

the problems of unemployment without references to man's relation to the earth, the natural resources from which all sustenance must be drawn? How attempt to determine the causes of bad times without a knowledge of what is property and the consequences of the legal treatment of things we call property? How discuss monopoly without some conception of the natural laws of society, the apprehension that somewhere distribution is interfered with, that monopoly must originate in obstructions to freedom?

WE are more and more reconciled to the great disparity in wages between college professors and bricklayers. But let us be perfectly fair and add that, in view of the experience of our friends Walter Fairchild and Chas. LeBaron Goeller, there are shining exceptions among professors of economics. It is impossible to speak in terms of unqualified disrespect of a class of teachers that includes such men as Prof. John Dewey, Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, Prof. F. W. Roman, and others who might be named, and to recall these names may well soften the asperities which are provoked by the attitude of so many of the professors of economics.

A Professor's View

IF a man saves and improves his property, he must pay more taxes. If he is lazy and thriftless his taxes remain low. If, constructing a great factory, he increases the efficiency of hundreds of thousands of workmen and so adds to the sum of commodities which all may enjoy, he is punished by increased taxes.

But if, instead, he keeps a piece of land vacant and unused until the activities around him and the growth and development of the community have given it high value; if he then makes money out of what these others have done, requiring the person who would use the land to pay him a high price for advantages of situation for which not his activities but the activities of others are responsible: we keep his taxes low.

And this we do notwithstanding the fact that such holding of land out of use amounts to a public nuisance. For, because of it, gas pipes, electric light and telephone wires must be extended farther, street railway lines must run longer distances, retail store delivery service must cover larger area, and pedestrians must walk longer distances to and from their work; yet the holding of land out of use for speculative gains tends to make land dearer rather than cheaper, so that the individual householder may have somewhat less garden space than otherwise.

—PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, Department of Economics, University of Missouri.

International Conference July 29 at Edinburgh

THE draft of the program for the Fourth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade to be held at Edinburgh, Scotland, in the week commencing July 29th has been completed by the committee of which Mr. Ashley Mitchell of Great Britain is chairman. The opening of the session will not begin until Monday afternoon, July 29th, when Bailie Peter Burt, Chairman of the Arrangements Committee, will formally welcome the Conference to Scotland. There will be, it is stated, a social gathering on the preceding Saturday evening, and an informal program on Sunday for the early arrivals. The formal address of President Charles O'Connor Hennessy of New York will follow the address of Chairman Burt, and this will be followed by short speeches from representatives of various countries represented.

The following days will be taken up chiefly by discussions relative to various formal addresses which have been prepared on such subjects as "Free Trade in Its Fullness;" "World Competition and World Markets;" "Foreign Exchanges and International Trade;" "Economic Rent—The Dividing Line Between Common and Private Property;" "Land Valuation—Methods and Results." This latter subject will be a symposium of papers from Denmark, the United States, Australia, Hungary, and other countries. Discussion on these papers will, incidentally, deal with the question of whether selling value or annual economic rent should be the basis of taxes. Other papers will cover aspects of the land question in various countries under such titles as "Public Lands in German Communities;" "The Expropriation and Subdivision of Great Estates in Eastern Europe;" "The Victory of Georgeism in Denmark;" "Typical Objections Met and Answered."

A review of the progress of land value taxation in the United States since the publication of "Progress and Poverty" fifty years ago is to be undertaken by John J. Murphy of New York. One of the most humanly interesting and significant papers will be prepared by Chester C. Platt, dealing with the land boom in Florida and its social and economic effects, with incidental references to the curious taxation system by which Florida represses the growth of business and industry.

One of the desirable features of the Conference that the Arrangements Committee has provided is the printing in advance of all formal papers, which will not be read through at the Conference, but will be summarized in brief talks by their authors. The widest latitude will then be allowed for inquiry and discussion.

The local committees have provided various entertainments and sightseeing trips for the visitors, and on the evening of Tuesday, July 31st, there will be a social gathering for the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Publication of "Progress and Poverty," at which a special

guest of the occasion will be Mrs. Anna George deMille. A garden party at the beautiful estate of Sir Henry and Lady Ballantyne will be one of the entertainment features.

