

"Know the Truth and the Truth shall make You Free"—St. John, 8, 32

THE BULLETIN

OF THE MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS FEDERAL TAX LEAGUE

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No. 1

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

According to Nagley Larson, the foreign correspondent of the Chicago Daily News, the number of unemployed throughout the world is today in the vicinity of 10,000,000. He says, "Unemployment figures in Great Britain give a total today of over 1,500,000 out of work, of whom more than 1,000,000 are permanently out of jobs. But those are merely the registered, and the total figure is said to have gone well over the 2,000,000 mark.

"Labor authorities declare, however, that unemployment is now rising rapidly in every big industrial country in the world. A few years ago it was estimated at 20,000,000—now it is 30,000,000. Recent reports from the United States and Germany, coupled with these serious conditions in Great Britain, emphasize that the labor crisis is world-wide.

"Reports just arrived from Japan are that whereas the late government estimated the workless at 800,000, the figure has reached 1,000,000 and it is forecast that the 1,000,000 mark will soon be reached.

"Germany had 4,500,000 workless at the end of 1929. During the first week of February this year the number was augmented by an additional 30,000. Italy, with every effort made to synchronize workers with jobs, has over 500,000 without work. Nearly 2,000,000 of Russia's 11,000,000 organized workers were idle when the latest figures were given out.

"And the United States, according to the figures collected by the London labor authorities, had a total of unemployed approaching the 6,000,000 mark.

"Economists have hitherto suggested that this unemployment was temporary and that when the world had settled down entirely after postwar conditions production and trade would automatically right themselves. Many of the best economists of Great Britain are now inclined to abandon this theory and to regard the outlook with increased apprehension.

NO LANDLORDS TO BE FOUND ON THIS ISLAND

There is one place in the British empire where no able-bodied person is involuntarily unemployed. That place is the island of Tristan de Cunha in the South Atlantic. It contains 167 inhabitants according to the latest census. These people are a mixture of many European nationalities and some are of African and Asiatic descent. They live together in peace and freedom and support themselves by farming and fishing. A missionary, recently arrived from there, says these people know nothing of airplanes, automobiles, or bicycles and have never seen a landlord.

THE TAX CRISIS IN CHICAGO

The citizens of Chicago and Cook County may not know where they are going but they are certainly on their way!

And all because of the scientific assessment of real estate in Cook County which was ordered by the State Tax Commission two years ago.

This reassessment is by all odds one of the most constructive pieces of work that has been done in the state for a quarter of a century. But it has been made the foot-ball of politics and consequently Chicago and the whole state of Illinois have got themselves into a financial muddle that would be positively laughable were it not so tragic.

No tax bills have been sent out in Chicago and other Cook County cities since 1928 and none will go out until about June or July. Neither has the state collected any of its taxes during the same period of time. The result is that the whole fiscal system is on the verge of a breakdown.

Last January the borrowings of the city of Chicago reached their final limit. The payment of all bills and salaries of employees stopped and a "Citizens' Rescue Committee," under the leadership of Silas Strawn, was formed to raise \$74,000,000, to keep the city going until July 1. Philip R. Clarke, a banker, who had charge of the drive to raise this fund tells about it in the March number of "Chicago Commerce" as follows:

"At 4 o'clock on Friday afternoon Mr. Strawn called me on the telephone to ask if I had any ideas of how the shares of this new trust could be sold; the situation having assumed a very much more desperate tinge that afternoon by the presence of some ineptient mobs on the Chicago streets, indicating what might happen in the event that the forces to preserve law and order no longer functioned. I don't think my conversation with Mr. Strawn lasted ten minutes, because there was obviously one thing to do. In any event, when I hung up the receiver I was chairman of a committee to get the \$74,000,000.... Eleven days thereafter, including three non-business days, these temporary headquarters shut down after having turned in 939 subscriptions amounting to \$74,799,300 to the depository. The long-suffering municipal employees were paid within a week after the campaign started."

Mr. Clarke and his associates deserve much credit for saving this \$74,000,000 to keep the city going. Unfortunately, however, this huge fund has only relieved temporarily the tax-spending bores; it has not relieved but, on the contrary, has added more in interest charges to the burden on the tax payers. Therefore, the real test is yet to come. In June or July, the long delayed tax bills for 1928 will go out. These will be followed six months later with the 1929 bills. Six months afterward the 1930 bills will be mailed and this again will be followed six months later with the 1931 bills.

