

The Square Deal

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THE SQUARE DEAL

Room 13, 991 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, (RA. 5891)

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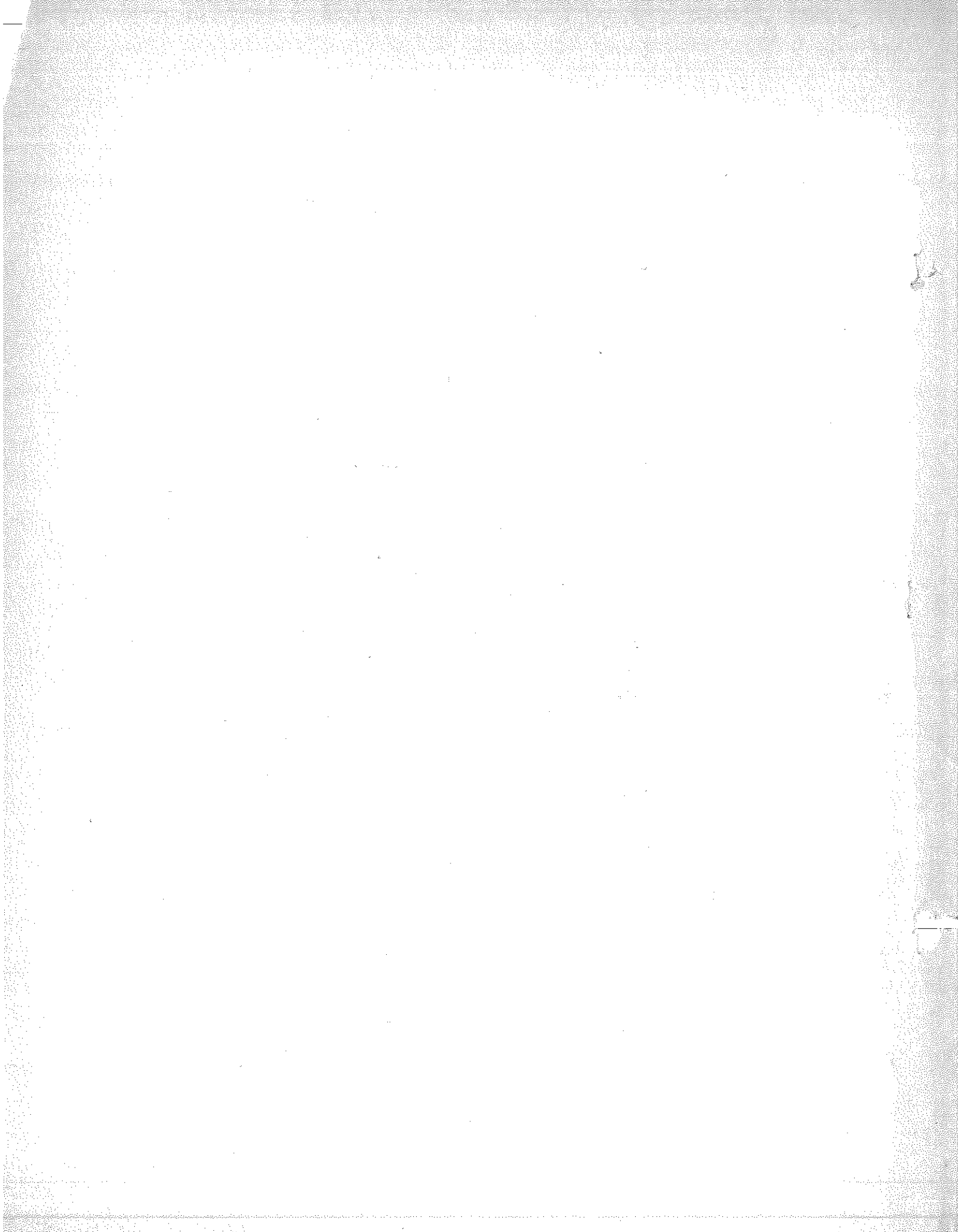
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NEW ZEALAND TODAY

Dorothy E. Coate

No people can enjoy the fullest measure of prosperity until municipal, state, and federal authorities unite to collect their revenue in accordance with the laws of economics.

We have just received four reports from New Zealand, which tell how the benefits gained in that country by raising municipal revenues from ground rent are disappearing in the distress caused by unwise Federal measures.

Our correspondents state that in New Zealand, since 1914, successive Federal Governments have displayed less and less wisdom in their legislation. One government even drastically reduced the small Federal Land Values Tax. The present government, elected upon a platform of "Back to Seddon," # restored this tax to its former yield but subject to so many gradations, exemptions, and adjustments that it is unnecessarily expensive to collect and almost useless in curbing land speculation.

