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When the Dundonald was wrecked on the Auckland Islands in 1907, cold and hungry, the survivors struggled ashore on the bleakest island of the group, well named Disappointment Island. A year later they were rescued and brought to New Zealand all well. They had to construct mud huts, to catch sea-birds, seals and fish. They had a hard struggle, but they survived because they had free access to Nature. They had no unemployment relief, no social insurance, but they paid no rent and by applying their labor to the wild forbidding earth they produced food. In a modern city they would have starved unless relieved by charity. -- Mr. Justice O'Regan, in an article in The Catholic World.

I walked with Sefula Khan through his barley field. The blades scarcely reached my calf, and the grain was only half the size it should be.

Sefula Khan said: "If we had ten-inch instead of three-inch ploughs, of we need not give half our produce to the landlord, there would be no famine." -- Lieut. (R. E.) E. A. Rouse, Indian Command, in the News Chronicle, 4th October.

THE SQUARE DEAL

Published bi-monthly by the Henry George Society
Room 13, 991 Bay St., Toronto 5, Ont.
Ernest J. Farmer, Editor.

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ATTENTION, TORONTO GEORGISTS!

On account of the demands made upon the Secretary's time by his own professional work, it has not been possible to announce any regular hours at which the office of THE HENRY GEORGE SOCIETY would be open. Now however that Mr. Urquhart Adams has generously offered to devote a large part of his time to the work as Assistant Secretary, the office will be open daily (except Sunday) from 10.30 A. M. to 2 P. M., and on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 to 10 P. M. Besides a considerable library (from which books may be borrowed as well as referred to at the office) there are in the office recent copies of twelve Georgist periodicals. Members and friends are invited to make full use of these facilities.

THE MANIFESTO

Revision of the Manifesto proper is now complete, although a few details such as the exact form of the advertisements have yet to be settled. In spite of the adage that "too many cooks spoil the broth" the Committee feel that the result of their efforts, with the help of many correspondents who have made suggestions and in some cases pointed out errors, is for its size and scope an outstanding work. It should not be long before we are getting real results from this work.

THIRD AMATEUR YEAR

This issue completes the third year during which THE SQUARE DEAL has been prepared without paid help. On account of the demands made by the preparation of the Manifesto upon the Editor's time, only five numbers were issued instead of the usual six.

The subscription list again shows an increase, but at the present rate it will be too long before the printed form can be resumed. We urge our readers to do all possible to make the printing of THE SQUARE DEAL again possible. Not only is the printed form more easily read, but mimeographing takes a great deal of time which could be used for such important work as class organization.

For assistance in mimeographing, assembling and mailing, acknowledgments are due to Miss Evalyne Forbes, Miss Dorothy Coate, Mr. Robert Emby, Mr. Urquhart Adams and the Editor's wife and son David.

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Public relief is the greatest curse that ever struck this country. No one ever gets anything for nothing. -- Henry Ford.

I believe in eradication, and devote what money and time I have to means that, to my mind, strike deep down at causes -- strike, not at symptoms, but at the disease; this is why I give nothing, or next to nothing, to "charity".-- Joseph Fels.

HENRY GEORGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The 1944 Annual Meeting of the Henry George Society was held on Monday evening, May 22nd, at Coles' Restaurant, with the President, Mr. Howard Hogg, in the chair.

Mr. Alan Thompson gave a brief account of his experience as the first salaried Secretary of the Single Tax Association. During his term in office the Association succeeded in thwarting an attempt by the Grand Trunk Railway Co. to obtain a grant of twelve million acres of land for building a railway in Northern Canada; a grant which would have had the same evil results as the grant of twenty-five million acres previously made to the C. P. R. Mr. Thompson then outlined the development of the manifesto soon to be published. More than a year ago he had sent to more than 30 interested friends copies of various drafts. Among the recommendations received was one from Mr. J. Rupert Mason, that endorsements from a good number of celebrities should be included. A committee revised the manuscript, and distributed 500 copies in photolithograph form among Georgist friends. With each copy was a letter asking for suggestions for improvement, and for financial support. The committee then made further revision, adopting many of the suggestions and meeting criticisms.