Among the Americans who have booked passage for the Conference are Mrs. Anna George deMille, Miss Margaret deMille and Miss Agnes deMille, Charles O'Connor Hennessy, John J. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Cullman and their daughter and nephew, George E. Evans and daughter, Walter Fairchild, Mr. and Mrs. Chester C. Platt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles G. Baldwin, Dr. and Mrs. Mark Milliken, Dr. Herbert Bigelow, Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, Miss Frances I. Wolf, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Holt, Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Eckert, Mr. Allan C. Thompson, Miss Jennie Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew P. Canning and son, Miss DuBois and Mrs. Amalia DuBois, Mr. Robert Scott and others.

The closing event of the Conference as at present planned, will be a Sunday night meeting in the large hall of the United Free Church where addresses are to be made to accentuate the ethical and religious aspects of the social philosophy of Henry George. Different religious denominations will be represented on the platform. Rev. Herbert Bigelow of Cincinnati will make one of the addresses, and Rabbi Wise of New York has promised to endeavor to attend and speak. Professor John Dewey, who is lecturing at Edinburgh this summer, has been invited to speak at the Conference. The Danish Henry George League has also invited him to speak at Copenhagen before he returns to New York.

As announced in a previous issue Chester C. Platt, editor of the *Batavia (N. Y.) Times* will report the proceedings of the Conference for LAND AND FREEDOM.

Another Royal Advocate Of Our Principles

PRINCESS ALICE of Greece, whose statement favoring the Single Tax was published in the last issue of LAND AND FREEDOM, is not the first member of the British royal family to perceive the benefits that would follow a practical application of Henry George's ideas.

In the year 1884, the Prince of Wales (son of Queen Victoria and afterwards King Edward VII) was a member of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, and signed without dissent the Report which contained the following remarks on the "rating" (or what in the United States would be referred to as the local taxation) of vacant land. Another of the signers was Cardinal Manning. The Marquess of Salisbury and two others of the seventeen members dissented from this recommendation:

"Your Majesty's Commissioners must observe in reference to Lord Shaftesbury's Acts, and to nearly every proposal for improving the dwellings of the working classes as well as to other local improvements, that the present incidence of local taxation stands seriously in the way of all

progress and reform. They do not feel that they are authorized by the terms of Your Majesty's Commission to go generally into the question of local taxation, but they are of opinion that until some reform is introduced which shall secure contribution to local expenditure from other sources of income received by residents in the locality, in addition to the present rateable property, no great progress can be made in local improvements."

"In connection with any such general consideration of the law of rating attention would have to be given to the following facts. At present, land available for building in the neighborhood of our populace centres, though its capital value is very great, is probably producing a small yearly return until it is let for building. The owners of this land are not rated in relation to real value but to the actual annual income. They can thus afford to keep their land out of the market, and to part with only small quantities so as to raise the price beyond the natural monopoly price which the land would command by its advantages of position. Meantime, the general expenditure of the town on improvements is increasing the value of their property. If this land were rated at, say, 4 per cent on its selling value, the owners would have a more direct incentive to part with it to those who are desirous of building, and a two-fold advantage would result to the community. First, all the valuable property would contribute to the rates, and thus the burden on the occupiers would be diminished by the increase in the rateable property. Secondly, the owners of the building land would be forced to offer their land for sale, and thus their competition with one another would bring down the price of building land, and so diminish the tax in the shape of ground rent, or price paid for land which is now levied on urban enterprise by the adjacent landowners, a tax be it remembered which is no recompense for any industry or expenditure on their part, but is the natural result of the industry and activity of the townspeople themselves. Your Majesty's Commissioners would recommend that these matters should be included in legislation when the law of rating comes to be dealt with by Parliament."

A Notable Endorsement

FOREWORD TO THE NEW ABRIDGED EDITION
OF PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE (LONDON)
BY RT. HON. PHILIP SNOWDEN, M. P.

I AM pleased to have the opportunity of writing a few words of introduction to this abridged edition of Henry George's great work on Free Trade.

Two generations ago the great controversy of Free Trade and Protection was fought out in Great Britain, and so decisive was the victory for Free Trade that Disrael declared Protection to be "dead and damned."

A new generation has arisen which knows nothing from painful experience of the sufferings which Protection inflicted upon the working classes. Because the limited application of Free Trade principles has not removed all social and industrial hardships there is a disposition in some quarters to deny its achievements and advantages, and to revert to a fiscal system which has been discredited by all practical experience.