These bills, thanks to the scientific reassessment, will for the first time in history be uniform and just. But owing to the huge amount of borrowing that the city and county have had to do because of the reassessment, and the big deficit that practically every department of the local government is now facing, it is very probable that the tax bills will be larger in the future than they have been in the past.

In view of the great amount of unemployment prevailing at the present time it is a grave question whether all of the people will be able to bear the strain. Many think not and are busily engaged in devising some way to pull one boot out of the bog without thrusting the other deeper in. The Secretary of the Real Estate Taxpayers' Relief—Mr. James W. Wolfe—is advocating, for instance, the abolition of the 1928 and 1929 taxes and the substitution of a \$400,000,000 bond issue. His remarks in the Chicago Daily News of January 30 are, at least, interesting:

"The abolition of two years' taxes is imperative for real estate in Chicago. There are more than 6,000 foreclosure proceedings pending in the courts. The real estate of Chicago is frozen solid, with buildings 92 per cent rented and income at only 65 per cent. There will be tens of thousands of foreclosures by the banks and bondholders, if any attempt is made to collect the 1928 taxes. Maybe that is one reason nobody in authority is in a hurry to complete the reassessment. If the new buildings cannot pay interest in a year when no taxes are collected, what will happen to them when two years' taxes are demanded in one year?"

Other plans for relief, however, are more rational. The State Tax Commission, for instance, believes that the scientific assessment methods just installed in Chicago and Cook County should be extended over the whole state and that the state constitution should be amended so to permit the introduction of improved systems of taxation. We quote from the Commission's annual report just published:

"It is the opinion of this commission that Article IX of the constitution should be entirely rewritten, that its terms should be completely liberalized, and that the requirement for the general property tax be eliminated from the constitution. It is proposed that broad powers of taxation be lodged with the legislature, in order that it may adopt a proper tax system for Illinois without further constitutional changes.... The legislature should be enabled to adopt, in its discretion, such measures as the classified property tax, the low-rate tax on intangibles, the income tax and similar measures."

As might be expected, of course, the land speculation interests of the city and state are leaving no stone unturned, not merely to head

(Continued on page 4)

MUSSOLINI SCRAPS AN ANCIENT REVENUE LAW

If press dispatches are to be believed, Mussolini has recently taken a long step in the direction of getting rid of Italy's old and injurious internal revenue law. "A decree has signed by King Victor Emmanuel," reads the Chicago Tribune dispatch, "abolishes the intercommunal and inter-departmental customs barrier which existed in Italy since the middle ages, dating from the time when the peninsula was a jumble of small states and free cities."

Hereafter municipalities will not have the right to levy taxes at the city gates on farmers coming in with produce. Inter-city taxes on manufactured products are also abolished. This revenue went to local tax coffers, and under the decree of law a new system for levies of local taxation is provided.

"The movement for the abolition of the local customs barriers, or 'Dazio,' has been under way for some time. Any one from the city who went into the country and bought a bushel of potatoes or a couple of quarts of wine had to face the customs officer at the city gates on return and pay a duty."

"It is expected that the reform will stimulate a freer movement of agricultural products and will prove a great boon to the farmers. It will also relax many of the difficulties by the free internal exchange of manufactured goods."

WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY STEPS BACKWARD AGAIN

In 1925 the University of Wisconsin, seeking to stamp out the harmful effects of subsidized education heroically passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that no gifts, donations, or subsidies shall in future be accepted by or in behalf of the University of Wisconsin from any incorporated educational endowments or organizations of like character."

The passage of this resolution naturally resulted in a drastic housecleaning within the university. Many agencies that were accepting the favors of special interests were frozen out while others such as Prof. Richard T. Ely's subsidized "Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities" which had been "shipped off" that such a resolution was coming, hastily removed to other quarters.

Since the passage of this resolution, however, a conservative governor has been seated and this governor has been adding new members to the Board of Regents. In March of this year the new Board of Regents met for the first time and the first act of the Board was to repeal the resolution!

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OLD AGE

By LOUIS E. POST
(1840-1928)

As I approach thy dankining door, O Death,
I wonder more and more what lies beyond.
Shall I into an endless youth advance,
Or does that shadowy door mean endless death?
Though endless death, why fear to enter in?
Can death be aught than what preceded birth?
But if an endless youth, why fear the joy
Of such a climax to an aged life?