Mr. Arthur Farmer reviewed briefly the attempts made to improve conditions through political action, from the attempt at gaining a \$700 exemption on dwellings in 1906 to the attempt at removing all taxes from buildings in Toronto in 1923. Although these attempts were unsuccessful, the Association did achieve a partial exemption on houses assessed at less than \$4,000, and by supporting the Sales Tax Repeal movement prevented the sales tax from being increased to 10 per cent. Mr. Farmer spoke of the remarkable fascination which "Progress and Poverty" had for him on his first reading, on which he could think of little else for three weeks. He asked, how can we get people to get far enough into this book to realize its power of conviction, when we cannot promise them a certificate which will give them the privilege of practising a trade or profession? He gave instances showing the difficulty of overcoming false ideas inculcated by the beneficiaries of privilege, and the need of long-sustained effort.

Mr. Ernest Farmer, as Secretary-Treasurer, reported the work done during the year. Only five numbers of THE SQUARE DEAL had been published, on account of the great amount of time demanded by the Manifesto. Apart from a number to whom a limited number of copies are being sent on account of the manifesto, the subscription list has increased by about twenty per cent in three years. He spoke of the vigorous educational campaign being carried on in Ottawa, Hamilton and Oshawa, more than forty having completed the study course in "Progress and Poverty", and of the class of twenty now being conducted by Mr. Arthur Farmer. He reported that Mr. Urquhart Adams, recently arrived from Peace River, had volun-

teered to devote his time mainly to Georgist work during the coming year; with Mr. Adams' help much more might be accomplished. Mr. Farmer reported \$130 in the treasury on May first, \$90 being money contributed for the manifesto and not yet expended; and \$43 in the School of Economic Science account.

Mr. Urquhart Adams stated that it had for a long time been his desire to devote himself to Georgist work, and that he could now see his way clear to do so for a time. Mr. C. B. Theberge expressed his gratification that he had been able to revive class work in Oshawa. Mr. Mack Caplin described his disappointment at finding so little educational activity here, in comparison with the work being done in Montreal, and expressed his determination to do something towards reviving it.

The following committees were elected: -- Executive Committee: Howard Hogg, President; Miss Dorothy Coate, Vice-President; Ernest Farmer, Secretary-Treasurer; Urquhart Adams, Assistant Secretary; Robert Emby, David Farmer, J. McEride, Allan Cullingworth, Mrs. Hogg, Mrs. Wear, Miss Louisa Macdonald, Miss Evalyne Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Hall. Advisory Committee, to meet with the Executive Committee as determined by the President: Dr. S. T. Floyd, A. B. Farmer, J. A. Martin, Alan C. Thompson, L. B. Walling, Miss Florence Macdonald, Miss Ollerhead.

Although no direct appeal for money was made, contributions of \$21 to the Society and \$14 to the School funds were received.

FREEZING LAND PRICES

J. Francis Lemon

Land prices are going up and depression is around the corner. Every boom in land prices has been followed by depression. Vice-President Wallace has said that land speculation is a greater curse than war itself. It is no accident that in his own state of Iowa, where land speculation drove land prices highest during the last war, the deepest distress in farm depression was experienced.

One wonders why we do not hear more of putting a ceiling price on land during these days of attempted price regulation. A few have proposed it. A discussion of the economics of the proposal should be instructive in these days of fear that inflation may drive all prices out of the reach of ordinary pocket books.

Generally speaking, the writer does not believe that price fixing can be successful. But land transfers are peculiar in that they are valid only when recorded in the county office, as with the probate judge in Alabama. Here is one check on the black market not found for goods of a portable nature. But even here a law freezing land prices would need a few teeth to prevent secret prices and bonuses that purchasers might conveniently forget in making their

declarations to the recorder.

