

"In this fiftieth year after the first publication of "Progress and Poverty," it must appear to that growing body of workers for social justice who in many lands are spreading George's gospel, that there is at this time as great a need as ever for the comprehension of the truth he sought to make plain. For, as in 1879, there is widespread social unrest in the world. Industrial depression and unemployment are conditions common to many lands, and even in the nominally prosperous atmosphere of the United states, vast numbers are compelled to live in poverty or close to its border line. It would appear that in the half century since "Progress and Poverty" was published, there has been little abatement of the social and economic ills that have afflicted the human family everywhere, and that recur, with unfailing regularity, in cycles that seem unexplainable except to the followers of Henry George. And, at a time when world opinion is demanding that statesmanship shall outlaw war, it is important to recall that the World Economic Conference, held at Geneva in 1927 at the call of the League of Nations, found a definite interdependence of the economic causes of war and industrial depression. It seems like a vindication of the philosophy of Henry George to find that this Conference, to which the representatives of fifty nations were called, unanimously arrived at the conclusion that:

"The main trouble now is neither any material shortage of the resources of nature nor any inadequacy in man's power to exploit them. It is all, in one form or another, a maladjustment; not an insufficient productive capacity, but a series of impediments to the full utilization of that capacity. The main obstacles to economic revival have been the hindrances opposed to the free flow of labor, capital, and goods."

"This, in effect, is what Henry George maintained fifty years ago, contrary to the teachings of the accepted political economy.

"Greater need than ever exists for a re-examination by mankind of the remedy for the world's social and economic ills that is involved in the fundamental proposals of Henry George—proposals which Tolstoy declared must ultimately be accepted by the world because they are so logical and so unanswerable.

"Therefore, the Trustees of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York, which was formed to bring about a wider acquaintance with the social and economic philosophy of Henry George, have considered this an appropriate time to produce from new plates this Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of "Progress and Poverty."

NOT since 1924 has there been anything like the politicians' enthusiasm for the farmer, and nothing like it will be seen again until 1932.

—Nashville Banner.

Oregon

J. R. HERMANN, of Portland, filed a thousand names to the Single Tax Petition on May 23rd, all of them secured by himself. It is his hope to rouse in Oregon the spirit of the Great Adventure which in California produced a record-breaking vote. He is ably assisted in the work by George Bylander, Louis Bowerman, S. L. Casto, R. D. Merchant and others of the faithful.

Some effective literature has been printed and circulated. An increased fare having been asked for by the company operating the transportation systems of Portland one of these circulars says that the main reasoning adding strength to this demand is that cars must travel past miles and miles of unimproved or half improved lots, and asks

WHY SHOULD WE:

Build miles and miles of paved streets past vacant lots?
 Build miles and miles of sewer pipe past vacant lots?
 Build miles and miles of gas mains past vacant lots?
 Build miles and miles of water mains past vacant lots?
 Run miles and miles of electric cables past vacant lots?
 Run miles and miles of telephone lines past vacant lots?
 Have the fire departments run miles and miles past vacant lots?

Have an army of policemen to guard and protect vacant lots?

The following resolutions have been passed by the Building Trades Council of Portland without a dissenting voice; and these have been referred to the Oregon State Federation of Labor which meets some time in August.

"Whereas:

The eternal Tax Muddle is ever present and further from solution than ever.

And Whereas:

A question is never settled until it is settled right.

And whereas:

The only scientific system of taxation and land reform ever presented to the world was presented by a workman, a printer, by the name of Henry George in his immortal work "Progress and Poverty" fifty years ago.

And Whereas:

Organized labor of Oregon has four times helped the Oregon Single Tax League to present the measure to the people of Oregon.

Therefore be it resolved:

That the Building Trades Council of Portland renews allegiance to the principle that all men have an equal right to the use of the earth and that human industry should not be taxed, to the end that the labor problem may reach final solution, and the world live in peace, we call upon the central labor council and the State Federation of Labor to bend every effort to finance and assist the Oregon Single Tax League to again submit the same measure that was submitted in 1920 and '22 and that all funds be sent to

Ben Osborn, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, Labor Temple, Oregon, and that he be instructed to cooperate with the Oregon Single Tax League to the end that the petitions be circulated and a campaign waged."

