

names now. Let's hope that everything is for the best and may the best man win. Let's keep peace at any price.

Next meeting, Nov. 25 (30 days until Xmas), be there. H. LYNN, who wonders if the New Dealers are going to pass with a royal flush!"

It also might be of interest to know that the undersigned has started a little letter writers' group who writes Single Tax letters to editors and others, patterned after the one run by W. E. Brokaw years ago. Anyone desiring to take part can notify the undersigned and "Targets" will be mailed to them. Recently we wrote letters to a U. S. Senator, a member of the London, England, County Council; the Youngstown, O., *Vindicator*; the Warren, O., *Democratic News*; the Pittsburgh, Pa., *Gazette-Times* and the *Cincinnati Inquirer*. We also have Single Tax articles weekly in the *Amalgamated Journal* of Pittsburgh, Pa., the official organ of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of North America.

Lowellville, Ohio.

JOHN F. CONROY.

### WALTER FAIRCHILD MAKES A CORRECTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In your issue of November-December, 1938, you printed an item in regard to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in which the text reads, "under the original lease, the hotel corporation paid about seven million dollars a year ground-rent . . ."

This should read, "about seven hundred thousand dollars a year ground-rent in addition to city taxes."

The error is in the manuscript I sent to you and is not an error of your paper.

New York City.

WALTER FAIRCHILD.

### FROM THE SON OF OUR OWN BILLY RADCLIFFE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your paper is to me what it was to my father, indispensable. I believe that the best writing that is being done in our cause is your own Comment and Reflection. For myself I am acting as secretary of the Cleveland extension of the School and doing what little I can to aid the coming of the day of freedom. And I am of the opinion that we may be nearer that day than we realize. Certainly the cost of denying labor the right to the use of the earth as represented by our Alphabetical Agencies is becoming unbearable.

Cleveland, Ohio.

JOHN RADCLIFFE.

### PRAISE FOR HENRY L. FOLEY

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just reread "Problems of Political Economy and Scale Models For the Construction of Prosperity," by Henry J. Foley, as published in LAND AND FREEDOM, the July-August and September-October issue.

It is so illuminating, interesting and concise that I think it should be published in pamphlet form for propaganda.

I would suggest that "The Remedy" should be a postscript to the article.

The "Theorems" are so conclusive in their answers to any objection that might be offered concerning the Single Tax, and so simple, that they would be a great help to us who are trying almost daily to convince friends of the benefits of our tax system.

The plan by which man can be restored to his heritage, the free use of the land, would be a valuable adjunct to the "Theorems."

I trust you will consider this valuable enough to convey it to Mr. Foley.

So. Bend, Ind.

E. G. FREYERMUTH, M.D.

### C. H. NIGHTINGALE COMMENTS ON BECKWITH

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Beckwith asks me: "How could interest go to zero when all business had become so profitable that every one became a capitalist?"

To make this relevant to my argument the question needs revising, and should read:

"How could the interest rate on investments go to zero when all business is being increasingly aided by capital?"

For convenience let me call this aid by capital economic interest.

The answer now is very simple. In 1850, in California, the interest rate on investments was very high; today, it is by comparison very low. Yet economic interest has greatly increased.

This history proves that the interest rate on capital may decline while economic interest goes up. Let us say the market rate is now 5 per cent. Is there any reason to doubt that it might go down to 1 per cent while economic interest still rises? And if 1 per cent, why not zero?

The market rate has no relation to economic interest. When Beckwith learns this, he will not ask simple questions like the above.

Auckland, C. I., N. Z.

C. H. NIGHTINGALE.

### BECKWITH REPLIES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the true spirit of scholarship Mr. C. H. Nightingale of New Zealand has sent me a copy of his communication to you. He writes me that he is "very keen to know what reply I can make to it."

The difficulty that Mr. Nightingale has encountered here is not, as he says, that I "refuse to see any difference between economic interest and the market rate for loans," but that he mistakenly imagines that this has anything to do with the problem.

