men that is now so common on Abolitionists, Agitators and Radicals, Disturbers of the Peace, etc., will find its way against it with all the force that it can muster, and as strongly promoted and carried on by all the monopolists, grasping landlords, and the titled and the untitled enemies of mankind everywhere."

Lincoln declared himself to be possessed of second sight, and every one of his prophecies turned out just as he predicted. He could always see the end from the beginning. As a philosopher, not Socrates nor Plato, nor Aristotle, ever approached him. He was a combination of poet, prophet, philosopher, orator, leader, statesman, humanitarian and emancipator, and he never ceased to be a pupil to the day of his death. His mind was always broadening out.

Chicago, Ill.

—W. D. LAMB.

## FOR NORMAN THOMAS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

So you advise us to vote for Norman Thomas, the Socialist candidate! Good. "New powers bring new duties." Henry George says so in Chapter XVII of "Social Problems" entitled "The Functions of Government." Here he presents about all the arguments which are urged by present-day socialists in support, not only of the public ownership of railroads, the telegraphs and telephones, electric light, heat, power and gas, but also of *all those businesses that are in their nature monopolies.*

But he goes still further, and says, beyond owning those businesses which in their nature involve monopoly, there is a field in which the state may operate beneficially as the executive of the great co-operative associations into which it is the tendency of true civilization to blend society.

He also tells us in this chapter that the natural progress of social development is unmistakably towards Socialism.

He speaks of the development of species and says, as the powers of conscious co-ordinated action of the whole being must assume greater and greater relative importance to the automatic action of parts, so it is in the development of society. "This is the truth in Socialism", he declares.

During the past summer I visited seven European countries, where I met and discussed social affairs with representative socialists. Nearly all recognized the fundamental doctrine of Henry George that all mankind have an equal right to the use of the earth, and that the way to secure that right is through the collection of economic rent, by the state, for governmental expenses.

I believe in Henry George, but I do not believe that he was infallible. And I think one of the greatest mistakes of his life was when in 1887, at the State convention on the United Labor party he parted company with the socialists, who had supported him in his campaign for Mayor in 1886.

The hostilities then aroused have led many Georgists to always speak slightly of socialism, and often sarcastically of socialists, as if they were enemies in a hostile camp instead of allies.

I hope our joining with the Socialists in support of Mr. Thomas, (as many of us will) may bring about a friendly and co-operative feeling towards socialists, by all land reform advocates.

I said so to a Single Tax friend and he answered "I do not like this mixing up of socialism with the Single Tax."

Well, Henry George started it. In "Progress and Poverty," chapter I of Book VI, he says: "The ideal of socialism is grand and noble, and it is, I am convinced, possible of realization."

And in chapter IV of Book IV he tells us that the revenue arising from the taxation of land values would enable us to establish public baths, museums, libraries, gardens, lecture-rooms, music and dancing rooms, theatres, universities, technical schools, shooting galleries, play grounds, gymnasiums, etc. Heat, light, and motive power as well as water, might be conducted through our streets at public expense; our roads be lined with fruit trees; discoverers and inventors rewarded, scientific investigation supported; and in a thousand ways the public revenue made to foster efforts for the public benefit.

"We should reach the ideal of the socialist, but not through governmental repression. Government would change its character, and become the administration of a great co-operative society."

I am aware that Mr. George said and wrote some things seemingly contradictory of some of the things I have quoted. Walt Whitman said, "Do I contradict myself? It is well, I contain multitudes." Henry George too contained multitudes.

I am aware that Henry George did not believe in the wisdom of abolishing competition. Neither do I. It is the law of life. It is one of the main-springs of progress. It also often produces injustice and cruelty also and so needs to be restrained and guided.

And I find that most of the socialists in this country and abroad question the wisdom of abolishing all competition, and believe that there should be along with the public ownership of many things a broad field left for private initiative and private enterprise. The Russian fiasco has taught many reformers that evolutionary progress is better than revolutionary progress and that it is not wise to turn society and our economic system upside down.

"Ah Love, could you and I conspire, to grasp this sorry scheme of things entire.

Would we not smash it into bits, and then rebuild it nearer to our heart's desire?"

Thus wrote a very old-time poet. But this idea of reform is absurd. The bit by bit method is the scientific one. Experiment is necessary in the field of social reform. The only way to tell whether some of our Utopian theories will work or not is to begin with small doses.