June 14, 1926.

"Time is just an abstraction," says the philosopher. So is the
tax, and so is also the income tax.

Says B. O. Forbes in his magazine: "Shallow minds don't dig
deep." Has not Philosopher Forbes overlooked the hole dug by Con-
gress in the taxpayer's funds?

THE NEED FOR THINKERS

How great is the need for people who can and will think. Of
course we need people who are called "good," but there is all the
more need for "good people" to think. Thinkers are needed all the
time and everywhere. They are needed in nation and community,
needed in statesmanship and business, needed in religion and educa-
tion. There is no sort of occupation from farming to preaching, there
is no occasion, no project, no program, no crisis in all our human en-
deavors when the pressing need is not for men who can think straight.

It is often said that schools should train for citizenship, and by
this it is often simply meant that some textbook should be used that
deals with government. Far more important is it for the making of a
good citizen that he should be a man who thinks well, than a man who
may be informed about legislative statutes and county organizations,
facts which may change in a year. A good citizen is primarily one
who forms an intelligent judgment and registers a right decision on
any public or social problem with which the community is faced. It
is not enough that he have good information and good intention, he
must have good sense.—Dr. James H. Dillard in the "Southern
Workman," Jan. 1930.

DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

If Mahatma Gandhi were a member of some aristocratic Virginia
family, instead of a high caste Hindu, he would be urging upon his
honored fellow-citizens immediate removal of all class distinctions
against negroes. Being a resident of India, however, he is urging the
removal of all class distinctions against the lowest caste, the untouch-
ables, who are subject to even worse prejudice than the negroes in the
south or Chinese in California. Gandhi is practicing democracy as
well as preaching it. He is defying the snobbish prejudices of caste,
associating indiscriminately with all classes and has even adopted as
his daughter an untouchable child. A white southerner who would
thus adopt a negro child would undoubtedly be ostracized, but so
great is Gandhi's influence and the respect in which he is held that
he has apparently lost nothing by his act. The people of India, long
separated by class and religious prejudices and thus become easy vic-
tims to foreign imperialists, are now showing a tendency to come to-
gether. Whether Gandhi has enough economic knowledge to be able
to advise the people how to use the independence he is urging them
to demand remains to be seen. It would be strange if one with the
courage to defy age old prejudices and superstitions should lack
knowledge or courage to do away with economic evils.

ONE MAN'S EXPERIENCE

Forty years ago a young man residing in a middle western city
was asked for a contribution to a charitable organization. He re-
sponded by saying that he considered justice better than charity.
"Quite true," was the reply he received, "but justice is a matter of
the future and in the meantime we must do something. About twenty
years hence we will probably have progressed enough to dispense with
charity." So the young man acquiesced and gave not only that year
but each year thereafter until the present. But this year he ran across
the old correspondence and this reminded him, when the regular char-
itable appeal came, to reply once more: "I believe justice to be bet-
ter than charity." And he received the same old reply somewhat dif-
ferently worded with the same reference to twenty years in the fu-
ture. That settled him. He gives no more to charity. Those who
oppose justice or postpone it, he declares, should bear the whole bur-
den of supporting charity. As for himself he will devote the rest of
his life and as much of his resources as he can spare to the cause of
economic justice.—S. D.

ROBBING US INTO PROSPERITY

In a reported plea to the public made two thousand years ago by
one Barabbas we find—if it is genuine—the first protectionist argu-
ment: "Leave us robbers alone." Mr. Barabbas is reported to have
urged, "and our robbery business will prosper. We can then employ
hundreds of assistants at big wages and the whole country will share
our prosperity. But while you keep me in jail I can do nothing and
the country suffers from hard times." This argument apparently
proved convincing for we learn that a strong demand went up for the
release of Barabbas which proved successful. And there is no doubt
the economic effect on the nation was fully equal to that of modern
protectionists.—Samuel Danziger in "Stimuli."

A GOOD EXAMPLE

With all its shortcomings the
British Labor government is not
declaring in the face of wide-
spread unemployment that "eco-
nomic conditions are sound at
bottom," nor is it making the sit-
uation a pretext for creation of
more special privileges. It may
be blundering and it may be too
timid, but it is not running away
from issues. American statesmen
may well imitate with profit.

HALF THE KETCH!

