

Stinking

The Freeman, July, 1942

Freedom's Right

THE STATEMENT OF AIMS of the Henry George Institute of New England includes the following:

1. All-out effort to win a decisive victory in the war against the Axis.
2. A constant vigil against attacks on the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.
3. A union of self-governing people founded on an international Bill of Rights and permitting no barriers to a free market within its jurisdiction.
4. Recognition of the principle that economic rent of the land belongs to the people and that it is the first duty of Government to collect that rent for the benefit of the people, with corresponding relief from taxation.

These aims will be approved by Georgists who feel that they are good Americans, and Americans who happen to be Georgists.

Others, a small minority, will with equal sincerity dissent. Knowing how Henry George felt about war, they will interpret his position as meaning that though we have been treacherously attacked, and our lives and liberties are at stake, we must take it lying down.

To the vast majority it will seem incredible that the words of Henry George, lifelong and indefatigable fighter in the cause of freedom, a valiant warrior if there ever was one, should be construed as justifying refusal to support our country's war effort in this hour of national peril. They will agree, rather, with that distinguished veteran in Georgism, Stephen Bell, who wrote in the May issue of The Freeman:

"... any hope for a civilization based on human freedom that the world may cherish depends on the utter and crushing defeat of the powers arrayed against the principle of Liberty, to whose broken light we owe all the real civilization we have ever had. The present leaders of Germany and Italy repudiate and spit upon her. The Japanese never knew her. She cannot live if their principles triumph. Her only chance of survival to guide men onward and upward to a civilization worthy of the name depends upon the triumph of those who at least profess to be devoted to her."

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