In the early days of war-time price control, we heard of government troops stopping trucks on the road and buying out for army use the contents of the same at the prices fixed by the price administration. The psychological effect of this action on the black marketers can be imagined. Now why not freeze the price of land and give the State the right to buy it at the frozen price?

New Zealand is said to use this device to get assessments for taxation purposes. The owner turns in his own valuation for taxing purposes with the understanding that it is also his selling price. If land is assessed too low to avoid taxes then the State may avail itself of some cheap land for its homestead projects.

No one would care to pay a double price for land with the State buying a piece here and there on such terms occasionally, no telling where the lightning might strike next.

But why should the State buy land? Well, there is need of a new homestead law to supply homes for the homeless. The United States once fought wars and paid large indemnities to the vanquished, thus obtaining territories which it proceeded to give away, partly to homesteaders. Minus the war part, there is no argument for not doing it again. There is still plenty land held in idleness and half use. Very well, let the prices be frozen at a hundred per cent of the present tax rolls. Then let the State, or national government, take it over as needed for small homesteads.

In England, Prime Minister Churchill has promised a house building program for after the war. And he assures us that the landlords will not hold up the program by inflated land prices. Evidently, some freezing device for land prices is under operation in Britain.

There is, however, one supreme method of settling the matter for good. This is to abolish land prices altogether by the Georgist plan of collecting the full rent of the land in taxation. No one would care to pay a purchase price to a land holder, when the State required the full yearly value as taxes every year.

In Fairhope, years ago, there was some speculation in Colony lots. Speculators leased and held lots for which they demanded bonuses from prospective home builders, as a price of relinquishing their leases. There is no such practice at present. The Single Tax Corporation comes more closely to collecting the full rental value on its land, since the wharf no longer yields the income it once did.

Not only that, but the presence of Colony land available to home builders without purchase price has the effect of checking high prices on privately owned deeded land in the neighborhood. High priced deeded land is something of a drug on the market in Fairhope. Perhaps as good a plan as any to check high land prices would be to plant a few Fairhopes around the country at convenient intervals. -- Fairhope Courier, May 18, 1944.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Henry George Society, May 1, 1943 -- April 30, 1944.

RECEIPTS

Cash, May 1, 1943	\$ 21.45
In Bank, May 1, 1943	48.23
Square Deal	40.60
Book Depot	109.15
Manifesto Subscriptions	228.89
Benjamin Kirk Estate	50.00
Henry George Foundation	22.50
Dividends	37.20
Memberships	10.00
General Subscriptions	54.38
Miscellaneous	2.21

\$624.61

DISBURSEMENTS

Cash, April 30, 1944	\$ 21.71
In Bank, April 30, 1944	108.74
Square Deal	44.00
Book Depot	59.90
Manifesto	137.00
Rent	180.00
Secretary's Expenses	38.00
Postage	13.00
Stationery	9.90
Bank and Exchange	2.06
Miscellaneous	10.30

\$624.61

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All the factors that brought about industrial and business depressions after World War I are present in an exaggerated form now. The chief of these factors is speculation in land values. Never has such speculation been so unbridled as it is today. Every form of industry, but especially building and farming, is hampered by it. If we break land monopoly and the power to hold land out of use for a rise, we can still avert a depression here and bring about a real prosperity in which all our people can share. But it can be done only in that way. -- F. W. Lucas, K. C., in "The Free People" (Johannesburg).

A basic evil in the economic condition today in our own and in other countries is that while valuable land is all "taken up" there are vast quantities that are not in use, but merely held for speculation. This is the natural result of the present taxation system which fosters speculation at the expense of trade, building, manufacture and agriculture. The taxation of land values would incline things the other way. It would foster useful trade and industry at the expense of speculation. -- Prof. Lewis J. Johnson, Harvard University.

