

The Square Deal

WE CLAIM THE EARTH AS THE PROPERTY OF THE WHOLE PEOPLE

To the individual, the values created by his own industry, without taxation. To the community, the values created by the community for revenue.

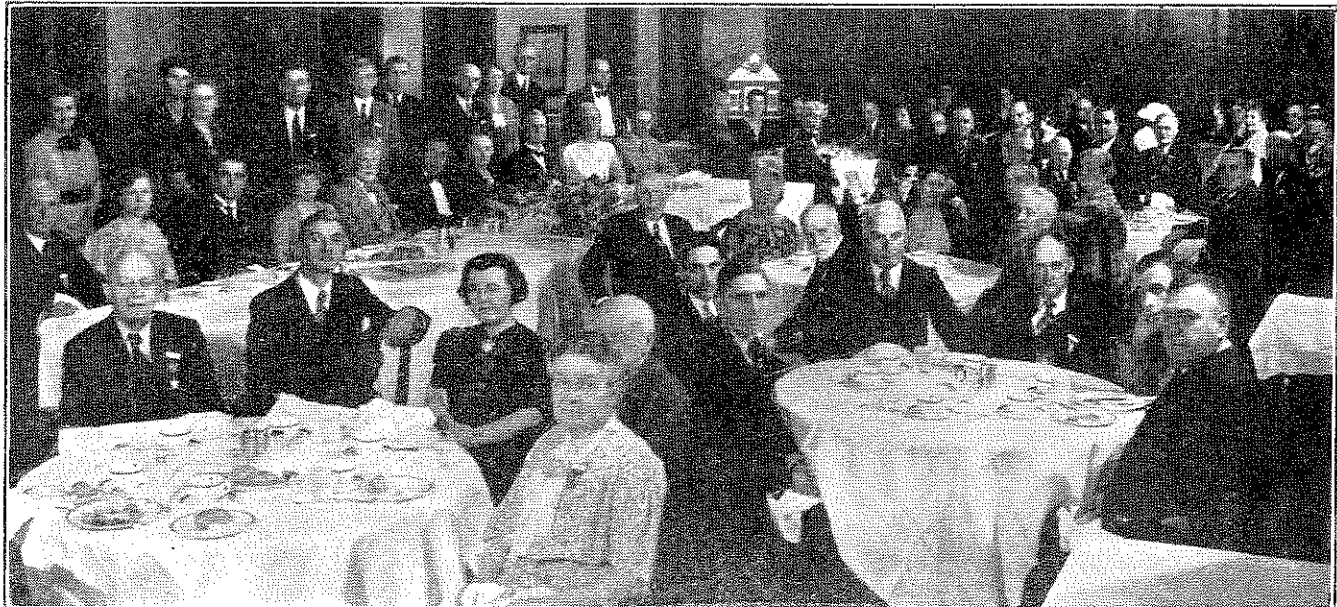
VOL. XXXI. No. 270

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1938

103

10c. per copy

Thirteenth Annual Congress OF THE Henry George Foundation of America Toronto Meeting Records Encouraging Progress



The Banquet in the Tudor Room of the Royal York Hotel

Standing : Mrs. F. W. Wilkinson, Miss M. D. Smellie, Miss Strehel Walton, L. B. Walling, P. R. Williams, Dr. F. W. Wilkinson, Geo. C. Olcott, Mrs. Olcott, C. A. Lingham, Ross C. Holley.

Seated : Back row—John Anderson, Mrs. C. J. Ewing, Hon. A. W. Roebuck, Mrs. Anna George deMille, J. H. L. Patterson (Chairman), Hon. Peter Witt, Mrs. Roebuck, Clayton J. Ewing, Margaret E. Bateman, Otto Cullman, Chas. H. Ingersoll, Dorothy E. Coate, Miss Jeffrey, Dr. Mark Millikin, Geo. M. Strachan, Margery Warriner, Alan C. Thompson, Miss Louisa Macdonald, B. W. Burger, Col. Victor A. Rule, Miss Edith Thompson, Frank Chodorov, Miss Florence Macdonald, Donald Macdonald, Harold W. Becker, Ernest J. Farmer, Lancaster M. Greene, Miss Ollerhead, Mrs. G. B. Cooley, Mrs. H. H. McEvoy, Mr. G. B. Cooley, Mrs. F. R. Longstaff.

Left Front Table—Joseph Dana Miller, Arthur Seale, Miss Seale, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Smith.

Centre Table—Thos. Bengough, Mrs. Wesley E. Barker, A. C. Campbell, Mrs. J. C. Fuller, W. L. Crozman, J. C. Fuller.

Centre, Right Table—Francis J. Fee, Lewis H. Clark, Mrs. Fee, C. V. Horne, Mrs. L. H. Clark, A. I. Mackay, Lester A. Jenks.

Front Right Table—Frank Johnston, I. F. Goode, W. R. Williams, Mathew Cowden, J. O. McCorquodale, Dr. W. M. Sivers.

The Henry George Foundation of America met for the first time on Canadian soil when its 13th Annual Congress was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto, on the 7th, 8th and 9th of September. With the Congress was merged the first convention of the Tax Relief Association, Inc.,—the body authorized at last year's Congress to plan for the good of the whole American movement. The historic importance of the gathering was equalled by its success.

There were 75 delegates, 48 of whom came from the United States and 27 from Canada. The honor of coming the longest distance goes to Donald Macdonald of Fairbanks, Alaska; an engineer who has done much to promote the plan of an international highway through British Columbia to Alaska. Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Cooley of Monroe, Louisiana were the sole representatives of the storied South.

One of the most colorful personalities at the Congress was Mrs. H. H. McEvoy, a native of Embro, Ontario; a resident for many years of Washington, D.C., where she is President of the Women's Single Tax Club. Passing years are powerless to quench "Alaska's Jane's" vigor and enthusiasm; her spirited remarks both regaled and stimulated her fellow delegates.

Mrs. Anna George deMille, youngest and only surviving child of Henry George, gave a gracious touch to the gathering which no one else could have done.

Another delegate with a long record of Single Tax service, whose constant attendance showed her unflagging interest, was Mrs. Wesley E. Barker, formerly of New York and Toronto, now of London, Ontario.

The Hon. Peter Witt, of Cleveland, Ohio, one of the ablest lieutenants of the late Mayor Tom L. Johnson, notable for his contributions to the struggle, was yet another of the older stalwarts.

A. C. Campbell of Ottawa, active campaigner for the Gospel of Plenty, was a distinguished member of the group of veteran Georgists whose mental and physical alertness so belied their years that a knot of young recruits was overheard speculating whether George's philosophy could be the real Fountain of Youth.

Another outstanding figure at the Congress was Ontario's Arthur Roebuck, a Single Taxer who has attained high rank in the public service.

Montreal sent a group of four, headed by Mr. John Anderson, while Canada's long-distance delegate, Mr. I. F. Goode, came from Sangudo, Alberta.

George C. Olcott, of Chicago, has the distinction of being publisher of a land values blue book, said to be unique in the United States. Capt. Lester A. Jenks, of Philadelphia, an adept for pushing study groups, was immortalized by being incorporated—though not by name—in an interview given by Mrs. deMille to a local reporter.

