

recognizes this fact may not "sell" as well as the other kind, but it will, at least, be free of that quality which caused a well-known critic to remark, apropos of a similar work: "If this is social science, give me tiddledy-winks!"

—HENRY W. HETZEL.

## An Interesting Reminiscence

I LIKE a back number. I don't know anyting that interests me much more than back numbers if they are far enough back. Rummaging in the attic of *The Batavia Times*, I made a find that I would like to tell LAND AND FREEDOM about, for I am sure some of your readers who are in the reminiscent age will be interested.

I found twelve numbers, Numbers 1 to 12 inclusive, of *Spread the Light*, the dates running from March, 1885 to November, 1886; publisher, M. Battle, 9 Spruce Street, New York: 42 years ago, if I substract right.

"Land Restorationists", the Land Taxers called themselves in those days.

Number 1, of Volume 1, of this little paper tells of a Land Restoration Dinner at Beraza's restuarant, Duane Street. It gives the names of those who attended, and Louis F. Post's name leads all the rest. Then follow: Henry George, James Redpath, Dr. Smith, Aug. A. Levey, Col. H. Beeny, John G. Huhn, M. Battle, H. E. Sharpe, F. P. Williams, Robert Blissert, W. B. Scott, Jerome O'Neil, Richard George, Prof. L. E. Wilmarth, R. Victor, O. H. Wilmarth, Wm. McCabe, C. H. Baildon, A. J. Steers, S. Pearsall, Prof. J. P. Brophy, T. L. McCready, John Beverly Robinson, Henry George Jr.

A motto at the top of page one of *Spread the Light* reads: "Rent for Land is an Immoral Tax upon the Industry of a People."—Michael Davitt.

Each number of the paper contains a biographical sketch of some tax reformer, together with his picture. Besides Henry George and Louis F. Post, the following appear: John Beverly Robinson, Alphonso J. Steers, Antonio M. Molina, Dr. E. B. Foote, Augustus A. Levey, James D. McDade, Rev. Edward McGlynn, D. D., Wm. Camm, Capt. J. M. McGregor.

In those days, as now, thoughtful people were asking the cause of the increase of crime. Mr. Post writes an article on this subject.

Mr. Post concludes that the genesis of crime is coincident with the robbery of labor, and that its increase is in a parallel line with the depression of wages.

The September number tells that Henry George has been asked to stand as a candidate for Mayor, and that he agrees to run if 30,000 voters express their wishes by petition that he should run.

Mr. George, we are told, cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. When the question of slavery was settled, he voted for Greeley, being a member of the Baltimore Convention, and one of the committee that delivered the

nomination to Greeley. After that he stumped California for Tilden.

Another find in our attic was twelve numbers of *The Freesoiler*. These go back to April, 1884. The publisher was John Beverly Robinson, and the paper was published as the organ of the American Free Soil Society, at fifty cents a year.

Mr. Post was president of the organization and there were vice presidents as follows:

George Pyburn	from California
F. O. Stewart,	" Colorado
Chas. W. Peckham,	" Connecticut
Wm. Rose,	" Illinois
R. Spencer,	" Iowa
E. V. Boutwell,	" Kansas
Christopher Moore,	" Kentucky
J. H. Ralston,	" Maryland
M. R. Thomas,	" Massachusetts
J. G. Malcolm,	" Michigan
Otto Haesse,	" Minnesota
Frank C. Butze,	" Missouri
Thomas Skelly,	" New Jersey
A. J. Steers,	" New York
E. M. Leonard,	" Ohio
Robert Stephens,	" Pennsylvania
John Collins, M. D.,	" Texas
John Kelly,	" Wisconsin

Rev. R. Heber Newton was treasurer of the society.

The April number tells that Mr. George is expected to return to this country in May and that a reception will be held for him at Cooper Union.

I would like to place these back numbers where they will be the most available at any time to any person who may be writing the history of reform movements. I would like suggestions from the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM.

—CHESTER C. PLATT.

## Malthus Again

THE Manchester (Eng.) *Guardian*, June 3rd, publishes a report of The Economic Conference of the League of Nations at Geneva.

It says "One speaker after another said his country was overpopulated, and advocated high tariffs as a solution of unemployment."

So it appears that War, Doctors and Famine have so far failed to keep down population—or maybe to keep down liars.

Great Britain, for example, has less than 600 persons to the square mile (although two-fifths of Scotland is in deer parks). If there were 600 to the square mile still it would give each family of four persons nearly five acres.

Europe appears to be over-populated only with big land-holders and big liars.