

the All-Canadian Congress of Labor in adopting this "land" resolution is merely repeating a platitude or is looking for trouble.

A. C. CAMPBELL, in *Canadian Unionist*.

QUESTIONS OUR OPPONENTS MUST CONFUTE

To shatter Georgian economics it is only necessary to refute certain very simple propositions which Henry George propounds, illustrates and proves. Such propositions for example are:—

1. That man is entirely dependent upon land for his physical existence.
2. That this planet (land) is the gift of the Creator to all his creatures—not merely to the dress circle occupiers.
3. That the only real Landowner, the Creator, charges no Rent or the use of his land.
4. That rent only exists where human societies exist.
5. That at the fringes of society (if land be plentiful and not purposely held out of use) there will be no Rent.
6. That Rent is a natural phenomenon—as natural as any physical law—secreted as it were *only* by society, just as food is naturally secreted by the mother for the benefit of her young.
7. That land is the only source of wealth, and labor the only means by which wealth is produced.
8. That all taxation is a forcible extraction from the wages of labor.
9. That Rent is not an extraction from wages.
10. That Rent correctly applied to meet the expenses of government, eliminates the necessity for taxation, and thereby assures to labor the full value of the products produced.
11. That *wages* are the returns to labor, whilst Rent is the natural return due to society, being occasioned and caused by society as distinct from the individual.
12. That labor applied to land produces wealth.
13. That mere ownership of land contributes nothing to the production of wealth, though it often yields fortunes to owners.

The Standard, Sydney, Australia.

TAKE TAXES OUT OF PRICES

The Wall Street Journal has been harping on "Kept Apart by Price" for about a year now, and I hope that it continues harping on that same theme. Neither government nor legislation has any direct jurisdiction in the field of price fixing, for anything, and that includes wages, interest, rent and profits, but can control taxes and the expense of governmental activities. Legislators can "Take Taxes Out of Prices" by shifting them to the site value of land. They can cancel taxes with rent and they should do it now. That can and should be done gradually, one step at a time. The best place to start, I think, would be transportation taxes. That is the heaviest tax that everybody has to pay. By shifting ALL taxes from ALL carrier facilities, including gasoline, coal and oil, to ALL land values, urban and rural, irrespective of ALL improvements, would be killing, with one stone, two foul birds of prey, namely, exorbitant freight and passenger rates and fabulously high prices and rents for land, particularly in our larger cities. Legislators should learn about and become conscious of the limitations of statutes and, at the same time, put aside wishful thinking and wish-fulfilment devices and do things that are possible and which should be done in the public interest.

DR. C. J. LAVERY in *Dakota Free Press*.

THANKS, BROTHER TOEPFERT

It surely is becoming evident that a right solution of our tax problems is of the utmost concern, as you have said, in the affairs of every United States citizen. The modern development of the doctrines of Smith, Spencer, the French physiocrats and others of the "classic" period are carried out and elaborated in the teachings of Henry George, and in this connection it may be of interest to know that the Henry George School of Social Science, located in New York City

and chartered under the laws of the State, is establishing extension schools in the principal cities of the United States.

OSCAR A. TOEPFERT in *Christian Science Monitor*.

REAL ESTATE RACKETS

The field of real estate rackets has experienced a depression boom. . . . aimed at those who want to sell—debt-ridden suburbanites, harassed farmers, bedeviled merchants, bewildered widows. . . . "Cash for your home," "We buy real estate anywhere," or "Mortgage money available." . . . Rented desk room—"business address," cards printed: "Real estate appraisals." The stage was set for the ads in the "Money to loan" sections. "Advance fee" racket. "I've a client who wants to buy your place." . . . contract of sale . . . etc., etc. . . . "Building Corporation" represented as being very, very anxious to buy these tracts. . . . Payment . . . no cash but only interest-bearing mortgages, the terms of which the promoters had no intention of meeting. . . . they had accomplished their purpose, the collection of the advance fee, and had kept *within the law*.