James C. Fuller, of Kansas City, sent two exhibits of his little red schoolhouse, a visual advertisement of the Henry George School idea, and with one of its diminutive mite-box replicas garnered \$6.00 from the delegates as a contribution to the School's work in Canada.

The registration was as follows:

United States

Fairbanks, Alaska—Donald MacDonald.
Washington, D.C.—Mrs. Helena Mitchell McEvoy.

Chicago, Illinois—Otto Cullman, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. C. Olcott, Lt.-Col. Victor A. Rule, Geo. M. Strachan. Peoria—E. Schentke.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa—Mathew Cowden.
Monroe, Louisiana—Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Cooley.
Revere, Massachusetts—W. L. Crosman.
Birmingham, Michigan—George R. Averill.
Detroit—F. Gordon Pickell, A. Laurence Smith.
Kansas City, Missouri—Mr. and Mrs. James C. Fuller.

Omaha, Nebraska—Harold W. Becker.
Albany, New York—Gilbert M. Tucker. New York—Benjamin W. Burger, Harold S. Batten-

heim, Frank Chodorov, Clyde Dart, Lancaster M. Greene, Chas. H. Ingersoll, Sidney Manster, Mrs. Anna George deMille, Joseph Dana Miller, John Lawrence Monroe, William W. Newcomb, Jos. Hiram Newman, William S. O'Connor, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wambough, Miss Margery Warriner. Lockport—C. A. Lingham, Ross C. Holley. Rochester—Dr. Harvey H. Newcomb. Sodus—Lewis H. Clark.

Cleveland, Ohio—Peter Witt. Hamilton—Dr. Mark Millikin.

Berlin, Pennsylvania—C. V. Horne. Glenolden—Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Smith. Philadelphia—Francis J. Fee, Capt. Lester A. Jenks. Pittsburgh—Percy R. Williams.

Canada

Sangudo, Alberta—I. F. Goode.

Agincourt, Ontario—Miss Janet Scott, Miss Margaret Scott. London—Mrs. Wesley E. Barker. Peterborough—H. B. Cowan. Ottawa—A. C. Campbell. Toronto—Miss Dorothy E. Coate, Mrs. G. M. Coulthard, Ernest J. Farmer, Dr. Stanley T. Floyd, A. Herridge, Miss Florence Macdonald, Miss Louisa B. Macdonald, A. I. MacKay, J. A. Martin, Prof. S. B. McCready, J. O. McCorquodale, Miss M. Q. Ollerhead, Herbert T. Owens, J. H. L. Patterson, Hon. A. W. Roebuck, Alan C. Thompson, L. B. Walling.

Montreal, Quebec—John Anderson, Miss Margaret E. Bateman, Mrs. L. Boudler, Miss Strehel Walton.

Mr. J. H. L. Patterson, President of the Single Tax Association of Canada, opened the Congress with gracious words of greeting and introduced Alderman W. A. Howell, who welcomed the visitors to Toronto on behalf of the Mayor and City Council.

In the absence of the Hon. George E. Evans, President of the Henry George Foundation of America, whose ill-health prevented his coming, Secretary Percy R. Williams of the Foundation responded, and A. Laurence Smith, President of the Tax Relief Association, replied for his organization.

Mr. Patterson read the cabled greetings from Mr. A. W. Madsen on behalf of the sister movement in Great Britain.

A committee on program and resolutions was named as follows: Miss Bateman, Mrs. McEvoy, Messrs. Patterson, Rule, Laurence Smith, Thompson and Williams.

Lt.-Col. Victor A. Rule, executive secretary of the Tax Relief Association, then conducted a "Know One Another" ritual, in which each person present, rising, told who he was, whence he came, and when or how he first became a follower of Henry George. This was one of the most interesting features of the Congress, the usual testimony being that someone had introduced the speaker either to Henry George or to his writings and acquaintance had ripened into active discipleship. Most of the younger element came through the Henry George School of Social Science. This ritual was extended to subsequent sessions as new delegates arrived.

(continued on page 6)

THE SQUARE DEAL

A Journal of Democracy

Published Bi-Monthly.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Alan C. Thompson

Ernest J. Farmer

Margaret E. Bateman

Dorothy E. Coate

A. C. Campbell

Herbert T. Owens

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Yearly 50 cents

Ontario Publication OfficeRooms 13-14, 991 Bay Street Toronto, Ont.
R.A. 5891**REMOVAL NOTICE**

Will our readers kindly note that we have removed as from October 1st from Bloor St. East to Rooms 13 and 14, 991 Bay Street, near St. Joseph Street.

THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

Toronto was glad to welcome the 13th Annual Congress of the Henry George Foundation of America and we were delighted to extend hospitality to so many of our American confrères. At the same time, there was an encouraging rally of our Canadian Georgists from centres other than Toronto.

It is gratifying to know that the Congress was deemed a success by so many delegates both as a meeting and for the importance of the actions taken. The American movement as a whole will be invigorated by the organization of the Tax Relief Association, Inc., and the Canadian group has been stimulated by the contact, and by the whole-hearted cooperation being extended by the Henry George School of Social Science in New York.

The whole continental movement shows unmistakable signs of becoming an ever-increasing power in the economic affairs of the United States and Canada.

CANADA FOOTS THE LIST

According to the World Economic Survey for 1937, published by the League of Nations, Canada is found at the bottom of the list in a survey of the revival of building. Great Britain gives an index of 151 based on 1929 figures, South Africa is 279, Australia 89, New Zealand 84, United States 56, France 46.3, Canada 38. The Winnipeg Free Press comments: "The general and extremely serious retardation of the building industry in this country is quite evidently due to the burden of taxation on property, which discourages enterprise in both home and commercial construction."

The Free Press does not intimate whether it considers that sites are "property" but it is significant that in South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, where the index figures are high, much more taxation is levied on site values than in Canada. The building trades in Canada cannot be permanently revived until we stop fining the builder and improver.

C. B. C. REFUSES AIR FOR BROADCAST AGAINST THE SALES TAX

For some months past the Sales Tax Repeal Association has been negotiating for a series of broadcasts to inform the public of the arguments against that particular form of concealed taxation.

Permission to make these broadcasts has been withheld. Evidently the censors do not desire any public ventilation over the air of the way in which business and the consuming public are being mulcted by this obnoxious tax. The struggle for freedom of the press is supposedly won—to the dismay and discomfiture of Premier Aberhart as his record shows—but another battle in the cause of justice—the freedom of the air—has still to be fought. The Sales Tax Repeal Association will not be slow to take up the gauntlet.

WHY NOT TAX LAND VALUES INSTEAD ?

Premier Hepburn of Ontario has announced that his government is considering an increase in the gasoline tax from 6c to 7c per gallon, and the granting of power to municipalities to levy a municipal sales tax to ease the burden of social services on real estate.

We have communicated to the Premier our opinion that his proposals are both reactionary and unsound; and have called his attention to a letter sent by his Attorney General, Hon. Gordon Conant, to the Mayor of Oshawa, in which it is stated that the new highway now being constructed through Oshawa "will add to property values and assessments along and in the immediate vicinity of the route."