Except for this one measure, the present government seems determined to outdo its predecessors in ignoring economic law. Instead of following Seddon's lead and financing public expenditures by taking more of the ground rent - the fund created for that purpose by the presence and services of everyone in the country - they have heaped taxes upon industry and have endeavored to cure unemployment and slums by tinkering with effects instead of removing the cause of the increasing distress.

The reports comment as follows upon the situation during the past five years: "Taxation has been increased by many millions of pounds a year and is increasing swiftly since the present war started." Taxation is now £26 per head, which is half as much again as in Australia." "The heaviest taxation on record." "New Zealand enjoys the unenviable record of being the most highly taxed country in the world."

Among the measures which have reduced New Zealand from its former prosperity, the reports mention: A heavy sales tax; customs duties, "so heavy that 60% of our taxation is paid indirect;" an income tax applied to much smaller incomes

Sir Richard Seddon Prime Minister, 1893-1906, whose government passed the legislation making it optional for municipalities to relieve improvements of taxation and levy all rates on land values only.

than ever before; and a direct tax on wages, first imposed as a temporary expedient, now made permanent and raised to 1 shilling on every pound earned, without exemptions. (Note, that is five cents on the dollar.)

Members of the present government have seriously considered almost every possible, and impossible, scheme that called itself "planned economy." For awhile: "They flirted with Douglas Credit and allied currency ideas, denouncing the banks and talking vaguely about 'costless credit,' 'debt-free money,' and 'currency control.'" They even planned to borrow £300,000 to build a railway, without incurring a debt that would have to be repaid, though this was never actually attempted. They have limited private business and made it subject to government license. They have made broadcasting a government monopoly. Not an independent station remains and government opponents seldom get on the air.

They have fixed the rate of exchange and restricted the amount of goods that may be imported from other countries -- a measure which "staggered the country" and threw many importers out of business. In fact, every measure intended to help one group has harmed another. A case in point is the compulsory reduction of interest rates payable under mortgages and the postponement of payment of principal. Many mortgagors have been released, by court order, from paying part -- or even the whole -- of debts due to mortgagees. Another measure which benefits some at the expense of others is the restriction of motor transport to increase railway revenue.

Still another example is the guaranteed price to farmers for their dairy produce. Under this plan, the whole community is taxed to make up the deficiency in export prices, while rising costs have wiped out any benefit the farmers might have received.

Reduction of taxes on farm land, instead of assisting the farmer, has added to his worries by interesting speculators, whose purchases of farms have raised the price and made farm land harder to obtain. One report says: "The farmers are owned, body and soul, by the banks." Another: "The farmers are farmed by other people who own the land and the banks."

The government has assumed full control of the Reserve Bank and has borrowed from it, on overdraft, when unable to borrow further from London. As the Bank has unlimited power to issue legal tender notes, this borrowing (together with the higher prices due to restricted imports) has caused an increase of notes in circulation, which has depreciated the currency and made life very difficult for people with fixed incomes.

The pensions, health, and other social security plans - including the enormously expensive and often unnecessary public works which give highly paid jobs to some of the unemployed - are financed by the increased tax on wages and by other less direct, but even more burdensome, taxes upon the producers of the country.

The forty-hour working week, of which we hear so much, applies only to some workers - not even to all trades-unionists - and has greatly increased the working hours of others.

When the government reduced the hours of certain workers, farmers found themselves obliged to work 60 to 70 hours a week; farm laborers, objecting to such long hours, are leaving their jobs for the city; this throws still more work upon the farmer and more and more women and children are taking the laborers' vacant places in the milking sheds.

Faced with a serious housing shortage and growing slums, the government proclaimed that "Planned Economy" could overcome the shortage and get the slum dwellers into decent houses within a few months. They first attempted to achieve their laudable aim by restricting the amount which house-owners may charge their tenants.

Next, they began to build little houses, to cost £600 each and let at 12/6 to 17/6 per week. At the old sterling rate of exchange, that would approximate \$3,000 for building cost and three to four dollars for the tenant's weekly payment.

The houses proved desirable and are situated in pleasant suburbs; but they cost twice the amount expected, the letting price is doubled and only comfortable salaried or wage-earning people can afford to live in them. Indeed, the government requires that its tenants shall have steady employment and good furniture. In addition to good furniture, many tenants have motor cars and are demanding garages!

The government's entry into the building field forced the costs of construction so high that private builders were unable to compete for a time. Now, however, individual builders are beginning to erect, at 10% less cost than the government can, houses which are less monotonously alike than government ones. The privately erected houses are also better constructed, because experienced builders refuse to use the sap timber which has gone into the framing of the government houses.

Besides raising the cost of building, state housing has raised the price of land and encouraged even more than the usual amount of speculation, so that ordinary people find it

harder than ever to own their own homes.

