

view to arousing public sentiment in favor of the Singletax.

I am quite sure that the secretaries of all these associations will be glad to answer inquiries and give information regarding their respective countries, and I therefore beg that full advantage be taken of my suggestions, if they be approved.

JOSEPH FELLS.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

THE GRAND HAILING SIGN OF TRIUMPH.

Wichita, Kansas, August 25, 1911.

Some years ago I prepared a Henry George calendar with quotations for every day in the year from his writings and speeches. This was examined and approved by Mr. George before he died, but afterwards I wrote to Mrs. George asking her to kindly suggest a quotation that would be particularly appropriate for September 2, Mr. George's birthday; and in view of the approaching anniversary it occurs to me that it would be of interest to you and possibly to the readers of *The Public* to know that Mrs. George selected the following from a speech by Mr. George in Sydney, Australia, in March, 1890, as being the most appropriate:

"If I knew this night that go where I may over the civilized world, I would find men who would gladly clasp hands with me—if it has been given to me to help forward a great movement—it is through no merit of mine; it is not from my energy; it is not from my learning; it is not from my ability—it is from the simple fact that, seeing a great truth, I swore to follow it."

H. W. ALLEN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, August 29, 1911.

The Socialist Platform of Los Angeles.

At the Socialist Convention of Los Angeles, which on August 6th nominated Job Harriman as the party candidate for Mayor, the platform, as reported in the *Los Angeles Social-Democrat* of August 19, after declaring the party's creed that "all the sources of production and all natural opportunities belong to the people as a whole," proceeds:

Believing that the enormous unearned increments that attach to land are a social creation and belong of right to the people who create them, we declare that these social values should be taken into the public treasuries by taxation or otherwise and that the burdens of taxation should correspondingly be reduced from the products of labor and the small homes and savings of the class on whom these burdens now fall with unjust and crushing weight. No

progressive policy for the socialization of our public utilities, or the extension of any public service, is safe, or indeed possible, unless accompanied by a sound and scientific policy of municipal taxation. It is one thing to buy and build. It is another to pay. It is one thing to issue bonds for public improvements; it is quite another, and more vitally important element of city administration to secure city revenue without piling up a heavy public debt upon the tax payers, and pouring out a perpetual tribute of interest to the money-lenders. We are opposed to any city administration heaping upon us heavy bond issues without coming forward with a municipal budget that will take the burdens of taxation off the backs of the common people. In our campaign we shall unceasingly place before the electors that most sure, most scientific, and most just source of city revenue, viz: the unearned increment of land values in its two forms of (1) site values, and (2) franchise values. The city itself is the greatest creator of wealth in its own domain. There is a veritable gold mine, ever increasing, under the city. The city itself creates values annually, more than ample for all improvements and expenditures in that continually unsleeping increase which the normal growth of the city adds (1) to all the land values over which it stands, and (2) to all the public franchises within its limits. No individual creates these values by labor, foresight, capital, or skill. They are socially created by the presence and activities of the whole community. And the values which the whole community thus socially creates should naturally become the source of the city's treasure. But our present method of real estate taxation and of dealing with franchise values is unjust and disastrous. It punishes the man who improves real estate and rewards the owner of land kept vacant. It leaves the value which the city creates to fall into private hands which never earned it, while it collects taxes out of the people's earnings and values which the city did not create. Therefore, along with our program for the municipalization of public utilities, thus saving to the city and to the citizens the enormous values of public franchises, we demand an increase in the assessment of all land values of the city, and a uniformity of assessment according to location and site value, whether improved or unimproved. We favor a decrease in the assessment of improvements. We further propose to agitate for a charter amendment to come before the people at the next election providing for the levying of an additional tax on all unimproved land. In New Zealand 68 cities have adopted this principle of taxation of the unearned increment of land values with unflinching success. It is this principle which is now unhorsing the landed aristocracy of Great Britain. Taxation of the unearned increment of land values and the socialization of public utilities is the secret of a full city treasury, collected from the city's own socially created values and providing abundant revenue for every needed municipal enterprise without robbing the poor and the working classes and enriching the rich and the privileged.

+ +

Death of Henry George's Brother.

Thomas Latimer George, brother of Henry George (the author of "Progress and Poverty"),