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A Fine on Industry

ONE of the points discussed during the National Tax Association's meeting at Saranac, N. Y., during the week of Sept. 9 is a familiar one. It is that by making improvements on their farms, building up their land and trying to establish farming on a modern business basis, along with the American standard of living, farmers increase their tax assessments. One of the ridiculous iniquities of our taxing system is that it penalizes a man for spending thought, time and money on his farm and home. It is a fine on his thrift, industry and good citizenship. It tends, therefore, to discourage healthy progress toward the realization of wholesome ambitions and the betterment of conditions that make or mar the lives of little children. Taxes are a constant and increasing drain on the human and property resources of the country in general, and of the agricultural industry in particular. What can be done to mitigate the injustices of the system? Why don't farmers' protective associations include this primary item in their demands for equity and relief? Will the people who levy and collect taxes and spend tax money ever reform the system which maintains them at the public crib?—*Rural New Yorker*.

LAND values are rising all over the country, owing to the development of motor transport and the overflow of the population into what have been rural areas. Land which recently had a purely agricultural value becomes eligible land for building purposes, and its market value rises ten, fifty, or a hundred times. The landowner has done nothing to create this increased value." RT. HON. PHILIP SNOWDEN, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Death of Frederick H. Monroe

ON August 26 at his home in Palos Park, after an illness of two months, died Frederick H. Monroe, President of the Henry George Lecture Association. It is a curious coincidence that his death occurred on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the publication of "Progress and Poverty" and the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Henry George Lecture Association. He had in contemplation a trip to Pittsburgh to attend the Henry George Congress, but had been taken ill while on his eastern tour with his son, John Lawrence, last June and had been failing since that time. He was 64 years old. He is survived by his widow, Irene S. Monroe, and two sons, Frederick H. Jr., 28 and John Lawrence, 21.

Services were held Wednesday afternoon, August 28th, at Lain Chapel, Chicago, attended by many of his friends from Palos Park and the Chicago Single Tax group who gathered to pay their last respects. Rev. U. M. Maguire, editor of the *Baptist*, officiated, while former alderman Wiley Wright Mills paid an affectionate tribute to his more than a quarter-century's devotion to the Henry George cause.

The honorary pallbearers were John Z. White, whose brilliant oratory was made known to thousands through Mr. Monroe's efforts; George A. Schilling, who in 1904 gave Mr. Monroe a ticket to New York that was to start him on his twenty-five years of trans-continental tours; George C. Olcott, Chicago land values expert; Otto Cullman, president of the Merchants and Manufacturers Federal Tax League; Andrew P. Canning and Joseph Foerster, distinguished Chicago followers of Henry George.

The active pallbearers were Henry Hardinge, Patrick Kelliher, George Strachan, Emil O. Jorgenson, and Henry L. T. Tideman, all Mr. Monroe's Single Tax friends of thirty years' standing, and George Burden, a family friend. Mr. Monroe was born in Arcola, Illinois, April 7th, 1865, and after a youth and young manhood spent in Kansas and Colorado, moved to Chicago with Mrs. Monroe in 1895. He was active in the old Chicago Single Tax Club becoming its president for two terms, 1898 and 1899. The Henry George Association, with Mr. Monroe as its president, then was formed to further promote Single Tax educational work in and around Chicago. In 1904 the Henry George Association was organized to conduct the educational work on a nation-wide basis, with John Z. White official lecturer and Mr. Monroe president and treasurer. Travelling becoming too strenuous for Mr. White in 1927 the lecture field was covered then by Hon. George H. Duncan, for ten years a member of the New Hampshire legislature.

During the past five months John Lawrence Monroe has been actively engaged with his father, for the first two months accompanying him in the East, and during his father's illness making the annual trip for the Association through Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, under

his father's personal direction. Announcement has been made that he will continue to promote the educational program of the Henry George Lecture Association carrying out as nearly as possible the policies of his father.

