

was rudely hissed off the stage. What Canada had done with its tariff in destroying agriculture and producing despair in the West was illustrated by the mental collapse of a whole people now worshipping the printing press as the distributor of a national dividend. Western Australia, similarly afflicted industrially, but not losing its head, proposes severance from the rest of the Commonwealth if it cannot otherwise enjoy the benefits of freedom to trade.

It was no wonder that with markets closed against them, or treated as the special perquisite of some nations, that countries like Japan Germany and Italy used the language of war in asserting the need for expansion or that, surrounded by the tariff walls they themselves built, they complained of being overpopulated, refusing the produce that the rest of the world could supply in overwhelming abundance.

In Great Britain, the Government called National had not only enforced the tariffs and its many schemes to uphold the rent of land but had also, without a mandate and in betrayal of its pledges, repealed the Land Value Tax and Land Valuation provisions of the first Finance Act of 1931 with its enormous promise for the future. Ministers of the Government in very shame of their action tried to get rid of their legislation in the fewest possible words but the Premier, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, (who had absented himself from all debates), was stung to an explanation by the public protest the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values had made. The letter he wrote in reply unwittingly but completely smashed the conspiracy of silence, for the Committee took care to let it be known through the Press that by virtual admission of the Prime Minister this National Government had simply obeyed the behests of the landed interests. It was the only possible explanation.

In conclusion, Mr. Madsen said it was argued that whether a country had protective tariffs or free imports the condition of the worker would be reduced to the same low level by the stranglehold of land monopoly. That was true in the long run, just as it was true that public education, improved sanitation and all material advance would be absorbed by the privileged receivers of rent under the law as now constituted. It showed how urgent was the land value policy and how essential it was to link that with free trade. But the economic injuries caused by protection were not the least. Far greater was the poisoning of the spirit, the moral corruption and degradation fostering suspicion and hate, making every man's neighbor his enemy, Ishmaelites not only in national spheres but in the everyday affairs of our individual lives.—*Land and Liberty*, London, England.

Arthur Madsen at Banquet Henry George Congress

MR. MADSEN also conveyed greetings to the Congress, these being in the name of the British movement and in written messages and cables from many parts of the world, from Alaska to Cape Horn, from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and from nearly all the countries of Europe exceptions being Portugal, Italy, Russia and the Baltic States. When they looked abroad to see what legislative progress had been made and the fellowship existing to promote their ideas they could in truth say that no social reformer had been so justified in his day and generation as Henry George.

In Great Britain, land value taxation was written into the programmes of the Liberal and Labor parties. Briefly sketching the nature of the campaign work conducted by the United Committee and the Leagues with the many agencies at their disposal, he traced Parliamentary history of the movement with its success and setbacks. Most important was what the municipalities had done and were doing in their official capacity, action that had been initiated years back in Glasgow by the pioneer work of Bailie Burt. Mentioning a number of large municipalities that had engaged in this agitation, he pointed to the lead now being given by the Cardiff City

Council which had just held a representative conference of Welsh counties and towns. There was a vast opportunity for organizing the forces that could speak to some purpose and in the wider national sphere as well, insisting on land value taxation as the way to both freedom of production and freedom of trade. He could not help reflecting on the misuse of the phrase *laissez faire* which rightly interpreted meant "let things be done," with all restrictions upon production removed. It was not a negative but a positive policy, a command to landlord, tax-gatherer and bureaucrat alike to get out of the way and give equal freedom a chance. It was another way of saying that the moral law must be observed, reminding him of a thought to which John Paul often recurred, and is the essence of the Henry George philosophy, that our civilization cannot flourish but is doomed if moral progress halts behind material progress. There was all the truth in the injunction of the prophet of old who cried: "Ye people rend your hearts and your garments" when affliction was among them.