Here it is conceded by the Attorney General that the expenditure of public funds for public improvements does create values which are privately appropriated by the owners of land along the route of the improvement. In other words, values which are created by expenditures of the funds of ALL the people of Ontario are appropriated by SOME of the people.

This is a manifest injustice. Since it is the spending of public money which creates the values it is only just that those values should revert to the public and not to private individuals. If the government were to take these values it would not have to raise the gasoline tax, and if municipalities were to tax the unearned increment of land values within their own boundaries they would not need to resort to the expedient of a municipal sales tax.

The federal budget of Australia was tabled on September 21st. Some interesting features are: land tax increased 11 per cent: income tax raised 15 per cent: sales tax increased from 1 per cent to 5 per cent. The sales tax, be it noted, was copied from the Canadian fiscal set-up, and we are not happy in the thought that we exported this unsound idea to our sister Dominion.

Ashley Mitchell on Britain's Moral Decline

Predicts Socialization of Land Through Taxation of Land Values

An ever-welcome visitor to Canada is Mr. Ashley Mitchell, woollen manufacturer, of Huddersfield, England, who is also an honorary treasurer of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values of Great Britain. Mr. Mitchell visited Montreal and Toronto in the latter part of July and early August, and this time brought with him his wife and their young daughter and a niece. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell were the guests of Mr. John Anderson at a luncheon group in Montreal, and on August 3rd there was a luncheon in their honor at the Station Dining Room in Toronto.

At the latter, Mr. Alan C. Thompson presided and called on Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, K.C., to introduce the guest. In returning thanks for the welcome extended, Mr. Mitchell conveyed greetings from sister organizations in Great Britain. He expressed gratification that his business interests have carried him to such widely separated points as Buenos Aires and Norway, and said that it is always a joy to meet Georgists, and that he had always found that among believers in philosophy of freedom and moral righteousness all barriers of race and creed go by the board at once. The visitor claimed to be quite at home in a gathering of Toronto Single-taxers, having known the late W. A. Douglass, its early organizer, and many of his successors, and he congratulated the organization on its recent growth, remarking humorously that old timers like himself ought to charge "rent" to the new recruits for the privilege of joining the movement.

British Conditions Confusing

Mr. Mitchell described conditions in Great Britain as very confusing at present. They had to solve the riddle of the sphinx which not to solve is to be destroyed. The situation has aspects of sitting on a volcano. Public life seems to have lost its sense of moral values, and unless there is a return to the moral tone of thirty or forty years ago, when such moral questions as land tax reform were to the fore, the outlook is not so hopeful. He recalled the recent remark of Viscount Cecil, a dyed-in-the-wool Conservative, that he "would give anything for a week of Mr. Gladstone." The speaker opined that you could not have a Gladstone today. Gladstone was but the mouthpiece of the moral opinions of his day. We cannot have a man in authority if he has no supporters, or unless the people behind him are sympathetic with his view. There could never have been a Cobden, or a Bright, or a Roebuck—one of Arthur Roebuck's ancestors—in the times of the Anti-Corn Laws days if there had not been thousands of men and women who sympathized with them and supported their efforts.

In foreign affairs the position of Great Britain to-day is pathetic. When you think what it has

been in the past it is pitiable to think of the loss of moral leadership. Much is said of the influence of the powerful neighbour to the south of the line, but the speaker said he could successfully defend the assertion that the spokesman of the British Empire—not England only but the whole Empire—speaks for the most important body of opinion in the world in the councils of the nations at all times. It is simply tragic that that voice to-day should be a pitifully halting voice contrasted with the great Liberal prime ministers of other days.

Stupidity of Monopoly

Business men are short-sighted and blind to-day. In the financial papers one sees wonderful schemes outlined, great display of ingenuity and cleverness, and yet these same people, with such imagination, have not the further imagination to realize the folly of monopoly or the stupidity of going in for a policy of monopoly and grabbing all. A monopoly cannot endure in anything in the nature of a democracy. People may be deluded for a time. But the doom of a system of monopoly is sealed: the end will come some time. People who have secured the management and control of everything should not be surprised if the majority of people just naturally turn socialistic. That is what is happening in Great Britain. The Conservative party is sowing the seeds of socialism just as fast as it is possible for anyone to sow such seeds.

Despite discouraging conditions, the speaker declared himself as always a giddy optimist. Although the Conservatives are making Socialists at a great rate, the fact remains that through the propaganda of the land values group for the taxation and rating of land values, if there were to be a "government of the left" in England—any change from the present Conservative government—such government would be certain to introduce a measure for the taxation of land values within the first year or two of its existence. Through the local rating authorities, and through conferences of the Liberal and Labour parties, such public opinion has been made that it is certain there will be something done along those lines whenever we get rid of the present Chamberlain government. Though Mr. Clement Atlee, the leader of the Labour Party, has expressed himself as favoring compensation of land-owners when a land socialization scheme is brought down, Mr. Mitchell believes that there are too many members of the executives of the Liberal and Labour parties in favor of socialization by the method of taxing land values to permit Mr. Atlee's view to succeed.

Some twenty of the local group were present at the luncheon, and all anticipate Mr. Mitchell's visits as an annual feature of our calendar, and hope that Mrs. Mitchell will accompany him again.

Study Groups Resume :: Show Expansion

Hamilton Extension

The Hamilton group under the leadership of Mr. Ernest J. Farmer of Toronto held its first session at the home of the Extension Secretary Mr. Robert Wynne, 80 Victoria Ave. South on September 30. A good turnout was reported and prospects for the season's work are encouraging. Several promising teachers, graduates of last year's classes, are training for leadership of future groups.

Montreal Extension

Montreal held a rally at the Y. M. C. A. on October 5. Notices were sent to a considerable list of selected names. Two groups were planned and met jointly on Monday, October 17, and thereafter Miss Margaret Bateman's group meets on Mondays at the Y.W.C.A. and Mr. John Anderson's group meets on Thursdays.

Ottawa Extension

This year, for the first time, we are to have a class in Ottawa. Mr. Herb. G. Barber of that city had his first session on October 2nd and the class is held on Sunday evenings. A Montreal deputation made a fraternal visit to the Ottawa group on October 16th. This group was arranged by John Lawrence Monroe, Field Secretary of the H.G.S.S.S.

Oshawa Extension

Plans are now under way for a class in Oshawa to begin October 20th in the Genosha Hotel at 8 p.m. Mr. A. I. MacKay will be the leader.

Toronto Extensions

Five groups were scheduled for opening in October as follows:

Location	Leader
Central, 991 Bay St.	Dr. Stanley Floyd
West End, 241 Crawford St.	J. A. Martin
West Toronto, Keele Street Church of Christ, corner Annette	C. C. March
East End, Beaches Presby- terian Church, Queen E. and Glenmanor Drive	Alan C. Thompson
Bayview-Leaside, Leaside School	Josiah Baker

It is hoped this list will be enlarged.

Post graduate groups and discussion meetings also are being planned.

