

## UNITED STATES

## The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

The purposes of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation are published in a booklet which we have received from the offices of the Foundation at 15, Park Row, New York City. This contains extract from the Will of the late Robert Schalkenbach (part of which was printed in our July issue with names of the Trustees, now Directors of the Foundation), a biographical notice of the Testator, Certificate of Incorporation, and By-Laws.

Of the Directors, Mr. Charles T. Root holds office as President; Mr. Richard Eyre as Vice-President; and Mr. Walter Fairchild as Secretary-Treasurer.

In the Certificate of Incorporation it is stated:

*First:* The particular objects for which the corporation is formed are as follows: To keep before the public the ideas of Henry George as set forth in his book, *PROGRESS AND POVERTY* and his other writings, especially what are popularly known as the Single Tax on Land Values and International Free Trade; to secure discussion and consideration of these doctrines and their probable effect upon social welfare; to assist in all proper ways to establish the same in practical operation of law; to aid in the education of the public in the science of economics and sound principles of taxation; and for these purposes to establish and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for publishing, lecturing, and educational activities and/or to give aid to individuals or other organizations with similar objects and to do all other acts that may tend to further the objects named. In pursuance of the above objects to receive and administer funds from the Estate of Robert Schalkenbach, deceased, and any other property that may be donated, devised or bequeathed for any or all of such objects. The affairs of this corporation shall not be conducted for the pecuniary profit of its members.

*Third:* The territory in which its operations are to be principally conducted is the United States of America.

*Fourth:* Its principal office is to be located in the Borough of Manhattan, City of New York, County of New York, State of New York.

The second paragraph gives the name of the corporation, the fifth states the number of directors, and the sixth gives the names of the directors.

By-Law No. 34 says: "No resolution shall be adopted by the members or directors endorsing any candidate for any elective or appointive public office, nor shall the funds of the corporation be expended in the promotion of any such candidacy or of initiative petitions."

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Robert Schalkenbach was born in the old Chelsea District of Manhattan, 15th June, 1856, and died in the same district 13th November, 1924. He received an elementary education, but was obliged to become a bread-winner at the age of twelve, first working in a silk mill, and later learning the printing trade, in which he rose to become the head of the John C. Rankin Company, one of the largest printing establishments in New York.

In 1884, Mr. Schalkenbach read *PROGRESS AND POVERTY* and became convinced of the truth of the principles expounded therein by the author Henry George, later enjoying the personal friendship of the great philosopher and his family. He was President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club in 1897, and interested in other activities for spreading a knowledge of what is usually known as the Single Tax.

But to him, the philosophy so eloquently stated by Henry George was much more than an economic belief,

it was a religion that influenced his life and character; and at his request the last chapter of *PROGRESS AND POVERTY* which deals with the spiritual aspirations of mankind and the mystery of future existence, was read at the conclusion of the funeral services.

And as a final evidence of his firm belief that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book will tend to the betterment of the individual and of society, he bequeathed practically his entire fortune for the purpose of having those ideas spread before the people.

## ARGENTINA

The REVISTA DEL IMPUESTO UNICO (Esmeralda, 91, Buenos Aires) in its June issue has most striking news from the Province of Córdoba. About 1913-14 the Georgeist Governor, Dr. Angel Cárcano, was able to secure enactment of a land value tax of 7 per mill 1½d. in the £) on all non-urban land in the Province: this has been the only Argentine Province to enjoy unbroken fiscal prosperity since then.

Very valuable municipal action has since taken place, especially in San Francisco, where the Mayor (1922-25) Sr. Seragui Friguero de Godoy, has issued a Report of real weight. Apart from usual administrative progress (as trebling the education vote and halving the death rate) he has adapted Georgeist ideals to the restrictive laws on civic taxation. The town (15,000 population) has been divided into 7 zones as shown on a good coloured map: and a tax at per metre of frontage imposed on each, 80 cents, 50, 30, 20, 10 and 5 cents per year. This is about ¼ per cent (or 1s. in the £) and brings in 102,000 dollars yearly, as the largest revenue item—the "general services tax." It has provided for repeal of several small taxes on industry, leading to erection of 615 houses recently: and for sinking fund on an excellent new market, which appears to have been paid for by the Mayor and Council.

The report is pleasantly diversified by views showing civic progress in the three years, and by varied Press clippings on the Mayor's activities. It includes an excellent article by Prof. C. Villalobos Domínguez, the Secretary of the Argentine Liberal Georgeist Party.

The climax to all this is the return to power of Dr. Angel Cárcano with a good Georgeist Cabinet: he has already secured legislation which expressly authorizes all civic bodies to tax land value apart from improvements without legal limit at their discretion—this the REVISTA notes is the first enactment of such a provision which has hitherto rested on non-prohibition only.

The Córdoba Government has now enacted a decree ordering all urban lands to be zoned for site values under the law of 23rd April, 1925, with a view to extension of the old rural site value tax to the whole state. The decree is published in LA PRENSA (B.A. 27th June, 1925) and is a model of practical eloquence in stating the full Georgeist ideal. It is the only piece of propaganda which our colleagues have got into the City Press for a long time, and has shattered the conspiracy of silence so well organized.

Among other articles is an impassioned appeal "To Christians" to cease to "halt between two opinions" or to show how land monopoly and its consequences can agree with their faith. Clippings include a tragic inquiry into "the economic problem in Catamarca," from LA PRENSA (15th June, 1925) showing the horrors arising from landlordism in that rich Province. M. J. S.

(Interesting information about Brazil, Uruguay and Kenya with much other matter in type is unavoidably held over till next month owing to lack of space.)