

the door to real, unfettered competition and the utmost of individual opportunity.

The second great law of true economics is:

Natural monopolies should be owned and operated for the equal benefit of all the people.

And the third great law is:

No special privileges should be permitted by government which enable private monopoly to exist.

Recognition of these economic laws is all that is necessary to the destruction of any and all monopolies which enable any individual or group to take unfair advantage of the people.

—HERMAN B. WALKER in *Hudson*, (N. J.) *Dispatch*.

IN our time," said Henry George, "as in times before creep on the insidious forces that, producing inequality, destroy Liberty. On the horizon the clouds begin to lower. Liberty calls to us again. We must follow her further; we must trust her fully. Either we must wholly accept her or she will not stay. It is not enough that men should vote; it is not enough that they should be theoretically equal before the law. They must have liberty to avail themselves of the opportunities and means of life; they must stand on equal terms with reference to the bounty of nature. Either this, or Liberty withdraws her light! Either this, or darkness comes on, and the very forces that progress has evolved turn to powers that work destruction. This is the universal law. This is the lesson of the centuries. Unless its foundations be laid in justice the social structure cannot stand."

THE first thing to do for good homes, as well as permanent good times, would seem to be to increase the available supply of land through increased taxes on all sites worth owning, at the same time abolishing taxes on improvements."—Professor Lewis J. Johnson.

## The Work of Charles Johnson Post

THE publication by Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent* recently of the striking article by Charles Johnson Post, entitled "A Plea for Scientific Taxation," led to the writing of a letter to Mr. Ford's editor by Charles O'Connor Hennessy, the president of The Franklin Society for Home-Building and Savings, in which, after commending Mr. Post's article, Mr. Hennessy said:

"May I say that I speak out of a long and large experience with the repressive effects of unscientific taxation upon one industry that, in its social and economic effects, may seem as important as any that can be mentioned. I refer to the business of providing dwelling houses for the people of our country. In our cities, particularly, adequate and decent housing has become a continuous problem.

There is needed no considerable acquaintance with the factors that enter into the production of dwelling houses for those families of small or moderate means who constitute the bulk of our population, to impress the fact that unscientific taxation fills a large part of the picture of the housing problem in America. One need not be a Single Taxer to see clearly that if we could cheapen the production and maintenance of independent homes, it would be easier to produce more of them. Nor should it be hard to believe that a removal of the tax burdens, direct and indirect, that oppress manufacturers engaged in the production of building material, and that penalize the thrift and industry of the homeseeker after he has erected his dwelling, are facts tending to reduce the production of houses. On the other hand it is clear that there is a tendency toward a constant increase in land prices where dwellings are most in demand. This, of course, would be checked by the gradual transference of tax burdens from the products of labor and capital to those land values which are, in a large measure, produced by community activities. Land speculators would lose by this process, but the whole community and particularly the worthy homeseeker would gain."

Mr. Hennessy's competence to speak for homeseekers may be suggested by the fact that he is President of The Franklin Society for Home-Building and Savings of New York, an institution with more than 40,000 members, which has resources of approximately twenty-two million dollars, consisting chiefly of small mortgages on dwelling houses in the Metropolitan District.

## Oscar Geiger Talks in Plainfield

OSCAR GEIGER, of New York, speaking last night before a well attended meeting at All Souls' Unitarian Church on the subject of "Natural Law in Economics," referred to the life of Henry George as an illustration of the driving power which comes from an intellectual devotion to ideals. Like other great Americans, he said, Henry George was self-made and rose from poverty. He was a great economist, a master of English prose style, yet had only a common school education.

In the field of journalism, the speaker said, George distinguished himself by his fearless attacks on political corruption. In 1879 he wrote his masterpiece, "Progress and Poverty," presenting the ideas since known as Single Tax, but also discussing human life and social questions in brilliant language.

The moving force of George's life was said to be intense sympathy with human suffering. The misery of a great city would not let him rest for thinking of what caused it and how it could be cured. He concluded that it was the inability of men to obtain access to the bounties of nature that caused involuntary poverty. He formulated as his central principle that all men have equal rights to use the earth.