

Tax viewpoint. It will be the purpose, however, to expedite this survey so as to avoid unnecessary delay in the development of a concrete programme which can be presented to American Georgists interested in this very practical phase of the movement.

Information, ideas and suggestions from Georgists in all parts of the country are especially solicited and may be addressed to the headquarters of the Henry George Foundation, Berger Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.

—P. R. WILLIAMS.

An Excellent Statement of Principle

THE first man who was condemned to labor and live by the sweat of his brow, when applying his labor to the earth and its resources, had as wages his whole product. It was immaterial whether he claimed this product as a landlord, a capitalist or a laborer, the product was his—all.

So today to the land-owning farmer, using his own improvements and tools—products of his previous labor—it is also immaterial whether he accept his crop as wages, rent for land or as interest on his capital; it is his—all. But if there were three persons between whom to divide the product, one representing labor, a second representing capital and a third representing land, it would make a vast difference to each just how the crop was divided.

It is plain that if the landlord as rent were to get more, then between them capital and labor must get less.

Now, since the production of commodities is not complete until they are marketed and are in the hands of the consumer, the producer must hire the warehouseman, the railroads, the commission man, the wholesaler and retailer, and in most cases a manufacturer or processor, and pay them out of the price paid by the consumer. Therefore, it makes a vast difference to the producer on what bases they charge him, because he can have only what is left after their charges are paid.

No farmer or other producer, it would appear, has reason to complain about the general wage scale, because working for wages is their line and the labor market is their line and the labor market is practically an open market, where all have equal opportunity to engage in any occupation which pays best.

Nor should any complain of the rates usually charged for the use of capital, because all can invest their capital where it will draw the largest pay, the same as labor. So it appears competition should fairly well equalize the earnings of both in all trades.

But how about land, a factor which both labor and capital must employ if they do anything? Is the supply of land open to competition, and does the law of supply and demand regulate rent the same as it regulates compensation paid labor and capital? What effect does this

factor—land—have on the retail price of products and the share that labor and capital receive? What share of present retail prices represents land rent or interest on capitalized land values?

Labor complains that wages are low as compared to retail prices. The farmer says the same thing about prices paid him for his products.

We all acknowledge that lack of purchasing power is the main cause of industrial depression. Is it not possible that excessive capitalization of land space in our industrial and trade centers, mines, water power, etc., is exacting an undue share that is unearned, thus reducing the purchasing power of labor and true capital?

Perhaps this would be a good field for one of Mr. Hoover's investigating committees.

—J. S. TINDALL in *Grand Rapids* (Mich.) *Herald*.

HENRY FORD is said to be having trouble in Brazil. His investment there involved the necessity of ousting a lot of tenants. An orphan asylum is listed as among the institutions to be disturbed. Not only are the natives displeased, but inclined to be violent in protest.

Apparently the Brazilians are not different from other people. Nobody yet has been discovered lavishing much affection on an absentee landlord.

—*Hollywood News*.

OUR beloved Will Rogers was this Christmas Day quoted by a large newspaper as saying, "We can hardly wait till the day is over to get back to our devilment again." In addition to what he may have meant by it, we wonder how many realize that therein he struck a cord that reverberates to thousands of homes where poverty and tragedy prevails by reason of our present land tenure system.

The most deceiving things in our social customs have the appearance of legitimacy. Today we celebrate the nativity of Him who said: "Whatsoever ye do unto the least of these ye have done it unto me."

We inflict injustice upon millions "of the least of these," because the majority have been designedly kept in ignorance as to how our land tenure system and manner of raising public budgets visits these injustices upon the victims. As Mr. Rogers says, we will tomorrow return to the practice of this system; the newspapers will sell large advertising space and donate much publicity to the special interests to bait the masses into buying and holding land for a rise in selling price, thus using it as a gambling device.

—C. A. MCLEMORE in *Hollywood News*.

IF by machinery we produce more, or by economy we save more, or by virtue we improve the level of culture, then by that much the area in which this takes place becomes a better place to live and do business in and land values go up and rent goes up—forcing wages and interest down.—Stockton, (Calif.) *Forum*.