

than "Progress and Poverty" appears there does not seem to be any reason for even discussing a change.

The suggestion for a change of textbooks comes from those good people who are somewhat impatient. They are looking for a short-cut. It occurs to the writer that short cuts have been sought by Georgeists for the past fifty years. Political activity, street corner speaking, handing out pamphlets, organizing clubs—the writer was himself engaged in these activities for nearly a quarter of a century, and has always found them wanting. The measure of success of any Georgeist activity is the number of new converts that activity can claim. That should be our yardstick.

The School has proven that its method has been quicker, that it has paid more dividends for the effort and expense involved, than any other activity carried on by the Georgeists since the time of Henry George. It is the shortest short-cut that has yet been devised.

If the reader of this article is an old timer, let him ask himself what definite proof has he of the number of converts he has made during the years that he has been talking Henry George. Also, let him ask himself whether any effort he has expended compares with that of the School, in which the teacher takes a group of people thoroughly through "Progress and Poverty" in ten weeks. If every one of this group is not a full fledged convert, in that he is able to argue out every point in economics or social philosophy, is of minor consideration. The fact is that he has become acquainted with Henry George, that his mind is thinking along the lines of a free economy rather than along the lines of monopoly.

The School method is the shortest short-cut of them all.

F. C.

## Freedom of Commerce

THE day of internal tolls, called by the English Magna Charta, "evil tolls," has fled. They have been abolished between the Italian states, and our own Constitution forbids them as well. To-day we have free trade within the states over an area as large as Europe. There are no tolls at state boundary lines—no inland tolls, no *octroi*; levied at the cities' gates.

It was freedom of commerce which opened up this country from ocean to ocean; drove its way through the Rocky mountain gorges and held its unconquered march to the stormy Pacific slope. Freedom of trade penetrated to the icebergs of the frozen North, and sailed to the parched lands of the tropics. Before her fell the stake, before her tottered the throne; at her breath sank the secret council and the star chamber; and Freedom roused herself, like a sleeping lion that had dozed away through medieval ages, ere commerce had won its glory, or ships had ploughed the seas for foreign merchandise;—ere the trader had come, who as messenger of peace

was to strike the cutlass from the hand of the pirate and corsair!

When the protectionists of Piedmont invoked the example of the United States, Count Cavour answered, "What does that prove? It proves that these people, though Republicans, know not how to give up personal to public interest, and that Republican forms of government are not sufficient to tear selfishness from the human heart."

When the time comes that the American people would burst these bonds they will find that the great interest, the fearful power they have evoked, will not so easily be destroyed. An Arabian tale relates how a gigantic spirit was prevailed upon to contract himself to small dimensions in order to enter an enchanted vessel, and when his prison had closed upon him he found himself unable to escape from the narrow boundaries to the measure of which he had reduced his stature.—J. D. M.

## The Twelfth Henry George Conference

THERE is a new spirit in the Single Tax movement! This was clearly indicated by the Twelfth Annual Henry George Conference held in Detroit, Mich., October 14-18.

There was less discussion of the philosophy itself than at any previous convention, almost the entire subject of the addresses and their debates being devoted to extending a wider public knowledge of economic truth and justice.

There were more young men and women present than ever before and this is due undoubtedly to the Henry George School of Social Science.

It was the consensus of opinion that this last should be continued, enlarged and extended; for it is the educational background for any form that the movement might take in the future.

As one man put it: "This is the strongest element that has come into the movement since the personality of Henry George himself."

The view was also expressed that the Henry George School of Social Science is the only true, formal, organized course in political economy and with anything like a national scope in this and other countries; for true political economy is not taught in the average college or university by reason of offending the source of their endowments and fear of affecting the investments of their endowments.

Obviously, many of the young people at this Detroit Conference were sons and daughters or even grandchildren of original Single Taxers, so that the truth, the belief, the effort of those who are now gone was not buried with their bones.