Rye, N. Y. —CHESTER C. PLATT.

#### REPLY BY THE EDITOR

Mr. Platt goes us one better, and we do not follow him so far. We do not believe that the law of competition produces injustice and cruelty where left free to work. Under the one-sided competition that prevails ("jug-handled competition" was the happy phrase of Louis Post) it *does* work injustice. But free competition has not yet been tried. Nor do we think a natural law needs to be restrained and guided.

And the things we can do cooperatively with the surplus of the land rent fund remaining after governmental expenses are provided for—if there is any remainder—will be few in number.

Nor can we endorse the argument that because the Russian experiment has failed we must therefore substitute *evolutionary* for *revolutionary* progress. It is conceivable that the Russian experiment might have succeeded if it had begun right. Even now it has a better opportunity of working around right—a better opportunity than we have, since mountains in the way have been removed. The Russian experiment failed not because it was accompanied by revolutionary methods but because its leaders did not know. If they had known there would have been no need at all of *evolutionary* processes after the overthrow of Czarism. Power was in their hands, and therefore Mr. Platt's argument seems to us to lack force. And this does not mean that we are disregarding the evolutionary processes either.—  
EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM.

#### THE FARM SITUATION IN IOWA.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am a dirt farmer and like all my brethren have hard scratching to keep going financially. There is much dissatisfaction among farmers and this will probably be manifest at the polls. There are doubtless many Hoover farmers, but they are very quiet. There is a growing lack of confidence in the leaders, especially since the defection of Senator Brookhart. The evils of landlordism are much in evidence here; two thirds to three fourths of the farms are occupied by tenants, although there is a noticeable movement of retired farmers back to their farms, because the returns from the latter are no longer sufficient to maintain them in town. About all the sales of farms are forced sales. The Eastern loan companies will gladly sell foreclosed farms for the amount of the mortgage, and this depresses the price of all farms.

Correctionville, Iowa. —W. B. CHAPMAN.

#### EMASCULATING THE GEORGEAN PRINCIPLES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The letter of Mr. John F. Scott, of Pasadena, in the March-April number of your paper concerning Mr. Stoughton Cooley and the Tax Relievers seems to call for further comment.

In the first place the Tax Relievers deny that they are Single Taxers

and when organs of landlordism like the *Los Angeles Times* accuse them of advocating Single Tax they are peeved.

But still they complain bitterly of the evils of landlordism. Indeed they claim heroic measures are necessary to relieve industry of burdens which should be borne by economic rent, and while any reductions of taxes on industry is welcome and beneficial, their programme is wholly inadequate.

Instead of attacking the great evil they seem to think it is possible to sneak around on the blind side of the people and quietly put over some such needed relief legislation without their knowing about it.

Mr. Cooley has stated plainly that he thinks "Henry George made a mistake when he attacked the institution of private property in land," and in a talk at The Freeland Club in this city he argued that the landlords should be paid for "their" lands if they are taken away from them.

I confess I am at a loss to understand people who in one breath favor depriving landlords of the full benefits of ownership by increasing taxes on rent and in the next breath advocate compensation for their losses.

If private ownership of land is just why deprive the owners of the rent and on the other hand if it is wrong why not attack the iniquity with all our might and take all the rent by taxation?

Los Angeles, Calif.

—A. V. HAHN

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

J. O'DONNELL DERRICK, of Glasgow, Scotland, has mailed at his own expense to clergymen and leading public men over one hundred copies of the pamphlet by Joseph Dana Miller, "Has the Single Tax Made Progress?"

CAN any one tell us of a little-known work, on "The Making of a Commonwealth," by Patrick Edward Dove.

HATS off to John Lawrence Monroe, Marien Tideman and Theodore Saunders who have issued a convention number of the *Chicago-Single Taxer*, with a gossipy report of the Congress and much matter of interest concerning it. Send for a copy, or, better still, send one dollar for a year's subscription to 538 South Dearborn Street, Chicago. We constantly deplore the absence of young people from our movement. Let us show we are sincere by helping to push the work of this very interesting group of young folks in the Windy City. John Lawrence writes us under date of Sept. 29: "I never had a better time in my life."

