

it came to piloting the Fairchild raft on the treacherous Mahwah. At the time LAND AND FREEDOM goes to press, we are still uncertain how our wet friends made the journey back to town.

Washington Letter

THE twenty-sixth annual gathering of Single Taxers was held on Sunday, June 6, at the home of Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley in Riverdale, Maryland, with about forty present.

Following the usual generous basket luncheon, the friends assembled in the living room, with the overflow on the piazza by the windows.

Mrs. Helene H. McEvoy as presiding officer, announced that at a meeting of the executive committee of the Woman's Single Tax Club, it had been voted to take steps toward a tentative effort to bring to life the National Woman's Single Tax League of somewhat more than a quarter of a century ago, the object of which step will be to help hold together and coordinate the activities of the hundreds of young women who are being graduated from the Henry George classes all over the country each year. Clarence Darrow was quoted as declaring that 94 per cent of crimes are committed as a result of poverty, and if Single Taxers could abolish this root evil, we should be doing a good work for the human race.

Messages of regret at their inability to be present were sent by Representatives Eckert and Bigelow, who had been called out of the city, and by Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, who was not well enough to come. Mr. Western Starr was reported as being in the hospital, and Mrs. Marie H. Heath is spending about a fortnight with her daughters in Winchester, Virginia, following a serious operation on her eye.

The programmes at these annual gatherings are always informal, with impromptu talks by the members, which usually bring up animated discussions after adjournment.

Mr. Walter I. Swanton called attention to an article by John Lear, Associated Press Staff writer, in the *Washington Post* of Sunday, May 23, entitled "Awakened Single Taxers to Face Test in 1938," which article he understood had been run in some 1,200 or more papers throughout the country. Reference was also made to President Roosevelt's efforts to prevent land speculation in the 1,200,000 acres in the region of the Coulee Dam. The civil war in Spain has its roots in the land question, Mr. Swanton declared, and distributed notices of a meeting of the Friends of Spanish Democracy to be held the following Tuesday, and also copies of Herbert S. Bigelow's bill HR 6872 "to provide in the District of Columbia, for the gradual abolition of the taxation of improvements upon land."

Mr. Francis J. Mooney of Baltimore, Maryland, declared one of Henry George's greatest statements to be that "nothing is property except that which is made by labor." And what is not made by man, must be made by God. Yet this annual profit on Nature amounts to something over \$20,000,000,000 per year and our object is to try to get rid of this handicap on labor. The way to bring about world peace is to give everybody an opportunity, but governments stand in the way of this. Thomas Jefferson said, "That government is best which governs least" and that "The earth belongs to the living." We ought to have a national organization, with headquarters in Washington, D. C., announcing our one object to be the abolition of monopoly, and ask all those who are in sympathy with this, to join us; then, after discussing tariff monopoly, patent monopoly, etc., we should show land monopoly to be the worst evil of all, and the remedy. Wayne B. Wheeler's tactics in the prohibition movement were cited as furnishing a good example for other organizations to follow.

Dr. Morton G. Lloyd called attention to the work of the People's Lobby, whose monthly luncheon programmes are broadcast over a coast-to-coast hook-up, and said that their principles were similar to those of the organization suggested by Mr. Mooney.

Mr. Joseph Danziger paid tribute to the heroism of Colonel H. Martin Williams, who had not hesitated to raise his voice in protest against our entrance into the World War in 1917, which fearless courage had led to the loss of his position as Reading Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Mr. John F. Du Comb compared the simplicity and accuracy in the matter of assessment and collection of a land-value tax, with our present combersome and expensive method which places a premium on dishonesty.

Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips told of her latest game, which she regards as an improvement on the principles which formed the basis of her "Monopoly" and "Landlord" games, and after the completion of this latest game, she hopes to resume the teaching of a Henry George class.

Mr. A. L. Colton said that the one phrase which had had the most influence in making him see the light, was that about "taking community value for the use of the community which produced it." The two pamphlets which he regarded as being the best for lending to friends whom he wanted to help "see the cat," are "The Story of My Dictatorship" and "Plain Talk on Taxation." The situation developing between capital and labor reminded him, he said, of the old question as to what would happen when an irresistible force meets an immovable object.

Mr. Henry W. Selah expressed approval of the principle of the land value tax, including the five billion dollars' worth of property held by the churches, but he believed that other taxes should also be included, as he doubted that the former alone would be sufficient to run the government, which objection was answered by Mr. Mooney with facts and figures to show that this revenue would more than meet the demand, if administered without waste.

Mr. Cyrus E. Cook, a graduate of the District Henry George class, declared himself in favor of a national headquarters in Washington. He believed in neighborhood gatherings at which members would bring in new friends and encourage free discussion and the answering of questions regarding the Single Tax, or objections that might be raised to it.

Among those who spoke briefly were Mrs. Minnie L. White, Mrs. Miriam M. Goodwin, Mrs. Jennie Knight, and Mrs. Joseph Danziger.

After a rising vote of thanks to our hostess for her generous hospitality not only on this occasion but for the preceding quarter of a century, the meeting adjourned, but the discussion was still going strong when this scribe left the scene at nearly six o'clock.

GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

The California Campaign

SINCE last reporting to your readers I have to note a decided improvement in the California situation. The legislature has adjourned. In the matter of the sales tax, its various positions were negative and will work to make the tax more odious than ever. While the lower house voted to reduce the tax and also to take the tax off foodstuffs sold in restaurants, the Senate took the opposite position and both propositions were rejected by a large majority. The truth must be recognized that in practically every state in the Union popular government is nullified to a great extent, because the country rules the city as to the Senate, and in no state is this more decidedly so than in California.

Thus we have to thank the enemies of our movement for resisting the slightest move to relieve the people from the payment of an odious tax and making them the more ready to accept our way out.