

they really knew anything about economics as a science and dared to teach what they knew they would be made to walk the plank. That would be true whether the university were publicly or privately endowed—as a general rule. In the days when the church dominated all social and governmental affairs, it was a certainty that no teachers—except such as might be made of asbestos, if there were such—ever dared to teach the truth about astronomy. That, for the reason that the church maintained certain astronomical notions which the science of astronomy has proven false. So it is in the field of economics.

I heartily concur in the suggestion of E. H. Boeck of St. Louis. It is the most effective means of calling attention to our political philosophy. The people are at present so politically disturbed, we might awaken some morning to find ourselves surprised.

Hollywood, Calif.

L. J. QUINBY.

MICHIGAN'S MUDDLE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the beautiful but dumb State of Michigan a steal has been perpetrated proportionately far beyond the famous Teapot Dome affair, done openly in broad daylight, its progress reported in the press and the Governor and Legislature assisting and honestly imagining in their ignorance that they were doing a meritorious act. The *Detroit News*, be it said, had a sort of inkling that the act was really unwise and even scandalous, but its protests went unheeded.

This was accomplished through the Moore bill, now (Moore law,) introduced by Senator A. L. Moore of Pontiac, a statesman who is thoroughly honest but obviously lacking other qualities essential to sound statesmanship. On the face of it this law is a measure granting a moratorium to delinquent taxpayers. All taxpayers delinquent for 1931 and preceding years may pay these delinquent taxes in ten annual installments and need not begin doing this until 1935. The effect of this measure is to help every land speculator in the State, who was about to be forced to let go, to hold on indefinitely. It deprives the State of millions of acres which it could have obtained for the delinquent taxes and could have used to end unemployment in the State.

Some of this land is within easy reach of Detroit, some is even in Detroit. The greater part of the country between Detroit and Pontiac, 30 miles away, consists of tracts fronting on some of the finest roads in the country and all held for speculation. Most of these are former farms bought by the speculators on a shoestring on longtime land contracts.

During the boom the prices obtained by these speculators for small parcels amounted to thousands of dollars per acre. But when the crash came all this stopped. Values fell below even the amount paid the original owners. Payments on the land contracts became delinquent, the owners began foreclosing, and no one who is being foreclosed upon will pay taxes for what he is doomed to lose. When the original owners finally re-possessed they found themselves loaded with obligations to pay taxes for many years back, during which the defaulting speculators had been selling at top prices, and some prices over the top. Few of the re-possessing owners could pay these accumulated taxes. It was a magnificent and rare opportunity for the State to resume possession and to offer the land to users at its true economic rent. But Michiganders like other ganders proved themselves to be the nearest thing to geese. They thought this situation to be a calamity to the State. Candidates at last fall's election of both parties promised "relief" for it. The first thing done by the newly elected Democratic Governor Comstock—the same wise guy who started the bank holidays which swept the country—was to urge an emergency measure postponing for a year all tax sales.

Of course, he did not realize that by so doing he was throwing away a chance to end the holidays which the unemployed have been enjoying in this most depressed State of the Union. Jobs, he thinks, have nothing to do with land. They are favors bestowed by those who have something on those who have nothing. So the emergency tax sale postponement measure went through the legislature by an almost unanimous vote. The Moore bill was slated to follow as quickly but

there were few members who, possibly realizing its true nature, succeeded in delaying it. Still it finally did get through and Governor Comstock promptly signed. So that is that. Michigan's unemployed may now keep living on the welfare a while longer.

During this period the Supreme Court of the State made a most undignified spectacle of itself. The tax sale postponement was unquestionably unconstitutional in that it violated some advertising contracts made by the State. The Moore bill did the same. Some disappointed publishers took the matter into court and the Supreme Court by an almost unanimous vote set the unconstitutional measure aside. This seemed to end the then pending Moore bill as well as the act directly ruled upon, and consternation reigned in the ranks of the privileged and speculator-worshippers. But it did not reign long. Senator Moore with some of his followers haled the dignified judge into a private conference. What happened there has never been printed, so perhaps we may assume that it is unfit to print. But this has been printed. The judges, still trying to look dignified, walked straight from the conference room to the bench, mounted it and announced that in rendering their decision twenty-four hours before they had entirely forgotten the depression and the hard times and so had not taken into consideration the emergency that existed, on which account they reversed their decision and upheld the measure that had been declared null and void. This is not their exact language but is near enough.