Rent, as pointed out by W. R. B. Willcox in his new book, "Taxation Turmoil," is the compensation due those who make investments on other sites around and about, far and near, that contribute to the safety, comfort, and convenience of the occupants of that site rented—whether these activities are financed by public funds or private capital.

This compensation is a definite amount, determined by the returns realizable by the public from direct investments of similar amounts. There is only one rent. The term "economic rent," or "economic interest," is as unjustifiable as the term economic wages. What is mistakenly called "monopoly rent" is, as P. W. Schwander (Horatio) points out, merely a combination of rent plus an element of plain loot.

Although the returns in individual cases will vary, the higgling of the market brings it about in a free market that, in the long run and on the average, what is left of the product after payment of the rent is divided fifty-fifty between labor and capital, as their wages and interest.

If the market is not free, which means that the takers of rent are in control, more than the rent will be taken by the owners of strategic sites; and labor and capital get less than their wages and interest.

The amount due capital as interest is no more affected by the fact that men do, or do not, borrow than the amount due men's wages is affected by the fact that men worked for themselves or for others.

Wealth gotten either as wages or as interest belongs to those who made the investment of labor or capital for which it is the compensation; and it is theirs to use as they please and to bequeath to whom they please.

If it should happen that sufficient wealth should be left as a bequest to an infant to keep that infant through childhood, maturity, and old age without working, it might happen that this beneficiary would go through life without ever earning a dollar by labor—and yet be entitled to live out his years in luxury; for it either is, or is not, true that the product belongs to the producer to use and to bequeath as he pleases.

If that is true, the capital involved in this case belongs to this beneficiary.

As for the interest he receives during his life, the reply is that this comes out of the new product that is produced year after year as the result of the use to which the capital is put by others. As the owner of this capital, this beneficiary is entitled to his share—that is, to interest on his capital.

This is not approving a life of idleness; but that is a question in



morals. What may be the effect on the character and soul of this beneficiary of such a life of idleness is another question and outside the field of economics. This is a discussion of economics.

As for the Scriptural injunction that they who will not work shall not eat, one would have to be a Greek scholar to determine whether the word "work" in that case is justifiably limited to physical or mental labor, or whether it covers any contribution to the work of the world such as this beneficiary makes in putting his capital to work. And, even if Nightingale won on that point, it would still be necessary to decide whether that were a figurative or literal expression. And even if literal, it would still be in order to ask whether we are any more bound by Bible texts in matters of economics than we are by the Bible references to the "corners of the earth."

The fact is that the Bible is not a text-book in science. Economics is a science.

Stockton, California.

L. D. BECKWITH.

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

It is a safe guess that between seven and eight hundred attended the Commencement of the Henry George School at the Engineering Auditorium in this city on December 22. Mr. C. O. Steele, one of the outstanding teachers at the School, made an ideal chairman. The speakers were Anna George de Mille, Harry Weinberger and Frank Chodorov, the Director. Leon T. Arpin, Marshall de Angelis, Adele Nichols and Mrs. Helen Bernstein followed, and acquitted themselves well as representative student speakers.

An address was made by Johannes Steel, News Commentator for W M C A, on the subject of "Land Monopoly in World Affairs." At the close, refreshments were served after which the floor was cleared for dancing.

OUR friend, Prof. A. Matheu Alonso, writes us from Tarragona, Spain. It is his belief that as soon as the present conflict is over our movement will be resumed with more courage than ever. Due to tariffs and other trade control, prices of food, etc., have gone way up. Unemployment does not exist, and salaries also are very high. Prof. Alonso extends a warm salutation to his friends in the United States.

A WELCOME letter was recently received from Helen D. Denbigh, formerly a teacher at the headquarters of the Henry George School in New York, and now residing in Berkeley, Calif. She is teaching four extension classes in Oakland. Always an indefatigable worker for social uplift when back east, she is thus continuing the battle on the western front. Good luck!

