

Rather a damning indictment of our present land system, is it not? Evidently there is a respectable minority which agrees with you, Mr. Editor, as to the righteousness of open property in land.

—HAROLD SUDELL in Philadelphia *Ledger*.

WHAT is there for which life gives us opportunity, that can be compared with the effort to do what we may—be it ever so little—to improve social conditions and enable other lives to reach fuller, nobler development?—HENRY GEORGE.

## One by One the Old Guard Passes. . . ”

WARREN WORTH BAILEY said it once, and now he is gone himself. Gone in the flesh, but never in the memory of his comrades. His quiet dry humor, his quaint wit, his ability to say the things one remembers, these made his steadfast allegiance to the good cause more valuable. He built up a going concern in his paper which had wide influence, and yet he never compromised, never swerved aside from the line of clear thinking. Not even the danger to any journal of mob-hysteria passed could frighten Warren Worth Bailey.

In remembering Bailey and Johnstown, one remembers another sterling comrade, also gone from us, who worked in the same town, quietly, less in the public eye than Warren Worth Bailey, but upholding Bailey's efforts in the advertised drudgery of organization, of the day-by-day toil at the little things that count, . . . "Pat" Mahaffey. No better men than these two ever worked our ranks.

Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . can indeed be said of these two Johnstown comrades.

SYMPATHY of American Single Taxers will go out to Antonio Albendin, the leader of the Spanish group, on the death of his wife on November 16. Donna Albendin cared her husband's interest fully. She was with him at the Copenhagen Conference, following the sessions with active enjoyment, apparently not hampered by the fact that she knew but one language, French, outside of her native tongue. It was because of this that I came to know Donna Albendin well at the Conference, as my bungling and inelegant French was at least sufficient to explain many things to her. This quiet matron with the youthfully eager eyes was content to be there merely as her husband's wife. And yet, at the dinner in Viborg, on the morrow, she came out of her modest seclusion with a graceful little speech of appreciation and compliment to Mrs. Mahaffey. Those of us who have known Donna Maria Garcia Albendin will send thoughts of sincere sympathy to her husband in his loss of a true helpmeet.

—GRACE ISABEL COLBRON.

## The Passing of John Filmer

ON January 12 of this year at the residence of Mrs. Thomas P. Beggs the usual birthday party was tendered to our old friend John Filmer. On that day he had attained his ninety-second year. There were present on that occasion Mr. and Mrs. Beggs, Mr. and Mrs. Heeg, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Boulton, Mr. and Mrs. Mansur, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Aiken, Miss Jennie Rogers, Oscar Geiger, Thomas Ryan, W. B. Vernam, Miss Corinne Carpenter and others—about 25 in all. A few days later John Filmer passed to his rest.

Because of the suddenness of this event we are unable at this writing to prepare an adequate account of his life and services to the cause, which must wait for the coming issue. There is no sorrow associated with the death of such a man, for mentally vigorous to the last, though always of a frail physique, he had enjoyed his life of service and passed with the love of a great circle of friends and the conviction of a life of usefulness hereafter.

## Colorado

MR. BARNEY HAUGHEY, of Denver, has sent out a letter and pamphlet telling of his work in Colorado and what he proposes to do.

The next election in Denver will be held May 16, and any Single Tax petition will have to be filed thirty days prior thereto. The petition must be signed by 5,000 electors and by starting thus early Mr. Haughey and his associated workers are assured that that number of signers can be secured in time and at small cost—certainly not more than five cents a name. A few volunteer workers will obtain a good proportion of these.

The proposed amendment provides that personal property and improvements shall be exempt from the city tax at the rate of ten per cent. each year until all such taxes are abolished. This is the same provision that four years ago received thirty per cent. of Denver's vote. Mr. Haughey thinks that if one thousand dollars can be secured there is a reasonable assurance of the measure being carried.

An intensive campaign will be pursued and a house-to-house canvass, with distribution of leaflets explaining the measure placed in every household together with Will Atkinson's abridgement of "Progress and Poverty." The literature will be prepared by Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, of the University of Missouri, and James Bell, of Elkhart, Indiana, will help with the printing.

Just now the attention of the people of Denver is being called to the fact that not a single bid has been forthcoming for the old court house square when it was offered for sale. If the agitation to reduce the speculative gain from increased land values has thrown a scare into the land monopolists of Denver it seems to our Single Tax friends a fitting time to introduce a Single Tax measure to the voters of Denver. They will be told why the big land speculators

hesitate to take a chance by bidding for the court house square.