So among us, poverty and unemployment prevailed, not through any fatality beyond our control but because of an elemental injustice for which the people themselves were responsible in their laws. Instead of bewailing the circumstances, rending our garments and trying now to make clothes of our tatters (which is what present day Governments are doing) we must fight the wrong and in our hearts assert the right whereby there shall be opportunity in abundance, wealth and happiness in abundance, for all the sons of men.

Land and Liberty, London, England.

Tributes to Henry George

FROM THE ELECTORS OF THE HALL OF FAME
AND OTHERS

IN this issue (see Comment and Reflection, page 180) will be found a reference to the recent election to the Hall of Fame, in which Henry George received fifty-six votes, five less than required to elect—Hon Edward Polak calls the vote "phenomenal" when it is borne in mind that Henry George received only three votes in 1925.

Mr. Polak was indefatigable in his labors to bring to the attention of the Electors the claims of this great American to a place among the immortals. In this work he had the cooperation of the secretary of the Schalkenbach Foundation, Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, its president Hon. Chas. O'Connor Hennessy, and Mrs. Anna George de Mille. Those who feel some disappointment at the result cannot accuse Mr. Polak and those who cooperated with him of failing to take advantage of the situation. Their work was admirable and unremitting.

The letters received from the Electors as well as the friends who urged upon them the claims of our leader are vastly interesting.

Hon. Josephus Daniels wrote as follows:

"I am giving myself the pleasure of writing to some of my friends to express the hope that the Electors of the Hall of Fame will include the name of Henry George among the great men of the Republic, for he deserves that honor."

Dan Beard, who needs no introduction to Single Tax readers, writes:

"I knew Henry George intimately. We would discuss principles and people, as friends may, but all the time I was talking or listening to him, I felt like standing hat in hand, because I realized that back of the man to whom I was talking, there was something big and great—bigger and greater than the generation in which we lived, understood, or that he himself realized—and that was the soul of the man himself."

Hon. Bennett Champ Clark: "I regard Henry George as a great man." Judge Burke of the Supreme Court of North Dakota said: "I have been an admirer of Henry George nearly all my life." Robert Davis of the *New York Sun* wrote: "Henry George should have been in the Hall of Fame thirty years ago." James Truslow Adams, author of a number of thoughtful books, wrote that he had decided

to vote for Henry George. William Allen White said: "He has meant much in my life and I know that he has stirred millions of men to thinking in terms of social welfare."

William E. Dodd, ambassador to Germany, wrote in a letter to Mrs. Post that when voting time came Henry George's name would be first on his list.

Ellen Glasgow, whose novels are perhaps the most notable of all similar output of our present generation, wrote as follows:

"In my early youth 'Progress and Poverty,' with its penetrating analysis of social conditions, made an indelible impression upon my memory. I have always regarded Henry George as one of our few important social philosophers. Certainly, he deserves, though he does not need, a place in the building we describe as our Hall of Fame."

Rabbi Wise was most emphatic:

"An American Hall of Fame without Henry George is an absurdity. Henry George was one of the greatest of Americans. He was seer, philosopher, prophet. We ask you not for Henry George's sake but for the sake of truth, to cast your ballot for him as one of those most deserving of inclusion within the Hall of Fame."

Letters were received from Hon. Robert Crosser, Albert Bushnell Hart, Prof. John R. Commons, and many others.

What They Are Saying

SIMPLICITY IN TAXATION

Followers of Henry George, at a recent convention here, reported an awakening interest in the teachings of the economist-philosopher, who died thirty-eight years ago.

We do not wish to say anything here that might involve us in an academic argument over the principles of the Single Tax, but merely wish to observe in passing that the harshest critics of the plan, even in the heyday of the prophet who held that land was the true source of all wealth, never denied that it possessed the merit of simplicity and, theoretically at least, of justice.

Who can say as much for our present tax system? It is not one of simplicity but one of vast confusion. And it is not equitable, either in theory or in practice.—*New York World Telegram*.

