

comments on the speeches made at the Conference from the same versatile pen. The Henry George fundamentalists were not without their friends at this gathering.

The pamphlet contains the declaration of principles of the Commonwealth Land party. It should be widely circulated as propaganda.

J. D. M

#### EXPOSING THE MODERN "BUSINESS" FRAUD.

[Your Money's Worth. By Stuart Chase and F. I. Schlink. The Macmillan Co., N. Y. City.]

Backed by the newspapers and popular magazines, the American manufacturing and commercial interests have for a generation been chorusing the praises of the great god Efficiency, who, they declare, has wrought wondrous works in producing and distributing commodities. Secured in the possession of a market of more than 100,000,000 consumers by a high protective tariff law that shuts out to a great extent foreign goods, the managers of trade and industry have formed a Mutual Admiration Society, dedicated to extolling the beneficent operations of "Free Competition" in the business world. How far their picture of great executives, masters of efficiency, ably serving the public's needs, differs from the reality, is to some degree told in this exposure of the humbug, fraud, incompetence, ignorance and dishonesty, that permeates so much of the American business public today.

The simple truth about a very large percentage of modern goods production and sale is: that blatant advertising exploitation, used to push the sale of shoddy and inferior merchandise, has replaced the old-fashioned reliable articles sold on their merits. What the authors of this book seem to see but dimly is the fact that the problem they deal with is but a small point of the great world-wide question: "Why does production so far outrun consumption?" If Messrs. Chase and Schlink know the relation of this query to the monumental humbug of profiteering and advertising exploitation of the ignorant consumer, they must know that they are merely criticising symptoms of a diseased social organism, for which a radical remedy is needful.

For the money spent on the thousand-and-one trashy articles forced upon the foolish public by dishonest advertising, the dupes of "crooked business" get something. For the billions of dollars paid as ground rents to the lords of the earth's surface the workers of the world get: nothing but permission to live and toil. Here would seem to be an issue really worth while investigating. Have the authors of "Your Money's Worth" the courage to tackle it?

—WHIDDEN GRAHAM.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### PUBLIC COLLECTION OF THE FULL RENT OF LAND

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am a subscriber to LAND AND FREEDOM and I am a firm believer in the doctrine of the Single Tax.

However, there is a point upon which I am not clear and I need "more light."

Under the heading "What LAND AND FREEDOM stands for" you state: "Taking the full rent of land for public purposes insures the fullest and best use of all land." That is absolutely correct when applied to the tenant on a farm. He expects to pay rent, and whether that is called rent or tax is immaterial to him, there has been no injustice to him.

But here comes the point:—Suppose I am an attorney owning a good farm, but I live in my own home at the County Seat, earning at the practice of my profession enough of an income to nicely support myself and wife and children. But there comes a time when by accident or disease, I am incapacitated from practicing my profession, and my

income from that source is ended. The rent from my farm is sufficient to support myself and family, in addition to my payment of all taxes. Now suppose that all of my rent from my farm is taken for public purposes, which would leave my family and myself as objects of charity. Have I been given a square deal?

Kindly advise me on this phase of the Single Tax.  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

FRANK G. WHITE.

REPLY: The justification for taking the rent of land for public purposes is that land is not justly the subject of private ownership. The rent of a piece of land used for a farm is due, as the rent of a city lot is due, not to the labor of the owner but to the social and economic advantages which its possession confers. To this neither Mr. White as owner nor Mr. Black as tenant is entitled. All that either is entitled to is a return to his labor or interest on his capital—EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM.

### THE CONTROL OF FLOODS ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The system of levees adopted by the U. S. Government in its attempt to control the water of the Mississippi seems to be a copy of the dykes used on the River Po in Italy. The great defect of this system is that as the water of a flood recedes, the sediment is deposited on the bottom of the river and the bed is continually raised, necessitating a constant raising of the dykes.

At the present time the bed of the Po is said to be considerably higher than the valley through which it flows. It would seem that it is only a question of time when the Po will break its dykes and overflow the valley as it has before. This communication is an attempt to outline a rational system for the control of the waters of the Mississippi. Briefly the system would consist of dredging a deep narrow channel in the bed of the river, and moving the present levees two or three miles back from the margin of the river. The dimensions of the deep channel should be calculated so that at a low stage of water, the velocity should be sufficient to carry away any sediment that would be deposited during high water. This channel should be deep enough to float any ocean going steamer and the material moved would be transported by water through pipes to the new levees back from the river.

Chicago might hold its present position by completing the deep water-channel from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi. The best location for a commercial city is as far inland as deep water can be secured, and when it is surrounded by a productive county. Very few of the great marts of the world are situated directly on the sea-coast. The material in the existing levees would be transported by construction trains to the site of the new levees and added to the material taken from the deep channel.

The space between the river and the levees would be annually overflowed, and after the subsidence of the water would be planted with suitable crops. The strip of land bordering the river on both sides would probably, with its favorable climate, be about the most productive land in the world. It would automatically be fertilized and irrigated annually. This kind of irrigation has been practised for centuries in the valleys of the Nile, the Euphrates and the Tigris. In Arabia, Syria and Turkey after the temporary water-courses or (wadys) run dry, the ground is ploughed and planted to crops which mature with the one irrigation. This strip of land is entirely unsuited for private ownership. All titles should be secured by the Government and the land rented to users.

The work should be begun at the mouth of the River, and while the work is in progress the existing levees above the completed sections would afford the same protection as they do now. Below the completed sections, the levees along the tributaries of the main river would remain untouched, as the deepening of the navigation channel and the widening of the water-way between the levees would so reduce the height of the floods that the existing levees along these tributaries would afford ample protection.

