

ing the very latest first-hand news with regard to the more important developments in the international field.

The Greater William Penn Hotel, which is described as the largest hotel in the world outside of New York and Chicago, was thrown open to the public on May 8th. Needless to say it will afford admirable facilities for the Conference, and the rates quoted for Convention guests are fortunately quite reasonable. At this date the Convention program is in a very tentative form, but detailed information will soon be available and the regular Congress invitations will be issued from the Pittsburgh headquarters of the Henry George Foundation during the month of June.

James F. Morton at Schuylerville, N. Y.

A LOT was learned by those who knew something about Single Tax on land values at the Single Tax dinner meeting in the Masonic Temple last evening; something was learned by those who knew nothing about it; and the memories of those who both knew something and knew nothing of the subject, were refreshed when James F. Morton, curator of the Paterson, N. J., museum and strong advocate for the universal trial of the tax theory, and a few local and out-of-town questioners presented the Henry George proposition to a gathering numbering upwards of seventy, including men and women.

Mr. Morton is a convincing speaker and his listeners were well entertained and instructed in the session that started just before 8 o'clock and continued until well after 10.

Dr. T. E. Bullard had brought the speaker to the community and had made arrangements with the committee, comprising J. B. Deyoe, J. H. Fake and T. Kenneth Bullard, for the excellent dinner served by Mrs. John T. Campbell, proprietress of the Campbell Tea Room.

Dr. Bullard sat at the speaker's table with the guest of the evening. The doctor is a well-known local adherent of Single Tax.

Curator Morton presented in rapid order many items of interest in regard to Single Tax, touching upon its misunderstanding, the taking off of taxes by its adoption, calling it the only method of collecting social revenue, and dwelling upon the union of activities making for strength in relation to united efforts along Single Tax lines.

Further, he spoke of the steps in the progress of life, depicting various stages of development, the justification for the state, the imperfections in the development of society through the ages, the different forms of government, proving that representative government is the highest type, and then going into the matter of religious freedom in the state, the cramping of the individual in his development, taxation and rights of society, raising taxes because of industry, and other analogous subjects bearing on the justification for Single Tax.

A Preposterous Canard

PROGRESS of the Single Tax idea will be reviewed at a meeting at Edinburg this summer of an international body formed to advocate the principle.

That it is holding its own in territory where it was adopted long ago, but that not much new territory has been invaded for some years, will probably be indicated by the representation at the gathering in which twenty-six countries are invited to take part. More than a quarter of a century ago the favor with which it had been received in New Zealand and Australia was repeatedly cited for the encouragement of its champions. It still has a vogue there and, as was, perhaps, to be expected, the new capital of the Australian Federation, Canberra, obtains its revenue from this form of taxation. Introduced in South America, it has made some progress in Uruguay and Brazil, forms a plank in the platform of one political party in Argentina and has some prevalence in the Transvaal in Africa.

For the most part, it seems to be utilized under optional sanction in local taxation, and Denmark is said to be the first country resorting to it in national taxation, though recognition for taxing the "unearned increment" seems to be given in a clause of the German Republic's Constitution, declaring that "increase in land values not due to expenditure of capital and labor must be used for community benefit."

Compared, however, with the advance predicted for it a quarter of a century ago, the principle remains virtually static. There was a time in the United States when an academic belief in the Single Tax was included among the articles of faith of everybody with the slightest claim to progressive and liberal thought in public affairs. In the case of some men it was the only point on which such a claim could ever be based and a vague confidence that it was the "coming thing" permeated to all classes of society.

A magnate of large wealth, who included it among his publicly catalogued convictions, once had occasion to buy up a two-thirds majority in both houses of a central western state's legislature, in insuring the defeat of a measure opposed by big business. The happy thought came to him that before releasing his hold he might do something for his pet reform fad and the ultimate regeneration of society by instructing his lobbyists to jam a sweeping Single Tax measure through his purchased legislative bodies as soon as his major bill was out of the way.

The Single Tax got through one house with an immediate effect clause and through the Committee of the Whole in the other, with an overwhelming vote, when the realty interests of important cities heard about it and swooped down on the capital in swift special trains, the triumphant forward movement in uplift being permanently arrested. This was the farthest point ever reached in any state of the Union by a Single Tax proposal of state-wide effect.