To obtain money for its housing undertakings, the government has forced the Reserve Bank to lend them millions of pounds at a rate that does not pay. The returns from the houses do not nearly cover the cost of building, so the general public is taxed to build these houses for the well-to-do and the poorer classes remain in the slums.

To quote from one report: "After three years, the housing position is as bad as ever. There are many thousands of applications for accommodation in Auckland and Wellington alone." Another correspondent says: "The claims made by the New Zealand government, regarding its housing policy, cannot be maintained in the light of the facts."

Anyone reading the original reports is forced to the conclusion that governmental ignorance is steadily driving New Zealand farther from her pre-war prosperity. The partial collection of ground rent is not sufficient to counteract so many economic mistakes and the present situation may be summed up as follows:

Heavy borrowing has increased the National Debt by nearly 14 million pounds in about five years. The national credit is impaired. It is now difficult for the government to borrow in London, even on harsh terms. London funds are exhausted, though these amounted to about 45 million pounds when the present government took office. Millions of pounds of capital, through fear, have sought investment outside New Zealand.

The government is developing a trend towards dictatorship. The number of people receiving pay from, or dependent upon, the government has increased enormously. This includes both the unemployed and the thousands of extra Civil Service clerks added to handle useless governmental activities. There are frequent strikes and labor disputes. Life on the farms is growing more difficult; the drift to cities is increasing. In the towns, unemployment, drinking, slums and relief lists are growing. Many businesses are wiped out.

Land monopoly is the scourge of the nation. Land speculation is rampant. The situation is aggravated, in towns, by State purchase of land for housing schemes; in the country, by partial derating of farm lands. Taxation is the heaviest in the world. A depreciated currency is resulting in rising prices and falling purchasing power of incomes. Examples of the rising cost of necessities are: Men's suits - more than doubled in cost. Meat - nearly tripled. Potatoes - more than tripled. Fruit and vegetables - prohibitive to all who are anywhere near the basic wage. Many former necessities of life cannot be bought at all because of tariffs, embargos and import restrictions. The country is facing a serious decline in the standard of living.

ANNUAL MEETING CHANGES NAME TO HENRY GEORGE SOCIETY

The most important decision at the annual meeting of The Single Tax Association of Canada was to change its name to The Henry George Society. The meeting took place on March 30th at the Y.W.C.A. Some 55 were in attendance, Montreal, Hamilton and Oshawa sending delegates. Vice President Ernest J. Farmer was in the chair.

The following telegram from Miss Strethel Walton was read:

Three hundred Montreal Georgists regret could not all join you tonight for dinner and annual meeting. Please introduce our handsome representative Gerry Walsh who is also outstanding orator, teacher and leader in this movement. Miss Bateman, Mr. Anderson, Miss Ganser especially sorry to be absent but all send good wishes.

A letter conveying good wishes to Canadian Georgists from Anna George de Mille was read.

Miss Dorothy E. Coate read a paper on "New Zealand Today" which appears elsewhere in this issue in condensed form, and the audience was intrigued by a sound film of New South Wales loaned by the Australian Trade Commissioner.

Messrs. John Wilson and M. H. Moffatt reported for their groups in Hamilton and Oshawa respectively, mention being made by Mr. Wilson of the leaders being furnished for the two groups in St. Catharines this season.

Mr. Gerry Walsh lived up to the expectations aroused by the telegram above, conveying the greetings of the active group in Montreal and telling of some of its activities. He related that 100 copies of a French edition of "P.&P." had been secured and a copy sent to each member of the Quebec Legislature. (Subsequent advice relates that Mr. John Anderson donated the books and they were sent to the M.P.s with the compliments of Hon. Gordon Scott a member of the Legislative Council.) Mr. Walsh stressed the wisdom of the advice of a federal M.P. who told him that no member of a legislative assembly however ardent, could get a radical reform through unless it is backed by a strong group of public opinion.

Mr. A. J. M. Poole, ex M.L.A., Kelwood, Man., spoke of conditions in his province, mentioned the organization of the Manitoba Federation of Agriculture, and told of its program of study based on the experience of the cooperatives in the Maritimes.

The Treasurer, Mr. Alan C. Thompson gave a report covering the period from October 1, 1938 to date, showing receipts of \$6,644.44 of which about \$5,000 came from the Henry George Foundation and other legacies; and expenditures of \$6,524.11 of which about \$1,300.00 represented grants to the Sales Tax Repeal Association, the California campaign, the Henry George Foundation International Convention in Toronto, etc.

The report of the Association was read by the Secretary, Herbert T. Owens and is summarized elsewhere.

The following were elected: Hon. President, Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck; President, A. C. Ross; vice Presidents, Margaret E. Bateman and Ernest J. Farmer; Secretary-Treasurer, Herbert T. Owens; Associate Secretary, Dorothy E. Coate.

