

stones of Progress he relates the feudal system to its subsequent changes together with some historical data. He quotes from Thos. Paine, John Stuart Hill, Herbert Spencer, Dove and Henry George.

The last thirty pages consist of notes relating to each chapter of the book. These notes are valuable references as in most cases they are quotations, from many sources, on the land question, or they are illustrations of his ideas from reports of actual occurrences, in which cases he gives complete data.—C. H. K.

Correspondence

MR. TIDEMAN DRAWS A DISTINCTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It has become the habit, if not the fashion, to say that "industry is burdened with taxes." This expression is not in accordance with actual fact. Industries are merely collectors for the Government, and get paid for collecting. Taxes on secondary industries are part in the cost of production and go into the price of goods and service with the regular profit added to the whole. At every stopping place in the criss-cross course of material and unfinished goods, at every line of transport, taxes are added on top of taxes with profit as cost of collection, until reaching the consuming public which buys and pays for more taxes than goods. This is the first lesson that should be taught in schools of social economy. When the consuming public tumbles to the trick that is being played on them then look for reforms to commence, and the new generation, once started, will not stop halfway. That the increased price reduces consumption, thus curtailing production and employment, is incidental, demand governing supply.

A very large part of the taxes thus collected are wasted in support of a horde of useless and troublesome political office cats, most of whom had better be discarded and left to find more useful pursuits for their living.

Taxes collected on labor and industry are substitutes for revenue the community earns, and its government does not get, thus shifting the rent into the price of goods. To this extent Mr. E. Jorgensen is perfectly right, and it does not require a whole book, nor two of them, to tell and explain that much.

One other expression that runs outside reason is, "Take the whole rental value of land." In the first place, this is impossible; second, even if it could, it ought not to be done. Speculation should, of course, be taxed out; land held idle or poorly used should yield its share,—pay or quit and leave the chance for better men. But just as a man is making improvements on his land does so on the assumption that it will become worth more to him than its cost, so must public improvements and services be of higher value to the payer than the price asked as otherwise all incentive to social progress would be lost, at least on their part.

Fisk, Mo.

S. TIDEMAN.

THE ECONOMIC MOTIVE IN EARLY NEW ENGLAND HISTORY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Having spent the last year in genealogical work I have found many things of interest besides the facts that may be used in a family tree.

For instance: In "Planters of the Commonwealth," by Charles Edward Banks. In 1621 a letter by William Hilton, a native of Cheshire, England, who emigrated in the *Fortune* to join the Pilgrims at Plymouth, although not one of the Separatist body, in a letter to his kinsman back home, he wrote: "We are all freeholders, the rent day doth not trouble us, and all those good blessings we have." Another, George Cleeves, native of Somersetshire, England, writes: "I would be tenant to never a man in New England." Mr. George Cleeves was the founder of Portland, Maine.

Although we have been taught that our ancestors came to New England to avail themselves of the freedom to worship God as they saw fit, it appears that the economic influence was quite as important. Suffield, Conn. DAD.

JAMES CHARLTON DEAD

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The last of the inner circle (the "Solid Six" we called them) of the old Pastoriza Single Tax Log Cabin Club, of Houston has passed over. The victim of an automobile accident a couple of weeks ago, the shock was too much for a man of his years, and he passed out yesterday morning, at the age of 89.

I remember the first time I met Mr. Charlton. It was in the summer of 1890, and having read something I had written to the *Standard*, he wrote me that a Henry George club was being formed in Houston and invited me to join. I recall that he said H. F. Ring, the author of "The Case Plainly Stated," had been selected to represent Houston at the gathering in New York of the faithful to welcome Mr. George back from his trip around the world. It was not until some years afterwards that Pastoriza was brought into the fold and became a live wire, injecting new life into the club which had almost disintegrated by that time.

Mr. Charlton was one of the very few men who could preach the gospel of Henry George in season and out of season without giving offence to the House of Have. Was popular with all classes and was never defeated during his whole political career, which extended over thirty years.

Houston, Texas.

P. W. SCHWANDER.

WANTS AN ACTIVE ORGANIZATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

We are interested in the result of the International Conference in London and are proud of the fact that our Charles O'Connor Hennessy is president of that august body.

That League was organized in 1926 in Copenhagen, Denmark. I had the good fortune to attend the second conference held in Edinburgh in 1929. It was most inspiring to meet so many men and women workers of many lands for they were there from all over the world; all earnestly working to establish a social system that would bring peace and prosperity.

I am sure we all recognize the great value of these international gatherings, but would we not materially strengthen our international organization if we had a National Single Tax League. There are thousands of Single Taxers who have no opportunity to do anything for the cause just because we have no national organization through which to work. I feel sure that the silent majority would not only welcome such an organization but would contribute to its support. I am sure that we could collect sufficient funds to carry on and pay a salary to an active working secretary who would give his entire time to the work, organizing the states, forums and local study groups, and filling lecture dates.

The last number of LAND AND FREEDOM had an account of the annual picnic of the Single Tax organization in Washington at which Representative Charles R. Eckert was the principle speaker. He said: "I used to urge that the Single Tax movement should have a national headquarters in Washington, because here is the seat of government; we find here a different atmosphere from what prevails in many other communities, and I rather regret that that dream was never fulfilled. I felt then and I feel now that the movement would be stimulated if we had a national organization with headquarters here to act as a clearing house for all activities in which Single Taxers are engaged."

I am sure we are all in accord with Mr. Eckert's point of view and that now is the time to act. I hope that the suggestion will be taken up at the annual meeting of the Henry George Foundation.