There was me and dad, and some more
of the crowd,
Was sitting around in Parkinson's store,
When Bill Hawkins told a tale, he
told

Would set the fellows all in a roar.
Says he: "When I was out in the West,
Along on the edge of poverty,
I knowed a fellow there that made
A hundred dollars in half a day.
The old missus? Got on a raise—
A regular old Missouri flood—
An' this fellow thinks he sees a chance
In ketchin' floatin' logs of wood.
So he advertised for fifty men,
To the River City Weekly News.
To meet him on the river bank
With skiffs and boats, or with canoes.
An' he lured them fellows to ketch the
wood:

An' all that mornin' the wood they
fetched,

An' the pay he gave's where the joke
came in—

He gave 'em—half of the logs they
ketchin'!

An' the fellows laughed at Old Bill's
yarn:

Laughed, an' said they thought it
grand:

Yet all them fellows that cackled so,
Was workin' for Land Lords on rented
land!

—Indianapolis Journal.

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STATE OF ILLINOIS, ss.

COUNTY OF COOK, ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the
State and county aforesaid, personally ap-
peared Emil O. Jorgensen who, having been
duly sworn according to law, deposes and
says that he is the editor of the Bulletin of
the Manufacturers and Merchants Federal
Tax League, and that the following is, to the
best of his knowledge and belief, a true state-
ment of the ownership, management (and if
a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the
aforesaid publication for the date shown in
the above caption, required by the Act of
August 24, 1917, embodied in section 448,
Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the
reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the
publishers, editors, managing editors, and busi-
ness managers are:
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Editor, Emil O. Jorgensen, 1346 Algeld
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Managing Editor, none.

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2. That the owners are: (Give names
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None.
4. That the two paragraphs next above,
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and security holders, if any, contain not only
the list of stockholders and security holders
as they appear upon the books of the com-
pany but also, in cases where the stockholder
or security holder appears upon the books of
the company as trustee or in any other
fiduciary relation, the name of the person or
corporation for whom such trustee is acting,
is given; also that the said two paragraphs
contain statements authorizing agent's full
knowledge and belief as to the circumstances
and conditions under which stockholders and
security holders who do not appear upon the
books of the company as trustees, hold stock
and securities in a capacity other than that
of a bona fide owner, and this agent has no
reason to believe that any other person, di-
rectly or indirectly, in the said stock, bonds,
or other securities than as so stated by him.

EMIL O. JORGENSEN, Editor.

Seem to be and subscribed before me this
tenth day of October, 1929.

(SEAL) JOHN M. DERRING,

Notary Public.
(My commission expires August 30, 1930.)

THE LONG ARM OF SUBSIDIZED EDUCATION

Says the National Association of Real Estate Boards in its "News Service Letter" of March 25, 1930:

"In order to extend and increase its activities in real estate education, the National Association of Real Estate Boards has recently re-organized its committee on education into an educational board which includes a university advisory committee composed of professors of real estate in the leading colleges and universities where real estate courses are now being taught.

Charles G. Edwards of New York City, former president of the National Association of Real Estate Boards, has accepted the chairmanship of the educational board. George Zent, Hollywood, California, is to serve as vice-chairman.

Dr. Richard T. Ely, of the Institute of Land Economics and Public Utilities, Northwestern University, has agreed to serve as chairman of the university advisory committee. On the committee with Dr. Ely are some twenty-two authorities in specialized phases of real estate who have already agreed to act as consultants for the National Association in particular problems involving their fields."

Included in the group of economic professors referred to by the National Association of Real Estate Boards are: Prof. W. Carlton Harris, University of Pennsylvania; Prof. N. L. North, of New York University; Prof. F. De W. Washburn of Harvard University; Prof. George S. Weltheim, University of Wisconsin; Prof. Charles L. Stewart, University of Illinois; Prof. H. E. Daughland, Ohio State University; Prof. Ernest M. Fisher, University of Michigan; Prof. W. H. Jen Hsien of Marquette University; Prof. James Demery, University of Washington; Prof. Karl McGinnis, University of Texas; Dr. H. L. Jome, Denison University; Prof. John Ise, University of Kansas; Prof. Millard Peck, Iowa State College; Prof. S. Homer Smith, Temple University; Prof. Marcus Whitman, University of Alabama; Prof. Theodore Bullock, University of Nebraska; Prof. Harold Howe, Kansas State Agricultural College; Prof. M. H. Green, University of Utah; Prof. H. E. Dennison, Georgia School of Technology; Dr. R. O. Moen, North Carolina State College; Prof. David F. Owens, Drake University; and Prof. Fred V. Chew of Indiana University.

