

eters of any highway or railway — an arbitrary, meaningless measure that is irrelevant to any Brazilian need.

And Henry George? I am told by academicians who are acquainted with most of the socially conscious people of São Paulo that in that huge city — population 3,800,000 — there are exactly three Georgists.

Brazil has never heard of Henry George. And a huge land, full of won-

derful people, is going down the drain.

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Jamaica Land Tax Receives Approval

A RESOLUTION was passed in Jamaica, W.I. on December 17th recording the satisfaction of the Association of Local Government Authorities to continue the change-over to the unimproved value of land as the basis of assessment of land taxes, and it is hoped that revaluing of land in St. Elizabeth parish can be resumed some time this year (see January HGN). "Every effort is being made to see revaluation start off on the right basis this time, so it will produce worth-while results," wrote Phillip Wallace, director of the Henry George School in Kingston, Jamaica, "In any case, the principle has been paid a great tribute, being re-introduced after it had been suspended and attacked by the leader of the party in power. It's a step in the right direction, no matter how hesitant and uncertain.

"A policy to force those with 100 or more acres of unused, or partially-used lands to develop them along 'approved' lines — or face government acquisition for land-settlement purposes, was announced by the Minister of Agriculture, recently.

"A survey is to be undertaken to determine the amount of unused or underused land on each holding, and

a test would be made to determine the potential of such lands, enabling the authorities to say what kind of crop should be grown on each holding—according to soil-types. 'Fair and adequate' compensation would be paid for lands compulsorily acquired for redistribution to farmers.

"Nothing was said about the inevitable extension of government bureaucracy required by these surveys, or the unnecessary governmental interference and dictation with the farmer's freedom of choice of crops in order to have his development-plan 'approved,' nor was there any hint about who'll bear the cost of the plan.

"As for compensation, what is 'fair and adequate,' and what is the basis of assessment, present market-value, or future expected-value, capitalized? No one seems to know or care," said Mr. Wallace.

"Of course, the *only* remedy is to tax the land at its full market value, whether improved or not, and let self-interest force the owner or user to put it to its best use, encouraging him to do so by exempting all improvements. Or is this solution 'impractical' because it works without government controls?"