The many Philadelphians who succumbed to the scheme didn't know that the lots for which they paid \$1,500 each—a large part in cash—had cost the promoters only \$75. each. This game is worked all over the country.

Free Lot scheme, and Lunch and Lecture scheme. "Once signed these contracts hold." Don't count too heavily on the law.

JEROME ELLISON in *Readers Digest* for August.

BOOK REVIEWS

A USEFUL BOOK—WITHIN LIMITS*

Here is a work typical of much that is being written in these days, and useful within limits.

Prof. Wallis has his fling at Henry George. It has become the habit of those who derive all they know from the master to present what they want to think is an original approach to the problem, so much more reasonable than Henry George himself, but which turns out to be the same thing under another name and a new setting, or some very much diluted form of it. For example, one of the sub-titles of this work is "A New Approach to the Business Problem." It would be new if Henry George had not indicated the same avenue of approach fifty-five years ago. We wonder if it is just crass egotism that leads these writers to wrest piecemeal rocks from the great mountain and exhibit them as original discoveries. There is not a single statement in this book of Prof. Wallis that is not derived from "Progress and Poverty."

Perhaps the reader will ask for justification for these comments of the reviewer. We have it on page 58 and 59 of the work as follows:

"Mr. George, as we have shown, was not the first writer who pointed to land as a peculiar tax base; but he attracted worldwide attention for a time by linking economics, in oracular style, with utopian emphasis on Single Tax as a panacea for social ills. * * * I concur in much that Mr. George says, but cannot count myself a disciple, and have experienced considerable difficulty in working with those who regard him as their master.

On the whole, then, the influence of "Progress and Poverty" at the present time is an obstacle in the way of sane economic readjustment; and with regard to this point, the views of many scholars are expressed by Prof. Edward A. Ross, of Wisconsin University, who writes me as follows: "I agree with you that by rearing a Utopia on the exclusive taxation of land, Henry George interrupted the rational evolution which was getting on toward recognizing land as peculiarly able to bear taxation."

This is pretty astonishing. Mr. George did much more than point to land as a peculiar tax base. Nor did he set himself to build a Utopia. If he dwelt upon the subject "in oracular style" (by the way, this sounds like a sneer) he did so because he saw the kind of a civilization that would result from the solution he offered. He had linked the law of wages with the law of rent. This was his great contribution to economic science. There had been many land re-

formers before him, but none had built the bridge over which in a much feebler way inferior thinkers had stumbled, or walked uncertainly. It is not surprising that Prof. Wallis found "considerable difficulty in working with those who regarded Henry George as their master." It is clear that he has only imperfectly sensed the teachings of Henry George in all their implications.

We are sad to learn that "Progress and Poverty" is "an obstacle in the way of sane economic readjustment." The remark is amusing, for it is doubtful indeed if Mr. Wallis' present volume would have emerged at all if Henry George had not inspired it.

But let us be grateful for small things. This book will be read by many who have not the intellectual capacity, nor perhaps the leisure, to examine what Henry George really taught. Much that precedes what we have quoted is well worth while. In this we include his examination of Marx, his explanation of the nature of capital, his relation of land to production, and the evils wrought by land speculation. These are all well done, and other comments of Prof. Wallis call for commendation.

Prof. Wallis suggests as a substitute for the name Single Tax, "Capretax," which strikes us as a name of equal futility.

It may be said, too, that the rejection of rights, or "Natural rights," on which George laid peculiar emphasis, forces Prof. Wallis to an acceptance of Bentham's principle of "The greatest good to the greatest number," the fallacy of which was pointed out by the clear-eyed Alexander H. Stephens many years ago.

All the points raised quite admirably by Prof. Wallis will find further augmentation in a better knowledge of Henry George, to whom all these arguments may be traced. And for the benefit of the student let us say that Henry George did not teach that land was "peculiarly able to bear taxation." It is not the taxation of land that he taught, and we wonder if it would not have been just as well to insist upon this throughout in the interest of truth and a better understanding. Indeed this has been done in what precedes the passage we have quoted and which is a negation of what has gone before.

