

There's a question that would stump Solomon, and I'm not Solomon.

Maybe the other cities haven't rushed to imitate Pittsburgh because even in Pittsburgh, where the benefits of the law are so manifest, there are witnesses such as Mr. McGillick swearing by all the corner lots that the law is no good.

Maybe, too, there are a lot of other cities that haven't heard about it. They can tell you all about the latest football wonder or the latest movie scandal, but graded tax laws to reward the man who improves a lot with a building and penalize a man who holds the lot idle—well, things of that sort just don't interest a lot of people and don't get themselves noised about.

—FRANK C. HARPER, Columnist, *Pittsburgh Press*.

## Lecture Activities of The Henry George Foundation

ATTORNEY WILLIAM N. McNAIR has continued his lecture activities during the past two months in both eastern and western Pennsylvania and also recently visited Cumberland, Maryland, where he addressed a large meeting of the Rotary Club at luncheon and incidentally aroused the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce to take up the matter of introducing the Pittsburgh Plan in Cumberland. Considerable prominence was given by the press to the subject of McNair's address and, as Maryland cities enjoy the right of home rule in matters of taxation, there is a probability of some important developments in Cumberland as a result of the favorable impression that was made.

Mr. McNair also made a trip to Philadelphia, speaking to the Philadelphia United Business Men's Association, and reports a growing interest in that city in the idea of shifting a portion of the tax burden from improvements to land values. Among other recent engagements filled by Mr. McNair were lectures before the economic class of the University of Pittsburgh, Lions Club of McKeesport, Advertising Club of Johnstown, Morningside Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh and Lions Clubs of Johnstown and Altoona.

## Farewell Dinner at Pittsburgh to John M. Henry

A DINNER in honor of John M. Henry, prominent Pittsburgh Single Taxer and former Assistant United States District Attorney, was given at the Fort Pitt hotel on Saturday evening, November 16th, with about forty persons in attendance representing the Henry George Club, the Hungry Club and the legal profession. Mr. Henry has been quite a prominent figure in the civic and political life of Pittsburgh for a number of years and has

taken a very active part in the Henry George Club, frequently lecturing before various organizations on the Single Tax. He is leaving Pittsburgh to accept a position at San Diego, California, as Director of the educational institute about to be launched under the auspices of the Frederick F. Ingram Foundation.

Attorney Edward C. Tabor was toastmaster and among the speakers were Hon. James H. Gray of the Court of Common Pleas, Hon. W. H. S. Thompson, former Judge of the United States District Court, Attorney Oliver K. Eaton, H. W. Noren, Dr. Heber D. Curtis, M. S. Robinson and George E. Evans. Many fine tributes were paid to the character and achievements of Mr. Henry and all present joined in wishing him godspeed and success in his new and important undertaking. The dinner closed with a speech in which Mr. Henry expressed his keen regret in parting with so many of his long-time friends and voiced his deep appreciation of the loyal friendships and pleasant associations he had enjoyed throughout the years.

## The Semi-Centennial of Single Tax

ONE does not need to be a convert to the Single Tax theory to appreciate the significance of Henry George's contribution to the reconstruction of our economic order on more equitable principles. It is now just fifty years since the publication of his great work, "Progress and Poverty." The golden anniversary of that event is to be celebrated by a Henry George Memorial congress in Pittsburgh, September 23-25, under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation of America which will, at the same time, be holding its fourth annual convention. The motto, "One great brother-hood—to abolish poverty," strikes a note of idealism which will appeal to most plain citizens as utopian. But, as Oscar Wilde long ago said in his argument for socialism, a map of the world which contains no Utopia omits the country at which humanity is always arriving. It is worth while to keep humanity's face set toward these objectives, brotherhood and the abolition of poverty, even if one is not convinced that any system of taxation contains the whole secret of the attainment of the goal.

Single tax is, of course, more than a system of taxation. It is, in its purpose and anticipated results, a system of land tenure and a method of preventing the establishment of a monopoly in natural resources. Whether or not Henry George arrived at the right solution of the problem, he made a great contribution to the definition of it. He saw, as few of his time did, that it is impossible to have industrial democracy so long as a few own the land and its potential wealth, its mineral deposits, its water-power, its oil, its soil from which comes the material for food

clothing and shelter, while the many are their tenants at sufferance.

