

Special Henry George Number of a Southern Magazine

OUT of Greenville, South Carolina, comes a Special Number of *The Libertarian*. The sub-title of this magazine, published monthly at 35 cents per copy, is "A Southern Magazine Upholding the Principles of Liberty."

This special Number comprises nearly one hundred pages, beginning with an Introduction by Ernest Bridges, the editor. The articles are long, but not too long, and are as follows: The Story of Henry George, by Alfred Hines; Memories of Henry George, by Hamlin Garland; George and His Disciples, by Joseph Dana Miller; Free Trade and the Engineer, by Henry H. Hardinge; Is American Liberalism a Betrayal of the Masses, by Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown; and a singularly thorough treatment of the Progress of the Single Tax Movement, by Emil O. Jorgenson. Tolstoy's Great Iniquity is also included.

We cannot praise this Special Number of the Magazine too highly. Our readers should send for copies. It should be widely distributed. No more impressive compilation of the facts regarding Henry George and the movement he led has appeared in any magazine in years. It is a monument to the enterprise of the publisher, H. P. Burbage, and the editor, Ernest Bridges.

A Strong Basis For Land Value Taxation

PROFESSOR Brown takes certain alleged services rendered by citylandowners, among them being "foresight," but concludes that "foresight used to give a service may earn remuneration. Foresight used to obtain something for nothing seems hardly deserving of any special protection" (II, pp. 216, 217). Likewise, conceding that the expected increment in land values formerly aided somewhat in the settlement of the West, he questions whether the benefit of that increment was diffused, but concludes that the important question is, not what occurred in the past, but whether the grandchildren of the settlers are entitled to a permanent unearned increment derived from the earnings of those who came later, especially when the highly valued urban lands of the western cities are considered (II, p. 220.) Income and inheritance taxes may be carried so far as to put a check on saving, but a tax on bare-land values does not check savings—it rather increases the amount of savings in the form of improvements, etc. (II, p. 222). In general, the land values which he would have subjected to the special tax are not agricultural lands but are special sections where pure scarcity on account of the growth of population, and not decreasing productivity on account of the lowering of the margin of cultivation, has increased their values, such as urban lands, mines, and power sites (II, pp. 228, 229). His method of analysis at this point

is quite superior to that of Ricardo and Henry George, since it makes scarcity the central feature and not the reduction of efficiency at the agricultural margin of cultivation. I believe it places the argument for special taxation of bare-land values on stronger and better grounds than those that have hitherto been offered by the followers of the Ricardian analysis.—PROF. JOHN R. COMMONS in *American Economic Review* in notice of Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown's *Economic Science and the Common Welfare*.

Labor Day Talks

LABOR DAY sermons and addresses this year were marked by less pessimism and bitterness than we have sometimes noted. The spirit animating all we have had opportunity to hear and read was excellent and inspiring.

In other respects we could detect no advance. There was still the old, mistaken habit of regarding the labor problem as a question merely of bodies of organized workers on the one side, and of large corporations on the other—or, as most of such orators put it, "the struggle between Capital and Labor."

This leaves utterly outside the great labor problem all of the unorganized who work for employers; it ignores workers who do not hire out to employers, but, as the common saying is, "work for themselves;" it does not touch the unemployed; it does not take the recurring business depressions, or periods of "hard times," into account, when both Labor and Capital seem to be struck by paralysis.

The reason for this is the habit of regarding Labor and Capital as the only factors in production, and of ignoring the third factor—Land. It was not mentioned in any of the addresses we have seen. This failure is, in turn, due to the habit of regarding land as a part of capital—an old and very serious error, which even some college professors of political economy have encouraged.

The factors in the production and distribution of wealth are Land, Labor, Capital. The Labor Day sermon or oration which does not take all three into consideration does not get far; it lacks thoroughness and scientific accuracy; it leaves the big cause of bitterness untouched.

We would not for the world discourage preaching of the Golden Rule. It is good. But to apply the Rule to the industrial situation, it is necessary to bring about just relations of workers to the land and ground rent.

—Lorain (Ohio) *Journal*.

BOOK REVIEW

A MULTITUDE OF WORDS WITHOUT WISDOM

That tall fir trees should be cut down and made into paper, on which to print the rambling notions and puerile suggestions of two persons who think that they have something to say upon an all important question, is one of the economic wastes for which there