

Single Taxers in the country to sustain a weekly paper—an out-and-out Single Tax organ? I have no money to give toward the establishment of such a paper, but I would give my whole time and energy to working for such a paper, in any position for which I am at all qualified, at bare living wages. That's offering all that it is in my power to offer. When I consider what the Socialists are doing, what the Populists are doing, what even the few Anarchists are doing, and then try to make out what we are doing, I feel like crawling into the nearest hole and pulling it in after me.

H. J. CHASE.

Newport, Rhode Island.

#### BIRTHPLACE OF HENRY GEORGE.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I have just been reading the number of "Little Journeys to Homes of Reformers" by Elbert Hubbard, devoted to Henry George, in which he says: "Born in Philadelphia in 1839, on Tenth Street, below Pine, in a house still standing, and which should be marked with a bronze plate, but is not, etc."

It seems to me Single Taxers should show more reverence for the memory of their dead leader than to leave the knowledge and place of his birth to pass into oblivion. Not only should the house be marked as suggested by Elbert Hubbard, but the property should be purchased and carefully preserved as an historic land-mark of the cause. I should think it would be a fitting task for the league of women's Henry George clubs to undertake this work. Some day it will be a point of interest in Philadelphia, second only to Independence Hall and other revolutionary relics. If this is not done the house is liable to be torn down at any time and the chance of preserving it entirely lost.

I am impelled to make this suggestion to you as the official representative of the cause, trusting you will mention it in a future number of the REVIEW with the result of preserving the house with its connection to the Single Tax movement.

W. L. MIGGETT.

Anne Arbor, Mich.

In answer to Mr. Miggett and others of our readers who will be interested, we will state that the house in which Mr. George was born is in good hands. It is owned by Dr. Thos. S. K. Morton, a wealthy Single Taxer, of Philadelphia, and is tenanted by a family in poor circumstances, for the neighborhood is a lowly one. But it is in good condition. It will not be sold nor torn down, and Dr. Morton will, we are confident, see to its preservation as an historic landmark in the march of liberty, not second to Independence Hall.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.

#### A QUESTION.

Editor *Single Tax Review*:

I recently heard a well-known and authoritative Single Taxer claim that farmers really pay the high ground rents obtained by landlords in cities where farm products are often marketed or exchanged. In other words, that the returns to the labor of Manitoba farmers, for instance, are lessened by the demands made in Toronto or London by the owners of the land where exchanges are made. I claim that this is probably fallacious. It is true that of the thousand bushels of wheat dealt in on a certain day in Toronto the landowner will claim a share, but it seems reasonable to believe that this share, together with the wages and interest due the broker, or exchanger, come out of the increased value which the wheat has at Toronto rather than at Manitoba. Practically, as I look at it, a thousand bushels of wheat, transported from Manitoba to Toronto, and by marketing having been placed so much nearer the consumer, have become, so to speak, 1100 bushels, and the cost of transportation, of brokerage and of standing room for the broker, all have to come out of the extra 100 bushels, and do not in any degree lessen the wages of the original producers.

What have our Single Tax experts to say on this interesting point?

GEORGE WHITE.

#### ANSWER.

The fallacious claim that "farmers pay the high city rents" is a variation, in more complex terms, of the old contention that "rent is added to the price." While rent is paid out of product it does not increase the price of any unit of a particular commodity. (It is not necessary now to discuss apparent exceptions that do not affect the matter under discussion, and it will be simpler to omit terms of money value.) The price of a bushel of wheat is the cost of raising it on the "poorest" land in use for wheat growing, and wheat raised more cheaply sells for the same price, the difference being rent.

Transportation is a factor in determining the "poorness" of land for production and in causing rent. It must be remembered, too, that much of the high ground rent in Toronto is due to purely local causes; factory land, for example, reflecting in its rent the saving of energy resulting from production at that location in preference to another.

The value of wheat in Toronto is increased over its value in Manitoba by the cost of transportation and distribution. It is confusing, however, to say that the 1,000 bushels become 1,100, or that the landowners in Toronto will take a share out of any thousand bushels of wheat sold there. What they really take a share of is the hats or coats or other tangible things that in the Toronto market are exchanged for the wheat. In other words, the thousand bush-