After the completion of the first section of the improvement, the increased land values caused by complete protection from floods could justly be drawn on for further work, as well as the annual rental of the land between the levees.

If my memory serves me properly, a scheme similar to the one here outlined was proposed many years ago by a Dutch engineer.  
Don Oblast, Russia . W. A. WARREN.

#### PRAISE FOR DR. BRUNK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

YOUR Dr. Thomas L. Brunk, who contributes the excellent article on Feudalizing America, in the current issue, has been running a series of articles in the *Union Advocate*, the Labor paper of Sioux City, Ia., under the title Land Sharks—Their Control over Industry. It is an excellent and exhaustive study of the legerdemain by which the American people have been defrauded of their land. Possibly it will awaken a few readers. At any rate, he deserves the highest praise for his most timely contribution.

Marathon, Iowa.

DR. T. J. KELLY.

#### AMENDS DR. BRUNK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

May I correct a false impression arising from an inaccurate statement of the fact in your article by Dr. Brunk. In the reign of Henry VI of the bloody House of Lancaster the franchise for Parliament was restricted to freeholders paying forty shillings (equal to direct payers of tax on \$10,000 valuation in the United States today,) and this lasted till quite recently. From about 1340 to 1830 the House of Commons represented only landlords. About 1640 they refused to pay any more rent, (that is, direct tax to the treasury,) and offered to charge their tenants with licenses, excise and customs.

Charles I was executed, saying "I die the martyr of the people of England"—as he, struggling to uphold the dues of the Crown as trustee for the public, was as against the repudiating landlords. In 1661 Charles II was recalled and the landlords made a condition with him that he would accept all the rebel laws of the Parliament since 1642; he agreed to this, and it was in 1661 that he signed the Act surrendering to the landlords the public dues on their holdings and taking for the Treasury the customs and excise which Parliament had lawlessly levied for 20 years.

It was not adequate, and as Dr. Brunk says, the National Debt was initiated by loans from the defaulting tenants of the state of the rent they had refused to pay. Picture the morals of the hero Hampden who refused to pay a land tax for the navy as his property lay inland! Langley, Essex, England.  
MERVYN J. STEWART.

#### HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY IN DENVER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We intend having a real Henry George celebration here this year.

I must congratulate you on LAND AND FREEDOM. It is an inspiration—that first trumpet blast of yours "What LAND AND FREEDOM Stands For" on the second page of each issue. You should have more subscribers in Denver and I shall try to get a few.

I quoted an extract from your "Population and Malthus" article in Jan.-Feb. issue when I was speaking before the high school students early in the year, and also in a series of articles I have been writing for the local Catholic newspaper. This last has developed quite a little controversy with a gentleman in Colorado Springs. We have been having a good time. The editor is delighted and now I have him reading "Progress and Poverty."

Denver, Colo.

J. B. MCGAURAN.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

WALTER DODD, of New Westminster, B. C., who as a member of the City Council, introduced the resolution providing for the total exemption of all buildings from taxation and for the raising of the entire revenue required for operating the city from land values, is a prominent furniture manufacturer. The election of the Hon. Wills Gray as mayor a few months since assures a continuance of this system.

WILLIAM MATTHEWS, the key man of our movement in Spokane, Washington, was converted to the Single Tax by Robert Cumming, the poet, over forty years ago.

WILLIAM BRAZEUR, Pres., of the Spokane Valley Bank, of Millwood, Wash., and secretary of the Inland Paper Company, one of the biggest producers of print paper in the United States, is a graduate of the Wisconsin State University. He studied political economy under Prof. Richard T. Ely, and it was at the suggestion of Dr. Ely that Mr. Brazeur read "Progress and Poverty" and became a full fledged convert to the Henry George philosophy. Mr. Brazeur studied law under John L. Gaynor, one of the early Single Taxers of Grand Rapids, Wisconsin.

VICTORIA, B. C. and Vancouver B. C. now exempt 50% of improvements from taxation and New Westminster, B. C. 100% improvements.

In many western cities plans are being considered for an epoch-making celebration of the publication of "Progress and Poverty" on Sept. 25, 1929.

RICHARD W. MONTAGUE, whom Herbert Quick refers to in his "One Man's Life," is now a prominent attorney of Portland, Oregon, and was for years the associate of Col. Chas. Erskine Scott Wood, one of the leading orators and lawyers of the Pacific coast, and adjutant on the staff of Gen. O. O. Howard. Col. Wood has never concealed his Single Tax beliefs.

E. H. BOECK, of St. Louis, Mo., writes: "Here is \$10 to help in keeping our publication at its present high standard."

"MENSANA" is the name of the Health Home in Hollywood, (Calif.), under the direction of W. E. Park, M. D. and Dr. Charles James, Chiropractor. James' sequel to the "Story of My Dictorship" will soon be completed and ready for the press.

CHARLES OGLE, of Baltimore, who left for a visit to California in June, writes us, "Your last issue was especially good."

EDMUND VANCE COOKE, Single Taxer and poet of national reputation, writes: "I find I get more Ohio tax news out of your magazine than out of all the newspapers."

THE *Guardian*, Middleton, England, reprints the review of Joseph Dana Miller's "Thirty Years of Verse Making" from *Land and Liberty* of London.

FLORENCE GARVIN, daughter of the late Governor Garvin of Rhode Island, is gathering material for a life of her father.

BUENOS AIRES now has a "Henry George Hotel," and thus emulates the example of San Francisco, where Mr. A. J. Milligan has recently established a hotel under that name on Powell Street.