

Opportunity

* THE LAWS OF NATURE are fixed—not subject to amendment or repeal. Nature is no respecter of persons—“it maketh the sun to rise on the evil and the good; sendeth the rain on the just and unjust.” Nature is idealistically democratic. Yet in America, regarded the most prosperous nation under the sun, the disparity in the economic and social status of the people is a blot on our civilization. A small per cent of the citizens live in affluence; the masses exist in semi-poverty, poverty and dire poverty.

Every effect has a cause. There is a cause for our economic distress. “The violation of a moral or natural law by government as well as by individuals,” says Henry George, “is punishable with inexorable certainty. This is why nations have perished.”

Many of the great thinkers of the past recognized absolute private property in land as the chief cause of poverty. Schopenhauer wrote: “Whether I own the peasant or the land from which he must obtain his nourishment is a matter of little importance.” The immortal Lincoln predicted that a reform would be worked out some day that would prevent an individual holding more land than he could put to proper use.

Henry George’s proposal that economic rent be collected by the government in lieu of all taxes, is, of course, the fulfillment of Lincoln’s forecast.

It is now up to the followers of Henry George the world over to redouble their efforts to the end that George’s proposal be put into effect.

With more and more people coming every day to see that the deluge of ills afflicting the world are due in the main to tax laws and trade restrictions which spring from a faulty understanding of fundamental economics, a great opportunity to spread enlightenment of the Georgist philosophy and to secure acceptance thereof is at hand. Never was the time more propitious.

—E. G. FREYERMOUTH, M.D.