It is always a pleasure to record the triumphs of the young. This time it is George Geiger, son of Oscar H. Geiger, who has been called to the Polytechnic Institute at Peoria, Ill., to be head of the Department of Philosophy in that institution. As the Philosophy course is one just established George has prepared the subject matter for all his classes and to him fell the selection of the library and the books to be read. His classes are growing, and already one has had to be divided into two, thirty students being allowed to each class. George is a disciple of Henry George, is only twenty-five years of age and is singularly modest, having many of the traits of his esteemed father and endowed with originality and strong independence of judgement. He is probably the youngest head of a department of philosophy in any college in America. George spent eight years at Columbia.

We regret to chronicle the death of Clarence Jenkins, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, long a subscriber of this paper and a contributor to its sustention fund. He died suddenly at LaGrange, Indiana, while on a trip east where he intended to pay a visit to this office, for besides being a subscriber he was a personal friend of the editor and associated with us for many years as a fellow member of a fraternal organization. His death has saddened us, for he was a loyal friend in his personal relations as well as to the great cause he had espoused.

THE *Daily Telegraph* of London, England, issued in July a fifty page special supplement devoted to the subject of "Safeguarding our Industries," a term of euphony with which the new protectionists of Great Britain seek to camouflage the re-imposition of a robber tariff in that country. Our friend Ashley Mitchell, president of the Huddersfield Textile Society, occupies a half page with arguments in which he shows the hollowness of the pretext and calls the tariff asked for by its right name, a "dole."

WE acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet describing Stephens' Word Cards, presenting a new idea in the study of foreign languages. Roger Stephens, son of our Frank, 114 East 28th Street, is the publisher of these Word Cards.

THE Henry George Foundation of Australia is now organized and ready for work. In July a dinner was tendered to Dr. Edgar W. Culley, whose generous gift of one hundred thousand dollars is responsible for the foundation. Dr. Culley responded to the toast of which he was the recipient, and to which response we shall give more attention in a forthcoming issue. Dr. Culley, we learn, was born in Avon, Livingston County, N. Y. Here is success to the Henry George Foundation of Australia.

AT a regular meeting of the Boro Park Taxpayers Association, held at 4912 New Utrecht Avenue, Brooklyn, New York on October 2nd, 1928, the following resolution introduced by George Lloyd was unanimously passed:

Resolved, that taxation on all improvements shall be reduced 10% per annum, for a period of ten years so that all improvements shall be tax free and the entire rent of land shall be collected for all public needs.

James Kilcoyne is president of the association.

A LETTER from the indefatigable George Lloyd is made the subject of an editorial in the *New York Evening Journal* of Sept. 21. The title is "Making Nearby Owners Pay—Reader Suggests Local Assessment instead of Tolls for Bridges and Tunnels." The editor declares it "an interesting contribution to the discussion."

OPEN air meetings of the Commonwealth Land Party are still continued at 97th Street and Broadway, where every Saturday night M. VanVeen, George Lloyd, Arthur Goldsmith, Wm. Smacky, M. Abrahams and Mr. Markowitz are the speakers.

A RECORD price of between \$385 and \$386 per square foot was paid recently for a lot of 1947 feet at the corner of Washington and Franklin Streets, Boston. It was purchased by the Business Real Estate Trust. The price is \$160 a foot more than the highest paid heretofore for land in the vicinity of one of the busiest sections of Boston. In 1910 the Boston Elevated Railway purchased land at Washington and Winter Streets for a tunnel entrance and paid \$225 a square foot which has stood as a record price since. The assessed value of the first mentioned lot was \$360,000, and the building thereon at \$40,000. The Continental Clothing Company has occupied the property for several years.

THE death of William Riddle, former Mayor of Atlantic City, is announced. Mr. Riddle was a Single Taxer and ended by being one of the richest landowners in that famous resort on the New Jersey Atlantic coast. We once heard him boast that Henry George had taught him how to become rich and he improved on the lesson. When Tax Assessor in 1891 and 1892 he was instrumental in getting higher assessments on valuable land and made himself unpopular with the wealthy land speculators in Atlantic City. But he soon ceased to

identify himself with the Henry George movement as his wealth grew to mammoth proportions. "Just for a handful (in this case a bucketful) of silver he left us." It is difficult to frame an appropriate epitaph for men of the type of William Riddle.

