

"Where there is anything like an equal distribution of wealth—that is to say, where there is general patriotism, virtue and intelligence—the more democratic the government the better it will be; but where there is gross inequality in the distribution of wealth, the more democratic the government the worse it will be; for, while rotten democracy may not in itself be worse than rotten autocracy, its effect upon national character will be worse."

There is much more that Henry George has written in this connection. It is a sufficient answer to what is troubling Mr. Wells; it will also furnish the Idaho Senator something that will clarify his own conclusions.

Some Solution Must be Found

SPEAKING at a recent agricultural conference held at Columbia University, President Nicholas Murray Butler, urging the establishment of a research bureau to deal with the problems of farm life, said:

"The drift of population to city centers and the distaste of the younger generation for rural life and the work of the farm, are rapidly bringing about conditions which will gravely affect not only the economic basis of modern life, but also social and educational interests and ideals. Since men must live agriculture cannot be displaced as the basic industry. Therefore the land, in the largest sense of the word, challenges modern scholarship and modern human interest in a score of ways.

"A generation ago, Henry George saw this and pressed it upon public attention with marked eloquence and vehemence. His proposed solution for the problems growing out of the land is not one which either economist or public opinion has been disposed to accept. The fact remains, however, that some solution for the problems of the land and its relationship to human life should and must be found."

California Losing Its Shore Frontage

ASSEMBLYMAN Eddy, of California, has introduced a bill in response to a wide spread alarm at the continued loss of the ocean frontage:

Representative Eddy points to the alarming seizure of beach frontages by private interests, and warns that if California is still to make a bid for tourists as the world's playground it must see that the ways to the ocean are kept open.

The rush for beach frontages by private buyers is an alarming situation in California," says Eddy. "In Los Angeles county, for instance, there are 38 miles of fine beach front and all but six miles has been taken up. The cities of Los Angeles county have spent \$600,000 to buy back small strips of beaches for playgrounds that should never have been released from the public domain. Last fall that county placed on the ballot a bond issue of \$8,000,000, half of which was to buy back beach bonds. The issue received a big vote, and was defeated only because of the number of measures on the ballot. The county is paying as high as \$350 per lineal foot for such lands.

"The better beaches of Orange county are going the same way. San Diego county, seeing the inevitable has just passed a county ordinance embodying the same provision as my bill. Ventura county anticipates the same measure.

"In England, Edward Everett Hale tells of having ridden for from nine to twelve miles along the beaches and never seeing the ocean because private estates have shut the view from the public. It is to prevent such a situation in California that this measure has been introduced."

The Schalkenbach Foundation

AT the annual meeting of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation the following officers were elected: President, Chas. O'Connor Hennessy; vice-president, John J. Murphy; secretary-treasurer, Walter Fairchild; executive committee, the officers and Arthur C. Pleydell and Edward Polak. Resolutions were adopted expressing appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. Chas. T. Root as president during the past two years and by Mr. Richard Eyre who retired from the vice-presidency. Among the activities of the past year were: reprinting Protection or Free Trade; obtaining the publication of Louis F. Post's book, "What is the Single Tax;" placing LAND AND FREEDOM in public and college libraries; securing a wide newspaper publicity for articles based on current tax problems. The pamphlet containing Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown's address (reviewed in our Jan.-Feb. issue) has been in great demand for distribution among students and a second edition has been printed.

Plans for the coming year include further republication and circulation of Henry George's works and pamphlets; and aiding the distribution of the Memorandum to the Economic Conference reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

Dinner to Antonio Bastida

ABOUT twenty of Antonio Bastida's old friends gathered on the evening of June 3d at Rosoff's Restaurant, 43rd Street, this city, to welcome him on his visit from Cuba. Mr. Bolton Hall presided and short speeches were made by Stephen Bell, Whidden Graham, Oscar Geiger, George Lloyd, M. Van Veen, Miss Amy Mali Hicks, Mrs. Julia Goldzier and others.

The state of the Single Tax movement was discussed from different angles, and the concensus of opinion seemed to be that while events are not moving as rapidly as we could wish, many significant things are happening which may give us heart of hope. Miss Hicks voiced the more general sentiment when she declared that whatever victories are won in distant parts of the world are as much our triumphs as if achieved much nearer home.

A letter was read from George Edwards of Youngstown, Ohio. Mr. Bastida, whose devotion to the cause, has covered a period of 41 years, sailed for Cuba on the following morning. He carries with him the good wishes of hosts of friends in this city after an absence of several years.