

STATE OF WAR PERMANENT UNLESS—

BY LOUIS WALLIS

Doubleday, Doran Co., N. Y. C. 96 pp., Price \$1.00

Mr. Wallis has added some chapters to his little volume "Safeguard Productive Capital," and brought the subject out in a new book entitled, "State of War Permanent Unless . . ."

The new part precedes the former work and contains some very apt remarks on the present state of the so-called "civilized world." Mr. Wallis deals mainly with conditions of the present in England and Germany, with the danger of war hanging over Europe. His keen, vivacious, interesting style carries the reader with him. Some of his statements are worth emphasizing, in contrast to the egregious errors that even our best dailies are making nowadays. Mr. Wallis, for instance, does not rave about "Old Czecho-Slovakia" as if it had existed since the world began, but says:

"The Czecho-Slovak Republic was created by Britain and France not for the purpose of promoting democracy, but in order to blockade the expansion of Germany eastward. Its origin had nothing to do with moral principles; and no appeal to moral principles has been made in the disruption of the little state."

The sound common-sense of that remark deserves wide recognition. Another telling truth in Mr. Wallis' book is:

"The time has passed when the aristocracy of any land in Europe can wage war by conscripting youth and levying taxes upon the people at large in the name of 'patriotism'."

And still another sentence is worthy of note:

"It is not the dictators themselves that the world has to deal with primarily, but the economic problems which produce dictatorship."

These thoughts alone make the new form of the book valuable to all readers who would understand the true problems that face civilization today.—G. I. C.

PAMPHLETS RECEIVED

IS ECONOMICS A SCIENCE?

BY L. D. BECKWITH, 1325 E. POPLAR ST., STOCKTON, CAL.

We have just received, in pamphlet form, the first thirty sections of what the author intends to develop into a text-book on the above entitled subject. Mr. Beckwith, publisher of "No Taxes" and the author of the work, states that the pamphlets are for free distribution. Inviting his readers to find, if they can, any weak links in his argument, he says:

"If the teachings of this book stand up under the criticism that will be directed against them and they are accepted, the greatest revolution in thought the world has ever known will result; for that will mean that men will have to change completely their present approach to problems involving their policies in civics, politics, industry and statecraft, and in pedagogy and in character-building."

Mr. Beckwith's cardinal point is that

"we can have wholesome civic conditions, honest politics, democratic government, social justice, racial harmony, and international peace, just as we have good automobiles, good airplanes, and good radios—without waiting for men to reform or be reformed."

Editor Beckwith has our best wishes in this undertaking.

UNWISE TAXATION AS A BURDEN ON HOUSING

BY HAROLD S. BUTTENHEIM. PRICE 10 CENTS

Order from Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 32 E. 29th St., N. Y. C.

Mr. Buttenheim, Editor of the *American City*, is to be complimented for this painstaking and scholarly work of 20 pages, now appearing under separate cover, having been reprinted from the *Yale Law Journal* for December, 1938. Besides being chock full of information particularly useful to Georgeists, it stands out as a nicely

balanced treatment of the ethical, fiscal and practical aspects of the subject, supplemented by interesting notes, figures and references, all interspersed with an appropriate humor. We quote the initial paragraphs:

The epitaph of one Rebecca Bogess, who died in Folkestone, England, on August 22, 1688, tells of the satisfaction of the deceased with her new "house" where the landlord could never raise the rent, and concludes:

"From chimney-tax this cell is free,
"To such a house who would not tenant be?"

When England imposed the chimney-tax from which Rebecca could escape only by death, and when, in the reign of William III, a tax was imposed on two or more panes of glass in a window, the lawmakers were doubtless seeking new sources of public revenues rather than methods of preventing the attainment of decent housing by the British people. The intent, however, did not alter the effect: chimneys became fewer, and windows smaller. Healthful, liveable housing was handicapped.

Were it now proposed to revive these ancient English levies, the unwisdom of so doing would be recognized by all. But we are still taxing chimneys and windows in our American cities. We are also taxing doors and walls and roofs and stairs and the other parts of our homes. We no longer pick on the chimneys or windows for a special tax, but the tax-gatherer levies on the whole building. When a bathroom or a porch is added, up goes the tax—though any suggestion of taxing bathrooms or porches as such would be laughed out of court. It is to be doubted whether we have really progressed very far in this matter of taxation since William III and the seventeenth century.

We highly recommend the reading of "Unwise Taxation as a Burden on Housing." Copies of it should be in the hands of everyone interested in better housing.

PRIVATE PROPERTY IN LAND EXPLAINED

BY SPENCER HEATH

We are in receipt of a pamphlet from the pen of Spencer Heath, of Elkridge, Maryland. Much of it serves a useful purpose of enlightenment on the sinister aspects of permitting politicians to impose taxes for the disservices they "render" in addition to real economic services. We confess, however, to a failure to appreciate Mr. Heath's proprietary land ownership ideas. The article, however, is couched in scholarly fashion and we believe can be read with profit.

Correspondence

FROM THE EDITOR OF COMMONWEAL

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I know you will be pleased to see the enclosed first number of the new Volume of *Commonweal*.

It has not been an easy matter to struggle through these last four years of enforced silence, but we have done so, and now make a fresh bid for circulation in the interests of the Cause.

If those who really appreciated the *Commonweal* in the past will now come promptly to its side, then there is, I think, a good prospect of putting it upon a non-losing basis at an early date. What we want now is to have all who would wish to receive the weekly issues send in their order without delay, and we will do the rest.

Under separate cover I send you a few copies that you may bring same before the notice of persons likely to be interested.

J. W. GRAHAM PEACE.

6 The Close, Rayners Lane, Pinner, Middlesex, England.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

For several years, the writer has sought to interest his fellow Georgeists, as well as the Housing Authority of our government in the economic reform which the general use of demountable structures would promote. The response was practically nil. They stood mute before the suggestion that a solution of the housing problem could be achieved through the mass production of small dwellings, so designed that they could be erected upon leased acres, and dismantled and removed when necessary, at slight expense. So we have gone on our squandering way, building structures which were