Executive Committee: A. B. Farmer, Dr. S. T. Floyd, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Hall, W. J. Ingram, Frank Johnston, Miss Florence Macdonald, Miss Louisa Macdonald, J. A. Martin, C. C. March, J. A. McCorquodale, M. H. Moffatt, Miss M. Q. Ollerhead, Arthur Seale, Alan C. Thompson, L. B. Walling and W. R. Williams.

The following corresponding advisory members were named: John Anderson and Margaret E. Bateman, Quebec; Alexander Hamilton, British Columbia; Fred Pease and Rev. D. C. McTavish, Alberta; A. J. M. Poole, Manitoba; Mrs. L. E. Gieser, Saskatchewan; Miss Janet Scott, Miss Margaret Scott, John Wilson and Robert Wynne and A. C. Campbell, Ontario; John Buchanan and Geo. W. Stewart, Nova Scotia.

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GEORGISTS WIN SEATS IN PARLIAMENT

Following upon the splendid victory of Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, who was elected on March 26 a member of the House of Commons for Toronto-Trinity riding by a majority of about 3500 comes a cable from London, England announcing that F. C. R. Douglas, assistant secretary of our British movement, has been elected to Parliament for North Battersea constituency. Mr. Douglas visited Toronto and Montreal last September, while on this side in connection with the Centenary at New York. He was born in Manitoba, but went to England in early life. Like Mr. Roebuck, he is a member of the legal profession; has been mayor of Battersea; and a member of the London County Council for some years. He ~~evidently~~ won in a by-election, and we rather think ran on the Labour ticket.

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EDITORIALSFarewell and HailThe Single Tax Association's
New Name

The Toronto organization devoted to teaching the philosophy of Henry George has changed its name for the third time during its sixty years of existence and from henceforth will be known as The Henry George Society. The first name used was the Anti-Poverty Society, a name peculiarly fitting to represent our ultimate aim. After a few years and under the leadership of such men as W. A. Douglass, Robert Tyson, Stewart Lyon and Sam Wood the name was changed to The Single Tax Association and under that name for over 40 years it has sought to preach righteousness in our social adjustment by advocating the abolition of all taxes upon labor and labor products and in this way sought to secure the abolition of poverty -- suggested by its original name.

It may not be amiss to review the progress made. It not only stood, and still stands, for the freeing of industry from the unjust system of taxation which penalizes it and protects unjust privileges, but it was a consistent advocate of the public ownership of our natural resources and the administration of them by the representatives of the people, in the interests of the whole community.

A very important work was done during the early days of this century. The project of the Grand Trunk to extend their railway to the coast and add another transcontinental line to that already in existence was under consideration by the government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. In order to do this the Railway counted upon a land grant of some 10,000,000 acres where their projected extensions would traverse. When first we heard of their proposal, it was stated that the Government had practically promised them the grant. Our North West was already suffering the evil consequences of the land grants given to the C.P.R. and the Canadian Northern Railways which had tied up over thirty million acres of land, not only retarding settlement, but increasing the cost of civil administration by huge tracts of unoccupied land, held at high prices.

To combat this a circular letter was sent to the Municipal Councils, Boards of Trade and Trade Unions of Western Canada, pointing out that the increased value of the lands served could easily be appropriated for the purpose of building the road as a public work. Petitions were enclosed with the letters, asking the government to build the Road as a National undertaking, using the rise in land values as the basis of paying for it.

The idea was substantially endorsed by Sir William Mullock, then Postmaster General, and as a result the land grant was refused, and the connecting link from Winnipeg to Moncton was built by the Dominion Government, and leased to the Grand Trunk at an annual rental sufficient to pay interest on the cost of the road. Circumstances prevented the last intention from being carried out. But the result of scotching the land grant affected a saving to the people of at least \$100,000-000.

The Toronto organization continued to be the parent body in Canada and for many years, through the press and by public meetings, it sought to teach the people the true source of national and municipal revenue and the only way in which real property can be established on the earth, with consequent high wages, low prices and steady employment.

As a result of our labors good progress along the lines of our ideals was made in the West. Unfortunately our principles were but partially applied and, while the results are remarkable, the limitations placed upon the system by legislation restricting the taxing of land values, (for example in B.C. limiting taxes on land to 20 mills on the dollar) at a time when the rate of taxation in Canada even where improvements were taxed averaged nearly 40 mills, compelled

led a number of municipalities which formerly exempted buildings once more to tax them. In spite of some loss of ground due to the control of municipal councils by land speculators it is still true that Western Canada, where the Single Tax has had a partial application, leads the Dominion in its per capita wealth.

Great progress has been made in the last few years through the medium of the Henry George Schools and there is an increasing number of classes each year turning out young men and women who have taken up the systematic study of Progress and Poverty, the master work of Henry George, upon which the movement is based. This is one of the most hopeful developments for it is not necessary to convert all the people or even a majority. A few thousand leaders properly trained and endued with a longing for justice and freedom in our social relations will soon so influence the people as to insure the adoption of our beneficent reform.

