

Local Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The response must have surprised Mr. Lloyd himself.

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

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

Charles LeBaron Goeller Enters the Lecture Field

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Common Lands on Long Island

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Providence Will Celebrate

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

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

William Bradford DuBois

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

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

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

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

—Editorial, Bayonne (N. J.) *Times*.

DOES not this issue show impressive evidence of advance?