

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Report

AUGUST, usually a dull spot on the business calendar, proved a lively one for us. Important library work was done, including a donation of books to a new special collection at the University of Pennsylvania.

The laurel wreath goes to our friend Professor Harry Gunnison Brown. He is assigning certain chapters of "Protection or Free Trade" to his class in General Economics this semester, and with his assistance we sold forty-five books to the University of Missouri Library.

New upon our shelves is "A Perplexed Philosopher" by Henry George, being the author's famous examination of Herbert Spencer's recantation of his earlier declarations on the land question. This is the 1937 edition just published by the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain. It is 241 pages, carefully indexed, bound in the familiar bright red cloth of the English publications. Not having convinced the customs house officials on the tariff question, duty proved quite an item in figuring the price of this book, but we have fixed it at seventy-five cents a copy postpaid.

By special arrangement with the Macmillan Company, we have taken over a large consignment of "The Theory of the Land Question" by George Raymond Geiger, author of "The Philosophy of Henry George." In the year since its publication the book has found a ready sale at two dollars, but we shall pass on the advantages of our bargain with the publisher by offering it from now on at one dollar a copy postpaid. It is beautifully bound, printed on a fine grade of paper. It has chapters on "The Meaning of the Land Question," "Land and Capital," "Historical Aspects of the Land Question," and "Socialization of Land Through Taxation."

It is a year now since we mourned the passing of Charles O'Connor Hennessy. In that time we have bent our efforts toward the accomplishment of his last request of a Georgeist organization. At the International Conference in London, Mr. Hennessy was impressed by two representatives of the Kingdom of Holland who told him of their ambition to start classes in their country similar to those studying "Progress and Poverty" so successfully here. Their great handicap, they said, was that the Dutch translation of "Progress and Poverty" was not only a poor translation of George's message, but had practically passed out of print. They wanted to employ a competent translator to produce the text of the book in their language and make it available at a low price. To this end they sought financial aid. Upon his return, Mr. Hennessy expressed the hope that this Foundation might sponsor a new translation of "Progress and Poverty" into the Dutch tongue. Now the book is actually in the process of being printed. It was made

possible by the generosity of Mrs. deMille and others, with the help of the Henry George School of Social Science, and a substantial donation from our own treasury.

Aware of the difficulties of the Henry George School of Social Science in obtaining adequate locations for their extension classes this autumn, our trustees have volunteered one of our offices for a class commencing October 5. It will be known as "The Downtown Class," and we are recruiting our students from among the business people in the district who might otherwise find it impossible to fit a ten-week course into their busy schedules. The enrollments already received promise an interesting group of students. We shall have more to tell about this in the next issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

V. G. PETERSON, Acting Secretary.

The California Campaign

THE California campaign is opening. After many months of study, consultation and communication with good friends in and out of the state, plus earnest consideration by the State Legislative Counsel, we have about finished the preparation of the new measure which will be submitted to the people a year from the present time.

In brief we may say, discarding many important provisions not fundamental in their nature, that the proposition will involve the repeal of the sales tax to date from the end of the then current fiscal year, and with the new year there will be the immediate wiping out of \$1,000.00 of the assessed improvement values of homes, plus a 10 per cent reduction in the rate of taxation on improvements and tangible personal property below that charged upon land values. Yearly thereafter, and at the rate of 10 per cent per annum, the remaining taxation on improvements and tangible personal property will be eliminated. The result will be, that immediately not less than \$50,000,000 now collected through the sales tax will be transferred to a property tax, while the exemption of home improvements will affect between 5 and 10 per cent additional of the entire state taxation. Therefore, probably between 40 and 50 per cent of the entire reform contemplated by the measure will be accomplished in the first year. At the end of the ninth year,—for the tenth year will commence with no tax upon them—improvements and tangible personal property will pay no charge to the government.

The result in a general way may be said to be this: At the present time in the neighborhood of 20 to 25 per cent of the rental values are paid in taxes. When the reform goes into full effect we may anticipate, broadly speaking, 60 to 65 per cent will be so paid. This, of course, will represent a tremendous advance, one which has not been made up to the present time in any jurisdiction in this country or abroad.

The present amendment is a notable improvement over the one which was ruled off the ballot by the Supreme Court of the state. Our campaign, up to the time of such exclusion, developed very fully many details of the misrepresentations which will be made by the opposition. We have availed ourselves of this knowledge at many points and have so worded the amendment as to make clear their want of foundation.

During the past week the State Federation of Labor has been meeting in convention at Long Beach. This body had before it a resolution reading as follows:

"Whereas, For the past four years the State has suffered from the imposition of a sales tax falling with particular severity upon the less fortunate members of society; and

Whereas, For many years Labor has been hampered in its progress, men thrown and kept out of work, monopoly fostered, privilege ex-