The first country that adopts it in its fulness can throw open its doors to all comers, knowing that every additional immigrant will add to the prosperity of the country and will increase the production of wealth and the demand for goods instead of endangering the jobs of others, as frequently happens today under our system of land monopoly, and the pe-

nalizing of useful work by oppressive taxes upon labor and labor products. -- Alan C. Thompson.

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VICTORY OF THE KING GOVERNMENT

The return of the Liberals to power with such an immense majority must be very gratifying to Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Considering the low plane on which the campaign was carried on by the official Opposition, the Liberal victory is all the more welcome. From the standpoint of the country, a stronger opposition would have been desirable. Canada's war effort will be efficiently conducted. We can be sure of that.

What we are not so sure of is whether the return of the King administration will be of great moment to economic reform. The writer did some personal canvassing for one of the Liberal candidates, and was struck by the frequency with which voters said: It doesn't matter which party is in; they never do anything for the working man. The average M.P. would claim that Parliament has done many things for the workers, which is true; but the damning fact remains that unemployment, low wages, and poverty still curse the country; and no political party offers anything but palliatives. It is said that one of these palliatives, unemployment insurance, will be enacted at the coming ses-

sion. But that measure will not solve unemployment. It will increase the cost of government; and every increase of the cost of government is at the expense of wages.

The King Government, or any government, can eradicate unemployment and bring permanent prosperity to Canada by introducing a federal land value tax. If it is levied sufficiently high so that the sales tax can be displaced, those who are holding land idle will have to put it to use, if they desire to keep it. That means employment. If the government with its huge majority fails to take advantage of its opportunity, the chickens will come home to roost when demobilization comes to pass.

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OMNISCIENCE?

The Single Tax Association has changed its name to the Henry George Society, and we doubt if it will make more progress under the new name than it did under the old one.

Thus saith the Peterborough "Examiner." But does this pronouncement come from knowledge? Does the editor read Georgist journals? Does he know to what extent the principles of Henry George are in practice throughout the world? Is he acquainted with the "land hunger" which has caused many European

countries in the last quarter century to break up vast estates? Has it escaped his notice that Russia has nationalized land? Has he forgotten the main issue in British politics when Lloyd George was crusading on the land question prior to the World War? Is he aware that Philip Snowden included in his 1931 budget a provision to levy a national land tax? Does he know that vested interests in Great Britain scuttled that provision? Or why they did it? Has it reached his ears that the land question is a live one in the platforms of both the Liberal and Labour parties in Britain? Does he know the economics of the land? Or of Plenty? Has he absorbed that the solution of unemployment, low wages, social security, all are dependent upon how we make land accessible to labor? And upon whether the public, or private individuals, collect economic rent? No; the editor, we fear, does not know what these are all about.

As to making progress, four or five years ago there were three active Georgists in Montreal. At our annual meeting we received greetings from 300 Georgists there. And Montreal is only one place. A year ago there were 66 groups in Denmark studying the economics of Henry George. And Denmark, too, is only one place. Future students of history may regard the revival of interest in George's teachings since 1932 as one of the causes of a world revolution.

But this may be "Greek" to the editor of The Examiner.

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An Economic "Bull"

In a well-intentioned article in The Liberal Advocate, Capt. Cecil R. Bull, M. L.A., for South Okanagan, B.C. submits a 7-point formula of necessary action from which the following are taken:

2. "Business must realize that it can never at any time from now on take care of the employment of a people, and that without government cooperation there would be complete economic chaos in a short time.

5. "Government must from now on arrange to employ all labour not used in private enterprise by instituting Dominion and Provincial projects such as reforestation, road building, etc., and by making credits available to municipalities for municipal works including house building."

This is an example of inverted thinking. Business is at the helm and government is captain of the ship. The old (and true) idea was that business is the handmaid of industry and that government is a committee of the people to look after the communal business. Capt. Bull has a different idea of government for he tells us:

4. "Government must be without vindictiveness and infinitely patient."

We must not have, in other words, the mad dog type of rulers over us. They must be gentle with children and govern us with patience, rather than take orders from their supposed masters. What a travesty of the situation has the worthy Captain conjured up!

British Columbia with 359,278 square miles is almost as large as France, Norway and Ireland combined, and if the land were equally divided among the present population (751,000) each could have as his own 306 acres. How did the first comers to the Province get along? They had free access to natural resources. They fished, hunted, trapped and farmed, did some gold mining, and so on. As population kept on coming land speculation reared its ugly head and the forestallers bled the newcomers. Today the accessible land is all monopolized, and in consequence British Columbia has unemployment, poverty, slums. If by some miracle -- and we know how to work the miracle --- land monopoly were removed, there would be no unemployment in British Columbia, for people would have lots of space on which to work. It is the needs of workers in our primary industries which call business into being, not the reverse as Capt. Bull in his muddled economics seems to think. Communities of farmers give rise to hamlets and villages with their retail stores, butter and cheese factories, canneries, etc.