Why wonder in the face of this that Henry George's proposal for a single tax on land values makes so little headway in our schools, colleges and universities?

THE "UNEARNED INCREMENT"

The six leases for the land and buildings occupied by the Marshall Field store in the block bounded by Washington street, Randolph and State streets and Wabash avenue, for a term of ninety-nine years, from October 1, 1924, probably call for the greatest amount of annual rental in the United States. The annual rental ranges from \$768,000 to \$982,000 or a total term rental of more than eighty-eight million dollars, in addition to which \$8,770,600 was paid for the buildings.

—Chicago Commerce.

THE PRACTICAL MAN

"The single tax is impractical," said the farmer on his way to pay taxes on his house, crops, cattle, and machinery. "Why," he continued, "if it were in operation now the owner of that vacant tract, I want to buy, couldn't hold it until I manage to raise the three hundred dollars an acre he wants for it. He would have to use it himself or let it go to any one ready to pay taxes for it. What good would it do me to save money to buy land that I could get for almost nothing, or to pay taxes when there won't be any?"—Samuel Danziger.

LUXURY VERSUS POVERTY

No one measure will solve the great question of luxury versus poverty; but I am convinced that the divorcing of the people from the land is the chief cause of our poverty, misery, excessive sickness and death rate. You might settle many big problems with little effect if the land is still to be privately owned and used to extract blackmail on life. The Press are the tools of the exploiters and will give us no help. If the Labor Movement forgot everything for two years and concentrated on getting rid of the greatest burden of all—the land grabbers—we should have a land fit for heroes to live in and heroes fit to live in a free land.—Robert Smille.

HIS NATIVE LAND

Speaking at a meeting in Glasgow recently, the Hon. Mrs. Smyth, of Ness Castle, related a story to her audience which gave one good reason why young men left the Highlands:—A worthy Highlander emigrated to New Zealand and having succeeded in the Antipodes after a number of years made a visit to his native land. The hills of his native land were dearer to him than ever, and on climbing one of the northern bens and standing on an eminence he was so delighted with the prospect that he held up his hands and recited the passage from the "Lay of the Last Minstrel" containing the line: "This is my own, my native land." On finishing the quotation with the line referred to, a sturdy gamekeeper, who had been watching him and listening to his patriotic outbursts, rose up from the heather behind him, and, tapping him on the shoulder, said: "That's beautiful poetry you've been quoting, but this land belongs to the Laird, and the sooner you're off it the better."—The Liberator, Auckland, Australia.

MONKEYS AND MEN

Men catch monkeys by setting narrow-necked jugs under the trees. The men hide and the curious monkeys climb down and, when their paws feel the nuts in the bottom of the jug, they grab all the nuts their paws will hold and the men dash out to catch them. The monkey can't get his paw out of the jug without letting go of the nuts, but he never thinks of that and he lands in a cage. Thus the Big Boys make monkeys of us all—we won't let go the faint color of "water" in our property and get caught by shifted taxation and the shifted incomes on "watered" land values everywhere.

We are tricked by our own cupidity and it catches our hands like the steel jaws of a trap holds a rabbit. We suffer all its agony through poverty and destitution. The millions of unemployed bread-winners cannot buy the market's "over-production," because 75 per cent of the cost of living is taxes and income on watered land values of persons and corporations by means of rents, cost of living, prices, interest and dividends on watered land values of natural resources, franchises, harbor fronts, etc. The trivial leavings of "water" the common land and home-owner gets out of it, is simply bait on the trap, but how we crowd each other to get it!—N. A. Vyne, in the "Arizona Single Taxer."

"ACTIVITY" IN FARM LANDS

The Kansas City Star quotes John Fields, president of the Federal Land Bank of Wichita, Kansas, as reporting decidedly greater activity in farm lands; that more farms had been sold by his bank in the first eight months of 1929 than in the entire year of 1928 and that only about half as many foreclosures were pending. The increased sales he attributed "to the ability of farmers to make money on good farms at present valuations."

