



To the Editor:

I would like to receive a comment from someone who feels he has an adequate answer to the following statement in a November Reader's Digest article "I Saw the New Africa," by Clarence B. Randall:

"Certain road blocks must be removed before the new Africa can enter confidently upon a program of economic development. One is land tenure. These new countries have no tradition of private ownership; the land is tribally owned. There was never much incentive for a father and son to improve their farm, for they had no assurance that the son would inherit it. To undertake now to allocate specific parcels to individuals is a prodigious task. Yet, without the power to alienate his land, an individual cannot command the credit with which to buy the tools he needs. A mortgage seems a simple enough mechanism, but for lack of it the nations can starve."

RICHARD W. CARR
Cincinnati, Ohio

Readers are invited to comment on the above.

To the Editor:

I guess Georgists are just naturally reformers and cannot help trying to redress abuses—like Don Quixote. Robert Gross has a letter in the November HGN about the importance of monetary reform and quotes George to support his contention that such reform is as important as land reform. I do not think that George thought so, and I, too, can quote George. In a contribution to a magazine *Once A Week*, in 1894, he said, "money,

important as may be its office as a measure and flux of exchanges, is still a mere counter."

There are many injustices and abuses in the world—many heads of the Hydra—but all of George's several books seem to insist that they depend on the support of land monopoly. Let us not go around tilting at windmills and scattering flocks of sheep.

URQUHART ADAMS
Edmonton, Alberta

To the Editor:

Robert Gross (November HGN) does not realize that monetary reform is but a by-product of two social-theft processes in today's America: privately retained ground rent, plus taxes.

Governor Knight of California in a recent TV interview was asked if it would not be a good idea to eliminate the many defense plants in California because of their population-danger in a sudden enemy attack. His answer was, that eliminating these plants would mean mass unemployment.

Most of the "Help Wanted Male" advertising in large California cities, is for jobs in defense plants. The cost of defense plants reduces the purchasing power of the dollar. A large percentage of the assets of the nation's banks, as listed in their financial statements, consist of U. S. government obligations; the Federal debt. See chapter "Public Debts and Indirect Taxation" in *Social Problems* by Henry George.

HERMAN ELLENOFF
Los Angeles, California