

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.