WE have also to record the death at the age of 71 of Dr. Florence Leigh Jones, once an active Single Taxer of Brooklyn. She was for a long time well known as a doctor in the treatment of women's diseases in that city, but illness and ill fortune overtook her. Her memory will be cherished by those who knew her.

"UN TAXING INDUSTRY" is the title of a valuable and interesting pamphlet by John M. Holmes, Lieutenant Supply Corps, U. S. N. It is distributed by the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal Tax League of Chicago and is written in a style easy to comprehend and evincing a real mastery of the subject. We commend the pamphlet for wide distribution. Lieutenant Holmes is a member of the Manhattan Single Tax Club and has been an active worker in this city for a number of years.

WE regret to learn of the tragic death of Mrs. Christina H. Mock, sister of our old friend, J. R. Hermann, of Portland, Oregon, and long a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM. She was struck by an automobile while crossing the street and was taken to the hospital where she died. She was secretary of the Single Tax League of Oregon and active in civic work. Mrs. Mock was a remarkable woman. She was a pioneer in many causes. Woman Suffrage and The Initiative and Referendum received her earnest and efficient support. Mr. Hermann has our sympathy in his great loss.

A POSTAL CARD invitation to the celebration of Henry George's birthday on September 2 from the San Diego Single Tax Society says significantly: "Henry George is the only person whose birthday is celebrated throughout the entire earth." We wonder how many of our readers have thought of this. Editors, professors and political economists of our universities and colleges are asked to take notice.

SAMUEL DANZINGER, of Baltimore, Md., writes us that Vorley Wright, author of the remarkable poem reprinted in last number of LAND AND FREEDOM, and of whom we asked information, was a resident of Chicago in 1914. But no one of whom we made inquiries seems to know of him.

CLINTON W. GILBERT writing in the N. Y. *City Evening Post* says: "George Brennan gave Chicago the only reform administration in recent years," and adds, sardonically: "I suppose it was a good administration for the voters turned against Mayor Dunne as city voters always do against administrations that try to enforce the laws, and went back to Big Bill." Mr. Dunne is a Single Taxer and one of the early presidents of the Chicago Single Tax Club.

WILLIAM H. DINKINS, of the Selma, Alabama, University, and a Single Taxer, won the Caroline Stokes prize for an essay which he wrote while at Columbia, New York University, the title of the paper being, "The Constitutional Right and Desirability of New York State to Develop and Operate its Water Power Resources."

PENDER ISLAND, British Columbia, has a population of 200, but there was a celebration of Henry George's birthday in September at which ten of the faithful gathered at a neighbor's house, three other adherents of the George philosophy on the island being unavoidably absent. Mr. Alexander Hamilton made a short address, and the meeting concluded with the singing of "Lead Kindly Light."

THE annual meeting of the Land Values League of New Zealand was held in Trades Hall, Auckland, Hon J. P. O'Regan presiding. Sir George Fowlds was reelected president.

F. H. AUGSPERGER, of Middleton, Ohio, has a letter in the *News-Journal* of that city which concludes: "The power to tax is the power to destroy as well as to create inequality."

JOHN J. LENTZ, Single Taxer and former Representative in Congress from Ohio, and now President of the American Fraternal Insurance Union, is touring Russia for a month. He declares that "the difference between Russia as it is and the lying propaganda we hear in America is as great as between day and night. "I know of no other country doing its equal for child welfare, women's welfare and education of the entire population."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Ohio State Journal*, of Columbus, writes: "What strikes me as curious is that the clergymen are utterly indifferent to taxation; for the personal property tax has been called by a state tax commission "a school of perfury" and "corrupting to the moral sense." It is apparent to the competent observer in Ohio that our personal property tax has for more than 60 years been a terribly demoralizing force. I have tride in vain to arouse clergymen to this serious evil. Why are they indifferent? Can any letter writer explain it"

THOMAS PEEBLES of South Lorain, O., was a successful candidate, Aug. 14, for nomination to the office of county commissioner of Lorain county. His political enemies called him a "stinking Single Taxer." Thomas smells as sweetly as most men, and is no "pussy-footer in politics."

PETER WITT, of Cleveland, entered the primary contest for the Democratic nomination for governor of Ohio too late to permit more than three or four days of campaigning out in the State, but in a field of five contestants he emerged second in the totals, and carried his home county of Cuyahoga by a vote of 10 to 1 for his nearest opponent.