Lancaster M. Greene writes from New York; "We took title to the H.G.S.S.S. new home August 26th, a week ahead of schedule. Now all we have to do is to raise another \$46,500 to balance the \$50,000 it will put our finances out." The parent school is now housed in a 5-storey building of its own at 30 East 29th Street. Considering that the first classes were held in a room of Oscar Geiger's home in 1933, this is remarkable progress.

HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP

MEETS AT NEW YORK

By Strethel Walton

The first conference of the Federated Chapters of the Henry George Fellowship was held at the headquarters of the Henry George School in New York on July 3rd and 4th.

Mr. Nathan Hillman, President opened the conference with a brief commentary on its aims and purposes and then introduced Mrs. Anna George deMille, who welcomed the delegates, and urged them all to continue the splendid work of the school.

Mr. Hillman reported on the work of the Fellowship since its inception a year ago. The organization had grown to twelve chapters in ten different states, and there were 37 delegates from these chapters and one from Canada.

It was unanimously agreed that the movement's most important work is education, and the best method is the organization of more classes. It was felt also that the Fellowship could be very useful in keeping graduates of the school from drifting away from the movement. It was suggested that members of classes be asked to join the Fellowship at the ninth lesson in Progress and Poverty, and that there should be regular meetings, giving every member some work to do for the school, such as sending out circulars, writing to the local papers, arranging social evenings, raising money, as well as teaching new classes. Many delegates reported that they found in the graduates' dinner a good opportunity to raise funds for the school. Most chapters charge a fee of \$1.00 for joining the Fellowship and regular monthly dues. After finishing the course in Progress and Poverty it was felt that the next important step was to persuade graduates to go on to the course in "International Trade."

The best method of teaching is to get the pupils to answer the questions, and if possible to get several different answers before giving the right answer from the manual. Pupils understand the subject better when they are made to think it out themselves first. Mrs. deMille said some pupils had not the time or the interest to read all the chapters on the Margin of Cultivation or the Law of Rent, and found it better to have them mark the most important paragraphs as outlined in the manual.

It was decided to have a bulletin for interchange of ideas between Fellowship Chapters. This to be included in the membership fee.

A National Publicity Committee was organized, each chapter to appoint three members of their local chapters to cooperate with the National Committee.

Mr. Nathan Hillman was re-elected President and Mr. John Anderson is the Canadian representative on the Executive Committee.

Story of Toronto Congress

Continued from page 2

Tax Relief Association Program

On Tuesday afternoon, under the chairmanship of A. Laurence Smith of Detroit, the Tax Relief Association sponsored the following program:

Address: Why have a national program? by Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, N.Y.

Address: Is the time ripe for action? by the chairman.

Address: Working together for success, by Anna George deMille.

Mrs. deMille referred to the campaign now proceeding in California for the repeal of that State's sales tax. She read a telegram from N. D. Alper, executive secretary, reporting that the Supreme Court of California had ruled that the sales tax repeal question should go on the ballot in November. Mrs. deMille congratulated the California committee on its huge achievement in securing 187,000 signatures for a referendum and urged support of the appeal for financial aid made by Mr. Alper, but regretted that the California committee had not preceded their political campaign by two years of intensive School activity, the surest way to secure the invaluable aid of a well informed electorate.

At the close of Mrs. deMille's speech, Mr. Harold Buttenheim offered to double all contributions to the California Campaign, up to \$100.00. Mrs. deMille was appointed to receive the sums contributed to match Mr. Buttenheim's generous offer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION

The evening session was presided over by Mr. John Anderson of Montreal. Mr. Anderson has the honour of initiating and teaching the first HGSSS classes in Montreal. Other good teachers have been developed by his work of the past two years.

Benjamin W. Burger

When the evening's first scheduled speaker failed to appear, Mr. Benjamin W. Burger, barrister, of New York, who had been briefed by "Land and Freedom" to report the Congress, graciously stepped into the breach with an excellent address. His subject was: "What to Emphasize in Teaching the Georgist Philosophy." His five points were:

1. We live on the earth which furnishes all our material needs.
2. All human beings have an equal right to live on the earth.
3. The earth cannot be "owned".
4. Rent is a differential measuring the desirability of different locations.
5. Applying rent to our common needs and abolishing taxation, we in effect establish the equal right of every human being to live.

Chas. H. Ingersoll

Charles H. Ingersoll, of "dollar watch" fame, president of the Manhattan Single Tax Club of New York City, lecturer, editor and radio speaker, spoke next on: "Why Single Tax Should Appeal to Business."

Mr. Ingersoll pointed out that business has built our civilizations; fostered the arts; put to work the discoveries of scientists; organized government. But business to-day is in many respects bankrupt—its education system has failed, especially at the point where it is logically called on to explain the economic muddle.

Our sales talk to the business man, must start with economics. He must note that all the achievements of business have been in consonance with natural laws; its failure can only be ascribed to violations of natural law, among such violations being many of the New Deal experiments. The formula of economics is the constitution of business. The formula states:

- (a) Labor produces all wealth assisted by capital (which is created by labor).
- (b) Production is the exclusive basis or title to the ownership of wealth or property.
- (c) Labor and its partner, capital, are the exclusive owners of the product.
- (d) No monopolists, speculators or holders of special privilege may participate in this division.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION

World Survey, by Miss Bateman

Mr. Patterson, once more presiding, introduced Miss Margaret E. Bateman of Montreal, whose World Survey of the progress of the movement proved the highlight of the Congress. Miss Bateman's personal observation of tax conditions abroad and at home, her careful research and the accuracy of her facts and statistics, give authority to all her statements, while her charming personality and the simple conciseness of her phrasing make listening to her a pleasure.

In this paper, her comparisons between the percentage of population landless in our important modern nations, and in the great nations of antiquity at the time of their downfall, startled even her well-informed hearers. In discussing Denmark's tax reforms, Miss Bateman closed with a note of hope which brought her hearers spontaneously to their feet to give her what Mr. Laurence Smith later described as "the biggest hand" of the business sessions of the Congress. Miss Bateman's speech will appear in an early issue of "Land and Freedom."

Mr. Buttenheim on Handicapping Housing

Mr. Harold S. Buttenheim of New York, Editor of the American City, a publication for municipal officials, read a thoughtful paper on "Why handicapping housing by unwise taxation?"

His address (which is to be published in a research journal) recalled that England used to tax chimneys and that in the reign of William the Third a tax was imposed on all windows containing two or more panes of glass. Windows shrank and chimneys vanished, but the lawmakers of those days were more intent on seeking new sources of public revenue than in securing decent housing for the British people. Our system to-day, by taxing improvements and land alike, dis-

courages the building and reconditioning of houses.

Mr. Bittenheim advocated the conserving for the community of the values created by the community and favored a gradual shift of the incidence of taxation to land. Pointing out that 33 States have passed laws permitting local governments to establish housing authorities, and that in most cases the local authorities are empowered to grant partial or total exemption to public housing projects and to some privately-financed projects, Mr. Bittenheim commented: "If the freeing of buildings from taxation would be so beneficial in the cases cited, why restrict the bounty to a favored class? Why not recast our entire real estate system so as gradually to free buildings and improvements of all kinds from taxation?"