Governor Comstock is still trying to do more for the speculator and keep the unemployed on their holiday. He has pushed a sale tax measure through the legislature, but is not satisfied with it. The solons did not make it as drastic as he wished. On the whole, Michigan's experience with a Democratic Governor proves that Republican Governors could not be worse.

Detroit, Mich.

SAMUEL DANZIGER.

WANTS TO BE A SOCIALIST

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

While reading Dr. George R. Geiger's book, "The Philosophy of Henry George," for review in *Commerce and Finance*, several weeks ago, I was struck by some very happy expressions which have been running in my mind more or less ever since, and even wandered into my weekly reviews of the business situation. Particularly admirable is his presentation of the ethical nature of Georgist philosophy and the impossibility of eliminating the ethical element from political economy without leaving it the dead and hopeless thing which has been called "the dismal science."

He represents George as seeking "the socialization of land," "the socializing of land values," "the socializing of rent," on the ground that rent is a "social product." In one passage he depicts George as seeking "the transformation of this social product from a social liability to a social asset."

Out of Dr. Geiger's book has come to me an increased repugnance for the old and inadequate nickname of "Single Tax" as a designation of the wonderful Georgist philosophy. It is a name that frequently arouses antagonism and closes the minds of those with whom our appeal should be convincing.

I have always admired the names "Socialist" and "Socialism." I have thought that "Socialist" connotes or should connote, a person who understands political economy, which the Marxian Socialists certainly do not. In this proper meaning of the word, the Georgists rather than the Marxians are the true Socialists, and it grieves me that we have in the past done so much to bring the term "Socialist" into disrepute—and I am glad we have failed.

We aim to socialize social wealth, not only that organized societies may have its own, but that individuals may be left to possess the own in security and prosperity. We are Socialists. Why deny it?

It is high time we ascended Mars Hill, as it were, and proclaimed to the nations: "Men of the world, this Socialism which the Marxians preach without understanding, this we expound unto you!"

We should, of course, distinguish ourselves from the Marxians

socialists, who are unable to distinguish between social wealth and private wealth, but this should be easy. We have a variety of adjectives that would serve this purpose satisfactorily. Here are a few:

Free Socialists. The Marxian Socialist would necessarily regiment the world's workers to greater or less degree. We would set them free.

Land Socialists. Expresses the idea of socializing the land.

Free Soil Socialists. Ditto, but snacks too much of farm land.

Georgian Socialists. The distinction between us and the Marxians could scarcely be made plainer than by the use of this term.

The main point is that we should do something to rescue the noble name of "Socialist" from those who are entitled to it only by pre-emption and who are misrepresenting its true meaning.

Yours for Georgian Socialism,
Clifton, N. J.

STEPHEN BELL.

IS SATISFIED WITH OUR ANSWERS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Many thanks for your kindness in answering my Single Tax questions in your May-June number of LAND AND FREEDOM.

You have clarified my ideas of the theory and principles quite satisfactorily.

Many express surprise that a proposition so logically just and practical as the idea advanced by Henry George, should have hung fire for so many years. At least to the writer, who heard George and read his book nearly fifty years ago, these years seem many.

But as far as the United States is concerned, it seems to me that during the most violent epoch of our pioneer stage it was almost hopeless to expect that anything merely just and right and even in the long run unquestionably for the good of all, should have been cherished with any great enthusiasm.

While we should by no means depreciate the educational value of spreading the Single Tax principles and making the people conscious of their justice, the greatest hope for the immediate future perhaps lies in more concentrated effort towards practical demonstrations, such as a system of enclaves seem to promise.

I would also respectfully suggest that, as Single Taxers, we attend strictly to our knitting and avoid so much controversy and criticism about and of, the numerous issues that tempt us from the straight and narrow way.

