

rents and royalties received from State lands as given above amounts to \$421,656.78.

This sum total of annual rentals is more than double the amount paid and pledged from sales of State lands. The sales are made at mere nominal sums. In other words, these lands, belonging to State School Department and institutions, the birth-right of the people, are being sold for a mess of pottage. Undoubtedly, if the school teachers and others interested could have their attention drawn to these facts, they would bring about a change in the laws that would prevent the sale of any more State lands. Otherwise in a few years there will be no land to lease and bring income to the different permanent funds.

Unlike the unfair method used in Arizona, Colorado's Land Commissioners will not sell land rented after the tenant has developed it; but grants "immunity" leases, under which agricultural and grazing land is withheld from sale during the term of the lease, most of the leases being of this character. The leases are generally granted for a term of five years, and the lessee is permitted to cut timber on the land for building fences and for fuel. The term of other leases is often for a greater number of years.

In all grazing and agricultural leases, the Board reserves the right to lease the land for mining purposes, and to sell the timber on it. Likewise, in all sales of land, the right is reserved to the State of Colorado to all rights to all minerals, ores, and metals of every kind, and all coal, asphaltum, oil, gas, and other substances in the land, and the right of way for mining, and enough of the surface to conveniently work it for minerals.

—EDWARD P. E. TROY.

Pennsylvania

THE annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Committee of the Commonwealth Land party met June 9, at which time the following officers were elected: John W. Dix, Chairman; Frederick E. Mayer, Treasurer, and Julian P. Hickok, Secretary. As this is not a state year the party will make no effort to get on the ballot, but will take some action on referendums to be submitted at the polls this Fall for public improvements, etc.

Several resolutions were passed at this meeting, the following being the one of general interest, and others covering the Philadelphia franchise situation:

WHEREAS public improvements are a positive factor in the creation of land values: it is

RESOLVED that the proper construction and use of public improvements and justice to industry and commerce depend upon the financing of all public improvements whatsoever by a direct assessment upon all land benefited in proportion to benefits received rather than upon financing through general property taxation.

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Queensland

PERHAPS readers of LAND AND FREEDOM may like to read a few notes from this corner of the earth. A general election has just been held in this state and has resulted in a change of government. The Labor Party which has held the reins of power for fourteen years has been overthrown and a coalition government—Nationalist and Country Party—has come into power with a good working majority.

The reason for the Labor defeat can be attributed to the fact that its rule has not resulted in the improvement in the condition of the people that was promised and fondly hoped for; and the disappointed people have concluded to try a new broom. Georgian Single Taxers are now in a position to say to their Socialist friends, "I told you so."

Queensland at the moment is crying out for somebody to show the way to abolish unemployment, and there are signs that in some quarters Henry George is more likely to get a hearing than has been the case for many years.

It is deplorable to find the subject of unemployment treated by members of Parliament, in letters to the press, and in the sermons of the clergy as if it were a natural phenomenon instead of the result of human folly.

From a Single Tax viewpoint there is not much hope of any permanent general improvement since the present government has pledged itself to reduce the tax on land values. In the last session members of the opposition moved in that direction, claiming that the land value tax fell upon the farmers. When the other side of the house replied that it fell most heavily on city land they were informed that in that case it was added to the price of things made in the city and sold to the farmers. This led to some newspaper correspondence in which the present scribe argued that if ploughs, for instance, were made on land of varying degrees of value they were all sold at the same price. And that a good site for manufacturing or other purposes was an advantage, and did not add to the cost of production but the reverse.

The Queensland Henry George League, which came into existence last September, is doing its best to encourage the study of the works of the great leader and kindred literature. They meet once a month in the city, when a paper is read or an address given which is thoroughly discussed. The May meeting was notable for an able paper read by William Kearney, in which he advocated free railways, which he claimed would so increase the value of land that a tax on this value would pay the cost of railroad operation. He claimed that as the land belongs equally to all men it is not right for some men to own land near the center while others must be content to live miles away from anywhere, and that a free railway would put a far-away man on more of an equality with the near-by man. He showed that under present conditions the distant producer is handicapped by fares and freights both