

possibility of untried forms of social relations. Successful progress creeps from point to point, testing each step.

"The final introduction of a reform does not necessarily prove the moral superiority of the reforming generation. Conditions may have changed, so that what is possible now may not have been possible then. A great idea is not to be conceived as merely waiting for enough good men to carry it into practical effect. That is a childish view of the history of ideas. The ideal in the background is promoting the gradual growth of the requisite communal customs, adequate to sustain the load of its exemplification."

Students of the Malthusian theory will be intrigued with the chapter that traces the actual history of Europe viewed with the Malthusian doctrine in mind. Mr. Whitehead successfully refutes Malthus, but by a method unlike that used by Henry George.

It is with regret that we find no word about Henry George in this unique history of ideas. The author discusses the sudden arrest of great civilizations, and points out that they burgeoned into fullness through commerce, and that at a certain point, commerce began to fail and an "arrest" set in. Mr. Whitehead says that if we could understand the reason for that arrest, *we would solve the main problem of sociology*. To the man who can so well explain the part that Plato had in conditioning thought for more than a thousand years, it seems strange that George's startling and essentially revolutionary idea that land must be made accessible to all should be ignored. It is this very wall, this very problem of civilization's decay, that each earnest and serious present-day writer stumbles against, yet, like the thinkers of old, who vaguely felt that there was something wrong, and knew not that it was slavery, our modern men know not that the land, absorbed by the few, is the condition that arrests progress, and threatens each civilization.—ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN.

Correspondence

DISCUSSES A NAME FOR THE MOVEMENT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am always glad to read anything written by that valiant champion of the Single Tax, Stephen Bell.

He suggests many titles or names in lieu of the Single Tax and particularly commends "Georgian Socialism" as his first choice.

Bi-Socialism, a book by Oliver R. Trowbridge, published in 1903, stated it was the proper function of the State to socialize only land values and public utilities and a majority of Single Taxers agree with that concept.

Trowbridge (I hope he is among the living) is or was a follower of Henry George.

Louis F. Post in one of his magnificent editorials in *The Public* maintained that Single Taxers were "Natural Socialists;" that the State by its very nature was socialistic, but should confine its socialistic activities to the socializing of land values and public utilities and nothing else. Of course he recognized the right of the State to maintain peace.

If my memory serves me right Mr. Post's editorial was written shortly after Trowbridge's book was published.

Pseudo-socialism in its various guises, masquerading as "the great political and economic emancipator" would be stripped of all its economic errors, when contrasted with the truths of the Single Tax; i.e. "Natural Socialism;" a name that will induce many to enquire into the philosophy of Henry George.

Chicago, Ill.

ALEX PERNOD.

UPTON SINCLAIR CORRECTS OUR REVIEWER

EDITOR LAND FREEDOM:

I thank you for your courtesy in sending me the review of "Upton Sinclair Presents William Fox." I quite agree that this is an ex parte statement. It is avowedly that. However, I think it is fair to add that when an ex parte statement has been on the market for exactly six months, as this attack has been, and when no reply is made, we

may claim that the defendants have pleaded guilty before the bar of public opinion.

Your reviewer says he is satisfied "that the downfall of the vast chain of movie houses assembled by Mr. Fox cannot be attributed solely to the extravagance and dishonesty of his successors. Generally bad business conditions, I suspect, had much to do with the debacle." Your reviewer would have found his suspicions justified if he had read the book more carefully. For example, on page 325 "Of course this collapse of Fox Theatres was in the midst of a general collapse of business, and can't all be attributed to Wiggin and Clarke and Stuart and Otterson!" The exclamation mark in the above was intended to indicate to the reader the absurdity of the idea of overlooking the influence of the depression upon the events narrated.

Also your reviewer thinks that it is "poor taste" for me to refer to "the victim" as "the Fox." This also is fully explained in the book. Mr. Fox continually refers to himself as "the Fox," and I more than once called attention in the book to this habit of his. Very early in the book, page 19, occurs the following:

"A vital part in the life story of William Fox is the story of little Eve Leo. It was an odd coincidence that a Fox should have married a Lioness; they both of them make puns upon this coincidence."

Los Angeles, Calif.

UPTON SINCLAIR.

VOLTAIRE AND THE PHYSIOCRATS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just been reading the July-August issue of LAND AND FREEDOM which is, as usual, extremely interesting. I note there is an article by Mr. Danziger on Voltaire and the Physiocrats. I cannot throw any further light upon the question of whether Voltaire changed his views or not; but you may find it interesting to know that the physiocrats wrote a very able reply to Voltaire's attack upon them. An account of this controversy was given by Prof. Leroy-Beaulieu in his "Treatise on the Science of Finance." An abridged translation of this will be found in *Land Values* for September, 1916, page 99.

It appears to me that the physiocrats had very sound ideas as to the incidence of a tax on the value of land.

London, Eng.

F. C. R. DOUGLASS.

FROM A CUBAN SUBSCRIBER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on your masterly exposition and criticism of the National Recovery Act. Do you think the "brain trust" at Washington will read it?