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

The Henry George School of Social Science

This session was devoted to reports from the educational agencies of the movement. Most appropriately, Anna George deMille, President of the Henry George School of Social Science, presided.

Mr. Frank Chodorov, director of the HGSSS, and editor of "The Freeman," spoke on the Purpose and Methods of the School. He described its founding in a room in the late Oscar H. Geiger's home in 1932 and its astounding growth since. Within the past few weeks, the School has purchased a building at 30 East 29th Street, in New York, and the following statistics indicate how marvelous the enrollment growth has been:—1933, 84; 1934, 383; 1935, 2,249; 1936, 4,265; 1937, 8,062; 1938 (to June 30), 6,678.

Mr. Chodorov said there would be 68 study groups in New York City alone this fall and winter. He told of the higher courses available and planned to supplement the basic "Progress and Poverty" course, and of the increasing number of graduates who take advantage of these courses. Special emphasis is being laid on teacher training classes.

The School's policy is to teach the economic laws contained in the writings of Henry George. Its charter specifically forbids political action, and its work ends with the student's graduation. But in the discussion period following Mr. Chodorov's speech it developed that the graduates find many ways of putting their knowledge and enthusiasm to practical use, frequently through social clubs or business organizations to which they may belong. This method has proved more successful than forming student fellowships, which was tried first.

The Expanding Extensions

Mr. John Lawrence Monroe, field director, gave a report of the work of the extensions in the United States and Canada and of his work in following up the enrollments in the correspondence course. Mr. Monroe is largely responsible for the remarkable development of extensions thus early in the history of the School. Up to June 30th, last, there were 10,080 enrolments in extension classes, in 207 centres, and the correspondence courses had enrolled 4,535. As Mr. Monroe said, "Its campus is the world, for similar schools are at work in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand

and British Africa." Canada, it may be said, hopes to have a separate incorporation of its own ere long.

Mr. Ernest J. Farmer, Vice-President of the Single Tax Association of Canada and teacher of the two groups in Hamilton, reported for the extensions in Canada. Classes began in 1935, when Alan C. Thompson taught a group before any manual was available. Mr. Pease, of Milk River, conducted classes in Milk River and in Lethbridge, Alberta, about that time. Since then Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton have established regular classes and this year a further outbranching is planned as new teachers are developing.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

Mrs. Antoinette Wambough, executive secretary, reported for the indispensable Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, of New York, which is endowed to keep George's works in print and in active circulation. It is to our movement what the Bible societies are to the churches and foreign missions.

A Concordance for "Progress and Poverty"

Mrs. McEvoy related that she is now engaged in compiling a concordance for "Progress and Poverty," to be published by the Henry George School when completed. This work is being done at Ingersoll, Ontario, where she is visiting relatives.

THURSDAY EVENING SESSION

Mr. W. C. Good, president of the Cooperative Union of Canada and a former member of the Canadian House of Commons, presided. He introduced the oldest Canadian Georgist present, Mr. A. C. Campbell of Ottawa, Ont., who served the House of Commons for many years as an official reporter and finally as editor of debates. Mr. Campbell spoke on the Canadian Taxation Situation. His paper will appear in a later issue.

Report of Committee on Organization and Action

Mr. Laurence Smith next reported on the outcome of the action taken at the Detroit Congress last year. For many years, he stated, there has been a desire that some organization should be formed on a national scale which would coordinate the activities of the separate bodies for the most effective results. The Detroit Congress approved and authorized a committee to proceed during the year. The result has been the formation of the Tax Relief Association Inc., with executive headquarters at Chicago and Lt.-Colonel Victor A. Rule as executive secretary. The new association plans to concentrate on the state of Michigan, where it will organize study classes and conduct a special advertising campaign showing how all kinds of business will prosper under saner taxation. Through these and other methods of contact, the association hopes to ensure success by enlisting the active interest and financial support of business leaders in Michigan and elsewhere. They judge that about two years of concentrated effort should produce sufficient demand for political action to establish Georgist principles in the taxation set-up of Michigan.

Mr. Smith showed slides illustrating the type of advertising which they propose to use in the campaign. Competent experts (like Miss Bateman) considered these advertisements very effective.

Following this report, there was an animated discussion. Mr. Burger elicited the information that the funds for the initial expenses of the Tax Relief Association have come from grants made by the Trustees of the Ingram Fund. "And other money," stressed Mr. Smith, who emphasized that the Tax Relief Association was the "baby" of the Detroit Congress and its predecessors and that all the steps leading up to its organization were constitutional.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

Mr. Clayton J. Ewing of Chicago, vice-president of the Henry George Foundation, presided, introducing Mr. Chas. H. Ingersoll who conducted a discussion on enlisting the support of the business community.

This was followed by an address by Dr. Mark Millikin of Hamilton, Ohio, on "The Value of Political Contacts," stressing the advisability of enlisting the aid and support of church, business and political leaders.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION

Mr. Alan C. Thompson of Toronto, chairman of the local committee of arrangements—who has seen in the holding of the Congress in Toronto the realization of a desire cherished for many years—was the presiding officer and addressed the group briefly, but forcibly on the necessity of interesting business men in George's solution.

He then introduced Mr. George M. Strachan of Chicago, who told the story of a king who taxed date trees and found that the more taxes he imposed on trees, the fewer trees were left standing to pay the taxes and the less revenue came to his treasury. The finances of the country were crippled until a courtier suggested that the king might tax the land instead of the trees. This was done and so many trees were planted to enable them to pay the land rent, that the kingdom soon flourished as it never had before.

Mr. Donald Macdonald of Alaska, the next speaker, entertained his hearers with a series of aptly illustrative anecdotes, especially how a group of three singletaxers, including himself, carried every ward and precinct in a civic election on a taxation issue in Everest, Wash.

Mr. Lancaster M. Greene spoke of the progress of the New York School and of the campaign to finance its new home on East 29th Street.

Mr. Percy R. Williams gave a résumé of the work of the Henry George Foundation. Through its efforts a single tax mayor had succeeded the former Georgist mayor, H. F. MacNair, and Pittsburgh continues to exempt improvements to the extent of 50 per cent.

An extensive study groups program has been carried on for several years and, though handicapped for funds, the Foundation is planning for further advances.

Service Clubs Addressed

The Uptown Optimists Club invited Mr. Chas. H. Ingersoll to address them on the Wednesday of the Congress, and Col. Rule addressed the West Toronto Kiwanis Club on the Thursday.

Luncheon of Canadian Delegates

The Canadian delegates met for luncheon on

Thursday, to become acquainted with each other and to discuss various matters, including the wisdom of changing the name of the Association. Mr. J. H. L. Patterson presided. Mr. A. C. Thompson, a Trustee of the Henry George Foundation of Canada, announced that the Foundation intended to send a contribution to the California Sales Tax Repeal Campaign.

Luncheon of Foundation Trustees

On Thursday the Trustees present of the Henry George Foundation met for luncheon and the transaction of business.