All in all, it will still have to be said that this little work will do good among those who prefer to get their knowledge in derivative form.

J. D. M.

*"Safeguard Productive Capital. Tax Ground Values and Untax Industry." By Louis Wallis. 12mo. Doubleday, Doran, Garden City, N. Y.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

"Social Democracy" is the title of a twelve page pamphlet issued by the Order of Social Democracy of Georgia. It is signed by Howell Clopton Harris as secretary and he is presumably the author of this little work stating the aims and principles of the order.

The recommendations include political as well as economic changes. Of course, the collection of land values, or economic rent for public purposes, forms the first of these demands. We might be critical of some of the suggestions, but Mr. Harris is too good a Democrat to insist that his demands (in this instance the demands of the Order of Social Democracy of Georgia) are the last words of wisdom on the subject.

It should be said that on the fundamentals of economics Mr. Harris stands "four square." Wage and price-fixing, regimentation, tariffs, etc., are rejected for reasons that have been tested by experience. Certainly no party will go to the polls with a better programme than the Order of Social Democracy.

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"A Printer Tells the President," is a pamphlet of 32 pages by H. Ellenoff, consisting of questions and answers. This compact little arsenal of fact and reason is published by the author at 916 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. at twenty-five cents a copy. The number of questions are forty-five and the answers include figures and statistics, with statement of authorities from many and varied sources.

We have no hesitation in saying that of all the pamphlets that have reached this office in a long period this is the most admirable and weighty. The answers to some of the President's statements are keen and searching. We cannot refrain from this single quotation "When man is denied his natural rights, the common reaction of governments the world over is to take on the functions not originally intended, such as prying into private affairs, the creation of jobs the exalted idea that it is the duty of government to make people happy. Man who is the product, the result of countless ages of evolution, can well take care of himself, provided he has free access to nature."

Perhaps because this little pamphlet is issued by an advertising man its typographical appearance is peculiarly appealing.

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Donald L. Thompson, of Spokane, Wash., is the author of a number of thoughtful pamphlets. The one before us is captioned "Our Deluded Over-Productionists" and is sold for fifteen cents a copy. It is written simply and is a sufficient answer to those who would reduce crops and limit production. The doctrine Mr. Thompson attacks and which is widespread he calls "an economic illusion," and proves it to any one who can be induced to peruse this easily read and easily understood little brochure.

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Here is another larger pamphlet which we heartily recommend though it is quite different from the three that have been noted in the foregoing. It is entitled "America's Tax Dilemma" and is published and presumably written by Herbert Atkinson, 148 Eighth Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. It consists of 48 pages and can be had for 25 cents a copy.—J. D. M.

Correspondence

NOTICE TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS

With this number we bring to an end, so far as these columns are concerned, the controversy on Interest, whether Rent enters into Price, or whether under the full collection of Economic Rent any of the selling price of land remains.

The world is approaching a tragic hour. We are trembling on the brink of another World War. Whatever the outcome of the Italian Ethiopian squabble the danger is still upon us.

We are bringers of a World Peace. Our gospel is the gospel of plenty, of liberty throughout the world. We bring a message that will make war forever impossible. We preach the concord of nations the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man. And we know how to attain that condition. The future is ours if we will but obey the call.

Let us pray that it may not be too late. In the meantime the clouds are gathering. Civilization, such as it is, cannot survive a recurrence of what came upon us in 1914. Henry George has given us a great message, a message of emancipation from the terrors that are threatening, the dangers in which no household is safe, the loss of all that is generous and fine, the destruction of the culture and beauty that have taken centuries to build.

What shall be said of those of us who at such a time stop to discuss whether rent enters into price, or whether under the full collection of economic rent more or less shall be asked for the use of capital. Whether one or other of these schools be right matters but little. Our duty and responsibility are greater than these.

Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

CONDITIONS IN KOREA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the July number of *Asia* there appeared an article on Korea under twenty-five years of Japanese control. It is entitled "Japan