

endency is away from liberty and toward restriction, and that the real issue before the people is slavery or freedom. The real reason why so-called capitalists refuse to become interested in Single Tax is that they realize to some extent, at least, the present system is dependent entirely upon an abundant supply of cheap labor.

Single Tax, we believe, would free labor, and continuance of employment under existing conditions would be impossible. The laboring people considered as a whole do not realize what causes their present situation and vainly strive to bring about some improvement through organization. The capitalists, on the other hand, realize to free the worker would bring about a change in our present set up.

The real issue must eventually be faced. Are we going to continue the system which depends on slavery or are we going to free the laborer and bring about a complete change in our present system.

The present system received its big impetus when the tenures in England were abolished in the twelfth year of the reign of Charles II. Had the burden on land not been removed the system as we know it would not have developed.

Troitt, Michigan.

HENRY C. L. FORLER.

A CHANCE FOR WIDE SPREAD PROPAGANDA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Congressman Eekert's speech on "The Wagner Bill, Land and Labor," is an excellent and readable presentation of the Henry George plan; it will attract the attention of both the supporters and the opponents of the Wagner Bill and will offend neither of them.

Copies can be had from Congressman Charles R. Eekert of Pennsylvania for distribution franked for postage. It may be ordered and used to advantage by anyone.

Some fifteen thousand copies have already been circulated among Henry George people and prospects. If desired by the thousands, the cost of printing would be required, which is about four dollars a thousand.

BOLTON HALL.

A SUGGESTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It is my constant wish that your splendid editorials in LAND AND FREEDOM might have a wider circulation. It is ridiculous to observe enormous circulation that is given to so much that is trash. What do you think of *The Freeman*? I am hoping that it will do the work that the old *Standard* did so well, and that *The Public* did so very well in a little different way. I have often thought that we might arrange two or more pages in some weekly journal of wide circulation like *Wier's* or *Liberty*, provided of course that we could get the right man to provide just the right copy for it and that we could get enough subscriptions from our own people and their friends to justify that. I used to suggest this to Louis Post in the old days.

Wichita, Kansas.

HENRY WARE ALLEN.

A PLEA FOR TOLERATION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I must confess to a growing irritation at the constant quibbling amongst ourselves over non-essentials. In your January-February issue Alan Thompson is at it again with more than insinuation that Beckwith is neither an economist nor a scientist, and all because the two do not happen to agree upon Beckwith's mannerisms—if they may be called—the *casus belli* just now being their disagreement upon the matter of interest.

To my mind, the philosophy of Henry George is clear and explicit in every economic question necessary to the establishment of justice in our social order. Rent is always, and everywhere a social issue, hence should be collected by society, not turned over to every man (or unlucky) Tom, Dick or Harry for their private exploitation. Collection by society would immediately open the resources of

nature to all upon equal terms; would force unused, rent bearing land into use and uneconomically used land into its full economic use. And I'm pretty sure that both Beckwith and Thompson will give 100 per cent assent to this statement.

The vast majority of men I meet do not care enough about anything to save their own supposed self interest even to give any economic question a thought; why, then, attempt to interest them in a subtlety which has no more bearing upon the truth we all agree upon than the phases of the moon upon the movements of Jupiter? And if one who has been convinced of this truth can be deterred from its espousal by any doubt of George's correctness or incorrectness upon the cause of interest or his espousal of the Ricardian theory of rent he is not worth a damn to this or any other cause involving the fundamentals of social life.

Just exactly what is the difference whether one sides with Thompson or with Beckwith in this matter? If, as Thompson declares, "interest will disappear when economic rent is collected in lieu of all taxes," why, presto, it will do so, no matter which is right; and does he suspect that Beckwith is any less devoted to such collection of rent than himself? Then why all the pother? And since it is pretty difficult for anyone to follow any other method of propaganda than that which seems to him most effective, let us be just a trifle tolerant of the other fellow's method. Long before our common goal has been reached both these valiant protagonists of this truth will have taken his abode in "the narrow house," so vindication of the contention of either will have scarcely an academic interest for either disputant.

Remember the two yokels who were dragging their cart across the marsh and got it mired in the mud; one declared for a hickory lever to get it out, but the other would have nothing but oak, and while they disputed, the cart sank so deeply that it could not be retrieved.

In my estimation Mr. Beckwith is one of the most valuable advocates of the Georgeian truth we have, and Mr. Thompson is another. Let us direct our attack against the enemy, not wrangle amongst ourselves. But let us not forget that *homo sapiens* has not been out of the trees long enough to have progressed far toward the human life.

Marathon, Iowa.

T. J. KELLEY, M. D.

THE GOSPEL OF PLENTY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

You put it strongly and, I believe, most truly: "Poverty is the foe of all social advance, of spiritual and intellectual as well as material progress." I suppose you include not only poverty itself but the fear of poverty and the myriad superstitions that are born of fear.

Your hope, you say, is in the young. You are a younger product of my own era—I am eighty years old. I think both you and I have the right to hope that the new spirit that manifests itself is a spirit of peace and makes converts and apostles of us all.

I agree with you most enthusiastically: "In the philosophy of freedom is the germ of a new renaissance."

Our civilization has brought into play greater freedom than ever was known in the world before. This freedom has led to the plenty which Henry George was the first to declare and prove, and which has forced itself upon attention of observers and thinkers everywhere.

Evidently referring to the followers of Henry George, you say: "Ours is a tremendous responsibility." Once more, I very heartily agree. But I think we do not discharge that responsibility by any of the methods we have adopted. I approve of all methods that are in line with the Henry George philosophy, but I think we have made a big mistake in not beginning where George began. When he announced in the very first words of "Progress and Poverty," that the age of plenty had begun, he flatly contradicted the thought of his time. But today the belief in plenty is universal. But the world's self-appointed spokesman dare not follow the plain road that George marked out leading to the abolition of poverty.

