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If there is one principle more important than any other principle in the economic affairs of men, it is that the Earth is the birthright of all mankind, and that all have an equal right to its use; and if there is any one violation of Natural Law that is more devastating in its consequences than the violation of any other Natural Law, it is the private ownership of land. -- Dr. Oscar Geiger, founder of the Henry George School of Social Science.

For the state to appropriate in taxation most or all of the annual rental value of natural resources and sites certainly does not weaken the motive to saving. It certainly does not cause savings to be invested in other jurisdictions or areas. It certainly has not the least tendency to weaken the motive to efficiency. Such taxation merely takes for the use of all of us a value which none of us -- nor any small group of us -- is individually responsible for, a value which none of us individually produced or can produce. -- Harry Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics in the University of Missouri.

THE SQUARE DEAL

Published bi-monthly by the Henry George Society
 Room 13, 991 Bay Street, Toronto.
 Ernest J. Farmer, Editor

LAND TAXATION AND WELFARE IN WESTERN CANADA -- V

The three Maritime Provinces of Canada enjoy important natural advantages, climatic, geographic and economic, over the four Western Provinces. They have a much milder climate, with more winter daylight: this advantage should give them a death rate lower by at least 1 per thousand. They have more moisture, and a longer growing season: important advantages in the case of Provinces of which the production is mainly agricultural. They are much nearer their principal markets: this advantage was of commanding importance during the period of abnormally low prices during the '30's, in which transportation charges in many cases exceeded net returns. Fifty years ago they had many times more accumulated capital.

The Western Provinces, however, have adopted a municipal tax system which, though far from perfect, discourages enterprise less than that of the Maritimes. They tax buildings at a lower rate, and personal property (except in Manitoba) not at all. They tax land at a higher rate, restraining (though insufficiently) the evil practice of holding land idle for speculation. The result has been a much higher standard of production, per capita income in many years being more than double that of the Maritimes, with more equitable distribution. The higher standard of living involved has not only overcome the climatic disadvantages of these Provinces, but given them a death rate substantially lower than that of other parts of Canada.

The following table places pertinent facts in form for comparison. The column headed "Actual" gives actual figures for the four Western Provinces. The column headed "Expectation" shows what these figures would have been, if the actual population had enjoyed standards equal to those of the Maritimes -- making no allowance for the natural advantages of the latter. In computing probable deaths, allowance is made for the differing age composition of the various populations. The last column shows the advantage enjoyed by the Western Provinces, due to their tax system, over and above that of overcoming their natural disadvantages.

	Actual	Expectation	Advantage
Total wealth, 1926	\$9,188 millions	\$4,365 millions	\$4,823 millions
Net production, 1924-1928	5,657 millions	3,027 millions	2,630 millions
Net production, 1934-1938	3,278 millions	2,610 millions	668 millions
Deaths, 1924-1928	108,760	123,205	14,445
Deaths, 1934-1938	126,223	145,987	19,764

In only ten years, of which those from 1934-38 were abnormally unfavorable to the Western Provinces, their more favorable tax system was evidently worth to them more than \$3 billions in newly produced wealth and more than 30,000 human lives, besides the overcoming of serious natural disadvantages.

A MEMORABLE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Henry George Society was held at the Central Y.M.C.A. on Wednesday, April 28th. The President, Mr. Howard Hogg, presided. Fifty-nine sat down to the dinner; about forty more, including ten from Hamilton, came in later.

The Secretary-Treasurer submitted a financial report for the year ending March 31. (A report brought up to April 30th appears on page 6). The following committee were then elected: -- Executive Committee: Howard Hogg, President; Miss Dorothy Coate, Vice-President; Ernest J. Farmer, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs Hogg; Mrs Wear; Miss Louisa Macdonald; Miss Evalyne Forbes; J. McBride, Allan Cullingworth, David Farmer. Advisory Committee, to meet on occasion with the Executive: Miss Florence Macdonald; Miss M.Q. Ollerhead; Dr. S.T. Floyd; Arthur B. Farmer, J.A. Martin, Alan C. Thompson, L.B. Walling, W.R. Williams.