It is proposed by the Committee to get paraders with banners reading:

"The annual rental value of the Court House Square was created by all the people of Denver and it rightfully belongs to all. Therefore the voters should see that this rental value goes into the public purse and not into private pockets."

It is believed that banners so inscribed will hasten the getting of signatures to the petition and arouse the citizens to the real situation.

## Chicago Activities

THE first dinner of the season of the Chicago Single Tax Club was significant for three reasons: first, the speech of John Z. White showed that twenty-five years of continuous propaganda has only inspired him to greater heights; second, the speech of Professor Paul H. Douglas was a word from the enlightened currents of thought in American universities; and third, the talk of Theodore Saunders demonstrated that a new generation has caught the spirit of Henry George.

John Z. White said that our government is an aristocracy with some democratic modifications, with property rights protected and human rights denied and neglected. The real question is not, as Malthus contended, that there are too many people, for Ireland had the same trouble with 4,000,000 people as it had with 8,000,000. Mr. White referred to one of H. G. Well's satirical novels in which in a time of business depression the laboring people were put to sleep until "times grew better."

"Democracy to be a success," said Mr. White, "must be simple." But he pointed out, the Supreme Court has been complicating the simplicity of our government. "We do not live under the Constitution of the United States but under the decisions of the Supreme Court." The Dartmouth College Case decision used the power of the whole people to give the power of taxation to a privileged few, and a government is not sovereign if it can not levy taxes and levy war. One way to regulate land is to tax it. A way to regulate public utility magnates like Samuel Insull is not to permit them to put in their price any public value.

Mr. White condemned the Democratic Party for not having said "a word of democracy in fifty years." Like the Church, the Democratic Party has neglected its duty. Since they gave up to slavery they have given up every democratic principle that Jefferson gave them, Mr. White contended. It should be the purpose of the Democratic Party to be constantly holding up before the people democratic ideals. The Church should not build great places of worship while a single person dies of hunger. "The

ground is ours," he asserted. "It must be administered with equity and justice."

### PROFESSOR PAUL H. DOUGLAS

Professor Paul H. Douglas, of the Department of Economics in the University of Chicago, told of the importance of proportional representation to all liberal, minority groups such as the Single Taxers. He said he was in complete harmony with the great principle of collecting the community created value of the land but that he didn't believe in the *Single Tax*. He also favors such taxes as the Inheritance Tax. He said that the struggle for public ownership will be comparable to the struggles for abolition and prohibition.

In bringing out the vital necessity for proportional representation, Prof. Douglas said, "Creative forces are trying to break into existence. When young they are weak. Our whole political system makes it difficult for new ideas to come in. It keeps down real issues."

Under the present electoral system when the majority wins, 49% may have no representation at all. Al Smith got 40% of the vote but only 15% of the electors, Prof. Douglas pointed out. By helping to elect the man we like best we often cause the election of the man we like least.

Prof. Douglas explained the Hare System of proportional representation. Under this system each group could always have a forum to keep alive issues and arouse discussion, at the same time with a hope for political victory.

### THEODORE SAUNDERS

"I sometimes fear, ladies and gentlemen, that we still live in a weak and insufficient age." So began Theodore Saunders in his talk on the "Relation of Art to Henry George's Theory of Economics." "We devote ourselves to superficialities and polish the surface till we rub it thin," continued the twenty year old artist. "We follow to the seat of government men who walk backwards in circles with their mouths continually open and leaving a stream of platitudes and glittering trivialities.

"In hoping for order we endure imperialism. We allow to spring up about us a caste system worse if anything than a system which evolves through religious distinctions, in as much as it strikes more deeply." Mr. Saunders further stated that the need of the artist for artistic expression is satisfied when he has finished his picture, but that the same need of the public is not satisfied until the picture is hung. It is that lapse between the time the painting is finished and the time the painting is hung, in which the artist must live, and which makes economic conditions of prime importance to him. The Public, in addition, must be economically able to enjoy art. Mr. Saunders concluded by saying, "St. Gaudens looked upon the Single Tax as a symbol of perfect democracy and perfect freedom."

Dr. Walter Verity told how Chicago is 50% Single Taxed already in so far as its public improvements are largely paid for by the land values which they create. Henry H