

time. (But I must acknowledge that, being what Kipling calls 'a time-expired man,' I work at lower pressure.)

"With the present state of affairs throughout the world the followers of Henry George, it seems to me, are the most potent force for the maintenance of civilization. Such work as you are doing is therefore of the utmost importance. I heartily wish you all success. I hope the Baltimore convention will prove the most influential of the series. If such a miracle be possible, I hope it will prove the turning point and bring on a strong and rapid advance to the plenty, peace and freedom which all good men and women desire the whole world to enjoy."

And from our old friend J. F. Colbert, former member of the Louisiana State Tax Commission, we were glad to have this greeting:

"I regret to say that I find I cannot accept the invitation, but please be assured I very much appreciate it. My duties here will hold me in the State at that time and, additionally, I am not financially able to make the trip. I have found it to be true that an honest confession is really good for the soul.

"The teachings of Henry George are soon going to be more generally studied and understood. Nations, like individuals, do not reform except through necessity. The necessity for tax reform on genuine lines will come within a few years. Nothing can stay it."

J. H. Kauffman, secretary of the Ohio Single Tax Association, said: "Success to the Council of War. May it bring peace and happiness to the earth." Prof. John Dewey sent cordial greetings. A characteristic letter from Poultney Bigelow was read, and we cannot but regret his half promise to us last summer to attend was not fulfilled. A letter from Frank G. Anderson, of Jamestown, N. Y., expressed hope for the success of the Congress. Letters were also received from Otto Cullman, Newton D. Baker, Walter S. Wright, Norman Thomas, Frank W. Garrison, Peter Witt, Hon. Edward Keating and Grace Isabel Colbron.

News From Texas

THERE is always plenty of news in Texas, but most of it is like the news from every other State. Our State treasury is in the red nearly \$4,000,000, with a fair prospect of a deficit of \$6,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Departmental revenues have fallen off with the decline of business. Our gross receipts, occupation and sales taxes have also fallen off. On top of this we have pending an amendment to the Constitution to be voted on in November, 1932, that will exempt from State taxes all homesteads of \$3,000 of assessed value. If adopted this will reduce revenues from ad valorem taxes variously estimated from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

Our city and school districts are bonded to the limit and face this load with empty treasury and falling revenues. With this condition, not peculiar to Texas, the Single Taxer is listened to with more consideration and respect than at any time in many years. In Texas we talk taxation because it is the language that men can understand. We go on the theory, and propagate the idea, that all productive industry, whether on the farm or in the factory or in the clearing house, must unite as against the privi-

leged land owner, and it is through taxation that the remedy for this depression must be sought.

Our Legislature in its search for more revenues last spring passed a tax of 5 cents a barrel on cement manufactured in this State. Even at the low percentage of capacity produced, that industry will have to contribute some \$400,000 this year. One of the leaders in the industry told me the tax was put over because the cement people had no friends at Austin. My reply to him and to others of the industry was that they should have been making friends of all the people these past years in tax matters; that they should join and work with all wealth producers for a tax system that would encourage industry and at the same time provide ample revenue from the economic rent of land. Many industrialists see this now, but are still too cowardly to take the stand openly.

We have a Legislative Tax Survey Committee at work. I suppose every State has had them at intervals for several years. No one knows what this one in Texas will recommend, but whatever they recommend is sure to be of little weight. You can't patch up a broken-down machine such as we now have in taxation. I was invited to appear before the committee. I was preceded in the hearing by a well-informed real estate man. He expounded the law of rent as clearly as a Georgian could, but he wanted the rent for the land holder and not for the people.

In my own statement to the committee I pointed out that because of urgent needs for more revenues there was nothing for them to do except recommend more business taxes; but that the committee would be derelict if it did not propose a substitute for the whole bad tax system in the form of a programme that would gradually bring about a land-values tax only.

WILLIAM A. BLACK.

The Schalkenbach Foundation

THE Schalkenbach Foundation is doing excellent work over a wide field. Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, the foundation's secretary, and her very competent assistant are kept busy every hour of the day. From a report of the Foundation's activities just received we extract the following:

From a gentleman who answered our advertisement in *Time*:

"Some time ago I secured from you a copy of 'Significant Paragraphs.' I did not have the opportunity to read this book until today. I would like to distribute about twelve or fifteen copies. Please send one dozen of these books now."

From a minister who received a special letter addressed to a group of ministers, and enclosing in each case a copy of the pamphlet "Moses":

"I have read 'Moses,' a lecture by Henry George, with reverent interest, and I thank you for it. I would appreciate fifty additional copies for distribution to the faculty and business staff of this institute. We have some 1,800 students in our day and evening schools and I wish every one of them might read it. Enclosed please find my check for \$1 for a copy of 'Progress and Poverty.' I possess a copy of the original edition, read and carefully marked at the time of its publication, but I should like to reread it in newer form. In my student days I resided in New York, a contemporary of Henry George, and knew something of his sufferings in the cause he so fearlessly and eloquently proclaimed."

From a man who read a copy of our library edition of "Progress and Poverty" presented to a library:

"I have read 'P. & P.' in the local library, and noticed that it was given to the library by your Foundation. I wish to have a copy of my own of this great book, and enclose money order herewith."