Controller Duncan Speaks

After the dinner Mr. Lewis Duncan, K.C., Vice-Chairman of the Toronto Board of Control, spoke on Housing in Toronto. Mr. Duncan outlined the conclusions of the Bruce Report of 1934. and showed how obstructive influences had not only prevented any action from being taken to implement this Report, but had effected the defeat of such members of Council as supported it. Meanwhile conditions have grown steadily worse; present conditions in respect to war workers and soldiers' dependents in particular are intolerable.

Mr. Duncan described how native villagers in Africa build stockades to give security to all, and declared that during the depression years many Canadian families had less security than many in the African jungle. He spoke of the advances which have been made in social provision for human needs; -- first, education was socially provided; then during the depression food was similarly provided; now, he declared, it is time for housing to be added. He spoke of the accomplishments of certain cities; in Birmingham a third of the city was rebuilt with public aid and in New York good apartments have been provided at rentals graded to meet the needs of families in income classes from \$1500 per year down to the minimum. Private enterprise has at the same time been busy providing housing for those of larger incomes.

MARGARET BATEMAN SPEAKS

Miss Margaret Bateman, Director of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York, began by outlining the growth of the School; from its first year, in which Dr. Oscar Geiger taught 84 students in his own home, to the present time, when extensions are operating in hundreds of localities and correspondence papers are coming in by the thousand. She told how she came to read Progress

and Poverty, a copy given her by John Anderson, and found it a book of extraordinary fascination. She was delighted to find that there were free classes for the study of this work, and this led to her becoming a teacher and ultimately the Director of the School.

Miss Bateman then told of her visit to Denmark a few years ago. An elderly Dane had told her of his leaving Denmark when it had a population of little over a million, because he could not find work; now she found a population of three and a half millions living well in a territory one-twentieth the area of Ontario, with almost no unemployment. Some years before a measure had been passed exempting 10,000 kronen, or \$2,500, of the value of each dwelling house from taxation; since a good house could be built for \$3,000 this made taxes on homes very small. At the same time it discouraged the holding of land idle and made it possible for people to obtain land for homes at moderate price. The result was complete rebuilding of the Copenhagen slums and building up of new areas.

She gave instances of the spirit of cooperation and social responsibility which the Danish folk schools foster so effectively; but mentioned also the remark made to her by a Danish cooperative leader; "If it had not been for our land reforms, we should not have had our folk schools or our cooperatives either."

Mr. Frank Pogue gave further examples of bad housing in Toronto, including a case of eleven persons sleeping in one room.

Work of the Past and of the Coming Year.

Mr. Ernest Farmer stated that he had studied over 150 works on economics, and held that "Progress and Poverty" was worth more than all the rest put together, apart from the remaining works of Henry George. He considered it noteworthy, that absolutely first-class men are invariably in sympathy with the Georgist philosophy. At this point mimeographed quotations from 27 famous men were passed around. As Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Farmer reported that during the year a considerable correspondence had been maintained and the Square Deal continued, with some increase in circulation. One class only had been held in Toronto, but this had been a good one and had demonstrated that classes can still be organized, in spite of war conditions. In Hamilton excellent results had been achieved. At this point the Hamilton delegation rose and Mr. John Wilson spoke a few well-chosen words of greeting.

Mr. Farmer mentioned that the Society's expenses during the last year had been smallest for many years; but urged upon the members the need of increased effort, both in the way of personal effort and financial contribution. The Square Deal should be restored to its original printed form and classes should be held in several areas of the city.

Mr. Arthur Farmer declared his intention of holding a class in his fall in his home, sending out three leaflets announcing it in the immediate neighborhood; a plan which the success of the last class showed to be feasible. He said that Dr. Floyd had been

thinking of a similar move, and invited members to consider the possibility of conducting classes in their own homes, or at least of throwing them open for classes.

Miss Bateman expressed her approval of the plan, saying that she felt that in New York the work had been too closely confined to a single building, especially since the dimout had made evening travel hazardous.

