

fraternity. The futility of all the past organized efforts to promote a better knowledge of elementary economics should show the folly of continuing to work along the same lines. Possibly the case is one where dreamers of wonderful things to do, "all to be done by wishing we could", will prefer to hug the delusion that they are really doing something to promote the cause in which they profess to believe.

—WHIDDEN GRAHAM

Fairhope Now Thirty-two Years Old

FAIRHOPE celebrated the thirty-second anniversary of its founding on the first of this year. Two hundred and fifty colonists and their friends sat down to an attractive menu, the Fairhope orchestra played, and the history of the colony was reviewed by several of the speakers.

Fairhope, as most of our readers know, is the Single Tax Colony on the shores of Mobile Bay. It is the nearest approximation to the Single Tax permitted to a colony under the present laws of Alabama, and it has had a long and interesting history. The past year has shown extraordinary activity in building and most of this as heretofore has been on Colony land.

The *Fairhope Courier*, which is an interesting paper published weekly and edited by E. B. Gaston, comments on this building activity:

"The Town Clerk's record of building permits issued shows a total of 62 of an estimated cost \$1000. or more, of which 50 were on Colony land. Of 33 new dwellings, 24 were on Colony land. Of 13 alterations and additions 10 were on Colony land. Of 13 commercial or industrial constructions all but one were on our land. Of a total valuation of improvements listed amounting to \$102,385, \$84,360 was on Colony land. Within a radius of less than 500 feet of where we are, there have been erected eight new business buildings, with a ninth, the new bank building now well under way; all on land of our Colony; and all of substantial, modern, fire-resisting construction. In all parts of town there has been residential construction, including some of the best yet erected.

All this increase in taxable values, will mean, of course, more taxes to be paid; but along with this development has come increased land value; which we will draw on to meet the taxes on the improvements, leaving the improvers scatheless. And our lessees, regardless of whether members of the corporation or not, have heartily joined in approving rentals which meet the need."

An interesting address was made at this anniversary dinner by our friend, John Emery McLean, who was a personal friend of Henry George and who is now a resident of Fairhope. This address is printed in full in the *Courier* and we cite the following paragraph:

"Henry George regarded both Altruism and Utopia as the vaguest sort of dreams. Though lacking the technical advantages of a systematic collegiate education, he confounded some of the world's ablest scholars. He was equally at home in challenging the Pope, in refuting Herbert

Spencer, in addressing audiences of negroes in the 'black belt' of Harlem, New York City, and in talking to street crowds of foreigners on the lower east side of the same metropolis, where several thousand human beings often exist within the confines of a single block. In that vast city six million people occupy an area less than one-eighth of one per cent. of the habitable land of the country which is increasing in population at the rate of 5,000 a day.

It may interest our readers to know that at a meeting of Colony lessees to receive report of a committee appointed by them on rent appraisalment, a vote to ask the Colony to change its policy by limiting the amount of taxes to be paid for any lessee to the amount of his rent, received the support of only the mover and seconder; the appraisalment of the Colony Council, carrying increases averaging nearly if not quite 25%, was approved by unanimous vote, and a motion offered by a non-member lessee thanking the Council for the consideration shown the lessees also received unanimous support.

This after 32 years is naturally gratifying; as is also the fact that after meeting all tax obligations the Colony will have a cash balance of several thousands at the close of the year.

Who Made the Natural Bridge?

ON a motor trip from San Francisco to New York last spring, the three of us, my husband, little son, and myself, found ourselves in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, on the direct route to the Natural Bridge and the famous Caverns.

I was delighted at the thought of seeing these natural wonders. The pictures in the geography books were the nearest I had ever come to seeing them before and now I would have the satisfaction of looking at realities instead of mere pictures.

We came to the Natural Bridge first. Signs by the highway told us of our approach, and we actually drove over the top of the bridge. But what could we see? The bridge is so huge—about 100 feet in width,—that with trees growing along the highway, all view of the jump-off to the valley 215 feet below is obstructed. So we crossed the bridge without knowing it and came down a short hill to a circular parking space. Signs informed us of a path leading up the canyon to a wonderful view of the Natural bridge. We parked and followed the path. It passed through a small toll house where each person, desiring to look at this seventh wonder of the world, had to pay \$1.10. This meant \$3.30 to our family and because of unexpected automobile trouble in North Carolina, costing us \$100.00, it was a sum which we couldn't afford. I was sorrowful.

I questioned the man in charge about the management, expecting to learn that it was a government reserve and that the money was used to build good roads or for some other public service. But no! I learned that a private