

the United States Treasury was strong enough, to hold up artificially, the price of a single commodity.

The Federal Farm Board Act will go down in history as the monumental blunder of our generation in attempting to fix price.

Have we learned anything from this experience? I doubt it.

With a sublime faith in the perfection of its own theories of economics, Congress on May 12 last passed another law designed to lift the price of nine commodities, namely, wheat, corn, cotton, oats, hogs, tobacco, rice, milk and milk products. Under the new plan the Secretary of Agriculture will fix "quotas" for production of these "basic" commodities, and sell or lease lands *for withdrawal from production in order to reduce marketable quantities of these commodities*. In short, we are to get rich by decreasing wealth!

Alongside the new Law, the old Farm Relief Act was simplicity itself. Alongside the 184 million dollars lost in attempting to regulate the price of wheat, the losses to be incurred under the new Act will be ten times that amount.—B. W. BURGER.

A Man of Fire

BERNARD SHAW said the other day that hearing one lecture by Henry George had changed "the whole current" of his life. Tolstoy mentioned George's name with worshipful reverence. Lenin read him. Sun Yat-sen's most practical ideas came from him. Lloyd George and Philip Snowden frankly acknowledge their debt to him. He has been honored by great men in other countries as far apart as Denmark and Uruguay.

Yet Henry George, says Lewis Gannett in an article on this great man in the *New York Herald Tribune*, is still a prophet almost without honor in his own country. Mr. Gannett seems to think this is due in part to George's principles:

"Why is it that Henry George's followers, the Single Taxers, lapse so monotonously into worthy dullness? One admires them; one is never fired by them. Even Albert Jay Nock, who wrote so superbly on everything else when he was editing the old *Freeman*, sank into dullness whenever he touched the subject for which his magazine was founded—the taxation of unearned increments in land values."

Henry George himself was "a man of fire." He ran off to sea from Philadelphia; he lost money in a hundred California wildcat gold-mine schemes and earned a mere living slaving for a score of California newspapers. It was the sudden rise in unearned land values, due to the arrival of the transcontinental railway in Sacramento—that and the remembered spectacle of poverty in the rich city of New York—which awakened George to the scandal of private appropriation of land values. The awakening, says Mr. Gannett, "made him a flaming crusader," and when he ran for mayor of New York he was to the respectable "the worst kind of rabblouser" and "more menacing than any American Socialist or Communist who has ever appeared since," while "to his followers he was a god."

Whether another "man of fire" is needed to convert the mass of people to George's ideas or not it is hard to say. But a reading of his books by the younger people of today would do a tremendous service to mankind. Whatever may be said of his arguments, he was undoubtedly one of a very small number of definitely original social philosophers of all time.—Editorial, *Ottawa Evening Citizen*, April 28.

What Many Prominent Men Have Said of Henry George And the Cause He Stood For

WE would not have it understood by our readers that they need accept on the authority of others the principles Henry George stood for. They must learn to think for themselves. It is significant, however, that from all ranks of life and human activity have come endorsements of the man and his work. This should at least lead others to think.

I am inclined to think that no writer of our times has had a more profound influence upon the thinking of the world than Henry George. I have read "Progress and Poverty" several times.—NEWTON D. BAKER.

Henry George was as guileless as a child and as sincere as a martyr.—WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN.

The country needs a new and sincere thought in politics, coherently, distinctly and boldly uttered by men who are sure of their ground. The power of men like Henry George seems to mean that. We must husband and administer the resources of this country for their common benefit.—WOODROW WILSON.

I believe in the Single Tax. I count it a great privilege to have been a friend of Henry George—SAMUEL GOMPERS.

I believe that Henry George was one of the really great thinkers produced by our country. I do not go all the way with him, but I wish that his writings were better known and more clearly understood, for certainly they contain much that would be helpful today.—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Farewell, Henry George! Great, honest, pure heart and brain, farewell! You are one of the few men of the age whose names are to survive!—WILLIAM J. GAYNOR.

It is the thorough fusion of insight into actual facts and forces, with recognition of their bearing upon what makes life worth living, that constitutes Henry George one of the world's great social philosophers. It would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate the social philosophers who, from Plato down, rank with him.—JOHN DEWEY.

All this exploitation would have been avoided if we had only had the sense and foresight to insist that the land should remain national property; that all rents should be used for public purposes. If this had been done there need have been no slums, no ugly mean streets and buildings, nor any rates and taxes. Everybody would benefit by the rent; everybody would contribute to it by work and no idlers would be able to live on the labor of others. . . . My ambition is to repay my debt to Henry George by coming over to America some day and trying to do for your young men what Henry George did nearly a quarter of a century ago for me.—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW.

I believe in the philosophy of Henry George.—SIR WILFRED LAURIER.

Economics has never been a dull subject to me. It is a science that affects every human being. It is because Henry George steeped the subject in the splendor of his

soul that we hear in his words an irresistible call for justice to all men.—HELEN KELLER.