The following trustees were re-elected: Chas. R. Eckert, M.C., Beaver, Pa.; J. Dana Miller, New York; Hugo W. Noren, Pittsburgh; Charlotte O. Schetter, Long Island, N.Y.; George J. Shaffer, Los Angeles, Cal.; Abe D. Waldauer, Memphis, Tenn.; Percy R. Williams, Pittsburgh, Pa. George R. Averill, Birmingham, Mich., was elected trustee. These elected the following officers: President, Hon. George E. Evans; Hon. Vice-President, Anna George de Mille; Executive Secretary, Percy R. Williams.

Tax Relief Association Directors

The Congress approved the following directors of the Tax Relief Association Inc.:

Noah D. Alper, Geo. R. Averill, Warren P. Blauvelt, W. H. Booth, Otto Cullman, Anna George de Mille, Chas. R. Eckert, M.C., David Gibson, Charles H. Ingersoll, Mrs. H. H. McEvoy, A. Laurence Smith, Bessie Beach Trueheart, Gilbert M. Tucker.

Entertainment of Delegates

At the close of Thursday afternoon's session, several local members provided cars to take visiting delegates on a tour to see how Toronto lives. Others acted as guides for guests who used their own cars. The districts chosen as samples covered all income groups; from close-packed slums to "Casa-Loma," that huge pile of mediaeval towers and battlements, whose owner was forced to abandon it to the city when taxes rose from \$400.00 a year to \$1,000.00 a month.

On Saturday afternoon, the delegates still in Toronto went, as guests of the city, on a motorboat tour of the harbour. The city's waterfront, its new airport, the Humber River, and the old fort were all duly admired; but the part of the afternoon's outing which really impressed visitors was the hour spent in the winding lagoons of Toronto Island. The city owns the Island, maintaining part of it in well-kept parks, and leasing land to anyone wishing to build a house there.

It is a striking demonstration of the fact that security of occupation is all that is necessary to encourage use, but there is a serpent in this Eden. The city taxes improvements and the houses on the Island are no better kept up than in any other place where it pays to be shabby.

PUBLICITY

The space given by the three Toronto dailies to the Congress and to interviews with delegates, totalled a full page of eight columns. Mention was made in several newscasts of remarks made at the Congress. The Canadian Press furnished out-of-town papers and also the Associated Press with reports of the proceedings and speeches.

Congress Closes with Fine Oratory

Some 70 delegates attended the banquet Friday night in the Tudor Room of the Royal York Hotel. The dignified surroundings, good food, and excellent service combined to form a suitable background for the importance of the evening's speakers. Mr. J. H. L. Patterson, presiding, proposed a toast to the King. Lt.-Col. Rule, an old Anzac, led off lustily in the singing of "God Save the King".

Hon. Peter Witt

The chairman then introduced Hon. Peter Witt, of Cleveland, who gave a masterly address. In opening, Mr. Witt said it was a question of taxation which had separated the 13 colonies from Great Britain. What a wonderful force for good the English speaking world would have been if that separation had never taken place. He paid tribute to the late Clarence Darrow. He had come to the conclusion that Single Tax is too simple. He used to think the millennium would be here when he was sixty, and now he is seventy and it had not arrived. It is evident that Henry George's philosophy could not be realized in one or two generations. The hypocrisy and swindle of the tariff have not been made clear in eighty years. While we are farther away than ever from achieving our objective we may yet be nearer to its attainment. In 1879, when "Progress and Poverty" was published, there were but three sources of federal revenue: customs, excise on whiskey, excise on tobacco. Now these sources are multiplied thirty times. As a result of taxation pressure a vast army may come to accept our cause as a fiscal remedy, and its fruition may be seen by people now living.

The speaker mentioned two urgent needs for remedying the economic situation: (1) free land, and (2) free trade. In connection with the former every depression had come as a result of land monopoly all these years. In Ohio today land can only be taxed at one per cent of its value. The more the speculator can capitalize in land the greater the explosion when the balloon is pricked. The people and the legislators have been fooled by the big landowners in the great cities. Now no foreclosure is taking place. Cities cannot grow, due to birth control, restricted immigration and the automobile. The people pay many times over in the sales tax what they pay in land and improvement taxes. We must have a system of tax laws that will kill private ownership of land.

There is an impression that there is no more land. We have more unused land than we can use; there is enough land in Texas to provide all the food that Americans can use. A suggestion was made that a number of the unemployed should be taken to Alaska, while, only ten miles from Cleveland, there are thousands of acres of unused land.

In regard to free trade, we give hundreds of thousands of dollars in subsidies to steamship companies to carry our mails, yet have the highest tariff in the world to keep our ships from bringing goods in. The American tariff has been revised eight times in eight years. President McKinley

had but one idea on the tariff, and that was wrong. He thought the foreigner paid the tax. Mr. Witt mentioned visiting England in 1929 during a general election. The free trade struggle in England had been lost to a great extent since the War. He found that Stanley Baldwin's party had discarded the name "protection" in favor of "safeguarding" and billboards were placarded with Baldwin's picture, "safeguarding" Britain from the pauper labor of other countries. England has no raw materials but she has excellent mechanics. The Tories fooled Englishmen into thinking that the British workman is overpaid and the rest of the world is pauper labor. Denmark is an example of a country which gets along with very little tariff. The Dane converted his land from former unprofitable farming to the dairy business; and Danish butter is now on the table of every country, and the Danes are the best people in Europe.

Some day democracies will have wisdom enough to tear down the tariff barriers; some day land will be free. It is the mental anguish that counts in years of depression. A time will come when the social product of land values will furnish the lubricant for the machinery of state. We in our day should at least do our share to hurry the coming of that day that we all want to see.

The audience rose in tribute to Mr. Witt's moving speech.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck

After a charming rendition of the Andante Movement from Mendelssohn's Violin Concerta, by Master Philip Puchtiar, accompanied by Miss Muriel Bryson, the chairman introduced Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck, M.P.P., whose eloquence and fervour matched the previous speaker's. Mr. Roebuck began by saying he had always been proud of being a Single Taxer. "One reason I am proud is that I have been sneered at for being a Single Taxer. It is rather good to have some medicine to take." Mr. Roebuck also took pride in the fact that he represents, in the Ontario Legislature, a workingman's constituency and is known as a friend of labor and champion of the under-dog.

By personal experience he has first-hand knowledge of the hard lot of working people, and for years has been in daily touch with the seamy side of our so-called civilization. He has faith to believe the denial of the natural right to earn one's bread by the sweat of one's brow, which is the result of our jumbled taxation system, cannot last. We must have progress and that progress must be orderly. He pointed out that an appeal to force puts an end, for the time, to real reform; as the storming of the Bastille destroyed the work of the French Physiocrats.

The speaker recalled that, as a child, his mother had caught him one day in the pantry, and his mouth smelled of jam. As a result the jam was put on the top shelf of the pantry out of reach. He used this as a parable to show that land today is very much on the top shelf. You cannot get berries until you have land that will produce them, and the price that is asked by an owner to get out of the way of would-be users of land is pro-

hibitive to most people. Natural opportunities are put on the top shelf by the forestaller who desires more than they are worth. Therein lies the explanation of depressions and stagnation; the explanation of the long line of men waiting for doles from our municipalities. On every hand, vast and valuable opportunities going to waste; sites for manufacturing and trading on every side unused; at the same time men walking about with nothing to do. It was not always thus. Our pioneers braved the seas and the dangers of colonization for free land. What they did not face was the forestaller who puts God's opportunity on the top shelf.