The Secretary-Treasurer appealed again for definite money commitments, mentioning that Mr. Ross, a former President, had suggested that at least twenty-five members might be found, of whom he would be one, to contribute two dollars monthly. He also spoke of the impossibility of his taking time to appeal to members individually. Pledge forms were passed around. \$27.50 was contributed at the meeting for Society and School and further pledges amounting to \$36 were received. While this is less than the amount received from a smaller number at the 1942 meeting, many members took the pledge forms home and there is reason to trust that the final response will be greater than last year.

WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DISASTER IN BURMA

The Burmese natives have been long dispossessed of their land, and exploited by British and Indian capital on huge plantations. When the Japanese forced the British to withdraw, the news accounts spoke of the Burmese apathy, and even of Burmese attacks on the British and Indians. The resentment of the landless and disinherited natives was apparent.

The Japanese determined to allow Burma a semi-independent government, putting the previously imprisoned U-Saw at its head, and encouraging the formation of a Burmese army as an ally. Although the Japanese are primarily interested in India, and use Burma as a pawn, still the strategy seems to be fairly successful. More important, however, from our point of view, is that the Japanese have broken up the large plantations and allowed the natives to take possession of the land. Here we have a major stroke.

Given their birthright, the opportunity for labor to work on land with the prospect of keeping the wages for its own use, a bond of friendship is being forged between Burmese peasant and Japan. It matters not our suspecting, with reason, that Japan may later repudiate these acts, and go back to the old imperialistic enslavement. At present the Burmese have more reason to be grateful to our enemy, and will look with alarm at a British effort to retake the land. It is likely that Burma will actively oppose the United Nations. To date General Wavell's Indian army has taken back only a small portion of territory, one mainly inhabited by Indians and unfortified. It remains to be seen whether this army encounter serious opposition from men who feel they are free again.-- A.B. in Land and Freedom.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

May 1, 1942 -- April 30, 1943

HENRY GEORGE SOCIETYRECEIPTS

Cash, May 1, 1942	\$ 17.02
In bank, May 1, 1942	39.87
Square Deal	56.70
Books	40.10
Annual Dinner	41.25
Subscriptions	126.85
Memberships	26.00
Legacy trusts	53.60
Miscellaneous	4.25
	<u>\$405.64</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

Cash, April 30, 1943	\$ 21.45
In bank, April 30, 1943	48.23
Square Deal	14.10
Books	65.50
Annual Dinner	40.76
Rent, from June 1, 1942	165.00
Postage	22.00
Secretary's expenses	14.00
Miscellaneous	11.41
Bank and exchange	2.71
	<u>\$405.64</u>

Miss Bateman's travelling expenses (from Montreal) for the Annual Dinner were met by a generous special contribution (which does not appear on the Society's books) from Miss Coate and Dr. Floyd.

SCHOOL OF ECONOMIC SCIENCE

On hand, May 1, 1942	\$28.43	On hand, April 30, 1943	\$28.41
Memberships	9.00	Postage	22.00
Subscriptions	24.03	Announcement cards	18.90
Henry George School (N. Y.)	12.50	Miscellaneous	4.65
	<u>\$74.96</u>		<u>\$74.96</u>

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Lately I have listened to some of our leading men -- Hoover, Aberhart, Bracken, Wallace -- and find little to become enthusiastic over in their criticism of present conditions or suggestions for future action.

However, there are islands of growth of knowledge in the sea of ignorance, like specks of bacteria on the surface of the contents of a tube of agar, and Single Tax will have something to offer when the ceilings all fall. -- G. A. McDonald (Yorkton, Sask.,) in a letter to the Editor.

SAVE AMERICA! -- Save your country from Fascism, Socialism, Communism; from Landlordism and loss of freedom after the "war to reserve freedom", by working with pen and voice for economic liberty. Don't let things drift -- Educate, Educate, Educate! -- Common Wealth (San Francisco)

THE LAW OF INTEREST -- III

Ernest J. Farmer

It was shown in the March-April number of THE SQUARE DEAL that the prohibition of interest, essential in the Christian ethical doctrine, is not arbitrary. It is because the taking of interest is ethically and also economically abnormal.