The menace of the Single Tax has again aroused the opposition to the point of throwing additional difficulties around the Initiative and Referendum. The suggestion is made that signers to petitions visit the City Hall to sign. George Bylander commenting on this proposal has this to say in the Portland papers:

"There is just one bright star on the horizon, and that is the readiness by which the people sign the petitions, there seems to be an instinct among the masses that whether or not they understand the merits of the bill they sign, that every petition is a people's petition and that every act of the legislature is an expression of machine privilege.

No, the people will not walk to the court house to sign. That means to kill the I. R. Many of them will not even register or vote and if it were not for the petition shovers who initiate interest in public affairs in the public there would be less and less voters. Thank God, there are a few brave people who are willing to face the jeers of the haughty and powerful and the sneers of the ignorant mob and place the instrument of democracy before the people, that neither the ignorant rich nor the ignorant poor may sweep us to any great extreme and the ideals of American democracy may live.

This is a sufficient answer to the complaint that petition-circulating is too easy.

Mr. Louis Bowerman is carrying on a debate with a Mr. Sommer, and in a letter to the *Journal*, of Portland, writes:

"The 'Single Tax' is misnamed. It is neither a tax on land nor 'land-value.' It proposes abolition of all taxes whatsoever and to appropriate space-rent, exclusively, which is always proportionate to the population surrounding, who set up a demand for use of any given space. Space-rent equals the advantage-value its occupant may enjoy over the occupant of the least advantageous space. A million dollar acre-space offers a million times more advantage or opportunity than a dollar acre-space and the respective rentals would be as a million to one. Since every citizen occupies space, each would contribute to or compensate, society in proportion as he was advantaged or benefitted by society."

Following is the amendment to be voted on March 1st, 1931, if sufficient signers to the petition are secured.

"Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution of the State of Oregon shall be and hereby is amended to read as follows: Section 1. From March, 1, 1931, to and until March 1, 1935, all revenues necessary for the maintenance of state, county, municipal and district government shall be raised by a tax on the value of land, irrespective of improvements in or on it, and thereafter the full rental value of land, irrespective of improvements, shall be taken in lieu of all other taxes for the maintenance of government, and for such other purposes as the people may direct. All pro-

visions of the Constitution and Laws of Oregon in conflict with this section are hereby abrogated and repealed in so far as they conflict herewith, and this section is self-executing."

Henry George Foundation Aids Denver Single Tax Campaign

BELIEVING that the example of Pittsburgh would serve to stimulate interest and enlist greater support for the Single Tax amendment submitted to the voters of Denver on May 21st, William N. McNair, President of the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh and recent Democratic nominee for United States Senator, traveled to Denver early in May for the special purpose of participating in the campaign led by Barney Haughey. Mr. McNair went as a representative of the Henry George Foundation and did very effective work during the week that he spent in Colorado. Among the organizations which he addressed on this speaking tour were the Denver City Club, the Builders Exchange, the Taxation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the Allied Labor Council. In addition to these engagements, he also delivered three radio addresses and spoke before smaller labor groups and at outdoor meetings.

A rather remarkable incident in connection with Mr. McNair's trip was written up very appropriately by Frank C. Harper, columnist of the "Pittsburgh Press". In response to a letter from Pittsburgh offering the services of Mr. McNair, the Secretary of the Denver Real Estate Exchange telegraphed that his organization was "exceedingly anxious" to have the speaker address their luncheon on May 15th and this telegram was duly confirmed by letter. In the meanwhile, however, some representatives of the landed interests apparently got busy and the following telegram of cancellation was received by Secretary Williams a few days later:

"Since wiring our members have voiced disapproval of any system eliminating taxes on personalty or lessening taxes on improvements. Necessary we cancel arrangements for McNair's talk. Please advise him. Sorry."

While the measure submitted to the voters of Denver was not a very radical proposal, involving only the exemption of improvements in so far as city taxes were concerned by gradual steps over a period of ten years, it brought forth a bitter editorial attack by the *Denver Post* and the campaign apparently aroused pretty strong feelings in certain quarters. Nevertheless, Mr. McNair met with a very cordial reception wherever he appeared and reported that quite a number of business men, as well as representatives of the labor element, had expressed themselves favorably and seemed quite ready to admit that Denver would do well to follow Pittsburgh's lead and go even further by adopting the measure submitted which would completely exempt improvements from city taxes.