



PROFESSOR JAMES L. BUSEY is right in his conclusion (December HGN) that population density is not primarily responsible for extreme poverty. Henry George agreed with him long in advance when he said it is theoretically possible for such an increase in population that we will all be packed like sardines in a can.

Georgists generally insist that the single tax is a basic reform that will make other problems easier of solution. And Josue de Castro, in *The Geography of Hunger*, points out that extreme poverty and malnutrition tend to increase the birth rate. If that is so, and he makes a convincing argument, the proper solution to the problem of too dense populations is to raise living standards and then birth rates will automatically adjust themselves to the needs of society. As George intimated, if we were properly oriented adjustments would be automatic, with no necessity for governmental controls.

URQUHART ADAMS
Peace River
Alberta

Today I read the November issue of HGN and must confess that I am sorry to meet so often the omission of one important word. Oscar B. Johannsen wrote, as have many others, that the solution to the land problem lies in collecting economic rent, but he does not mention the need of abolishing all other taxes, which Henry George emphasized.

"Abolish all taxation save that on land values," said George. He never spoke of collecting taxes without adding a word about the need of abolishing, shifting or substituting the noxious taxes. The collection of economic rent alone; by the most perfect, exact and

just land value tax—even to the last penny; cannot change or solve the social problem. Such a reform will accomplish more harm than good unless there is simultaneous abolition.

PAVLOS GIANNELIAS
Lyon (France)

A farmer was asked by a tourist how to get to a nearby town. After several confused attempts to direct him, the farmer stopped, thought a moment, and said, "you know, you can't get there from here."

This story reminds me of those who argue that land value taxation should have been adopted a hundred years ago, or that it will be adopted eventually, but not now. "The single tax is just—but not just yet!"

ARLEIGH CHUTE
Menlo Park, California

I am glad that the philosophy of Henry George is receiving favorable publicity, and I call your attention to the suggestion in the enclosed newspaper clipping in which the use of electronic computers is recommended. It seems they do everything but think, and they might prove of value to our cause.

WILLIAM A. GELONEK, SR.
San Francisco

Mr. Gelonek enclosed an excerpt from a newspaper column by Arthur Caylor of the San Francisco News Call-Bulletin. The book, *Taxation's New Frontier* by Joseph S. Thompson, was mentioned as being a safeguard against communism, and applicable to the common market situation. He concluded his remarks concerning the single tax with a suggestion that this matter be submitted to an electronic computer. By feeding it existing tax figures, he said, it might come up with exact answers, thus saving years of trial, error and indecision.