Men do store goods for months and years at a time, although storage costs labor and goods depreciate in spite of the best care. They do desire to make provision for the time, years in the future, when their productive powers shall be impaired by age. If a man, by surrender of a present surplus, can be made sure of an equivalent amount of goods, newly produced, free from depreciation, at a future time convenient for him, he has received a service for which he might well pay a premium. Capital goods are no exception; they are constantly disappearing and being reproduced, but only by the expenditure of labor. It remains to analyze the abnormalities and iniquities which have brought about the present toleration of one of Ezekiel's "abominations".

The most obvious source of interest is, emergency. Faced with starvation, men have sold themselves and their families into perpetual slavery. This is interest carried to the ultimate extreme.

The contradiction here is obvious. It is the fundamental law of humanity that the strong and fortunate shall bear the burdens of the weak and unfortunate; not that the strong shall compel the weak (or, as we have it now, the unscrupulous and cunning shall compel the trustful and industrious) to bear their burdens for them. Ordinary present day ethical standards condemn the one who takes advantage of extreme and unusual distress; but fail to recognize the fact, that much interest-taking means simply the exploitation of the perennial state of emergency, the state of partial starvation, to which economic iniquities have reduced a great part of our population.

Another source is spendthriftism. A child naturally prefers gratification in the present to gratification in the future. But spendthriftism in the adult is abnormal, a form of infantilism. In a Christian civilization this mental abnormality would be rare and would meet with no encouragement. Anyone seeking to profit from it would suffer general reprobation.

Another source is, scarcity of capital. On this basis, Henry George explained the high interest rates common in new or rapidly developing countries; it will be shown in the last article in this series that he was only partially right. Actual scarcity of capital is plainly abnormal in such a time as the present, when engineers boast that they can build and equip in six weeks a factory which could not have been matched in eighteen months a generation ago.

There persists, however, a scarcity of capital in the possession of those who actually use it. Those who produce and use capital commonly own none; while many who have never produced anything of value own a great deal.

People often say unthinkingly that the workers are poor because they have no capital. The truth is the other way about: they own no capital because they are poor, and they are poor because from the time they began to work they have been robbed. In his later years Henry George fully realized the importance of this factor and expressed views on interest considerably different from the too conventional ones advanced in "Progress and Poverty."

Another source is, public debt. The iniquitous nature of public debt was realized by many before Henry George. Ruskin comments on cases in which public money was wastefully spent, just so that a debt might be incurred and the rich thereby afforded a safe and profitable form of "investment" for their surplus. John Stuart Mill describes public debt as a means by which the rich, who otherwise would have to bear the greater part of any such unusual expense as that of a war, force the poor not only to pay the cost but to pay it twice over.

A public debt is also a means by which the debts of the parents may be saddled upon the children. At this point is seen a great difference between the Christian and most pagan ethical codes. Christian law does not make a son liable for his father's debts; many pagan codes do, enforcing what often amounts to perpetual enslavement. By means of public debt, this principle is evaded.

The difference between the prospects of a Hebrew child in the old Testament period and those of a Canadian child of this day is noteworthy. The Hebrew child was born heir to a share in a landed estate, sufficient under ordinary circumstances to let him employ himself and make a living without asking anyone's permission. The Canadian child is born heir to a share in public debt, on which he must begin to pay interest from the time when he begins to work.

The most important, as well as the most iniquitous, source of interest will be discussed in the concluding article in this series, in the July-August number of THE SQUARE DEAL.

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The main source of social discontent and international friction is undoubtedly unearned income. There can be no peace within or between nations as long as 40% or more of the annual production of every country is deducted from the earnings of the workers (in the best sense, including intellectual workers and working employers) transformed, in the shape of rent, dividends and interest, into unearned income of a small privileged class. -- Philip Pye, M., in the Preface to "A Free Economy", by Dr. Theophile Christen.

God permits sale but not usury -- The Koran.

PROTECTIONIST CLOUD WALKING

Lancaster M. Greene.