The landless man has been the hero of history; the cause of the treks in history has been the search for land. It is different today. The descendants of the pioneers and immigrant newcomers are not baffled for lack of physical strength, but they are baffled by the moral conundrum. The courage and hardihood of the race have not diminished, but physical prowess will no longer pull across to mother nature. It is no longer a physical struggle against the forces of nature: it has shifted to the realms of thought. The modern pioneer is he who, with infinite patience and perseverance, delves to the bottom and thinks. He lays the axe to the tree. The work of the Single Taxer is to pioneer, not as in bygone days, but along those intellectual lines that will lead ignorant, blind people to the wells of wealth and blessing, to the living waters that lie on every side monopolized and unused. It is ours to lead the world to that peace and plenty for which men have striven and dreamed through all history. It is within our power to fight the war that will end war. That is the great responsibility which Henry George has passed down to you and me. Go on and hurry, but go on to the best of your ability and take with you our most profound blessings on your work.

Anna George de Mille

Mr. Roebuck's address also brought his hearers to their feet in a storm of applause, after which the chairman called upon Anna George de Mille for a word. Alluding to Mr. Witt's reference to its having been a question of taxation that separated the United States from Britain, Mrs. de Mille drew applause with a happy remark that "it is a question of taxation that is making us all one again." She paid tribute to Toronto as one of the most beautiful cities she has seen. In the drive around the city she thought there could be no poor, until Mr. Roebuck took her into his riding and showed her some of the slums. "Please God," said Mrs. de Mille, "his riding will some day be transformed and there will be only beautiful homes there too. I always come to a congress with high hopes and always go away with higher hopes. We all feel inspired and hopeful, and I want to say 'Thank you' to you, our beloved neighbors and brothers," she concluded.

Lancaster M. Greene

Mr. Lancaster M. Greene referred to the hopes expressed by Mr. Witt and Mr. Roebuck that some of our ideals might be realized within the next few decades and commented: "We are going to have them quickly, perhaps in the next ten years."

He hoped to live to see Single Tax in operation in every state and province.

Ernest J. Farmer

Mr. Ernest J. Farmer spoke of the work of two Toronto barbers, Albert Naylor and J. H. Baker, who have induced a number of their clientele to enrol in the correspondence and other courses of the School.

Clayton J. Ewing

Mr. Clayton J. Ewing, Chicago, paid a tribute to Mr. Roebuck, saying that the King was fortunate to have such a wise counsellor; and he wished that all kings, dictators and would-be dictators might have as wise advisors. He referred to Messrs. Witt and Roebuck as "two gentlemen who have battled for the cause of Justice." He ascribed the world's delayed progress to the fact that for 1,900 years mankind has not obeyed the Christian injunction to seek first the kingdom of God's justice. Instead of the meek inheriting the earth, it has been the domineering, the proud, the conquerors who are on top. The meek will come into their own when the doctrine of Single Tax has been put into effect.

"Alaska Jane"

Mrs. H. H. McAvoy referred to Mr. Witt having quoted McKinley's dictum: "The foreigner pays the tax." This remark was made when McKinley was in Congress, sponsoring the nefarious tariff bill which bore his name. Mrs. McEvoy, who was in the gallery of the House at the time, recalls that splendid Singletaxer, Sockless Jerry Simpson, rising and saying: "If the foreigner pays the tax then every day'll be Sunday over here." She remarked that Peter Witt, in mentioning Clarence Darrow, had found her weeping, and recited with fine feeling a poem she had written on the death of Mr. Darrow.

Mrs. Wesley E. Barker

Mrs. Wesley E. Barker, called on for a word of greeting by the Chairman, remarked that she is one of the ancients of days of Single Tax, and regretted that age slows one up while still full of desire to be an active worker. She recalled a remark of Frank Garrison at the Atlantic City Congress: "What the Single Tax movement lacks is passion." "At last night's meeting," jested Mrs. Barker, "there was a flame. What the movement really lacks is a sense of humor!"

Joseph Dana Miller

Mr. J. Dana Miller recalled a definition of reciprocity as "Free Trade on the half shell." He remarked that Theodore Roosevelt in his early career had said he would not reform the tariff, but would tear it up by the roots. Later he changed his view, saying to a delegation: "Gentlemen, don't talk to me about the tariff—on the tariff I am an agnostic."

Benjamin W. Burger

Mr. Benjamin W. Burger recalled that President McKinley's last speech in 1897 contained a plea for reciprocity. Mr. Burger spoke appreciatively of the beauty spots seen in the tour of Toronto, but remarked that he had driven into the city along a street which had evidently not seen a new building erected for 50 or 75 years. He noted that a local bank is willing to sell a building for half the assessment and in New York

he knew where one could buy land and buildings for less than the assessment of the land alone. The ownership of land, through penalizing taxation on improvements, is a liability. Various politicians are offering baits to the voters. Aberhart promised a dividend of \$25.00 a month in Alberta. One party in California promised a cheque for \$30.00 every Thursday and a rival party has raised the ante to \$40.00 every Friday.

In Barbados, the second oldest British Colony, with a population of 180,000, eight Englishmen own the island through control of the local legislature. They pay a shilling an acre tax on the land, while the colored woman in the country has to pay a shilling for the privilege of carrying a load of goods on her head to market, or two shillings a year for the privilege of riding a bicycle.

Harold Becker

Mr. Harold Becker of Omaha, Neb., praised the work of the committee of arrangements, whose inconspicuous labors had contributed so much to the success of the Congress. He mentioned specially the trio on whom the brunt of the burden fell: Alan C. Thompson, Miss Edith Thompson, and H. T. Owens. He characterized as a work of art the congress badge, with its head of Henry George on a maple leaf, and paid tribute to the numerous delegates who did not make speeches as "silent soldiers."

Donald Macdonald

Mr. Donald Macdonald said that his forefathers in Scotland had been true freetraders — having been reputed to be smugglers. He would favor abolishing boundary lines between Alaska, the Yukon and British Columbia. "For it would require 4,000 customs officers every year to prevent the two millions of caribou in Alaska from crossing the boundary line to compete with the reindeer of Canada."

Henry George's Centennial 1939

The chairman then announced that Mrs. de Mille had a final word to say. Her word was: "I hope we shall all meet again in New York on the first of September, 1939." The 100th anniversary of Henry's George's birth will be celebrated there on September 2nd, by the decision of this Congress.

Resolutions

The following resolutions are expressive of the feelings of our visitors:

Whereas our stay in the City of Toronto has been made more pleasant and profitable by the kindly consideration of those who have opened their homes and loaned their automobiles,

Be it resolved that the Conference extends to those people this expression of our appreciation and gratitude therefor.

