

## Canada

THE following has been sent to every member of the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa:

GENTLEMEN:

We take the liberty of calling your attention to the fact that in your budget, you have done nothing to protect the laboring classes from the double burden of taxation and the tribute that labor must now pay to the owners of the land especially in the large cities.

In this city the value of the land has risen from nothing in the year 1800 to the enormous figure of \$600,000,000 or a yearly rental of upwards of \$24,000,000. This is the tribute that industry must now surrender, not for any services; but for the occupation of the land. This divides society into two classes: the toilers who must do everything to maintain prosperity, and also bear the burden of taxation, and the spoilers, who appropriate wealth without work, and leave to industry only a fragment of what it produces.

So far we cannot see that you have done the first act to relieve industry from the terrible injustice, which crushes it beneath a greater obligation to the owners of the land, with every increase in the population. Thus the gulf between the palace and the slum grows wider and wider—greater fortune to monopoly and greater burden to industry.

So long as we thus protect the extortion that makes poverty for the workers, and places industry under the double burden of taxation and an increasing ground rent, how can we call this a just government, or expect to enjoy prosperity? With one part of society doing its best to make prosperity, and another part doing its utmost to destroy prosperity, is it any wonder that periodically we have hard times?

Should not taxation be adjusted so as to encourage every one to do his best for the public weal, and so as to remove the temptation to use land for extortion and impoverishment?

We would be glad to receive your reply.

Signed on behalf of the BOILER MAKERS' LODGE  
No. 584.

J. KEEGAN, President,  
W. A. JACOBS, Secretary.

INSTEAD of levying import duties, we might, for instance destroy a certain proportion of imported commodities, or require the ships bringing them to sail so many times around the world before landing at our ports. In either of these ways, precisely the same protective effect could be secured as by import duties, and in cases where duties secure full protection by preventing importation, such methods would involve no more waste.—*Henry George.*

LANDLORDS are, perhaps, the only great body of men whose interests are diametrically opposed to the interests of the nation.—*Buckle.*

## Home Ownership Better Than Tenancy

LONG-TERM tenancy is better than short-term tenancy; but home ownership by the working farmer is better than either. The great problem is not the devising of better leasing systems, but the removal of the speculative element from American agriculture. Either the road to ownership for the actual farmer must be made easy, or the development of a permanently submerged tenant class—an American peasantry—must be expected.—E. E. MILLER, Editor *Southern Agriculturist*.

SEVEN hundred miles of costly streets of Manhattan and Brooklyn run past vacant lots, and every man, woman or child that passes and repasses a vacant lot contributes to the support of the owner through the increase in value they cause just as surely as though they dropped their nickels or dimes into his hat at each passing.

JAMES R. BROWN.—

“ALL that can safely be said,” remarks our cautious neighbor, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, “is that both the California and Montana earthquakes were tectonic.” This should offend no real estate dealer in either state.—JOHN W. RAPER in *Cleveland Press*.

And what is there for which life gives us opportunity that can be compared with the effort to do what we may, be it ever so little, to improve social conditions, and enable other lives to reach fuller, nobler development?

—HENRY GEORGE.

ANY law which is reduced to absurdity in its administration must be bad.

## BOOK NOTICE

### A GOVERNMENT OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE

This book is an argument for the reconstruction of the political and economic institutions of the world. The author is known to readers of this paper by his many able contributions to the *SINGLE TAX REVIEW* some fifteen years ago on *The Land Histories of the Early Colonies*. Some of the chapters in this book of nearly five hundred pages are elaborations of the treatment accorded to subjects in the articles named.

But it is much more. It is an inquiry into the origin of government and shows evidence of scholarship and wide reading. Its style is clear and illuminating. The author has designed to teach, not to write something arresting or striking, the all too common practice of writers trying to get the public ear without much regard to the truth of what they write.

There is an examination of the causes of Roman decay. This is traced to “the great estates that ate out the heart of Italy.” The parallel between Rome and conditions in the modern world is indicated, and the author presses the point with many illustrations that privilege—and especially landed privilege—brings forth the same results in all countries and all times, making for social disorder, slavery, disruption, and decay of the body politic. Rome lost all she had won because her vitality was sapped by tribute. In our day this tribute, which

can be traced to the same maladjustment, is more enormous and quite as threatening to our own institutions.

Passing from the historical to the political Dr. Brunk advances certain theories of his own, and many of these reflections are deserving of serious consideration. He is against the party system and his criticisms of its defects are strongly put. We are not, we confess, especially enamoured of his suggestions of methods to secure popular control. These seem to partake too much of that regulation and control which in other chapters are inferentially condemned. These seem to us to involve too much of the mechanistic theory of government.

The author's aim is a high one and it is well stated on page 281 in these words:

"Therefore, the problem of society is to bring into existence a governmental structure founded upon those deeper social forces by and through which all those willing to submit to such organic laws as will bring about the full practice of those constructive agencies, may thus originate and put into action a new social incentive, a new moral religion, and above all an institution which will protect every interest and right of each individual."