I have travelled through or flown over millions upon millions of acres of fallow land capable of feeding multitudes. I have seen millions jammed in cities living in poverty and degradation; elsewhere I have seen crops rotting in fields and fruit dropping unpicked from trees because there was no market for the food. There must be some system, I should think, of bringing the capacities of production and the requirements of consumption together, so that the whole world can enjoy the advantages made available by the machine. -- Webb Mills, in "I Found No Peace."

CITY DUMPS AND SLUMS

Oscar Boelens

(A letter in the Montreal Gazette)

With regard to the dumps in the big cities, condemnation and eradication of slums, etc: -- the only sure and effective way to do that would be to exempt all improvements from taxation and collect the wherewithal to meet the city budget by collection of the economic land rent instead. We need no other laws to interfere with enterprizing citizens' freedom; they will look after the beautifying and developing of their surroundings to the fullest extent themselves in quick order as it will be to their own advantage as well as the city's as a whole. -- With regard to Mr. Desmond Iveson's suggestion of obtaining private subscriptions to buy properties, raze dumps and erect modern dwellings in co-operation with the Dominion Government: -- the question rises, who in this case would collect the revenue?

If the city authorities will only amend the by-laws to permit them reducing all taxation on buildings and improvements by 10% for ten consecutive years and distribute that deduction on the aggregate over the assessable land, built-up or vacant, according to its value, you will see an improvement in the housing situation and the beautifying and improvement of the looks of any city in the same year.

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We are not rich enough to tolerate the luxury of slums. They produce little or no municipal revenue and any share they pay is out of all proportion to the direct and indirect expenses of maintaining them. We are in fact subsidizing slum areas and I think we would be in pocket by tearing them down and erecting modern housing. -- George S. Mooney, executive director, Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, in an address to the Toronto Property-Owners' Association, reported in The Globe and Mail.

In Indianapolis it was found that \$27.29 per capita was spent in the congested districts for fire, police and public health protection as compared with \$4 per capita in other areas. -- Jay Franklin, in "Remaking America".

Under the present economic setup, slum clearance fails for the simple reason that it always falls foul of an invisible barrier erected through the combined forces of inflated ground values and overtaxation of improvements. -- Louis Wallis, in "Burning Question".

SECURITY, WAGES AND TAXES

C. L. HUCKABONE

(A letter published in both Star and Gazette, Montreal)

We are being flooded with plans for social security in a post-war world, each calling for a greater outlay of public funds than its predecessor. Whatever revenue the Government spends must first be collected in the form of taxes, 90 per cent of which, in all probability, come directly or indirectly out of the wages of labor. The greater the expenditure, therefore, the heavier the tax burden and, an inevitable consequence, the lower the wages of labor as well as labor's standard of living.

The mass of people may be divided into three groups: the unemployable, who cannot earn enough to keep body and soul together, the large body of wage earners, and the relatively small high-income group.

As taxes mount, net wages fall, and more and more laborers are forced into the lowest brackets and become dependent upon social security and other charitable agencies.

So long as such plans, through higher taxes, make for lower net wages, they are foredoomed to failure, just as similar schemes in the past have proved unworkable, or at least highly extravagant since their cost was entirely out of line with the benefits conferred. The present tax system while purporting to afford some degree of "equality of sacrifice", actually promotes gross inequality, and will continue to do so as long as the great bulk of taxes comes out of the earnings of labor.

How different the result would be if taxes were taken from a source other than wages! That other source, at present largely tax free, is economic rent, or the site value of land. Let the Government turn to that huge reservoir and it can take the greatest step of all in the direction of social security by lowering taxes on labor and labor products, increasing net wages and ending unemployment.

Labor requires only the opportunity to go to work and will produce its own wages as well as a return for the capital used in its employ. Sufficient incomes, earned in a self-respecting fashion make it unnecessary to provide social security for other than the maimed, very old and victims of storm or flood.

