

The Henry George Foundation

THE speakers of the Henry George Foundation lecture bureau have responded to a number of calls during recent weeks, addressing audiences in various cities and towns of Western Pennsylvania and Ohio.

President George E. Evans and Secretary Percy R. Williams visited Erie on April 19th on a double mission. The Erie Chamber of Commerce, through its legislative committee, has been studying the Pittsburgh tax plan and called a special meeting of members to hear this subject presented by Mr. Williams, the local newspapers giving the matter rather generous publicity. A Single Tax luncheon, arranged through the active cooperation of James B. Ellery, prominent Erie Single Taxer, was held the same day at the Y. M. C. A. dining room. This gathering was addressed by Mr. Evans and Mr. Williams, who spoke of the purposes and activities of the Henry George Foundation and of the general outlook in the Single Tax movement. Two members of the Erie City Council, Wm. D. Kinney and Thomas Mehaffey, were among those present and participating in the discussion. Incidentally, these members of Council, who are also Directors of municipal departments of government under the commission plan, favor the adoption by Erie of the Pittsburgh tax plan and the Erie Chamber of Commerce is taking a very friendly interest in the idea, there being a possibility of Erie becoming a city of the same class as Scranton in the early future.

On April 21st Secretary Williams addressed the Lions Club of Oil City on "Pittsburgh's Progress in Tax Reform" and on May 14th discussed "The Gospel of Henry George" before the Brotherhood of the Bethany Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh.

Former U. S. District Attorney John M. Henry is now devoting considerable time to speaking engagements. On May 24th he spoke to the Oil City Lions Club on "American Idealism" and on May 31st addressed the Lions Club of Ravenna, Ohio, on "What is the Single Tax?" On June 14th, George E. Evans speaks to the Rotary Club of Ravenna on "The Science of Political Economy" and the same evening will talk to the Lions Club of that town on "Economic Conditions in the Orient." The latter address he has recently given before the Credo and Lions Clubs of Pittsburgh.

Harry H. Willock addressed the Scottdale Rotary Club on May 16th and on May 18th debated the Single Tax with Dr. Francis D. Tyson, Professor of Economics of the University of Pittsburgh, at a very interesting meeting of the Brotherhood of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Pittsburgh. Mr. Willock, in his usual forceful manner, made a strong presentation of the fundamentals of the Georgist philosophy and met every point presented by the negative side. Dr. Tyson, while frankly granting virtues in the special taxation of land values as now in operation in Pittsburgh, contended that the political economy of

the days of Henry George had been supplanted by "modern economics." Tyson declared that land, having been capitalized, could not, under the complexities of modern economic life, be treated as distinctly separate and apart from other forms of capital, and that the confiscation of rent was not justified. He favored other forms of taxation, particularly income and inheritance taxes, and incidentally declared that the Single Tax on land values was not a real issue at the present time.

William N. McNair and M. S. Robinson have recently addressed several of the Boards of Trade in the Pittsburgh district, and several speakers have talked to local building trades unions on the Pittsburgh graded tax, resulting in resolutions of endorsement for proposed legislation providing for the extension of this tax system to the levying of school taxes, for which purpose a bill was recently prepared by Attorney Ward Bonsall.

Plans are being formulated for the remodeling of the Henry George birthplace in Philadelphia, with a view to placing it in good condition as well as restoring the old house to its original appearance. The actual work will probably be under way during the summer months.

Secretary Williams is now considering tentative plans for the national Henry George Congress for September 2d and will be glad to receive suggestions with reference to place of meeting, program or any other features. As the birthplace cannot be ready for dedication by September 2d, there is no compelling reason for meeting in Philadelphia this fall, and the field is therefore open. Pittsburgh Single Taxers would be glad to welcome the national convention to their city, but the decision is withheld pending a more general expression from all who are interested.

The Pittsburgh Henry George Club

THE Henry George Club of Pittsburgh, which holds regular weekly luncheon meetings in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, has recently been favored with several visitors from out of town.

On May 13th, Fiske Warren, of Harvard, Mass., journeyed to Pittsburgh especially to present to the Henry George Club the subject of "The Value of the Single Tax Enclave." Mr. Warren related something of the purpose, plan and history of the several Single Tax enclaves and explained how it is possible without legislation to immediately realize much of the benefit of the Single Tax system through community ownership of land and the payment of local taxes out of the economic rent fund collected from the land-holders by the community. Considerable interest has developed among Pittsburgh Single Taxers in this subject and it is possible that steps will be taken in the near future to establish a Single Tax enclave in the Pittsburgh district.