It is a full half century since no inconsiderable part of the world was plunged into vigorous and often excited controversy over the thesis and the arguments of a book by Henry George. He called it "Progress and Poverty." Why is it that with all the progress which the world is making in so many directions that there still exists so much want? Henry George asked that question fifty years ago. Today everywhere in the world that question is being asked—why is it that the world today is in the grasp of the greatest economic, financial, social and political series of problems which have ever faced it in history? —NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER.

The most necessary reforms that I know of are the exemption of improvements and the taxation of land values.—GEORGE FOSTER PEABODY.

Henry George was a master of English; one of the greatest that ever used a pen. He was one of the real prophets of the world; one of the seers of the world. His was a wonderful mind; he saw a question from every side; his philosophy appealed to every school. Henry George wrote a profound book; the first book on political economy that people may read; the first and perhaps the last that was readable to plain ordinary men.—CLARENCE DARROW.

The citizens who build up a community create land values; therefore they should belong to the citizens. Ground rent instead of being paid to landowners should be paid in place of taxes to the government. You should talk Single Tax from the housetops; you ought to have your principles engraved in the sky in letters a mile high. Don't stop. Keep on fighting!—BERNARR MACFADDEN, Editor of *Liberty*.

The Single Tax will wait, I fancy, for years, since it is so fundamental, and mankind never attacks fundamental problems until it has exhausted all the superficial ones.—BRAND WHITLOCK.

If private individuals continue to possess nominal claim to the land they must pay (ground) rent to the community. The land was given by the Creator, not for the use of Dukes, but for the equal use of all His children. Restriction on the use of land is restriction on human liberty! The land tax has been one of my dreams for years. The present land system is unjust and a burden to trade and industry. Direct taxation of land values will prove a remedy.—SIR PHILIP SNOWDEN.

Your proposal to shift the burden of taxation from industry to land values rejoices my heart.—DAVID LLOYD GEORGE.

If the value of agricultural land increases because it is close to a town, a railway line or a canal, the enhanced land values ought to be taxed because they are in no way due to the owner. Besides, the value of land fluctuates and, owing to circumstances outside of the control of the owners, the value increases abnormally. A tax on increased values will therefore prevent abnormal transactions.—VON WERMUTH, Minister of Finance of Germany.

People do not argue with the teaching of Henry George; they simply do not know it; and it is impossible to do otherwise with his teaching, for he who becomes acquainted with it cannot but agree. The land is common to all; all have the same right to it.—LEO TOLSTOY.

All for which Henry George strived and struggled will

yet come true—his prayer will be answered. Of all our modern prophets and reformers Henry George is the only one whose arguments are absolutely unanswerable and whose forecast is sure.—ELBERT HUBBARD.

The earth that God gave to man for his home, his sustenance and support—should never be the possession of any man, corporation, society or unfriendly government, any more than the air or the water, if as much.—ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Your letter was most welcome, as was its very interesting enclosure. Mr. Hardinge certainly presents his material in a forceful way and is a worthy disciple of his great master, Henry George—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

The burden of municipal taxation should be so shifted as to put the weight of taxation upon the unearned rise in value of land itself, rather than upon the improvements.—THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

It is becoming apparent to thoughtful men that, if the present method of procedure goes on, we shall be driven to the Single Tax idea, whether we like it or not.—VICE-PRESIDENT MARSHALL.

I am a Single Taxer. . . . The Single Tax would be the means of bringing about the sanitary conditions I so much desire.—SURGEON GENERAL GORGAS.

We are asking the land owners to render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's. Taxation of land values is Rent paid to the Community. The great land owners can not be permitted to enjoy privileges to the detriment of the welfare of the Community. We have set our hands to this task and we are going to see it through—SIR PHILIP SNOWDEN.

SO the barbaric cry, "Buy American" will soon run its course. Did those who advocate it but stop to think they must know that it is the application of their unfortunate slogan that has largely got us into the fix in which we find ourselves now. We have been restrained so long from buying abroad that we can no longer buy from one another. Let it again be repeated that if we would sell abroad we must buy abroad in substantially the same amounts. The great civilizer, the great stabilizer of civilization, is commerce. So, if the war debts are ever to be settled the settlement must come from an exchange of commodities and not the exchange of gold and silver or of any other monetary metals. If the "Buy American" slogan is such a wonderful idea, why are we not buying American today? Certainly the stage is set for us to buy American, for so high and so wide have the nations built their trade barriers, largely in imitation of the example we have set them, that it is well nigh impossible for us to buy from anyone else.

Coshocton, Ohio, *Tribune*.

UP to this point we have urged Republican support of the Roosevelt bills upon patriotic grounds, to meet a national emergency. No such emergency exists with respect to the farmer. *He is largely the victim of his own post-war speculation.*—New York *Herald Tribune*.

THE right of exchange is as sacred as any other right, and exists as much between members of different nations as between members of the same nation. Morality knows nothing of geographical boundaries, or distinctions of race. The moral law is cosmopolite—is no respecter of nationalities; and between men who are the antipodes of each other, either in locality or anything else, there must still exist the same balance of rights as though they were next-door neighbors in all things.—HERBERT SPENCER.