

Commonwealth Party Nominates

THE Commonwealth Land Party of this city met at headquarters, 3 East 14th Street, and after a sharp debate decided almost unanimously not to support Norman Thomas for mayor, despite his declaration in favor of taking for public purposes the entire rent of land. It seemed to the members of the party gathered at this meeting that to do so was to endorse the socialistic proposals of the Norman Thomas party and to lose sight of the land question.

Therefore they proceeded to place in nomination the following ticket: For Mayor, Lawrence W. Tracy; for Comptroller, Charlotte O. Schetter; for President of the Board of Aldermen, Morris Van Veen; for President of the Borough of Manhattan, George A. Hall, and for President of the Borough of Brooklyn, Benjamin W. Burger. The platform demands land restoration to the people and the abolition of all taxes.

Mr. Tracy is well and favorably known to all Single Taxers of this city, is a fine speaker and what might be called a Henry George "fundamentalist" if that term were in use in our movement. Mr. George A. Hall is not so well known, but is an earnest and sincere Georgist, has travelled all over the world and has been a keen observer of men and things. Miss Schetter has been long an energetic worker in the cause. Mr. Burger whose reputation is international needs no introduction to readers of LAND AND FREEDOM.

Measures to secure the required 3,000 signatures to nominating petitions were immediately begun.

An Indignant Letter

REFERRING to the proposal to erect a monument in Union Square to Charles F. Murphy, late leader of Tammany Hall, M. VanVeen of this city writes in the *Evening World* as follows:

"It is sad, sad reading in the papers that the dominant political organization of our city proposes to erect in Union Square a pediment or memorial to a ward politician of low mental calibre, whose only claim to prominence and recognition was his ability to distribute the spoils of war, award the contracts and dictate who was to represent the city officially in the various offices.

"And this is the organization that denied or refused a place for a memorial to as noble a soul and as brilliant a mind as our city could show, to whom thousands looked for guidance both spiritually and politically, and despite the church in his later days had made peace with him. I refer to Father McGlynn.

"It would be desecration to this sacred square that has held two emancipators, Washington and Lincoln, to permit this memorial or flagpole or pediment to this low-calibre politician.

"If a memorial is to be placed there let it be to a great American who in his last moments looked out upon this square and whose last battle was waged against the methods and sinister influence this organization would promote or represent. Let the citizens place on this sacred square Henry George's bust, who has given to the world a new gospel of freedom and whose great works will forever be an inspiration to those whose toil is unrequited."

"Progress and Poverty" Started British Labor Party

REVIEWING a recent life of Premier MacDonald by H. Hessell Tiltman, entitled "J Ramsay MacDonald, Labor's Man of Destiny," published by Frederick A. Stokes Company of this city, Harry Hansen in the *N. Y. World* of Oct. 3 quotes from the book as follows:

"He was fortified in his growing belief that all was not as it should be by reading "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, a copy of which reached Lossiemouth soon after its publication. If any one book can be said to have made the British Labor Party possible it was that book. "Progress and Poverty" lit in countless minds the flame of an ideal. Then it was that MacDonald realized that the artist of today, if he is to do any good in the world, must take human life as his material, that until the world of men and women has been remoulded the creative spirit cannot be freed for fruitful action." Mr. Hansen continues:

"MacDonald is now sixty-three. "Progress and Poverty" was published exactly fifty years ago. Henry George could hardly have suspected that his doctrines would have such an immediate effect on a man who was one day to become Prime Minister of Great Britain. Tiltman goes farther to explain that Henry George's book "had a more dramatic effect upon British political thought than any work published during the last century. It even achieved the undoubted feat of making Karl Marx a popular author, for chapters of 'Das Kapital' were published and read as sequels to 'Progress and Poverty'".

[It should be noted that the publishers state that Mr. Tiltman is an old friend of the Premier's, and that Mr. MacDonald carefully revised the proofs, so that the above quotation can be deemed authoritative.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.]

FARMERS who took pains to raise crops on their farms had to pay high taxes while the farmer who loafed and did not raise as good a crop received lower taxes. Bradstreet, telephone and other books are used in our personal tax system. It is a hit-and-miss system.

JAMES R. BROWN