

be enabling people to think clearly for themselves, mathematical training being particularly useful to gain this end. After some discussion it was suggested that the Washington Federation of Women's Clubs take up the study of "Progress and Poverty," after completing the present work.

At the January meeting, the speaker was Mrs. Barbara Crosser Sweeney, who gave an interesting and instructive talk on organization and also on methods of individual work in spreading the Single Tax gospel. In response to the question as to why Mr. Robert Crosser was the only Georgeist left in Congress, some of the methods used to defeat our other Representatives were explained. Mr. Walter I. Swanton presented an interesting account of the Single Tax, where it is advocated and where applied.

### Great Britain

At its quarterly meeting, toward the close of 1940, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, made plans for organizing its work for 1941. It is interesting to note that the scope of activities for the coming year are not to be less than it has been during 1940. The maintenance of the Committee's journal, *Land & Liberty*, is provided for, monthly, at its present number of pages (12), and for a surplus supply available for propaganda uses. Distribution of the journal has already given evidence that it is an effective means of propaganda.

At the headquarters of the Committee and of *Land & Liberty*, in London, is also housed an international Georgeist body known as the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. There are members of this Union in every part of the globe. At this time particularly, such an organization, devoted to the building up of international good will among workers in the Georgeist cause, is most valuable. Membership is open to all who embrace the Georgeist doctrines. The small sum of \$2.00 will bring a year's membership in the International Union and a year's subscription to *Land & Liberty*. (Larger donations are, of course, welcome.) Application for membership may be obtained by addressing the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, 34 Knightrider Street, St. Paul's, London, England.

St. Paul's, incidentally, is in the heart of London, where extensive bombing raids have been carried out by the enemy. It is gratifying to report, however, that the office of the United Committee has escaped damage, even during the severe City of London fires of December 29th. The quality of *Land & Liberty*, too, has remained unimpaired. The January 1941 issue is especially interesting. It carries many informative accounts of the current situation in Britain as related to the Georgeist proposal.

There is also the first installment of an article on the land question in Germany, by Bruno Heilig, entitled, "The Land Question Germany's Dominating Factor." Mr. Heilig was

the Balkan correspondent of the Berlin *Vossische Zeitung*, 1920-1928. He was expelled from Hungary for his criticism of the landowners' reactionary system. In his *Land & Liberty* article, Mr. Heilig asserts that Henry George's "How Modern Civilization May Decline," if written in the present tense, would be a description of Germany today. He traces land speculation as the chief cause of Germany's woes which led to the rise of Hitler. During the post-war reconstruction days, "land speculators had a fantastic time, some doubling and trebling their fortunes overnight. While the common people toiled feverishly and proudly to build up the new Germany that should be the world's most advanced community, money poured into the pockets of those who gambled in land values . . . The boom had lasted some seven years, and it ended with seven million men and women, one-third of the wage-earning people, rendered unemployed, and the middle class as a recognizable section swept away."

### January 20

THIS date, even prior to 1941, is memorable in history.

It is peculiarly the date of both life and death with reference to democracy as a mode of government. For it was January 20, in the year 1265, which brought to life the first English Parliament. Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, after overthrowing Henry III, promulgated a Constitution, and called forth representatives from shires and boroughs to meet in Westminster Palace. Then and there were effected the rudimentary beginnings of the present-day bicameral Parliament in England.

Again on this date, in the year 1793, Louis XVI listened in silence to the reading of his death sentence. The guillotine thus marked the end of the throne of the Bourbons and the birth of a French democracy.

On this very same day, in the year 1941, of controversial significance to democracy, Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated as the first third-term President of the United States of America. Thus was a tradition terminated which had successfully withstood attack since the birth of the American Republic.

It is intriguing to suppose that January 20 was chosen as Inaugural Day because of its historic significance. But this is not the case—the date was arrived at by a compromise. When the Twentieth Amendment to the Constitution was proposed in Congress, January 15 was the date fixed by the House of Representatives. The Senate voted for January 24. The Committees of both Houses met to adjust their differences, and by the simple expedient of splitting the dates, arrived at January 20 as Inauguration Day.

In the light of democracy's historic events, no more significant date could have been selected.