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Charity is twice cursed -- it hardens him who gives and softens him who takes. It does more harm to the poor than exploitation, for it makes them willing to be exploited. -- Bouke White, quoted in "Our Commonwealth" (San Francisco.)

OTTAWA NOTES

H. T. Owens

The class in International Trade has completed its sessions.

Under Premier Godbout, a number of notable reforms have been achieved, from which the people of Quebec Province will benefit in years to come. A number of items have been taken off the list of articles liable for sales tax. The Montreal Light, Heat and Power Company has been expropriated and its assets transferred to the provincially-established Hydro Commission. Tolls on bridges leading to the Island of Montreal have been abolished. The Godbout Government will go to the people some time this year.

The Ottawa branch of the C. C. F. have suggested a twelve-point program, including such items as a Bill of Rights for Canadians, an international railways agreement, ratification and implementation of the decisions of the International Labour Office in Canada, the taking over by the government (which one not specified) of private universities, immediate action on the housing crisis, promotion of an international government, encouragement of trade and friendship with Latin America, preparation of a Five-Year Plan in anticipation of a C. C. F. government, etc. There is still no appreciation of the need for reform in our basic land set-up.

MONTREAL NEWS

Strethel Walton

One class in "Progress and Poverty" started on April 4th and is still proceeding. All other classes have finished.

Mr. Adam Cunningham, a correspondence student in Kenogami, Que., is running a short column in the local paper on the philosophy of Henry George and hopes to hold a class there in the fall.

Mr. Oscar Boelens addressed the Ligue Proprietaires de Montreal at their May meeting on the subject of Land Value Taxation and a committee was formed to study his tax proposals.

The last meeting of the Henry George School of the season was held Thursday, May 25th at Emmanuel Church. The program included an address by Prof. Frank Scott, Professor of Civil Law at McGill University and author of "Make This Your Canada", on "The Economic Basis of the C. C. F." With the notices of the meeting were included copies of a brief statement of the differences between a socialist state and a free economy. Prof. Scott's address was preceded by a sketch "Is This Wet Capital?", by Mr. Marcil Laflamme.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

COALDALE, Alta: This village, nearly the size of Milk River, has abolished taxation on buildings and improvements. Already a number of centrally situated lots, formerly held on speculation, have been offered for sale.

CHICAGO, Ill.: On April 4th commencement exercises were held for 205 graduates of the winter term. 41 classes in Fundamental Economics opened during the week of April 17th. The total number of graduates in 1943 is announced as 636.

LOS ANGELES, Calif.: Enrollment for the spring term included 272 in the Fundamental Economics classes, and 29 in the International Trade classes. Students are receiving high school credit for a class taught by Wm. Beach Truehart in the Roosevelt High School.

NEW YORK, N. Y.: "Information Service", a weekly pamphlet published by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ, included in the March 25th number a considerable article on "The Movement for Land Values Taxation" by Margaret Bateman.

£200,000,000 FOR PUBLIC WORKS

Consideration is being given to a big public works program to be undertaken when the war ends. Sir Harry Brown proposed "immediate concentration on a programme of works, estimated cost of which would be £200 millions." Public works as a means of providing employment has been a policy of politicians for over 50 years. Enormous debts have been built up, but each generation of promising politicians looks in the same direction.

This policy has consistently failed to solve the unemployment problem. Consider any important work. For a little while a number of men are employed in carrying it out. It is a temporary affair. The permanent advantages of the work are registered in higher land values for the benefit of the owners. The men earn their wages, but the landowners get the unearned increment as a gift. Now we are promised the biggest public works stunt in history -- when the war ends -- and the biggest wad of unearned increment for landowners.

Labour Governments try to outdo Conservative Governments in piling up debts to make a few landowners richer than ever. To call such "Labour" policy is a gross imposition. What difference does it make to the land monopolist whether it is a "Labour" Government that spends the public money to boost his land values or any other Government? The time is rotten ripe for the Labour Party to wake up. -- The Standard (Sydney).