Even the man who, without knowing a thing about it, used always to say, "Yes, of course, I think the Single Tax a good thing, but—" has almost disappeared. Once the subject of prodigious discussion in all its intricacies and phases by men who did know all about it, the Single Tax now receives even mention only occasionally.

—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

The Landlord Gets The Benefit

HENRY GEORGE would have chuckled to read a recent financial item of news from New York.

The Chrysler people are putting up a 68-story skyscraper in that city, on ground leased from the Cooper Union.

Seventy years ago, because of the educational and charitable work of that organization, the New York legislature exempted its property from taxation.

But though the city gets *no taxes* from the Chrysler company, that concern, according to the *New York Times*, *must pay a sum practically equivalent to the taxes to the owners of the ground*—the Cooper Union.

Henry George insisted that any reduction or exemption of land values from taxation profited the landlord alone, since he charged all the traffic would bear, anyway.

Here, a generation after the death of the great Single-Taxer, comes pretty strong evidence that he was right.

Labor, Washington, D. C.

Mexico

WE have received a fortnightly Review "MAN," from Mexico City. Its director is Engineer M. C. Rolland. This Review advocates the doctrines of Henry George and is the organ of the "Georgist Union" in the Mexican Capital. Its headquarters are at 444 Chapultepec Avenue, Mexico City.

Our Mexican brothers are developing an important campaign for the diffusion of the Georgist doctrine. They began in 1921 and are today more ardent than ever in their campaign. Under the very special conditions which this country is now going through, with its grave and unsolved agrarian problem, and with the important and delicate questions related to the foreign control of its petroleum resources, the activities of our Mexican friends may have very beneficial results in effecting a just and rational solution.

—*Georgist Tribune, Buenos Aires (Translation).*

A PENSION for ex-presidents is being advocated on the ground that it is beneath ex-presidential dignity to look for a job and take chances on being turned down. But what else does an ex-president deserve who while in office made no effort toward removing the cause of unemployment and poverty? The economic system which he considered good enough for his fellow-citizens ought to be good enough for him. —*American Economic League.*

Land Prices

THE management of a large group of foreclosed farms in the Middle West reports the sale this spring of more than a dozen farms at "profitable figures." Presumably this means at prices in excess of the equity in the farms plus the expense of carrying and maintaining them since their foreclosure. These prices were better than were offered a year ago.

The management of this particular group of farms believes that land prices are due to go higher. It believes also that they should.

"Land prices have been either declining or stationary for the past eight years," it states. "An upturn should not be far off. The supply of farm land cannot be increased without involving considerable time and cost. Meanwhile, farming conditions are growing better and the pressure of population is becoming greater in this country. Sometime in the future we shall probably look back and see that the land prices of the present represented a bargain."

In contrast with this opinion is another, perhaps best expressed by an Illinois landowner, who has three good farms.

"I believe it would be unfortunate for land prices to increase at present," he said. "That may sound strange, coming from a man who has most of his capital invested in land, but I am not looking at it exactly from a personal standpoint. Land prices are now at about the point where a good farmer can earn a fair rate of interest on the investment. If they advance, without an equivalent advance in the prices of farm products, it will only tend to provoke discouragement.

"In the case of rented farms the landowner would have to exact a higher rental to keep his returns in adjustment with the capital investment represented by his land. The young fellow now farming as a tenant, but who hopes some day to become a landowner, would see his hope moving farther away. Naturally he would become discouraged. Good tenants are not any too numerous now. We can hardly afford to reduce their number if we want our land farmed right.

"An increase in land values, too, would hinder the reorganization, now going on, of farms into units better adapted in size and situation to farming under the new conditions. Besides it would simply be an invitation to higher taxes, and we're paying about all we can stand now.

"I'm not sure, either, that the old process of advancing land values was so good for us as some think. It did not contribute to a permanent agriculture—rather it had an opposite effect. There was always the temptation to sell out and take the profit that had accumulated. It encouraged speculative buying of land by townspeople who had no intention of farming it themselves but bought it for