WHY THE HOUSING PLAN DOESN'T WORK

- "1. The PWA makes a slum clearance allotment.
- "2. Agents of the PWA begin quietly to secure options on the needed real estate.
- "3. It becomes known that the PWA is taking options.
- "4. Land speculators rush into the district and take private options. Lawyers sign contracts with landowners for a percentage of all they can get from the government over a stated minimum.
- "5. Land prices go up and the government stops buying.
- "6. The slum clearance project is canceled."

—IRVING BRANT, editor *St. Louis Star Times* and prominent housing official.

EVOLUTION DISPROVED

The final proof that men are not related to monkeys is furnished by the fact that no monkey has ever been found who will go hungry because there are too many coconuts or sleep on damp ground because there are too many trees—*The Minnesota Leader*.

THE JEWISH TIMES IS DISAPPOINTED

The name of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was added to the galaxy of American immortals perpetuated in the Hall of Fame on the campus of New York University, according to a decision reached by the electors of the Hall of Fame last week, while that of Henry George, another famous Philadelphian, was rejected. William Penn, leader of the admirable Quaker sect which first settled this part of America, probably deserves this honor which has been bestowed upon his memory, but Henry George should, we believe,

deserve it even more. If Penn hadn't settled the Eastern Pennsylvania region, somebody else would have settled it later on. But who besides Henry George would have given to the world a book called, "Progress and Poverty," which was read by, and revolutionized the thinking of millions of people throughout the world on vital social and economic questions, which was translated into nearly every civilized language?—*The Jewish Times*, Philadelphia, Pa.

HAVE DONE NOTHING TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEM

Are you patriots, who like butter on your bread, and who enjoy club luncheons and bridge teas—are you surprised that hungry men listen to the promises of Communists or espouse the cause of Socialism? You needn't be. You have done nothing to solve their problem or to make it possible for them to enjoy that economic freedom that is their right—guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States that you defend so feverishly to confirm your boasted Americanism.—NORMA COOLEY in *Tax Facts*.

WHITE PARASOLS

"White parasols and elephants mad with pride are the fruit of a grant of land." Henry George's quotation seems strangely pertinent somehow, to the Abyssinian situation, even if it can't be tacked onto that shortlived grant to American oil interests. The Abyssinia crisis centers in the ownership and control of land. The whole European problem, with whose solution the world's statesmen are now struggling, is at bottom a land problem.

—Winstead (Conn.) *Evening Citizen*.

COL. HARLEE IS OUTSPOKEN

Our people once rebelled, in 1832, against the plan of imposing import taxes for the general public to pay to enable the lords of manufacturing industries to prosper at their expense, and nullified such laws and prepared to fight to prevent their operation. The prosperity of the lords of industry produced by the perversion of government to create monopolies for them has never spread to those who labored and produced the wealth, and never will. That kind of prosperity for the privileged few exploiters of labor has brought us to our present plight.

—COL. WM. C. HARLEE in his platform for U. S. Senator from South Carolina.

MANY DOUBTFUL EXPERIMENTS

First we must face the fact that our country is now involved in a vast number of doubtful experiments. Granting that some of these experiments may succeed, it has become evident that many of them contradict laws that are as unchangeable as the law of gravitation and therefore must fail, for *man cannot repeal the laws of nature nor of nature's God*.—*Investor American*, Chicago, Ill.

HALTING IMPROVEMENTS

The hopeless abandonment of the original low-rent housing project in South Boston by the Federal Government is an eloquent example of the ruthless and anti-social character of private landlordism. A few selfish individuals squatting with their title deeds on certain small and comparatively insignificant parcels of the earth's surface which at best they can encumber with their unaspiring bodies only a few brief years, are permitted by an unintelligent land policy to balk an improvement that would provide decent living conditions to many who sadly need them and which would enrich the lives of thousands of workers and producers in the creation of the proposed structures. All of Boston and its suburbs would have profited by this government enterprise.—FRANKLIN WENTWORTH in Wellesley, Mass, *Townsmen*.

SHOW your friend a copy of LAND AND FREEDOM.