From a lady who read "Progress and Poverty" in Pratt Library, Brooklyn:

"Please send me ten copies of 'Progress and Poverty' and ten copies of 'Significant Paragraphs' to distribute in an endeavor to interest friends and acquaintances in the teachings of Henry George. I shall be very glad to receive the printed matter pertaining to your Foundation. My concept of it is that some fine and far-seeing individual has endowed the Foundation with capital with which the masses are to be educated, in order to fit them to bring about the kind of reorganization which will enable all to live, work and share their products."

From a man who received our direct mail literature from time to time:

"I always have a copy of 'P. & P.' on my table, and wherever lawyers have indicated sufficient interest in the subject I have given them a copy of 'Progress and Poverty,' but of course with 'Significant Paragraphs' I can make a wider distribution. It is really amazing for me to find the number of persons who know about this work, who have read it years ago and who are actual converts to our cause. I believe that your Foundation is doing a noble piece of work and should be supported. It is sowing seeds in the minds of thoughtful men in America which some day cannot help but bear fruit. Please send me 100 copies of 'Significant Paragraphs.'"

An editor with whom we got in touch through our trade paper campaign conferred with a local university professor who asked him to make a speech before the philosophy and sociology classes of the college. He wrote asking us for material, which we prepared and sent to him.

The advertisement in the *New York Times* on Nov. 13, headed "Being Firmly Convinced," brought 175 responses and 161 book purchases. Interest was widespread, and as an indirect result we had several calls for a lecturer to speak before discussion groups. Mr. Oscar H. Geiger spoke before these groups, rendered a report to our Executive Committee, and we quote from one of the men who asked for a lecture:

"Allow me on behalf of the Victory Club of the Y. M. H. A. to express my sincere thanks and assure you of my gratification over Mr. Geiger's talk to us on Dec. 20. It was one of the most pleasant and instructive evenings in the history of the club. Mr. Geiger kindly offered to come again, through your good offices, and round out to our every wish the field he opened to our view during his talk. If consistent with your policy, we should like to have him back again in the near future, perhaps some time in January or February. Won't you let me know whether this can be arranged?"

It occurred to us that we could help the Henry George Press Bureau, run by Mr. Rose, in Pittsburgh, if we sent *adverse* criticisms to them for their letter-writing corps of Single Tax people to answer. We are now co-operating with them in this respect and hope to have more to tell about this work later on. This office gets in touch with anyone who writes in the public prints upon our subject, and in this way we have made some pleasant contacts with people who were not in touch with us before.

Our Christmas Letter has sold 311 books for us thus far, and this year not only "Progress and Poverty" is moving along, but "Social Problems," "Land Question," etc. Mr. James G. Blauvelt gave us a fine order for fifty books and 1,000 pamphlets, and Mr. George L. Record and many others known to you have ordered books to be sent to their friends as Christmas gifts.

Orders from people whose names came to us from advertisements are particularly good. These "newcomers" often buy \$6 and \$7 worth of books at one time after reading "Progress and Poverty," which shows that they are in earnest about studying our question. Mr. Pleydell's good suggestion to use the National Municipal League list (which we used with the co-operation of Mr. Jones of that League) brought forth excellent results. We received a number of orders for books from tax commissioners, city planning boards, engineers and people of similar occupation.

The Henry George League

"IN a rude state of society there are seasons of want, seasons when people starve; but they are seasons when the earth has refused to yield her increase, when the rain has not fallen from the heavens, or when the land has been swept by some foe—not when there has been plenty. And yet the peculiar characteristic of this modern poverty of ours is that it is deepest where wealth most abounds.

"Why, today, while over the civilized world there is so much distress, so much want, what is the cry that goes up? What is the current explanation of the hard times? Overproduction! There are so many clothes that men must go ragged; so much coal that in the bitter winter people have to shiver; such overfilled granaries that people actually die by starvation! Want due to overproduction! Was a greater absurdity ever uttered! How can there be overproduction until all have enough? It is not overproduction; it is unjust distribution."

The above was not said today or yesterday, but on April 1, 1885, by Henry George, sight-value tax proponent, whose principles still live and are supported by many. Thursday night at a meeting in Newark the Henry George League of New Jersey was organized and such well-known public men as Frank H. Sommer, Spaulding Frazer, George L. Record and many others participated and discussed means of furthering Henry George's taxation principles in New Jersey.

The Henry George theory, familiarly called the Single Tax plan, provides that all forms of taxation should be abolished except a tax upon land, and that this tax should be based not upon the use or improvement of the land but purely upon the value attaching to the bare land by reason of its neighborhood, public improvements, etc. Thus, it is argued, the farmer with improved acreage would have to pay no more tax than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city site erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar tract vacant.

Hundreds of volumes have been written for and against this plan. It is in partial operation in Pittsburgh, where the site-value tax is being applied gradually over a period of years and has become known generally within the last few years as the Pittsburgh Plan of taxation.

No student of the subject of taxation can fully understand the subject if he is not familiar with Henry George's work "Progress and Poverty," any more than if he is unfamiliar with the economic principles laid down by Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill of the nineteenth century or E. R. A. Seligman of the twentieth. The Henry George League of New Jersey deserves respectful attention in its efforts to make contribution to the important question of taxation.—Newark, N. J., *Star-Eagle*.

"THE sun is universal, making all life one. Men are brothers, made for laughter one with another. We must free the child from all things that maintain the ideals of a narrow nationalism, the ideals which inspired and generated the war barrages in which ten million perished."

—H. WILLIAMSON.