Plenty is our heritage from our great prophet and leader. If we declare it confidently and exultantly we can justify both our declaration and our confidence by showing how the social mechanism that he devised—the recovery of rent—will distribute plenty on a plenty scale and so will abolish poverty and establish economic equity—for practical purposes, economic equality:—"Who should crouch where all were freemen? Who oppress where all were peers?"

Ottawa, Canada.

A. C. CAMPBELL.

APPROVES OUR EDITORIAL

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your editorial in issue just received pleased me very much. For several years my own expressed opinion that the rapid decadence of the present so-called civilization was apparent in the grotesque, not to say "rotten," productions in painting, drawing, sculpture, music and literature has received no response and scarcely even polite attention.

Art is crude, infantile and offensive to the eye, music a mere din and offense to the ear, and books so poorly and clumsily written that good material for an interesting story is so prosy as to be tiresome and almost unreadable.

I hope you are right as to "the questioning spirit of the young." My observation has noted either absolute indifference or interest only in the superficial nonsense and jargon of Marxism.

How can Broadus Mitchell express such appreciation of Henry George as he has in the article in your current issue and then speak over the radio such nonsense as "we must have production for use and not for profit" to solve our economic problems. The answer of course is probably the necessity of holding a job and the fact that probably Johns Hopkins, as is true of Harvard, Columbia and many of the Western State Universities, gets a large income from ground rents.

Boston, Mass.

EDMUND J. BURKE.

A CORRECTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Walter Fairchild's article on interest in your January-February edition is very clear and conclusive, except:—

He states that "interest, however, is not a return for borrowed capital, but is the return for the use of capital."

I have rewritten this, and W. F. approves, to read "Interest is not a return for borrowing (capital) but is a return in the using of capital." N. Y. City.

F. C. MAGUIRE.

NEWS, NOTES AND PERSONALS

R. R. STOKES, labor candidate for Parliament in the 1938 By-Elections from Ipswich, England, is triumphantly elected, reversing a conservative majority of several thousand for the opposition. In his manifesto he says: "I believe a gradual abolition of the private monopoly of natural resources through the taxation of land values is the most potent remedy for the evil distribution which is the cause of poverty and distress. Land values are the creation of the community and arise out of its presence. The landowner contributes nothing by his ownership as distinct from his management." Mr. Stokes served during the World War in the Royal Field artillery and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. He concludes his manifesto by saying, "I look forward to a state of society in which everyone can live in economic security and war shall cease to exist, and where freedom and justice are secure for all men."

MRS. ROSWELL SKEEL, JR., writes: "I am more and more pleased with the *Freeman* which is certainly a good supplement to your dignified and more universal sheet."

We are pleased to announce that *The New Commonwealth* of New Zealand has resumed publication. It will be sponsored by the Commonwealth Party of New Zealand and is published at Hohair Street Matamata, New Zealand. The number before us is full of good things and is Number One, Volume One, of the new series that succeeds the former *Commonwealth* of Wellington. Success to it!

"MILK RIVER Thrives Under Single Tax" is the title of an article in the *Herald* of Lethbridge, Alberta. It states that relief cost shows a decline over the previous year as well as a satisfactory bank balance from year to year.

WILLIAM B. VERNAM, long active as a Single Taxer in Brooklyn is dead at eighty-one. Some years ago Mr. Vernam was president of the Brooklyn Single Tax Club. He was a man of varied talents. He painted many portraits in oil of prominent business men and his younger years was active in amateur theatricals. He was born in England and came to America at the age of seventeen. He is survived by his sons, Harold D. and Gilbert S. Vernam; a daughter, Mrs. Margaret O'Connell, and a brother, Sanford J. Vernam, Trenton, N. J.

A BILL has been introduced into the Massachusetts' legislature providing for an excise tax on certain vacant lands. Most of the proposals take a wrong direction, as this one does, but they are significant as straws in the wind.

ANDREW FURSUETH, head of the Seamen's Union, who for many years championed the cause of "those who go down to the sea in ships," died recently in Washington after a long career of usefulness. He is said to have been a believer in the philosophy of Henry George and was known all over the world.

The Square Deal, Single Tax organ of Canada, published in Toronto shows Canada waking up. The Jan.-Feb. number contains much interesting news. Printed in this number is an address by John Anderson of Montreal in which he calls Henry George "the greatest Christian since St. Paul."

A VERY favorable review of Louis Wallis' "Burning Questions: Making Your Living in a Monopolized World," appears in the *Wall Street Journal* of Feb. 4.

"LAND AND FREEDOM does not deteriorate with the years," writes John B. McGauran of Denver, Colorado.

W. L. CROSMAN of Revere, Mass., quotes Lincoln and his views on the land question from Robert H. Browne's "Abraham Lincoln: the Men of His Time," in the *Boston Traveler* of Feb. 12.

THE Sales Tax Absurd is the title of a well written letter in Gloucester, Mass., *Times*, from the pen of James B. Ellery.

AN article from *The Medical Times* by Dr. Arnold Jacobson, editor, on Francis Quesnay, leader of the physiocrats, has been printed in leaflet form for distribution and may be had of Dr. Jacobson, Nassau Street, New York City.

THE Commencement Dinner of the Middletown, N. Y. High School was held on the evening of Feb. 14. Mr. Closter, instructor of the school, acted as toastmaster and a number of graduates spoke. Mr. Frank Chodorov, director of the School, addressed the gathering and presented certificates to the graduates. Sixty persons attended.