

underwrite all transportation taxes and a *modified* Townsend "Old Age Pension" appropriation and "*Take Taxes Out of Prices*" by a levy on the several states equal to 2½ per cent on all land values, *urban and rural; not structures* or other improvements, annually. Such a start toward putting down foundations by shifting one tax item only each biennium would be conservative progress and 100 per cent American. We could then evaluate its worth. Jobs would soon be seeking workers instead of the workers hunting jobs. Then, and not until then, wages and time employed per day, week, month and year will come into their just share of the productive and industrial income. If and when we exempt all transportation facilities from all *taxes we will be well on the road to economic and social security* for everybody.

—CHARLES J. LAVERY.

## McNair Fights Back

IN a series of articles running in the Pittsburgh *Sun Telegraph*, Hon. William N. McNair bares the rackets of Pittsburgh under the protection of the politicians, and strikes some telling blows in newspaper English. He says the yearly profits from organized and protected racketeering in Pittsburgh would total two million or more, "probably much more." He says: "The numbers racket in the Hill District took in \$12,000 a day. During my administration this figure was reduced to \$150 a day."

He tells of the threats made against him, the movement for his impeachment and the "ripper bill" to get him out of office. He reviews the work of his administration and what he has actually accomplished. He took the police out of politics and eliminated the "fixer," instituted a new system of assessment which relieves the small owner, improved the administration of justice, enforced the collection of taxes on big estates, opened the City Hall to the citizen whose property it is, etc.,—on the whole a series of accomplishments for which he is entitled to claim credit. Besides he tried to loosen the grip of land speculators. Here he was blocked.

He tells of his fight for cheaper bus fares. He says he knew all the time he was fighting for the land speculator. But he was working as Mayor of the city and he knew that to progress in competition with other cities Pittsburgh must have cheaper bus fares. So he fought for lower fares, though he knew the land speculators would benefit more than the people.

In regard to public utilities he says: "Utility, rates are too high. But I don't advocate government ownership. They have that in England and it takes an hour to get a telephone connection. Nor do I believe in taxing the utilities to death. I believe in taxing their land sites, but I'd like to abolish all taxes on their services, because when we tax them they either raise their rates or curtail their services."

McNair reveals how the underworld tried to buy him off. Racketeers, knowing his "weakness" tried to bribe him by offering the proceeds of their rackets to the Henry George movement. They followed him to the Henry George Congress in New York with their offers. McNair laughed at them.

He fired the City Treasurer, James P. Kirk, and appointed William B. Foster in his place. The Council refused to confirm him. The city could not function without finances, and the salaries of teachers, firemen, etc., were unpaid. So he got out. A further move on his part to withdraw his resignation was later decided against him by the courts.

That is the story McNair tells in these wonderfully interesting articles in the Pittsburgh *Sun Telegraph*. His enemies were out to get him; threats of nonfeasance in office were made if the courts decided in his favor.

The new Mayor, Cornelius D. Scully, a life long Single Taxer, states that the prestige of his office will no longer be used to propagate the Georgeist cause. Or rather that is the statement made for him by

the Pittsburgh papers. Since McNair's retirement the axe has fallen on a number of his adherents, and more are to follow.

But the net gain is that the Single Tax got on the first page of the Hearst newspapers and the net loss to McNair is his salary of \$20,000 a year!

## A Visit With the Kin of Cobden and Bright

ONE of the most interesting experiences I had in England, on my recent visit, was a week-end spent at Dunford House, Sussex, the much-loved home of Richard Cobden.

Resting comfortably on green velvet sward and flanked by gay gardens, the house is sheltered by noble trees and looks across the Sussex Downs (which to my amazement aren't downs at all but ups rather—being a line of gentle, pastel-tinted hills). It can accommodate some sixteen guests and is as entirely Victorian in atmosphere as though it had slipped from the pages of a Thackeray novel. Possibly some of its plumbing dates it later, but the furniture, the portraits, the framed presentation illuminations and photographed groups, as well as souvenir bric-a-brac and the books in the library, throw the setting definitely into the period of Cobden himself.

So redolent of that great and good man is the place that one could almost expect to see him walk again through the rooms he loved so well.

How interesting it was to me, who am the only living child of Henry George, to contact here Richard Cobden's only living child, a white-haired lady nearing eighty, Mrs. Cobden Unwin, and to be told by her of the evening my father had spent with her and her sister, long years back.

How interesting to talk here with the silver-haired Philip Bright, only remaining child of John Bright, about how my father had been likened to his, in his gift of eloquence.

How interesting to meet, in this inspiring setting, Lady Gladstone of Hawarden, the widow of the last child of W. E. Gladstone, and to note her interest in the Cobden tradition.

One wished for long hours of reminiscences with each of these delightful people, and for long quiet talks with one's hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Hirst, and with Sir Gilbert Jackson, Major Lawrence Wright, Sir George Paish, Mr. Alec. Wilson and the others of the party, some twenty-four in all; each one keen on world affairs and dedicated to the cause of universal peace, and to the destruction of trade barriers. One longed for time to explain to them one's belief that Cobden, himself, had he lived, would have accepted the teaching of "Progress and Poverty," and that today their logical course, if they hope to establish international understanding and economic freedom, is to work for freedom of trade in production as well as in exchange.