The Henry George Congress wishes to place on record its appreciation of the courtesy of the City of Toronto in placing at its disposal a grant which enabled the delegates to enjoy a trip around the harbour, affording them an opportunity of seeing the publicly-owned island properties.

Appreciations

A letter from Mr. Percy R. Williams, executive secretary of the Henry George Foundation, reads in part as follows:

"I desire to express both personally and on behalf of the official board of the Henry George Foundation our appreciation of the splendid work done by you and your associates, the officers and members of the Single Tax Association of Canada. I feel sure that I express the general sentiment of all who participated when I say that we were delighted with the cordial reception given us in Toronto and the many courtesies extended to us and that we feel that the thirteenth annual Congress was one of the best that we have held in recent years. I am very glad indeed that we were invited to Toronto this year and that we accepted your invitation. It will result in a closer comradeship between Canadian and American Georgists and the friendships formed during this Congress will be valued by all of us. The Royal York was certainly very kind to us and I hope they feel that our patronage was of some consequence to them.

Col. Victor A. Rule writes:

I have attended seven out of the thirteen congresses and I believe that more was done this last time and we all had a better time than ever before.

Congress Bon Mots

I am afraid of practical men: practical men have pretty nearly destroyed the world — Donald Macdonald.

I have been an engineer for 37 years. The object of engineering is to make a better world for people to live in; but some factor has intervened to prevent people from enjoying the benefits of the engineers' work, for humanity as a whole is not advanced by the work we engineers do. — Donald Macdonald.

In my childhood, we had a fine time playing marbles until we organized a club to play marbles — and then the arguments began. Organization is the death-note of thought. — Frank Chodorov.

The proper definition of Communism is the Communizing of the community land values. The correct definition of socialism is the socialization of land values. — Charles H. Ingersoll.

If you lick your wife you are fined once, but if you own a house you are fined once a year. —

A city taxed its privately-owned electric cars \$50.00 each so the company decreased the number of cars. If the franchise had been taxed instead the company would have operated more cars to increase earnings.

Cities which tax improvements actually reward the man who fills vacant lots with weeds, dead cats, tin cans and other refuse. — George M. Strachan.

"The road to true progress has been through the H G S S S. It has given me the only true inkling to the background of the production and distribution of wealth and the great fallacy on which our present economic system and methods of taxation are based. The School has revealed to me not only the defects of our present system, but the true remedy for the equitable distribution of wealth." Sidney Manster, New York, a graduate of Columbia University. Quoted by Frank Chodorov.

On November 8th, the electorate of California will vote on a referendum to reduce taxes on improvements and tangible personal property at the rate of 10 per cent per annum until they are entirely abolished. The referendum also proposes to abolish the retail sales, automobile, truck and some other taxes.

According to *Land & Liberty*, the London County Council on 26th July, by a vote of 83 to 44, adopted the report of the finance committee, proposing that the Council should be empowered to levy a rate of 2s. in the pound (ten per cent.) on the annual site value of land. A Bill along these lines is to be submitted to the British Parliament.

CITIES HELD TO RANSOM BY LANDOWNERS London, England

The Metropolitan Water Board has chosen the sites for two new reservoirs but they will not say where these sites are until they obtain statutory powers for the acquisition of the land. Sir William Prescott, in a public statement on 6th August, 1934, has explained why:

"If we do not keep the sites of our new reservoirs a close secret, land speculators will attempt to gain by forcing up land prices in the areas."

Toronto, Ont.

Mayor Ralph C. Day revealed that the city needs two new north-south traffic arteries. He said: (April 14, 1938)

"A tentative route has been suggested by the works department, but we are not going to publish the route now and have property prices go skyrocketing when we want to buy land."

Malton Airport

The Malton Airport is another case in point. Toronto acquired this site as an auxiliary to its main airport, and the owners of one of the farms—about one-twelfth of the total area—asked \$30,000 for their land. The city assessor's department scaled it down to \$12,500. Alderman Wm. Croft, a realtor, declared in Council that the property is not worth more than \$6,500, but he advocated a payment of \$8,500. Council sustained the city assessor.

Fallingbrook Beach

About the end of June the owners of a subdivision formerly owned by Sir Donald Mann in the vicinity of Scarboro Bluffs, one of the natural wonders of this area, fenced off the frontage on Lake Ontario, depriving the public of right of access to this Beach and the Bluffs beyond, which right has been enjoyed by the people almost uninterruptedly up to this time. The incident caused a demonstration and many complaints to the authorities. When the possibility of expropriation was suggested, the owners' spokesman mentioned that a trifling figure of \$150,000 would be their asking price.

Moral: If economic rent is taken by a community and used for providing municipal and governmental services, there will be nothing left for speculators; and cities will not be held up in this way when public improvements are necessary, or public rights are jeopardised.

ADVICE FROM NEW ZEALAND

The New Commonwealth of New Zealand, in its April, 1938, issue says:

"Our Canadian friends will be well advised to keep clear of any such partial measures as 'Taxation of Land Values.' We have had instalments of that in New Zealand for the past half century, but it is worse than useless, inasmuch as the effect is for any gain to be at once capitalized in further land values, and to raise up a horde of small landlords in place of the few before, and these small men then work with might and main to speculate in the added values. Thus, the old Liberal Government put hundreds of men on the land, by closer settlement of the large estates. In time, social value accrued to these settlements, and those men then voted against the Liberal Government that had taken them off the labour market and put them on farms, in order to sell the social values. The next holders, having to pay the full market and the speculative price, plus taxation, were soon in difficulties—the whole process being from leasehold (not a good system, it is true) to freehold, then to 'mortgagehold,' and finally to 'nohold' when the mortgagees foreclosed!"

The above quotation is from a writer who works on the principles of the following excellent formula:—

Land-Rent is Not a Tax but a Due to the Owners of the Land—the Whole People.

A Tax is an arbitrary deduction from the rightful property of the citizen enforced by the power of the State.

Taxation is Theft.

Land-Rent is Nature's Budget.

Collect it all and Stop State Stealing.

From "Land Values Taxation in Practice" by F. T. Hodgkiss of Melbourne, Australia.

DIRECTORY OF GEORGIST ORGANIZATIONS IN CANADA

ONTARIO

Single Tax Association of Canada,
J. H. L. Patterson, President,
991 Bay Street, Toronto.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Henry George Club of Victoria, B.C.
Alexander Hamilton, President,
Fred W. Davey, Secretary,
41 Arcade Building, Victoria, B.C.

ALBERTA

Peace River Single Tax Association
Urquhart Adams, Secretary,
Peace River, Alta.

Milk River Single Tax Association,
Fred Pease, President,
Milk River, Alta.

QUEBEC

Montreal Association,
John Anderson, Chairman,
Room 934, Dominion Square Bldg., Montreal.

CANADIAN EXTENSIONS, HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Herbert T. Owens, Secretary,
Room 14, 991 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont.
Toronto Extension: Howard Hogg, Secretary,
991 Bay Street, Toronto.

Hamilton Extension: Robt. Wynne, Secretary,
80 Victoria Avenue S., Hamilton, Ont.

Montreal Extension: Miss Strehel Walton, Secretary,
3721 de l'Oratoire Ave., Montreal, Que.