We agree as to the expediency and the justice of the appropriation of site-rent by the society that alone produces it. As to other things in general, in common with the rest of humanity, we are apt to differ vociferously and violently.

Washington, D. C.

P. R. WHITMAN.

NOT QUITE DEAD

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just finished reading in the *New York Times* of last Sunday, a review of Dr. George Geiger's book by one William MacDonald, in which he advises us that it would be a waste of his time to attempt a refutation of a theory which for all practical purposes has long since been dead, and adds that all that Prof. Geiger succeeded in doing was to erect a monument to its memory. Mr. MacDonald also made the prediction that it would very likely be the last one to be erected.

This summary issuance of a death certificate reminds me of the rick-layer who fell three stories from a scaffold on which he was working. He was picked up by Pat, the hod-carrier, who was working below. Pat laid him carefully in the shade of the building and bathed his head with cold water and did such little things as he could for his comfort while awaiting a hurried call for a doctor.

The doctor soon arrived and found the man bolstered up with his head resting on Pat's knee and everybody around very much excited. The doctor felt for the man's pulse, rolled back his eyelids, listened to heart-beats, and exclaimed; "He's dead!"

Hearing this, the fellow made a desperate pull for his "second wind,"

grabbed a deep breath, opened one eye and faintly gasped; "I'm not!"

Pat, so shocked by his effrontery, gave him a swat across the jaw, and said; "Shut your mouth, you dom fool! Don't the doctor know?"

So the Philosophy of Henry George "is dead!" The doctor says it is. Well, just send along this latest "monument" to its memory. My cemetery is not yet full.

Middletown, N. Y.

Z. K. GREENE.

— SOMETHING ABOUT JOHN C. ROSE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I cannot refrain from writing about a friend of mine, Mr. John C. Rose, 1112 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., whose devotion to a cause is very touching and inspiring. He is an ardent advocate of Henry George's philosophy.

He devotes all of his time teaching this philosophy, even to the neglect of all other work, regardless of how lucrative it may be. Although he is forced to live in straitened circumstances, he is cheerful, optimistic and enthusiastic.

He has a varied career, having been in turn student, globe-trotter, soldier of fortune, newspaperman and professor. He has an honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy from the old University of Moscow. He is the author of several books now out of print, and of several books that he hopes to publish.

Mr. Rose, however, likes to consider himself merely as a student of life. He spends most of his time studying life from those approaches glimpsed through philosophy, biology, psychology, sociology, economics, anthropology and history.

He believes that the only true and lasting progress must come through Henry George's philosophy.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

F. W. MAGUIRE.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

THROUGH the kindness of a recent convert to our principles who must be nameless copies of our review in May-June issue of Prof. Rexford G. Tugwell's "Industrial Discipline" has been mailed to every member of Congress.

A THREE-COLUMN article in a Seattle, Wash., paper advocating the Henry George doctrine appears with the signature of P. Frank Morrow, State Senator. He analyses the New Deal which he says is only a "new shuffle." We welcome to our fold this distinguished member of the State Legislature.

THE Cardinal Hayes Literature Committee of the Catholic Church has listed approved books on economics and social science. We are glad to see "The Philosophy of Henry George," by Dr. George Raymond Geiger, among the works so listed.

E. O. CORN, of Dallas, Texas, is a frequent contributor of excellent Single Tax letters to the *Dallas Times-Herald*.

LEWIS H. CLARK, of Sodus, N. Y., writes: "Your painstaking and searching review of Prof. Tugwell's 'Industrial Discipline' under the title 'Worse Than Socialism' is a needed piece of work well done."

C. LEBARON GOELLER, Box 105, Endwell, N. Y., is prepared to print circulars for distribution by Single Taxers at about fifty cents per thousand.

W. R. LESTER, of London, England, writes: "Please accept my compliments for the way you continue to direct LAND AND FREEDOM."

M. L. KATHAN, Walter Oerding and Dr. Richmond spoke before the Christian Endeavor Society at Kathan, Ore., on Sunday, July 9,