

of industrial relations between Labor and Capital which is the dream of every social reformer.

**I**T was no less an authority than Lord Bryce who indicated his belief that the inevitable tendency of all government is toward autocracy. And it must be admitted that in our complex modern society a working democracy must lack efficiency and tend to disintegrate. Students of political institutions are agreed upon this and our own observation confirms it. Must we then abandon our hopes of democratic institutions and revert to those European adventures with dictatorships which since the war have tended to efface even the democracies of pseudo-monarchical governments?

**W**E believe that the answer is No, and that the realization of democratic hopes is to be found in our own philosophy that Henry George has given in his message, and that it is the solution of the political as well as the economic problem. Under the present economic system the necessity presses more and more for the widening of and additions to the functions of government. Consider the number and extent of governmental activities made necessary by the institution of poverty. These a just social system would reduce or abolish utterly. And the more obvious simplification of government that would result from the abolition of custom houses, tax bureaus, agencies of public relief and regulation needs no emphasis.

**A**ND there is something more. The tendency to excessive legislation arises from a perplexity in the minds of men as to the real remedy for existing evils. If wrong conditions exist, make a law; then make another law to cure another phase of the same evil, or to correct evils arising out of the law itself. Thus we are enmeshed in a fearful web of our own weaving. Government is no longer simple enough to permit of individual interest or concern on the part of the man or woman whose income earning activities are not exclusively political. Democracy is swamped in the multiplicity of laws.

**F**REE men make a free society, and hence a working democracy. And where employment is easy to obtain at the highest remuneration, political jobs will be sought, not for what salaries they pay, but for what opportunities they offer for useful public service. Ambition will find a new outlet and political independence will grow with personal independence. As economic equality is established political institutions will gradually shape themselves to the ideals that will be found workable because no longer hampered by bread and butter necessities, or by the struggle to vie with our neighbors in ostentation.

**M**OST of the speculation that goes on regarding the failure of political democracy to realize its promises

and possibilities ignores the really important factors and proceeds fatuously to lame or impotent conclusions. Lord Bryce is not alone. All those who write on the failure of democratic institutions similarly miss the real objective. A period of serious reflection might open their eyes; a thoughtful consideration of what Henry George has said would start them along a line of reasoning leading to more hopeful conclusions.

**W**E call the attention of our readers to the address of Charles O'Connor Hennessy on another page which is in effect a report of the activities of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. This association, which is pressing forward with our principles into the wider field of world economic relations, is, we believe, destined to attain a growing power and influence. As time goes on and the futility of tariffs and the inadequacy of disarmament proposals become clearer in popular apprehension, we may hopefully look forward to a new and fuller recognition of our principles on the part of those public men and statesmen who are ready to lead where the people of the nations are prepared to follow.

## Argentine

**A** NOTE from Senor B. M. Machello, administrator of the Argentine Single Tax League, says:

"We take pleasure in advising you of the formation of the Georgist Club in this city (Buenos Aires). It is installed on the first floor of the same building as the Argentine Single Tax League. Every Friday in the Club there are debates and entertainments."

Accompanying the letter is the business card of the "Henry George Hotel, calle (street) Defensa 553, Buenos Aires," and of which Senor Machello is the proprietor. Another enclosure is an invitation issued by the Club Georgista for a "té dansante" to be held at the Henry George Hotel, August 21.

It is most gratifying to see that the Henry George Hotel of San Francisco, the birthplace of "Progress and Poverty", has a companion on the other side of the world, conducted also by a devoted follower and worker for the cause.

**L**EWIS CARROLL, in the first edition of "Sylvie and Bruno," opens the first chapter with the following words: "Less Bread! More Taxes!—and then all the people cheered. . . . Some were shouting 'Bread!' and some 'Taxes!' but no one seemed to know what it was they really wanted." This would almost seem to be an appropriate description of the condition of affairs to-day! At all events few appear to think it even desirable to abolish taxation; and fewer still can see any way of doing it. Yet the eradication of all taxation is not only desirable, but possible, as the C.L.P. keep on showing.

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