As ownership of farms is largely divorced from use of the same—a very large share of farming being done by tenants—this means an inevitable tendency of rents to advance to take up the better returns to tenant farmers and, unfortunately but inevitably under our present conditions, it means also the beginning of another upward turn in farm land prices, with the tendency of the same to go on and on, probably to another crazy boom stage, with another crash, when everybody wants to sell and nobody to buy, and years of dullness between.

Will we ever get out of this alternation of land booms and panics, unworthy of civilized humans? We feel capable of giving the answer, which is: Never while we let the value of land go to mere ownership; not until we take it for the public, which is entitled to it, first because people are equally entitled to the use of land, and, second, because their combined demand gives land its value.—Fairhope Courier.

WEALTH AND POVERTY IN INDIA

No American can visit India without being held spellbound by the extravagant and luxurious manner in which the Indian princes live. With my own eyes I viewed the colossal wealth of several rajahs. For example, the rajah of Jaipur, who is only 19 years old, is reputed to have an income of \$4,000,000 a year.

I visited this Jaipur prince's stables and found he had eighty polo ponies. His stables are of pink stone and surround a huge exercise court. Every horse is a thoroughbred and these steeds come from all parts of the world. Besides these the rajah has also forty carriage horses. His variety of conveniences ranges from the old-fashioned tandem cart to the two state carriages, which are made of teakwood, with gold, silver and crystal trim and equipped with gold-threaded cushions.

He has about thirty automobiles, seventeen elephants, sixty camels and more than a hundred wild animals. His grounds, covering several thousand acres, in the heart of the city of Jaipur, have gardens with every known tropical flower. In maintaining the tradition of his predecessors the rajah of Jaipur has a large marsh where are kept many crocodiles. The name of this rajah is Man-Singh II. The rajah at Udaipur displays even greater extravagance than that at Jaipur, for he keeps 500 horses. At Jaipur there are only 600 servants, at Udaipur 1,300.

Besides elephants, camels and numerous fine dogs, the Udaipur prince has a tremendous hunting ground, where abound tigers, lions, panthers and other wild animals. It was in these hunting ponds that the prince of Wales shot his first lion. And although the Udaipur prince is 81 years old he goes hunting several times a month.

In all there are sixty major princes in India. Every one of them lives in a style of grandeur few Americans even dreamed existed today. One would think that Indian people would complain of the ridiculous extravagances of their princes. On the contrary, the people bask in the glory of their princes.

The one exception of note is Mr. Gandhi. His present trump card is passive resistance and non-co-operation. He has succeeded in a measure. One whole village quietly refused to pay taxes. The citizens could not be put in jail because the jail was too small. Mr. Gandhi's plan is for the whole of India to cease co-operation with the British government, for all of India to stop paying taxes. With no taxes what would the poor princes in India do?

JAMES C. FITZGIBBON.

Madras, India.

MAKE NO COMPROMISE WITH SIN!

Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide,
In the strife of Truth with Falsehood, for the good or evil side;
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering each the bloom or blight,
Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep upon the right,
And the choice goes by for ever 'twixt that darkness and that light.

We see dimly in the present what is small and what is great,
Slow of faith how weak an arm may turn the iron helm of fate,
But the soul is still orient; amid the market's din,
List the ominous stern whisper from the Delphic cave within—
"They enslave their children's children who make compromise with sin."

—J. Russell Lowell.

TAX REFORMERS, BE CAREFUL!

"A movement is on foot in many parts of the country to get away from the general property tax and to raise funds for local purposes in some other way, perhaps by an income tax."

"The argument is that a man with an income from investments and living in a rented apartment does not pay his share of the cost of local government, while the farmer, the home owner in the city and the business man are mulcted higher each year."

"The Progressives of Wisconsin are, quite naturally, taking the lead in seeking a more equitable system, and Dane county, the home of the La Follettes, has suggested an income tax for local needs."

"Students of the taxing problem will concede the desirability of a change. Agriculture, in particular, is subjected to unreasonable burdens."

"But the reformers must have a care. Experience shows that when land taxes are too low, speculators hold land idle, waiting for a rise, or very rich men build up vast estates, with no care for present income. These developments are more dangerous, as the Old World can testify, than any ordinary burdens of taxation."

"Taxes should be levied on land in such a way as to encourage its most beneficial use and to penalize land monopoly. The farmer will profit from such a system, and so will the small home owner and legitimate business man."

