

drawn across the trail by those who do not wish the economic aspect emphasized.

And the question of birth control, also widely and virulently discussed today. There, I admit, we Single Taxers are in a bit of a quandary. I believe in birth control from one point of view that is to me important, i.e. a woman's right to herself, body and soul, her right to determine how many children she can bear, her right to refuse to overtax her ability to give a mother's best care. But I refuse to advocate birth control from the point of view most in evidence today, the fact that without it the class of Have Not will vastly outnumber the class of Have and may prove a social peril. This attitude we Single Taxers should never countenance. We must emphasize that the point of view is quite correct as economic conditions stand *today*. With artificial restrictions of natural resources, with a total lack of equality of opportunity, every child borne into the social stratum which is on the wrong side of privilege does present an increasing social problem. But to those of us who do not believe that such conditions are an inevitable concomitant of material progress, it is a cruel and bitter doctrine.

We know that for every mouth to be fed which comes into the world, two hands come, strong to toil for food for that mouth, and a brain which can, if developed, increase ten and an hundred fold the productivity of those hands, . . . were opportunity equal, were natural resources free to all. Therefore, the birth control discussion affords a splendid opportunity to preach the Truth as we know it. Among the birth control advocates as among its opponents. We must differentiate its aspect of personal freedom which brings us in line with its advocates. But we must never accept the theory that conditions of today, which make restriction of population a burning necessity, are inevitable. We know they are not and it is our business to go about helping to change them, so that every human soul that comes into the world shall be welcome, . . . in a free world!

Hunger and love are the two great impulses of all life, all action in the world today. But hunger, the urge to self-preservation, comes first, endures longest. It is the first unconscious impulse of the helpless child, still hardly more than an embryonic cell of human life. And it persists as long as life persists, after sight, hearing, all other senses, and even the motor power is gone.

It is the cause of all progress on the earth today, this urge for self-preservation; all material advance has come from the urge in man's soul to satisfy his desires along the line of least resistance. Love, the other great impelling urge, the sex urge, the instinct for preservation of the race, is strong. It is Nature's own method of carrying on the race. But to the individual it occupies but a comparatively small period in his life. Nature lets him struggle for himself before she forces him to carry on his kind. Both are the driving force of all action. But an over-emphasis on the secondary need would seem, on the sur-

face, to be the keynote of our life in the modern community. To my mind it is oftentimes that red herring drawn across the trail to ward off unpleasant facts concerning right and wrong of the economic struggle. And indeed this economic struggle with its emphasis on the buying and selling of everything, with no human rights left to anything, has caused the over-emphasis of one side of the sex question, when we restrict that question to the problem of the relations of man and woman. Sex lust is the only side of love that can be bought and sold. One cannot buy and sell what love means apart from the physical. Therefore a world which has become a struggle such as the beasts never know, finds its amusement in the practice, and the discussion, of this one side of love which is an economic factor, i.e., something to buy and sell.

A splendid opportunity for us, comrades, this popular subject of discussion. If we can always remember to emphasize how strong the influence of Hunger, the greatest primal urge, on Love, the secondary purpose of human life. If Hunger were only the natural urge to progress, as we would make it, not the cruel taskmaster making humans inhuman to one another, as it is today, then indeed would the secondary urge of Love take its rightful place as the uplifting, ennobling and beautifying element in our lives.

Our concern is with Hunger. Adjust that problem aright, Love will take care of itself.

## Pittsburgh Observes Thirtieth Anniversary of George's Death

THE Henry George Foundation commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Henry George by holding a Memorial Dinner at the Fort Pitt Hotel, Pittsburgh, on the evening of October 29th. Mrs. Signe Bjorner, of Copenhagen, Denmark, was the principal speaker, coming from Chicago at the invitation of the Foundation for this particular occasion, and contributing much to its success. About fifty of the leading Georgists of Western Pennsylvania were present.

Cornelius D. Scully was toastmaster and made special reference to the restoration of the birthplace of George by the Foundation. He expressed the thought that the birthplace should be regarded as a symbol representing the great ideals for which Single Taxers stand and might later become a great center for the national and international movement.

Mrs. Janet L. Brownlee, of the Pennsylvania College for Women, gave her impressions of the recent Henry George Congress in New York City, which she pronounced a real success. James B. Ellery, of Erie, appealed to all to be loyal to the spirit of the great prophet, and Henry

H. Wilson, of Beaver, presented the programme of Henry George as the only alternative to Bolshevism or the decline of civilization.