On page 301 we read:

"History seems to be made up of one St. Bartholomew massacre after another, of war following war, of atrocities following atrocities. And if one looks for the cause he will find it written in simple language, The Breaking of Natural Law. Nearly all wars have been land wars. Coveted territories and markets have built up militarism."

The author has too large a faith in the ability of government to effect desirable changes in the form of society. But this does not rob the work of its value as an indictment against society as at present constituted.

The work is equipped with a very complete reference and cross reference index, and is published by Richard G. Badger, of Boston, at \$3.

—J. D. M.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### CONDITIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Things politically in this country have been in the doldrums owing to the continuance in power of the conservative party which though only polling 40% of the votes has with the help of two or three "mugwump" liberals retained office. The war has had a bad influence on public opinion and our rotten electoral system with single member seats has meant that a radical on the land question has a poor chance of election, and so the personnel of parliament at present is very poor. With the recent death of Mr. Massey who, despite all the fulsome references upon his death, was an evil genius in slowing up New Zealand's lead in social reform, there is a chance now that his party will disintegrate unless it forms a coalition with the Liberal party in order to save the seats of both sections with the idea of fighting Labor which is growing and has a membership of nearly 18 in a house of 80. We are due for our triennial elections in November and neither my father or Mr. O'Regan will stand for a single-member seat but only under proportional representation, which might be brought in if the Liberal party obtained office with the support of labor which stands for this proposal. Mr. O'Regan is highly gratified in having recently helped Wanganui, (25,000) to adopt rating (taxation) of unimproved values. Auckland, New Zealand.

G. M. FOWLDS.

### A WELCOME VISITOR

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am glad to have the package of your little pamphlet, "Has the Single Tax Made Progress?" I shall endeavor to use them wisely.

I find myself looking forward with much anticipation to the periodical visits of LAND AND FREEDOM.

Olean, N. Y.

KATHARINE E. BRADLEY.

### COMMENDS OUR ATTITUDE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The arrival this morning of your excellent journal, LAND AND FREEDOM, which is always so interesting to Single Taxers, reminds me that I have intended to send you a copy of a report on the Pittsburgh Graded Tax Plan and What It Means in Lower Taxes,\* which I recently prepared for the Henry George Club and which contains some rather significant figures not heretofore published, that I have compiled as a member of the Board of Assessors since the law became fully effective (at the 50% rate) this year.

I am even more interested, however, in social reform as visualized by Henry George than I am in tax reform, and I am therefore in hearty accord with your editorial attitude and wish to strongly commend your various utterances along those lines.

The Single Tax movement is certainly indebted to you for your splendid service as editor of LAND AND FREEDOM, which is an inspiration to all "fundamentalists" in the Single Tax ranks. While I do not accept the Single Tax Party as the wisest method of promoting the cause, being disposed toward the non-partisan educational method, I feel that our movement is greatly in need of a revival of the spirit of Henry George.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

P. R. WILLIAMS.

\*An abstract of this report appears elsewhere in this issue.—Editor LAND AND FREEDOM.

### J. R. HERMANN WRITES INTERESTINGLY OF HERBERT QUICK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Just a word about Herbert Quick.

It was he who first handed me Progress and Poverty nearly thirty years ago, and every thing I have done and some of the things he did were the result of our consultations and considerations. The Broken Lance was written after we had talked at length about it, when I returned from Colorado on a last visit with my mother who lived there. Some of the scenes were those I experienced in the Colorado labor movement and many were literally true. But Quick went through some violent scenes himself in his exposé of graft in Sioux City and that gave him a background of personal experience which is in the book. He felt that the book was a failure, altho we carried on a lengthy campaign to get it before the public. Its greatest success was in New Zealand, later.

Quick's big success came almost directly from a suggestion of mine from my experience in homesteading in South Dakota. I wrote a detailed account of my entrance there and my stay and I suggested to him that a great story could be written around the idea since the pioneer homesteader was forever wiped from the face of the earth and should be put in song and story that posterity might feel what we felt. He wrote me that he had something of the kind in mind and was about to start it. In order to get the personal touch he walked from Dubuque, Iowa, to Mason City, and got the background for his book. My father and mother passed over the same road a little later than his did and their experience was much the same.

Portland, Oregon.

J. R. HERMANN.

### HAS PASSED THE NINETY-FIRST MILESTONE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am sending you one more dollar for one more year of LAND AND FREEDOM. I will pay one dollar as long as I live and the paper lives. I have passed the 91 year milestone. From the days of Henry George I have been deeply interested in the land problem and would like to live to see a president of the United States wise enough to know what correct solution of that problem would mean for the people.

Onset, Mass.

GEORGE W. NICKERSON.