

Let's be Real Good Neighbors

By R. JOSEPH MANFRINI

In the realm of economics, the opening of new frontiers often signifies approaching periods of prosperity, the new lands serving as an additional base in the world economy for the production of more wealth. While it is quite true that, in an exploratory sense, virtually all the earth's surface has already been discovered, it is equally true that a large proportion of these lands has been closed by tariff walls, immigration restrictions, foreign exchange laws, nationalistic subsidies and other barriers obstructing the free flow of goods.

Our government in Washington, with its Good Neighbor Policy, has been exerting increasing pressure against these barriers. In addition, present war activities, largely eliminating Eastern Hemisphere competitors for world trade, are presenting this country with an unusual opportunity to extend its business ac-

tivities below the Rio Grande. Brazil, larger in area than the U. S., is no longer a one crop country. Although coffee is still king, the production of iron, steel, cotton, sugar and rubber is rapidly increasing in importance. There have been many critics of our Good Neighbor Policy and some of the criticism has been well founded but few thinking people will question our desire to be really good neighbors when we embarked upon a venture with the Brazilian Government to build up a steel industry in that country. The ore properties in the State of Minas Geraes have hardly been touched. Ultimately this endeavor should stimulate shipbuilding within the confines of that great South American empire.

Brazil deserves many of these considerations. In the past several years she has attempted to put her financial house in order in spite of

the many difficult and complex problems with which she was confronted. For some time Brazil has been making regular token payments on most of the dollar bonds held in this country, and has been quietly building gold reserves. Fordlandia, in Northern Brazil, a combination of Brazilian cooperation and Yankee ingenuity, is expected to supply the country with a definite supply of rubber for commercial purposes within the next two years.

The statesmen of Brazil have an opportunity to cement friendly relations between Washington and Rio de Janeiro by observing sound economic principles. To soft-pedal the issues of trade and immigration barriers would not be conducive to good neighborliness. The best interests of both nations lie in a policy of cooperation and mutual understanding for the working out of their joint problems.

The men and women working, writing and doing research work for THE FREEMAN have given us material enough to fill this space a hundred times over. But this isn't just their magazine, it's yours too. What are you doing about it? What are you doing to make it better and more widely read? What better way to stimulate interest in Henry George's philosophy? What better and more practical way to a sane and equitable post war world? What better way to economic enlightenment and to freedom? And—what are you doing about it?*

The Editors.

*Write for THE FREEMAN, sell THE FREEMAN.