"The income tax and the inheritance tax may very well be used to supplement the land tax, but all should be intelligently applied."—Labor, Washington, D. C.

THE PRIVILEGE OF HOLDING LAND

No one, no matter how lowly, escapes paying taxes, for under our laws, the consumer pays all taxes, they being included in the higher cost he must pay for commodities. By reason of the inequalities of the tax system, the entire burden is shifted to production; while privilege escapes with little or no taxation. The greatest privilege granted by Government, is the private ownership of natural resources. This privilege can be maintained through the power of the Government which grants it.

Land holding renders no service in production and is entitled to no compensation, the mere presence of population, and not the title holder, creates land value. Since land rent is created by the community, the privilege of land holding should, in justice, be the only source of government revenue.

As long as there is sufficient community-created land rent for the purpose, it is dishonest for Government to take private property to pay public expenses.—The Pennsylvania Commonwealth.

DEMOCRACY IN THE ARMY AND NAVY

Military men, for some reason or other, are often thought of as those whose only idea is to "Civilize 'em with the Krag!" This is no more true of men in the military service of the United States than it is of carpenters or taxi-cab drivers. Whether the proportion of fundamental democrats in the army and navy is higher or lower than it is in civil life no one knows but certainly one will have to look far to find any more earnest and intelligent souls than some of those who are now in the military service—for example Lieut. J. H. Holmes and Capt. Armistead Rust of the U. S. Navy. The following letter recently received by the editor of this paper from Col. William C. Harlike who is in charge of the Marine forces of the United States speaks for itself:

UNITED STATES FLEET
U. S. S. Texas, Flagship

25 February, 1930.

Dear Mr. Jorgenson:

Many thanks for "The Next Step Towards Real Democracy." I appreciate both the book and the compliment paid me by sending it to me with your inscription.

I regard as a friend anyone who has labored and contributed as much as you have for the common good of all by spreading the gospel of Henry George. I met you in Washington when you were on a visit there. We were together for an evening at the home of our mutual friends, either Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Post or Mr. and Mrs. Stanton.

I am glad to have been mentioned to you by Mrs. Holmes Martin. I appreciate her kind mention of me.

There are but few in the military services who understand the Single Tax. But there are some and they are earnest about it. Most of them never heard of it. The Georgian doctrine appeals only to those who have a passion for justice, and truth and feeling for the human race. The opposite types do not understand it and do not want to understand it. They try to hang the "Bohevik" label on it and damn it and prejudice it in the public mind.

But it is truth and will prevail. We are just beginning a new era of inquiry into and of understanding of practical and economic philosophy. The world always has to suffer before it begins to understand.

With regards and best wishes,

Yours in the faith of Henry George
(Signed) WILLIAM C. HARLIKE

A GREAT EDUCATOR SPEAKS

Believing, as I profoundly believe, that the continuance and development of our Western civilization is seriously menaced by the unjust social conditions arising from the private appropriation of Rent, and believing further that the only just and adequate method of reforming existing social conditions has been set forth in the writings of Henry George, I most urgently recommend all my friends to make a study of his writings.

[Sir George Fowlds is the President of the Auckland University College and a former Minister of Education in New Zealand.—Editor]

GEO. FOWLDS.

THE TAX CRISIS IN CHICAGO—Continued

off any move in the direction of land value taxation but to have more taxes transferred to sales of goods, personal property, incomes, etc. Anticipating, for example, that an attempt may be made to popularize the Pittsburgh Plan of Taxation in Chicago the useful servant of these interests—Prof. Richard T. Ely—has just had an article published in the February number of his "Journal of Land and Public Utility Economics" for the purpose of discouraging any leanings towards the Pittsburgh Plan. This article has been written by Lawrence R. Guild, Assistant Professor of Economics in the Carnegie Institute of Technology and concludes as follows:

"It is unfortunate for those who wish to discover proof of economic phenomena in experimental ways that the Pittsburgh tax experiment is not more conclusive. Practically every claim advanced in its favor loses force when scrutinized because the result expected cannot be segregated, or if it can some other and more powerful cause can be shown to exist. That the system is the panacea claimed by some enthusiasts is clearly not the case. Equally unwise would be the statement that its effects are non-existent. Their isolation from other causal factors, and their quantitative proof, however, will be no easy task."