President George E. Evans read Henry George's eloquent tribute to Liberty and told something of present activities of the Foundation within the State of Pennsylvania. Carl D. Smith, in telling of some of the high spots of the recent convention, said that he had found every session intensely interesting and the discussions from all the various angles stimulating and helpful.

Among others who responded with impromptu remarks were Harry H. Willock, Charles R. Eckert and John B. Sharpe, three veteran leaders of Western Pennsylvania, who joined in this tribute to the memory of Henry George.

Keen interest was displayed in the address of Mrs. Signe Bjorner dealing with Danish conditions in general and the spread of Georgeism in particular.

Messages conveying felicitations were read from Mrs. Anna George de Mille, Louis F. Post, James F. Morton, Harry W. Olney, Dr. Mark Milliken, and Clayton J. Ewing, President of the Chicago Single Tax Club.

## The Pennsylvania Campaign

RECENT developments in Pennsylvania seem to forecast a widespread campaign for land value taxation in that commonwealth. With Pittsburgh and Scranton as examples of the successful operation of the "graded tax plan," interest is being aroused in a number of the larger cities and the speakers of the Henry George Foundation are making the most of the situation. An address before the Harrisburg Rotary Club by Secretary P. R. Williams last August brought an immediate response in the form of a very favorable editorial in the Harrisburg *Telegraph* and, early in October, the editor, G. M. Steinmetz, came to Pittsburgh to further investigate the merits of the Pittsburgh plan, returning to Harrisburg to launch an aggressive publicity campaign for tax reform in Harrisburg.

During November, Secretary Williams addressed various clubs and civic bodies in Altoona, Johnstown, Harrisburg, Lancaster and York, and the speaking campaign will probably be extended to cover every city in the state. William N. McNair, of Pittsburgh, and other speakers are planning to join in the lecture tours.

In Johnstown, Prof. H. S. Bender, prominent Single Taxer nominated for Mayor on the Democratic ticket, made the Pittsburgh graded tax plan the principal plank in his platform. Though not elected, he made an aggressive campaign and polled a large vote.

The *Johnstown Democrat*, edited by former Congressman Warren Worth Bailey, continues to give strong editorial support and generous publicity to everything that tends to bring the Single Tax idea to public attention or promises progress in that direction, and Johnstown

will be found in the forefront of the movement to extend Pittsburgh's policy to the cities of the third class.

Two prominent members of the Pittsburgh club visited Europe last summer and both Harry H. Willock and Wm. N. McNair entertained the Henry George Club at recent luncheon meetings with very interesting accounts of their observations, particularly bearing upon economics and taxation, in England, Norway, France, Italy and Switzerland. Mr. Willock is leaving this month, via the Panama Canal and San Francisco, for an oriental tour and expects to meet the Single Tax groups in Australia and New Zealand, where there is so much evidence of progress.

## An Interesting Campaign in Harrisburg

MR. G. M. STEINMETZ, of the Harrisburg, Pa., *Telegraph* has started an interesting campaign through the columns of his paper for reform in methods of assessment in that city. Every day in his paper for several months past there have been articles from Mr. Steinmetz's pen which furnish interesting revelations as to conditions in that city.

His object is, while securing drastic reforms in methods of assessment, to get for Harrisburg the Pittsburgh "graded tax." Mr. Steinmetz makes lengthy quotations from Thomas C. McMahan, who is Pittsburgh's assessor, Percy R. Williams, and James R. Brown of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, who has lectured in Harrisburg.

These articles are searching investigations into the tax system of Harrisburg. Mr. Steinmetz reveals the grossest inequalities in assessments. He asks: "Do you know how the assessor reaches his conclusions as to the value of real estate for city and school tax purposes?" He then shows that the small owner is frequently assessed at the full value of his property, while in many cases the large landowner escapes with an assessment of ten to thirty per cent. of the real value of his property.

He points out that the recent "socialist" victory in Reading was caused by the dissatisfaction with the city's methods of assessment, and quotes the recently elected mayor of that city as saying: "We mean to sit down with the best men in and out of our party to work out a system of equitable assessment."

We commend Mr. Steinmetz's very thorough treatment of his subject. It is no small task to submit to so keen an analysis the confusion and worse of Harrisburg's assessments.

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