OHIO's Republican and Democratic candidates for governor this year are both rich real estate dealers and land speculators. They spent a small fortune in their campaign. The State now has a real estate licensing bureau with the real estate dealers at its head, each drawing \$14 a day and expenses. They will do the legislative lobbying formerly done by the Ohio Association of Real Estate Boards. They are planning a constitutional amendment with the avowed purpose of "Relieving overburdened real estate," meaning land values, and the raising of more revenue by heavier taxes on shelter, food clothing, etc. They also want a State income tax. It will be a lively struggle.

J. P. CADMAN, of San Diego, California, writes: "I always enjoy reading LAND AND FREEDOM. I leave one of the copies in the reading room of the Y. M. C. A." Mr. Cadman is a vetran in the movement and has just turned his 86th milestone.

UNDER the heading, "Single Tax Town Demonstrates Idea of Henry George," the *Brooklyn Eagle* of recent date gives a short account of Fairhope. The article was sent out by a press agency and appeared in a number of papers.

BECAUSE of a strenuous month of business Stanley Bowmar, formerly of the *Public* and known to Single Taxers everywhere, was unable to attend the Henry George Congress, but asked us to give his love to the Chicago folk, whom he says "are a very fine group"—as indeed we found them to be.

AN article by J. O'Donnell Derrick on Agricultural Relief Rates in the *Scottish Farmer* of Glasgow, Scotland, quotes from the little

pamphlet by the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM, "Has the Single Tax Made Progress?" and recounts the number of places on the globe which have made advances in the direction of the Single Tax.

FRED GRANT, of Westfield, Mass., has printed a pamphlet from a letter in the *New York Times* by William D. Little, which is one of the best expositions on the tariff and how it works since Henry George.

THE son of E. S. Ross, Single Taxer of Arden, is a member of Walter Hampden's company at the age of 17. We wish him success in his chosen career.

UNDER the head, "A Reinvigorated Movement," the *Commonwealth*, of Ardmore, Pa., edited by John W. Dix, points to certain renewed activities that are marking the present stage of Single Tax progress.

IN his moments of leisure from business our old friend, G. J. Foyer, is doing a little writing for the papers. A recent communication from his pen appeared in the *Ohio State Journal* under the nom-de-plume of Matthew Haas.

HENRY GEORGE's birthday was fitly celebrated at the Los Angeles, Calif., Open Forum, Walker Auditorium. Dr. Henry Frank spoke on "The Prophet of San Francisco," and Edward Norton, Mr. Milligan and A. J. Samis took part in the discussion that followed.

"SPIRITUAL ECONOMICS," by J. E. McLean, of Fairhope, published by the Henry George Foundation at 1306 Berger Building, Pittsburgh, and designed to reach clergymen, spiritual teachers and all those religiously-minded, is having a good sale and is doing good work.

WHILE we have voiced elsewhere our dissatisfaction with the Chicago papers for the small recognition given to the Henry George Congress, which merited newspaper notice by reason of its character and attendance, the *Chicago Post* did make a short quotation from the address of Mr. Stracham; the *Tribune* cited Dr. Milliken as saying that gambling laws do not stop gambling, and the *News* made a longer citation from the address of E. B. Gaston. The *News* also printed a portrait of our friend Gaston with a half column giving something of the history of Fairhope.

WE acknowledge receipt of a pamphlet, "The Religious Crisis in Mexico: "The View of a Liberal," by Robert Bruce Brinsmade, reprinted from the *Southwestern Political and Social Science Quarterly*.

MR. C. J. EWING, Chairman of the late Henry George Congress, writes: "As a whole it was a great success and I never saw a Resolution Committee who were so sensible and so conciliatory and who did such all-round good work."

WE print in this issue only a portion of the address on the Briand-Kellogg treaty by Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy at the Henry George Congress—that part we consider of the most interest to readers of LAND AND FREEDOM. The entire address has been printed by the Henry George Foundation and single copies may be had on application.

E. YANCY COHEN is anxious to secure a copy of "Toward the Light" by Lewis H. Berens, and "Rent, Interest and Wages" by Michael Flurschein. Mr. Cohen can be addressed at Fairhope, Alabama.

THIS office wants a copy of a work, the name of which has escaped us, written by a man named Dailey, or Daley, a one-time Single Taxer of St. Louis, Mo., whose present whereabouts no one seems to know.