With the removal of land monopoly, there would be no necessity for governments to employ labour as proposed by Capt. Bull, or to undertake state housing projects.

Significantly, Capt. Bull has a remedy -- and it is to force the Bank of Canada to make loans to all governments without interest -- to compel ourselves to finance ourselves, so to speak. As bond issues mature there must be refundings without interest, he claims.

A faulty diagnosis always precedes an equally faulty remedy.

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Is Poverty Relative?

The Globe and Mail ran an editorial entitled "Fallacies of Socialism" which contained some good criticism, but not all of the fallacies are in Socialism -- there are some in the editorial brain. The G&M said that the appeals of Social Crediters, C.C.F. and New Democracy -- lumped together as "Socialism" -- are "intended to influence those who are unable to interpret economic and social conditions in the light of cause and effect." The inference is that the G&M can "interpret economic conditions in the light of cause and effect," and we are treated to a sample as follows:

"Some Socialists are sufficiently remote from reality

in promising the abolition of poverty. Poverty is relative. Wherever there are different standards of living, those on the lower standard are poor relatively to those on a higher. Within a given standard, moreover, those who can only just afford it are poor relatively to those who find no struggle in maintaining it. It is impossible to abolish different standards of living."

So the G&M disposes of the problem of poverty. Henry George speaks of "the vice, the crime, the ignorance, the brutality, that spring from poverty and the fear of poverty" -- this "relative" condition. Again he speaks of "the lowest class" which "barely lives...for the next lowest step is out of existence." Today we are helping that class by much begrudged "relief" to "barely live." But according to the G&M, that is "relative." Again to quote George there are "the masses of men, who in the midst of abundance suffer want; who, clothed with political freedom, are condemned to the wages of slavery; to whose toil laborsaving inventions bring no relief, but rather seem to rob them of a privilege" --- this is just more relativity. George defines poverty as "a degrading and embruting slavery, that cramps the higher nature, dulls the finer feelings, and drives men by its pain to acts which the brutes would refuse." The press recently reported a Toronto magistrate, who has tried 30,000 cases, as saying that the bulk of those

who have appeared before him are victims of poverty. Yet poverty is only "relative," says the Globe and Mail. The editor is in that condition of mind of which de Tocqueville wrote: "we so soon become used to the thought of want that we do not feel that an evil which grows greater to the sufferer the longer it lasts becomes less to the observer by the very fact of its duration." This is in line with Pope's: "But seen too oft, familiar with its face, We first endure, then pity, then embrace." Let the Globe and Mail find what comfort it can in its belief that "poverty is relative." Standards of living are immaterial when all have enough.

Another fallacy of the G&M is this: "Prima facie a case has already been made out for planning...the principle is worthy of investigation and trial." Here the critic surrenders to the criticized for "planning" is one of Socialism's tenets -- e.g., Moscow's 5-year plan. When the economic foundation is on a sound basis, conscious planning is as unnecessary as planning one's heartbeats.

Whatever their economic fallacies, Socialists and Social Crediters demand justice for the poor and the oppressed. Henry George has shown that poverty is an anachronism and can be eradicated from our civilization; and economics properly understood is "radiant with hope."

T H E O R YHON. T. A. CRERAR ON CAUSE OF WARS

Asked by Gordon Sinclair, Toronto Star interviewer, how English and French statesmen explained the war -- why did it come? Mr. Crerar said:

"I don't know how these statesmen explain it, but I know what I think. I think the world has lost sight of the essential realities of living. We are, in a sense, like the Roman Empire. The rich at the top are too rich; the poor at the bottom are too poor. People live in a spirit of distrust and fear and terror. I have sometimes wondered and asked people how any peace can come to Europe even after this war, because Europe is saturated in distrust. They don't seem to have the answers."

P R A C T I C E

The Henry George Club of Victoria, B. C. on March 5th last passed the following Resolution:

"This Club desires to draw attention to the report that another tract of up-island timber has changed hands at more than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000).

We are constantly told that the timber is the people's property. That being the case it is they who should pocket the couple of millions and not the Alworth timber interests of Duluth, Minn., U.S.A.

It would be of interest to the people of British Columbia to know just how much the Alworth timber interests have paid the province for the privilege of withholding this natural resource for years. It might give them a thrill to discover the precise difference between the tiny trickle of revenue they have received and the gushing flood of profit absorbed by the syndicate.

The game is doubtless enjoyable to the profiteers in nature's bounties, but perhaps there is a trace of tragedy in it for those who must find the wherewithal to pay the taxes.

