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GUEST EDITORIAL

The great national powers have developed such dreadful weapons with nuclear fission that now war would be a merciless contest to wipe out the enemy's cities, killing millions of innocent people. Which raises the question: Are the millions of people really innocent in view of their indifference? Time to wake up and assume responsibility as members of our universal human family! We can have peace only if we learn to keep our Earth as the common inheritance of all generations, not the personal property of first-comers and their heirs, which is the fatal error that threatens to decay our civilization.

War is always fought over the possession of land. The most recent as well as the most ancient of world events attest to that. Therefore we must arrange a just system of land tenure. It is the unnumbered landless patriots who face the "enemy" in battle. Our Earth is the eternal gift of Creation, yet we traffic in land as if land was privately produced. This is the cardinal sin that betrays our economy all over the world.

To keep a stable economy we must take land off the mercenary market and make it accessible to each succeeding generation. This can be done by using the public's Economic Rent of Land to support our governments - no need to levy taxes on trade and industry! We would then be keeping the land free from monopoly and equally available to all since under this arrangement no one could afford to hold land unless he used it. We could then expect progress to bring prosperity, not just higher land rent and inflation.

When collected privately, the rent of land is called "the unearned increment" in text books. Eagerness to get hold of this special privilege forces the price and rent of land up to "all the traffic will bear." Result - the high price of land interferes with production and keeps the number of unemployed in the millions.

There is no excuse for this state of affairs. By using the rent of land to support our governments, all unused land would be ready and waiting for each rising generation, offering them equal opportunity, free enterprise and justice.

Let there be life! If nations would adopt this measure, there would not be millions of restless unemployed, there would not be the present insane drive toward war.

- George Tideman