It was as a lad about to become a school teacher near Denver, Colorado, that young Frederick Monroe was first introduced to the book that was to determine his career. Seeing the book lying upon the desk he spoke of it to Mr. White who was Superintendent of the schools and was told that it was a work no young man should fail to read. He found it fascinating as a novel, as so many have before and since. It struck a sympathetic chord in his nature for he had yearned even before reading the work to devote himself to social or humanitarian work and the teachings of this book supplied the needed spur.

He probably had met and knew intimately more Henry George men than any man in the movement. He had met also many public men in his travels up and down the country, who while not openly avowing their belief revealed their sympathies. He was therefore in a position to know that the movement had friends who when the time should arrive would make their convictions known. It was this that strengthened his faith in the triumph of the movement. Few had had such exceptional opportunities for gauging public sentiment and the underlying conviction of so many men in public life to whom in a way he was a father confessor.

His tolerant spirit for all sorts of Single Tax activities, his willingness to aid any one who was doing work for the cause in his own way, even though it may not have been his way, was a trait to which we can bear witness, for many were our conversations and while we often differed, never was such difference of opinion allowed to color our relationship, which over a long period of years was never interrupted.

We learned to respect his singleness of purpose, his amazing industry, and his rare courage. Undoubtedly he performed a work of great usefulness. He kept some of our most prominent lecturers in the field who otherwise would have been heard only occasionally. He created a field for them and through his efforts the movement was assured of their continued services in the lecture field. It is to be hoped that the work he did will be perpetuated and that John Lawrence Monroe will, as has been announced, continue the work that his father has relinquished. We are sure that the friends of the movement will wish him God speed.

SAID Herbert Spencer: "The sole result of legislation to protect fools against their own folly is to create a nation of fools." Let any one who doubts this take a good look at the United States.

THE rights of man are rights of all generations of men and cannot be monopolized by any.

—THOMAS PAINE.

Prize Essay Contest in New York High Schools

THE Dr. Mary D. Hussey Prize Essay Contest for pupils of the New York City High Schools was ended in June and prizes were awarded June 25, 26, 27 and 28. Similar contests were conducted in high schools outside of the City of New York, in Lakewood, N. J., Toms River, N. J., Schuylerville, N. Y., and Pottersville, N. Y.

Dr. Hussey, devoted adherent of the principles of Henry George, left a bequest of \$5,000 for Single Tax work and named a committee to administer this fund. The Committee consisted of Miss Amy Mali Hicks, Miss Charlotte O. Schetter and Miss Grace Isabel Colbron. On the invitation of the Committee Hon. Edward Polak lent his active cooperation to the work.

It seemed to the Committee that to interest the young was the most important object to which this sum could be devoted, and so \$1,000 was set aside for prizes to the pupils of New York High Schools and those of the four others named above. Mr. Polak, acting as President of the Mary D. Hussey Prize Essay Committee, secured the consent and cooperation of the Board of Education.

The subject of the essays was "The Economic Law as Expounded by Henry George," and the conditions were that in each school at least five essays must be written. A committee of economics teachers from the schools read the essays and selected not more than two from each school to be read by the judges. Essays were not to exceed 2,000 words in length.

Upon request of principals of the various High Schools speakers were sent to address the classes and answer questions. Over 800 copies of "Progress and Poverty," abridged and unabridged, were distributed among the competing students, and other books placed in the school libraries.

More than 1,500 essays were submitted by the pupils of twenty-three High Schools and the prizes were awarded as follows:

FIRST PRIZE OF \$100

Harmel, Ruth T., Girls' Commercial High. Griffin, Mary E., Julia Richman High. Schulz, Helmet, Brooklyn Technical High. Brachman, Alex., James Madison High. Dwaretsky, Joseph, Alexander Hamilton High.

SECOND PRIZE OF \$75

Friedman, William, Dewitt Clinton High. Morris, Muriel, Julia Richman High. Mandel, Morris, Franklin K. Lane High.

THIRD PRIZE OF \$50

Lapidres, Leo, Manual Training High. Johnson, Hermes Estelle, Wadleigh High. Kafka, Roger J., James Monroe High.

HONORABLE MENTION PRIZE OF \$25

Harold, John M., Brooklyn Technical High. Bluestein, Abraham, James Madison High. Glazer, Hyman,