Time was when a free-trade magazine or newspaper article was the target for whole regiments of protectionist sharpshooters; but nowadays things have changed, and any vocal protectionist is certain to have a swarm of free-trade hornets about his ears when he stops talking, or even before. The latest to invite the hornets is Dr. Elvin H. Killheffer, chairman of the executive committee of the American Tariff League, and he puts out his neck by giving a statement of the League's post-war program at the annual meeting at the Union League Club in New York.

The growth of free-trade sentiment among economists and others has evidently irked Dr. Killheffer, who calls their movement a "crusade", and intimates that they are utopians rather than realists. Although his proposed program for the League advocates and anticipates "greater international cooperation", he does not intend this to mean the reduction of tariff barriers, nor does he advocate the lease-lend idea as any basis for postwar interchange between nations.

Point two of the League's proposed program reads: We are in favor of liberal international trade. We are ^{opposed} to free trade, or a near approach to it, as being utterly impractical and directly contrary to our wage and living standards, ^{er} trends of which have been set by statutory enactment.

It would be difficult to find a more misleading and confused statement than the second sentence of that paragraph. Setting aside the quibble between "liberal" and "free trade", which embodies a distinction without a difference, the accusation of impracticality condemns all the past periods of our national history, when tariffs were small or absent, as periods of impracticality instead of, as every student of history knows, periods when poverty was relatively less severe than today.

Free trade is as practical as peace. One may think of peace as the absence of war, and free trade as the absence of taxation; but to say that it is impractical to refrain from a tax on the exchange of goods between nations is to rob the word of all meaning.

As for living standards, any student of the law of wages knows that wages are set, not by statutory enactment, but by the amount producible on the best free land available to the producer. While special skills make wages vary upward from this level, they cannot be affected by conditions in foreign countries but must rise or fall according to conditions in the locality, broadly considered. The boasted high American wages in the past are traceable to the availability of free land, and latterly of cheap good land and labor's expertness, not to tariffs. And as for living standards

who can believe that these will be lower if the consumer is permitted to buy lower-priced articles made outside this country? Would not such purchases actually raise the standard of living by giving the consumer more for his money.

The intellectual basis of the "crusade" for free trade goes back to Adam Smith, a practical man if ever there was one, to Cobden and Bright in England, and to Henry George in this country, as well as Professors Sumner of Yale, Taussig of Harvard, and Perry of Williams. The most widely read work on the subject is "Protection or Free Trade" by George, of which some two million copies have been sold to date. Lord Snowden calls this book at once the most popular and the most scientific exposition of the subject ever written.

By saying that our higher American wage labor cannot "compete on an even basis with low-wage countries now industrializing with great rapidity", Dr. Killheffer implied that our labor is inferior, needing special protection lest it be outdone by other countries. But then he says that our wages are the highest in the world. Since wages can come only out of production, it follows that our labor must be the most productive in the world, and that it need not fear foreign competition.

The same protectionist argument arose over the dinner table on one of our destroyers in connection with cheap Japanese labor. Said a manufacturer of combs for the dime stores, "When we feared that cheap Jap combs would take our market, we looked about and found a new process, called injection molding, by which we could hire much better-paid labor and produce combs at three to four cents apiece for the dime stores. The Japs can't begin to compete yet."

Competition is not a depressant but a stimulant of efficiency. Fairman Dick, railroad analyst, credits the increased efficiency of the railroads today to the truck competition. He cites figures showing doubled effectiveness between 1929 and 1942, the very period in which bus and truck competition has been most active.

Thomas G. Shearman, brilliant lawyer and fiscal authority, wrote in a symposium: "In plain English, the dangers against which the protectionists would protect us are

1. Too much freedom and
2. Too little work for
3. Too much pay.

"The protectionists will dislike this plain statement of their case, but let them try to unstate it." -- The Freeman, April 1, 1943.

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There is no reason why any country should not change its form of land ownership if it seems desirable to do so. -- Henry at Fairchild, in "Economics for the Millions."

