

unselfish, patient and persistent devotion to the cause of universal freedom has seldom been seen among men. It seems fitting that some mention of this man's life be made in *LAND AND FREEDOM*, the representative of the Henry George philosophy throughout the civilized world.

CARY RICHARD COLBURN.

## Economic Causes and Effects

**I**NTEREST rates, professional fees, net salaries and wages, and profits from productive business are disproportionately low, enterprise in general stagnates, and living costs are needlessly high, only when and solely because land values and "economic rent" are inordinately high.

When interest rates, professional fees, net salaries and wages, and profits from productive business are reasonably remunerative, enterprise thrives, and living costs are low, it is invariably and wholly due to land values and "economic rent" being reasonably low.

These economic causes and effects are as unchanging and as immutably positive in their operation as the natural laws of attraction and gravitation. Their operation cannot be changed by gods, kings or democracies.

Why are banks now offering call money at only  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ ? What would cause it to command  $6\%$ ? What would be the certain condition of commercial business and agriculture in general, were call money in steady demand at  $6\%$  instead of at  $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ ?

K. P. ALEXANDER.

## On Dean Inge

**S.** A. J. writes:—Dean Inge, of London, who is known as the gloomy Dean, says, "It is notorious that the present conditions of labor do not satisfy the workers" . . . "The deadly poison of Marxism must be eliminated from the veins of the body politic."

To follow out the Dean's simile we could ask him to cure the pestilential ulcer of land monopoly which he apparently does not see because it is covered with the bandage of custom and privilege and which is daily poisoning the social system. Rulers, good or bad, in the past gave to their followers grants of land. In other words they gave to them the right that they and their descendants should live for ever on the labor of others.

Twelve landlords in London—the Dean's own home-town—draw £12,000,000 a year in ground rents which the people of London have to pay for the privilege of using the sites of London on which to build their houses. The Dean does not see this ulcer but he sees the effects of it in the poison in the life blood of the community and yet he thinks the people should be satisfied.

—*Standard*, Sydney, Australia.

## Is It A Land Fight In Texas?

**T**EXAS is going to have a woman governor. Back of that event is some interesting history and in front of it is a knotty problem. Neither the history nor the problem to be faced really had much to do with the superficial issues of the campaign, as discussed most in Texas and featured elsewhere.

Texas has a "land question"—a more acute phase of the problem of landlordism and tenantry, than exists in all the states.

A few years ago when James Ferguson became a political power over night, the unrest over land tenure was very great. It still exists. There is more reason for its existence than in many European countries with celebrated agrarian struggles.

The census of 1920 seems to show that in the decade 1910-1920, the growth of tenantry began to abate in Texas as in the rest of the country, but while a natural solution of the issue may be in process, the issue is still alive and bound to remain so for a long time.

"Educated" Texans, "progressive" and "reactionary," didn't see the land question. They couldn't see the ocean for the water.

Ferguson's nomination was a thunderbolt to them—the emergence of an agrarian radicalism that they didn't suspect. In the southwest today rural radicalism makes the northwestern variety appear "bourgeois" by comparison.

Ferguson's rise to power recalled the story of young Saul seeking his father's asses and being elected king of Israel. But while strong on protest he was weak on practical proposals. He failed in office, because he was smaller than the issue and the forces he had evoked.

But the forces back of his elevation persisted and, aided by accessions of other elements because of new issues they have again prevailed.

"Ma" Ferguson will become governor largely as a result of a wholesome American opposition to the idea of a peasantry.

Politicians and business men alike would do well to study the land question, now that Uncle Sam is no longer rich enough to give us all a farm.

"Scrutator," Special Correspondent in *Chicago Tribune*.

## Not Really Overcrowded

**"U**NCLE SAM isn't to blame for our birth rate, of course," a Porto Rico official told me. "But we're crowded now, 377 to the square mile. Even such a densely packed people might earn a living if the island was all theirs. But vast areas of our richest soil are farmed by big landlords, absentee and otherwise, whose ownership forces many natives to remain mere day laborers. Big landlords there must be,