THE death on December 23 of Mrs. Marietta Johnson, founder of the School for Organic Education at Fairhope, is announced in the *Fairhope Courier*. She was born in 1864 and is survived by her son Clifford Emmet Johnson of Summit, N. J. The School for Organic Education attained a national reputation. Mrs. Johnson was associated in this work with her husband who passed away in 1919. She was the author of a number of widely circulated books among which was "Youth in a World of Men." In this work she outlined her ideas of education. There can be no question that she was a remarkable figure in the educational field and wielded considerable influence. She was present at the Henry George Congress and took an active part in the discussions. She was a woman of striking and attractive personality. Fairhope of which she was an ardent disciple will miss her sadly.

THE *Square Deal* of Toronto, Canada, will hereafter appear in mimeographed form and the first issue in this new dress is before us. An article by E. J. Farmer, "A Control Experiment in Economics," is the main article in addition to articles of real information. We neglected to mention in our Conference number that followed the

Toronto gathering, the appearance of the *Square Deal* containing an excellent report of the Henry George Congress. Send 25 cents to Ernest J. Farmer for a copy which is well worthy of preservation. His address is 991 Bay Street, Toronto, Canada.

"AMERICA'S FUTURE," with Frank Gannett as chairman of publication committee at 205 East 42nd Street, is a large monthly periodical with articles on the present world situation by a number of men in the public eye, including such names as Amos Pinchot. There is so much that is valuable in these contributions that we regret the absence of specific recommendations. The tone, generally speaking, is admirable and there is an elevation of thought and an insistence upon the spirit and letter of constitutional rights that all persons of democratic instincts will welcome. But something more than this is needed for definite democratic action.

MRS. BESSIE BEACH TRUEHART, now of Hollywood, California, whom many of our readers will remember from the Henry George Congress in this city in the company of her gifted son, has been bereaved by the death of her mother at the age of 79. She and her husband were pioneer Georgeists. She had been ill for some time. Many Single Taxers throughout the country will hear with regret of her passing.

PROF. HARRY GUNNISON BROWN writes as follows: "I must take this occasion to tell you—as I intended to when I first saw it—how very much I enjoyed your contribution in the November *Freeman* 'What is the Natural Tax?'. In my judgment your literary craftsmanship is of a very high order indeed. It seems to me that this ought to be separately printed in formal verse, i.e., line by line, and with a few well-chosen photographs or sketches, showing (1) 'field, mine and glen,' (2) 'and of the wealth their work has won leave nothing when all work is done,' (3) 'where roads are made, and schools arise and lofty spires pierce the skies.' Not just because of its reasonableness and simplicity but also because of the beauty of its style, it might be very effective for propaganda use."

THE Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore, Md., is in need of May-June issue for 1928. Can any of our readers supply this issue needed for binding?

STUART PORTNER of 5214 Second Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan, is writing a biography of Louis Freeland Post, and will be glad to receive any materials which will aid him in the preparation of this biography. These will be promptly returned as soon as they are copied.

THE death of John M. Moore of Lancaster, Pa., deprives the movement of a devoted adherent and the editor of a valued correspondent. His friend Foxhall A. Parker writes the following tribute:

In paying a tribute to a dead friend it is well to observe that when men are judged by the applause of the hour they are generally judged by what nature has done for them. But a proper appraisal would be of what use they made of the gifts nature gave them. John Moore's brilliant mind like his great heart never crawled in the dust. He was "the friend of all heroic souls" and not one of those "who fear to speak for the fallen and the weak." It is great to go out into the market place and defy the mob—to speak the message that you have despite all ridicule or abuse in order that our posterity may have a better world to live in. A grand soldier in the army of progress he knew that the *religion of humanity* is the great crying spiritual need of this world;—and he said so. He also knew that this necessarily involved social and economic equity (and not mere political equality alone.) Like a true reformer when he found that this could only be brought about by restoring the land to the people with its natural inborn corollary *free trade in labor products*, he did not hesitate, but said so. "Civilization so based cannot endure. The eternal laws