

Senator Roy T. Yates, of Passaic, had already taken the matter up and that it was in line with the recommendation that he was about to make to the Legislature. The proposed resolution follows:

"Be it resolved that this association recommends that all personal property tax be eliminated in the state and the amount now received by taxing personal property be placed on land values.

"We request this change in our tax system to encourage industry in New Jersey and guard against manufacturers being tempted to locate in other states which have no such taxation.

"The recommendation is made to place the amount now received by taxing personal property, on land values to prevent all the burden being carried by home owners who are responsible for the growth of our State and the increase in land valuations."

—Fort Lee, N. J. *Sentinel*

Merle Thorpe Quotes Henry George

FOLLOWING is part of a radio talk delivered by Merle Thorpe, editor of *Nation's Business*, Washington, D. C., on December 7, 1929:

But you will find that no people ever has abandoned any progress they have once made in the comfort and convenience of living. Rather, we insist that our business men scour the world for materials and commodities which will improve our conditions of living. Our desires increase as they are fed. Man is the only animal whose wants are never satisfied. The wants of every other living thing are uniform and fixed.

"The ox of tomorrow," wrote Henry George, "aspires to no more than when man first yoked him. The sea gull of the English Channel, who poises himself above the swift ocean liner, wants no better food or lodging than the gulls who circled round as the keels of Caesar's galleys first grated on a British beach. Of all that nature offers them, be it ever so abundant, all living things, save man, can take and care for only enough to supply wants which are definite and fixed.

"But not so with man. No sooner are his animal wants satisfied than new wants arise. Food he wants first, as does the beast; shelter next, as does the beast. . . . But here man and beast part company. The beast never goes further; the man has but set his feet on the first steps of an infinite progression. . . ."

"The demand for quantity once satisfied, he seeks quality in food. It is not merely hunger but taste that seeks gratification; in clothes, he seeks not merely warmth but adornment; the rude shelter becomes a home. . . ."

Not so many years ago, as Time flies, men exchanged things directly with each other. One fished, another hunted, another made weapons. Each consumer depended on some member of the tribe or clan for the satisfaction of his needs. They produced for each other, and not for a distant market, as we do today.

Land Uses and Prices

AN economic fallacy, far more prevalent than the *New York Times* seems to think, is well refuted by the following editorial comment in the January 27 issue of that journal:

"There may be good reasons for liberalizing present restrictions on the height of apartment houses on wide streets, but the argument of high land costs advanced by the Mayor's committee is not one of them. The price of building plots on Park Avenue may make the present height limitations a hardship. But if the height limit be extended, it will only mean that the price of Park Avenue land will shoot up proportionately.

It would seem to be elementary for urban improvements that the price of land is determined by the prospective income from improvements upon it. Park Avenue prices would not be what they are today if there were a limit of four stories for Park Avenue apartment houses. The Regional Plan in a recent statement says: "One of the fallacies that has come to be accepted in the public mind is that crowding of land by means of putting too much bulk of building upon it is necessary because of the high land prices."

The ordinary man has intelligence enough to see the simple principle involved and to agree with the Regional Plan's summary: "If on a certain piece of land it is permissible to erect towers of Babel, then its price is predicted on what revenue can be obtained from towers of Babel."

Henry George Foundation Activities

WILLIAM N. McNAIR, President of the Pittsburgh Club, has been quite active in his lecture work under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation, both in the Pittsburgh district and in other states. During January he made a trip through Ohio and into Michigan. His principal engagements on this trip were at Ashland College, Grant, Mich.; the City Club luncheon at Detroit; Trinity Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids; and Kiwanis Club of Lorain, Ohio. During February Mr. McNair is scheduled to fill several engagements in the East, including Baltimore where he will address the Baltimore Forum.

Secretary Percy R. Williams is arranging to devote a good share of his time to lecture work during the present year, beginning with a speaking tour of Ohio in February and March. He will travel to the Pacific Coast this summer and will be available for speaking engagements en route, as he expects to visit most of the larger cities between Pittsburgh and Los Angeles.

GIVE the poor the right to land and your social problem is solved; and until you do that, anything else that you can do will not be of any avail.—HENRY GEORGE.