"As a revenue measure, the graded tax has worked well enough. It is to be preferred to the general property tax which still persists in so many American municipalities. This is, of course, not because it is a graded tax but because it is admittedly a tax on real property only. There is no pressing reason why the system should be repealed, and future experience may provide interesting data. At present, the burden of proof of claims advanced by those who see in it the possibilities of social improvement must certainly remain upon them."

While the Ely Institute is thus endeavoring, as best it can, to discourage any leanings in the direction of the Pittsburgh Plan it is, at the same time, doing everything possible to have taxes placed on other things than land values. Prof. Herbert Simpson of Ely's staff, for example, has just prepared an elaborate report entitled "The Tax Situation in Illinois"—a report that has received much praise throughout the state—in which income and business taxation is definitely recommended.

But it may well be that this effort to dampen any enthusiasm for the Pittsburgh Plan will have a reverse effect. Movements are on foot that will definitely bring the issue to the front. Meanwhile the Henry George Lecture Association is arranging to have William N. McNair and Mr. Percy Williams of Pittsburgh speak in Chicago and vicinity on this very subject. The speaking engagements that have thus far been arranged for Mr. McNair in Chicago follow:

Chicago, Ill.,	Single Tax Club	Saturday, May 17, 7 P. M.
Chicago, Ill.,	Anthropological Society	Sunday, May 18, 3:00
Chicago, Ill.,	St. James M. E. Church	Sunday, May 18, 7 P. M.
Chicago, Ill.,	International Club, Y. M. C. A.	Monday, May 19, 7 P. M.
Chicago, Ill.,	Cook County Real Estate Board	Tuesday, May 20, 3:00
Chicago, Ill.,	City Club	Wednesday, May 21, noon
Chicago, Ill.,	Political Science Club, U. of C.	Thursday, May 22, 4:30
Chicago, Ill.,	Association of Commerce	Wednesday, May 28, noon

Make no mistake about it. The people of Chicago and Cook County may not know where they're going, but they are surely on their way!

"PALESTINE HAS CONVERTED ME"

I was struck with the quotation headed "The Trouble in Palestine" in your recent issue.

I have been in Palestine twice within the last six years, and you will be interested in hearing what a chance acquaintance said to me. I met him on the train going down from Jerusalem to Joppa. He was an American engineer in the service of the British, and if I remember aright he was then working on the sewer system of Joppa. To cut the story short, he asked me if I had any familiarity with Henry George's doctrine of the Single Tax. When I told him of my interest and faith he said, "Palestine has converted me."

Yours very truly,

J. H. DILLARD

THE WAY OUT

AN UNSHACKLED CIVILIZATION, by Jackson E. Ralston. Published by the Ingram Institute of San Diego, Calif.

Rarely is need and fulfillment so closely timed as the present tax agitation and the appearance of Mr. Ralston's brochure. The Joint Legislative Tax Commission is still in being, lending its ear to every man's tale of woe, the reformers are frantically endeavoring to bedound the issue, while the business men and farmers are struggling to keep ahead of the sheriff, and the average voter is trying to make out what it is all about.

At this opportune moment appears Mr. Ralston's treatise. It is not so long that the busy man or woman cannot spare the time to read it. Nor is it so abstruse as to be beyond their comprehension. It has come in response to the growing demand of those who "want to know."

A few words suffice to show the nature of government, and the necessity of a sustaining revenue. Then follow a few simple yet fundamental principles of taxation, such as the service of government should be equivalent to the tax paid by the citizen; the tax must not interfere with industry; it must rest where placed; it must not interfere with liberty; it must take note of special privileges, and show favors to none.

All this is set forth, not as the idle tale of a politician seeking votes, but as thoughtful findings of an able economist who has made a life's study of the subject. He shows the fallacy of trying to tax according to ability to pay, and the folly of sales taxes and occupation taxes.

Having shown what just taxes should not be, he with clarity sets forth what they should be, not by any clever word juggling, but by an appeal to man's understanding and the dictates of his conscience.

Not the least of the author's achievements is his coupling of the farmer's plight with the California tax muddle. The farmer, the author holds, is a great primary factor in modern civilization. Any system of taxation that shackles the farmer is by that very fact condemned.

"An Unshackled Civilization" may be had upon request of the Ingram Institute, San Diego, California. It should be thoughtfully read by every person, lay or professional, who would see government lifted to a level corresponding to that achieved by the sciences.—"Tax Facts," Los Angeles, Cal.