WASTES

I may illustrate this for you from my own daily experience. I live four miles from the University. When I go home I quickly pass through closely built-up sections of the city, containing many apartment houses. I then come suddenly to open fields. On one side of the road there are almost no houses for two miles or so. I then come to the suburb of small houses in which I live. The open fields, where weeds grow and rabbits and even bobwhites inhabit, are being held out of use in anticipation of an increase in their value. That is why I live two miles farther from my work than present demand for home sites would require. I produce less, living at the more distant point, than I would if I lived closer in; I waste time, I use up gasoline and tires and street paving needlessly. -- Broadus Mitchell, Professor of Economics in John Hopkins University, in "The World's Wealth."

And the same with the wasted land as with the wasted people. It became solid, felt reality when my own eyes saw the tea plantations in India and Ceylon left to return to the wilderness; the endless acres of matured rubber trees in Ceylon and Malaya left to drip their rich latex on the ground; the rich Malayan tin mines partly or wholly idle because non-producing paid higher dividends than producing -- while coolies who had worked in them crawled like house-flies over garbage heaps seeking any filth to go in their bellies; the sugar canes sagging stupidly in the fields of Java and Fiji; the carpets of rotting bananas and pineapples and coconuts in the Pacific groves. -- Cedric Belfrage, in "They All Hold Swords."

RUBBER POLICIES

San Francisco News did not print a letter stating: "Testimony given in Washington by Hon. Chas. I. Faddis, Pennsylvania Congressman, and Elliott E. Simpson, Director of L. Drexage and other rubber companies (importers for 26 years) that more than enough rubber can be obtained this year for war and domestic requirements. Mr. Simpson stated Brazil has 300,000,000 trees giving better rubber than the Far East. . . . "In Fact" states: "Why did U. S. Government officials refuse Russia's offer to reveal secrets of synthetic rubber last February? If U. S. had started with Soviet grain alcohol patents last February, all of us would have had new tires this year." -- Geo. Cartwright, in Farmer-Labor News, Modesto, Calif.

The C. I. O. News has commented upon the obstacles placed in the way of any imports of rubber from Mexico.

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Freetrade is to liberty what good works are to faith; without it liberty is dead. It is the golden rule of international relationships, the economic law of national love of the neighbor.
-- Louis F. Post.

JOHN ANDERSON

John Anderson, founder and president of the Henry George School of Social Science now operating under charter of the Province of Quebec, died suddenly at his home in Westmount on April 5th, at the age of 81. Born in Pembroke, Ont., Mr Anderson spent most of his business life as a member of the staff of Chase and Sanborn, becoming vice-president of Standard Brands when the companies amalgamated in 1929 and retiring in 1938. He was president of the Julius Richardson Convalescent Hospital and was prominent in several other organizations. Active and clear-headed until the last, he wrote the subjoined article only a few weeks before his death.

IDLE ACRES -- IDLE MEN

An editorial in the Cobb County Times (Ga.) tells of the gracious act of Mr. James L. Sibley, Sr., in offering his 1,000 acre plantation, now idle, to the government for food production, at a rental of \$1 a year. The editorial states further that there are millions of such acres owned by banks, insurance companies and individuals which might be acquired by the government at a dollar a year per farm, if a plan could be worked out to produce food from these idle acres.

All honor to Mr. Sibley for what appears to be a generous offer, but is it of any real value to the nation? Where is the labor and the equipment necessary to cultivate these idle acres to come from? There is a shortage of farm labor everywhere as well as a shortage of farm machinery, and that condition will obtain for the duration of the war. An offer of thousands of idle acres at \$1 a year per farm, if made ten or twelve years ago, say in the early thirties, would have greatly increased our production of wealth, thereby providing much employment, if the lease was for an extended period. At the moment the offer would appear to be valueless.

The question is, why were these idle acres not available for food production in peace times? They furnish no revenue to the owners; one can only surmise that the owners hoped to reap an unjustified profit, what is known as "unearned increment", produced by the people as a whole and belonging morally to those who produced it. When plans are being shaped for our post-war economy that is something that must have the serious consideration of the people of every community and their elected government.

A democratic government cannot exist for long with millions of idle acres on the one hand and millions of unemployed on the other, such a situation is the height of absurdity, an anachronism which is not to be tolerated by people who call themselves intelligent.