It is a commonplace of economics that we have been more successful in production than in the just distribution of the values produced. Henry George tackled the problem of distribution. Most men's interest in distribution is confined to getting their own share. His was in devising a plan by which everyone would get his share. He was dealing with infinitely complex data. Perhaps he did not get the right answer. But he is deserving of honor—especially the sort of honor which consists in taking his problem as seriously as he took it and approaching it in his unselfish spirit.

—*Christian Century*, Chicago, Ill.

## Oregon

THE Building Trades Council of Portland has appropriated the sum of twenty-five dollars for the fight for the Single Tax in Oregon. It is believed that other unions will follow. Two unions have called special meetings and Mr. J. R. Hermann, leader of the Oregon forces, has been invited to address them.

LAND AND FREEDOM is on the desk of the business office of the Building Trades Council and is eagerly read. Will Atkinson's abridgements also have been widely circulated.

Mr. Hermann has issued a circular showing how seven years ago the State Federation of Labor joined with other groups to put the Single Tax across. Since then many new members have come in and do not know what occurred then. Hermann's reminder will help. Also the fact that at one election forty thousand votes were cast for the Single Tax amendment.

## That Imaginary Line

E. W. BACKUS, of Minneapolis, owns a dam in the Rainy River, which forms the boundary line between Minnesota and Ontario. At one end of the dam is the Canadian town of Fort Francis and at the other end the Minnesota town of International Falls. He built the dam with the permission of Congress.

Fort Francis and International Falls both use the electricity generated by the water falling over the dam. It comes from the same turbine at the same moment. It is sold by a Canadian and an American corporation, both Backus-owned. But in Fort Francis it costs the consumer three cents straight for light and one cent for heat. In International Falls the primary light rate is ten cents for light, in South International Falls twelve cents, in Rainer, a few miles away, thirteen cents.

There is one significant difference. The Canadian corporation sells the current wholesale to the city of Fort Francis, which retails it to its citizens. And Fort Francis is in position to buy from the Ontario Power Commission, publicly owned.

## Henry George Lecture Association to Affiliate with Foundation

UNDER an arrangement just consummated since the Pittsburgh Convention, the Henry George Lecture Association founded about twenty-six years ago, October, 1903, by Frederick H. Monroe, becomes an affiliated organization of the Henry George Foundation of America, and at a time to be announced later the headquarters of the two organizations will be combined in Pittsburgh. John Lawrence Monroe, son of the late Frederick H. Monroe, will continue to act as President and Treasurer of the Henry George Lecture Association and will also serve as Associate Secretary of the Henry George Foundation.

The Lecture Association will not lose its separate identity under this arrangement but a very close and intimate co-operation will be established between the two bodies which is expected to materially strengthen the work of both. Percy R. Williams, Executive Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, will also assume the position of Secretary of the Henry George Lecture Association and will direct the office activities of that Association in addition to his regular duties for the Foundation.

The lecture activities which have been carried on by the Foundation will be merged with those carried on by the Lecture Association and plans are under way for a considerable extension of these activities. Mr. Monroe announces that Attorney Wm. N. McNair of Pittsburgh has been added to the lecture staff and that Hon. George H. Duncan of New Hampshire will also continue as one of the principal lecturers.

John Lawrence Monroe has been engaged in this work for several months past, traveling with Frederick H. Monroe during the spring and, since his death, taking over the full responsibility for the maintenance of the organization. He has met with a very encouraging response in his travels and has great confidence in the future possibilities of this kind of work. Under the new arrangement, he will also act as a field representative of the Henry George Foundation. Mr. Monroe has already been intimately associated with the work of the Henry George Foundation, rendering valuable services particularly in connection with the Chicago and Pittsburgh Conventions as Chairman of Publicity and Registration Committees.

AS FOR me, I see no real answer to the "plight of the farmers" except in the abolition of all special privileges granted at the expense of those classes not specially protected. But any great or sudden change in this regard, correcting "vested wrongs," will cause new confusion and new plights, and if undertaken should be by degrees, with wise consideration of purpose and of possibilities.—DAVID STARR JORDAN.