Therefore we recommend that the Provincial Government make a drastic increase in the rental of timber limits."

As Minister of Natural Resources, we wonder if Hon. Mr. Crerar hasn't some responsibility in a case of this kind to see that the people get the values that the people make instead of permitting "the rich at the top" to get "too rich"?

HAMILTON GRADUATES ANOTHER GROUP

On April 12, a dinner gathering was held at the Y.W.C.A. in honour of the graduating class. After the "eats", John Wilson, who presided, regretted that the results of the season's work are so small in numbers, and then called upon Mr. J. H. L. Patterson, of Toronto, who dwelt on the injustices of our present system of collecting public revenue and the ignoring of the divinely-provided fund, the economic rent of land, by our political leaders. He instanced a recent case of a party who had been sentenced to a fine of \$30 or 30 days for scalping a hockey ticket, as compared with the exploiters of our natural resources whom our laws permit to get away with millions in public values. Mr. Patterson presented the graduates with their diplomas. Mr. M. H. Moffatt, of Oshawa, was the next speaker and he told of the plans for developing study groups in Oshawa and especially in the smaller places. He said that there are about 1,000 enrolments in evening classes this season in Oshawa and under such circumstances our groups are small.

Mr. Arch McColl, of Toronto, dwelt on the value of a knowledge of Georgist principles as a rule of measure by which to gauge the economic solutions suggested or proposed by our political leaders.

Secretary Herbert Owens, of Toronto, followed, reciting the recent growth of the movement in Canada, the breakdown of orthodox economics in practice, the willingness of political leaders to examine new proposals for solving their urgent problems, the friends we have in influential positions -- all these are encouraging factors to followers of Henry George.

Strong Resolution Passed

Resolution passed by Members of the Henry George School of Social Science assembled in annual session, in Hamilton, Ont., April 12, 1940.

"Whereas it has been drawn to our attention that a party in Toronto was fined \$30 or 30 days for scalping a hockey match ticket by selling it for 50¢ more than it cost him

And whereas we learn that a Vancouver Island timber limit recently changed hands for \$2,000,000, the sellers being an American syndicate in Duluth, Minn.,

We protest at the miscarriage of justice in the case of the ticket scalper, and at the fact that it is possible to mulct Canadians of values that have resulted from governmental expenditures under the existing law, and that

speculators in natural resources should benefit on such a large scale at a time particularly of national emergency.

And we ask that steps be taken by the federal and provincial governments to prevent a repetition of this situation, and to secure for the people the values that the people alone make."

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O. S. S. T. F. LOSING FACE -- AND SAVING IT

The Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has a committee on Educational Finance, which is urging that 50% of the costs of education should be assessed by the Province. One of its arguments is: "Real estate has no connection with education, and yet it bears approximately 86% of the cost of education."

A member of the Federation, Mr. W. J. Hocking, has written protesting against this particular item. He says: "The only permanent value which attaches to land anywhere is 100% socially created. Without the knowledge and skills gained through educational channels, society reverts to its primitive state, wherein the commercial value of land is next to negligible. No matter what proportion of educational costs we feel should be met by the provincial treasury, we must not allow our Federation to lose face by submitting unsound arguments." An excellent stand to take. Congratulations, Mr. Hocking!

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NEW LIFE OF JOSEPH FELS

A new biography, The Life of Joseph Fels, written by his wife, Mary Fels, has just been published by Doubleday, Doran and Co., and is offered for sale in Canada by McClelland and Stewart, Toronto. It will be available through all booksellers at \$1.75.

For the information of newcomers in the movement, Mr. Fels, a millionaire soap manufacturer (Fels Naptha soap), devoted his immense fortune to the Henry George cause, at one time matching dollar for dollar, in any country in the world where there was Georgist activity. He travelled extensively on the Continent, meeting prominent personalities, and subsidizing the European Georgist societies. He died in 1914.

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HAPPENINGS AMONG THE STUDY GROUPS

MONTREAL -- On April 25, there will be a reunion at which diplomas will be presented to those who have qualified in the groups conducted here this season. These are Miss Bateman's group which concluded on April 8; Mr. Mellott's group -- both of these being in Fundamental Economics; and Mr. John Anderson's group in "Science." The guest speakers will be Hon. Gordon Scott, member of the Legislative Council for Quebec, and Senator Adrian K. Hugessen.

ST. CATHARINES -- On March 14, a meeting was held at the Welland House to organize a second group, and regular sessions commenced in the Y.W.C.A. on March 20. Herb. Brownlee and Frank Greensides are the Instructors, who report an encouraging attendance.

OTTAWA -- Mr. Herb. G. Barber's group concluded on March 13. Of it, Mr. A. C. Campbell writes: "I don't think there will ever be a better class in interest and education than this one." There were 9 enrolments and six received diplomas. Another class is planned for next season.