John Anderson, in "The Freeman", May, 1943

NORMAN MARKLAND -- MONTREAL NEWS

C.L.Huckabone

Mr. Norman Markland died suddenly on April 16th, following an operation from which he seemed to be making good recovery, at the age of 46. Born in Lancashire, he served in the great war; his working life was spent in the employ of J.& P.Coats, Ltd., whom he represented in Scotland, Belgium, France, Switzerland and since 1936 in Canada.

Mr. Markland first studied Economics in the fall of 1941. He took all the courses offered by the Henry George School in Montreal, and then organized a class of 20 whom he conducted through the Fundamental course, the Trade course, and the Science of Political Economy. At the time of his fatal illness he had planned a course using Crowther's "Outline of Money" as textbook.

Classes so far in 1943 include four in Fundamental Economics and two in International Trade, completed; two in Fundamental Economics and one studying the "Outline of Money", nearing completion. The last named is led by Mr. J.Thompson, who has succeeded in clearing up the befogged ideas expressed at times in such a way as to increase interest with each lesson.

Some two dozen persons spent an evening with Miss Bateman on her return from Toronto; meeting first in a classroom and adjourning to a nearby restaurant.

Mr. Oscar Boelens has been corresponding with Mr. Wm. McNair, exMayor of Pittsburgh, who has expressed willingness to visit Montreal and explain the advantages of lessening or abolishing taxes on buildings and improvements. It is probable that Mr. McNair will come at a time convenient to the Property Owners' League, most likely in the fall.

The last supper meeting for the season will be held at Scott's restaurant, StCatherine St.W., on May 28th, from 6 to 8 P.M. Mr. Jean-Charles Harvey, Editor of Le Jour will speak. Mr. Harvey is a distinguished French-Canadian who is working to promote unity between English and French Canadians.

CLASSES IN TORONTO AND HAMILTON

Recent classes in Toronto and Hamilton resulted in but five graduates in each city. While this result is not particularly encouraging, on the other hand the mentality and seriousness of these ten men is excellent. It should be remembered also that before the days of the Henry George School there were many half-years in which less than ten persons made serious study of "Progress and Poverty" in these cities; also that others, not technically graduates, have a fair comprehension of the book.

OTTAWA NEWS AND NOTES

H.T.Owens

The study groups are over for the season. Though small in numbers, the groups were excellent in quality.

In one group a member, an engineer, drew frequent comparisons between the Henry George principles and those of his profession.

Messrs H.S. and W.M. Southam have expressed their willingness to bear the cost of 32 subscriptions to "Land and Freedom", being sent to Canadian libraries. This cost was met previous to his death by Mr. Lingham, of Lockport, N.Y.

H.T.Owens spoke one Sunday evening at RCAF Station, Rockcliffe, near Ottawa, on "Paying for Post-War Security." After a long and interesting discussion period, a listener introduced herself as AW 2 Lamb, saying she had studied with Henry George groups in Montreal. The Chaplain, Rev. T.V.Lestrangle, presided. On May 25th Mr. Owens addressed the Optimists' Club on the same subject.

There is to be a welcome improvement in the Canada Year Book. As a result of conferences with provincial officials from Manitoba, Quebec and the Maritimes, it is expected that Provinces which have not heretofore given a breakdown of "real property" figures will in future show land and improvement assessments separately.

AGNES MACPHAIL ADVOCATES GEORGIST REMEDIES

Evalyne Forbes

On May 11th Miss Agnes Macphail, ex-M.P. for Grey County, addressed over two hundred members and friends of the Women's Association of Erskine United Church, Toronto. While not mentioning Henry George, she recommended for such deplorable conditions as existed during the terrible thirties, remedies almost identical with those expounded by the great philosopher. She urged the same courageous tackling of social and economic problems as was shown by Christ in his day.

Miss Macphail informed her audience that each trial of a juvenile delinquent costs the State \$1,200, and suggested the benefit that would ensue if that money were used instead to ensure better housing, health, and social and educational conditions for the families of our low salaried workers, thus preventing delinquency. She roundly scored the privileges granted private capital in the development of the country's resources, and declared that landholders must be compelled to utilize the country's land in a way consistent with the public interest.