HAMILTON -- On March 25, Frank Greensides enrolled a group in the Fundamentals course, which meets at his home.

TORONTO -- The final session of the group in "Democracy vs. Socialism" was held on February 28th. On February 27, a group in International Trade was enrolled, and it concluded on April 2nd.

On February 29, a new group in Fundamental Economics started under the leadership of Carl March.

The class which has met at Mr. E. J. Farmer's home has completed the course in Fundamental Economics.

On Monday, April 22, another group in Fundamental Economics will begin work at the School, Carl March being the Instructor.

PICKERING, Ont. -- Mr. William S. Hall was speaker at a community club here on April 2nd. He hopes to see a study group in operation here next fall.

Secretary's Appointments

Mar. 14 Rotary Club, St. Catharines, Ont.
Apr. 6 W. E. A. Forum on "Social Credit in Alberta"
Apr. 11 Kinsmen, Oshawa, after which a social visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Moffatt was much enjoyed.
May 5 Town Forum, 555 Bloor W., Subject "Conscription"

HIGH LIGHTS OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 1939-40
CULLED FROM THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Delegation of 13 Canadians attend the Centenary of the birth of Henry George held in New York August 30th to September 2nd. Local celebrations of same event held at Victoria, B.C., Montreal and Toronto.

Study groups conducted in Montreal, Ottawa, Oshawa, Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines, the last being a new centre. Montreal rents an office at 1502 St. Catherine V. School of Economic Science chartered under Ontario Companies Act, September 11, 1939, offers courses in economics in oral groups or by correspondence. First correspondence course enrolments -- from Oshawa and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Contacts maintained with federal parliament, Ontario legislature, cities of Montreal, Winnipeg and Toronto. Correspondence with most of the provincial governments.

Contacts with Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ontario Property Owners Association, Roominghouse Keepers Tax Protest Association, Ontario Teachers Federations, National Y.W.C.A., Salvation Army, C.F.D.A., etc.

President J. H. L. Patterson addresses St. Catharines, Oshawa and Hamilton groups.

Secretary addresses 10 service clubs in Toronto, Peterborough, Brantford, Port Hope, St. Catharines and Oshawa; also W. E. A. Summer School at Appleby College; Knights of the Round Table, etc.

Square Deal, 6 issues, edited and widely quoted in Georgist journals. Splendid newspaper publicity work of Hamilton group; also notable articles by A. C. Campble, Ottawa; Dr. A. S. Thompson, Havelock, Ont.; E. S. Woodward's column in Vancouver Sun; and many letters by Toronto Georgists -- J. A. Martin, A. C. Thompson, W. J. Ingram, E. J. Farmer, etc; and by Secretary in newspapers from coast to coast.

Notable articles by H. Bronson Cowan in Journal of Royal Architectural Institute (reprinted by Robert Schalkenbach Foundation) and Maclean's magazine. New edition of Miss Bateman's pamphlet "Who Owns the Earth?" called for. Publication of "Individualism vs. Socialism" by Rev. D. C. McTavish of Alberta.

Visits to Canada of F. C. R. Douglas, of London, England, member of the L.C.C. and assistant secretary of the British Georgist movement. Also E. J. Craigie M.P. of

Adelaide, secretary of the Henry George League of South Australia, and president of the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade.

Death of a former president, Mrs. Hector Prenter. Also Mr. Thomas Turnbull of New Westminster.

Election of Hon. Arthur Roebuck to the House of Commons for Toronto-Trinity.

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The April 15 issue of Maclean's Magazine contains an article by H. Bronson Cowan. Every reader of The Square Deal should make it a point to look up this article. Many have telephoned to, or communicated with, headquarters, commenting on the excellence of Mr. Cowan's presentation.

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CLUB AT VICTORIA, B.C. ELECTS OFFICERS

The annual meeting of the Henry George Club of Victoria was held on March 19th. Alexander Hamilton was elected president; Dr. John MacBride, vice president; Harry H. Hollins, secretary-treasurer. A strong resolution of protest against profiteering in timber limits, the text of which appears elsewhere in this issue, was passed. The new headquarters of the Club are at 52 Arcade Bldg. A deputation conferred with the Saanich Council on March 20. Mr. Hamilton has been active in the Georgist cause since 1889.

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PRESIDENT'S PROBLEMS "AT HOME"

An innovation has been announced by President A. C. Ross. He will be "at home" at the headquarters each Friday from 5 p.m. on to receive members of the Executive Committee and members generally and to discuss matters in an informal way. The first gathering took place on April 19 and members came and went from 5 p.m. up to as late as 9 p.m. Adjournment took place at 10:30. Several box lunches were served. A number of valuable suggestions were garnered.

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Plans are under way for the annual convention of the HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, to be held at Washington, D.C. A splendid program is being arranged. Information as to dates will reach our readers shortly.