Mr. Roosevelt has publicly stated that the country demands bold economic experimentation. It seems we are to get plenty of it. However it appears rather childish to experiment when basic laws are known. We need not throw ourselves from twenty story buildings in violation of the law of gravitation to demonstrate that we will be killed.

Oteen, N. C.

EVARISTO MONTALVO.

PROGRESS IN ROUMANIA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

According to the pamphlet entitled "The Agrarian Reform in Roumania," which was sent me by Mr. George Anagnostache, Vice-Counsel from Roumania, the land-loving people of that country have effected an agrarian reform.

Previously to the revolution, "not even half owned the land which they worked, while fifty per cent of the cultivated land was in the hands of a very small proportion of large landowners, representing less than 0.56 per cent of the total amount of landowners."

The strong democratic currents which led up to the land reform were prompted by Mr. I. C. Bratiano, who went on the sound principle that "the land must belong to him that works it."

Finally, pressure became so tense that the King of Roumania in

proclamation addressed to the soldiers (March 22, 1917) confirmed the Roumanian cultivators' "right to the land." The large estates were broken up and divided among the people. From all reports the peasants have benefited immensely by this new arrangement.

But the truly significant feature is the fact that the reform was brought about peaceably without violence or bloodshed, or even disorder. The people and soldiers merely demanded land, and the request was granted to them. This demonstrates that the people are the ultimate repository of political power.

In the old days, the people were more prone to violence and bloodshed. Our own American Revolution, and the French Revolution, are striking examples of this fact. But more recently, the tendency has been toward peaceful measures of remedying injustice and other wrongs. The Russian Revolution of 1917 was comparatively bloodless. The recent Spanish Revolution was effected without shedding a drop of blood, and the same is true of the Roumanian Revolution. Our recent change from Hooverism to Rooseveltism had almost the force of a revolution, and we all know it was peaceful.

This is certainly encouraging. While it is true that we cannot have progress without change, these bloodless revolutions demonstrate that we can have change without bloodshed or violence. Perhaps, we are really becoming more civilized. At least, we are taking the initial step in that direction.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

JOHN C. ROSE.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

ARTHUR POWELL DAVIS, whose death at Oakland, Calif., on August 1, is announced, was one of the best known engineers of the west and famous as "the father of Boulder Dam." He was seventy-two years old. He stood for the rights of the people and drew the fire of the power trust. He supervised the construction of over ninety dams, among them the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona, Elephant Butte Dam in New Mexico and Shoshone Dam in Wyoming. His was a useful life indeed and his inspiration in the service of his fellows was an intense conviction of the truth of the doctrines of Henry George. For twenty-one years he was associated with the United States Reclamation Service as director and chief engineer. There was scarcely an engineering project undertaken in this country during those years in which he did not have a hand. His prominence in his chosen field was international.

THE *American Square Dealer* edited and published by John H. Meyer, 2230 White Ave., Fresno, Calif., is a new Single Tax paper which contains much interesting matter.

THE *Houston Post* says thus forcibly: "The history of the centuries is this, that no people can be either elevated or maintained in independence without a proprietorship in the soil, and it is an open question if all our efforts toward the restoration of good times will not prove futile unless the people are distributed on the land, not as tenants but as owners." The *Post* does not state the question with absolute accuracy, but its implications are clear enough.

SAMUEL DANZIGER writes us: "Roosevelt's Industrial Recovery Act seems like a repetition of some of the economic follies of pre-revolutionary France. One of Louis XVI's finance ministers, De Calonne, indulged in similar policies from 1783 to 1786, squandering money on a big public works programme, etc., and was finally forced to admit failure and recourse to Turgot's land taxation essential, a proposal that led to the States General."

IN the death of Mrs. W. I. Swanton the Single Tax movement of Washington, D. C. sustains a severe loss. At the time of her death, in July, she was treasurer of the Woman's Single Tax League of Washington. She was preparing an outline of a book on Taxation

and the Single Tax. She was ever busy on methods for advancing the cause. Many will remember her as present at the Henry George Foundation congresses which she graced with her presence and she will be sorely missed. Funeral services were held at the Church of the Holy City in Washington, Alice Thacher Post presiding. The body was cremated. Mrs. Swanton leaves a husband, W. I. Swanton, two daughters and a son. The sympathies of hundreds who knew her will go out to Mr. Swanton and the family in their bereavement.

THE *Seattle (Wash.) Star* says in the course of an excellent editorial: "You have heard a lot of talk about cheap foreign labor. But American labor is the cheapest in the world on a production basis."

JOHN S. CODMAN, of Boston, has addressed the following telegram to President Roosevelt: "Will support the code whole-heartedly but trust you will take steps to curb profiteering in land prices which will follow stimulation of business and eventually will check prosperity as it has heretofore."

ADELE PARKER is conducting a column in the *Seattle (Wash.) Star*, and though she is not always accurate or fundamental, hits the nail on the head repeatedly. She says: "Profits in land are wholly a drain on business and living standards, as there is nothing given in return for these profits by those who receive them." And then in another issue of the paper she advocates a capital levy! And she favors a tax on banks to promote education! But she is learning, despite the fact that she is what we might politely call "mixed." She quotes the Hindoo proverb, "White parasols and elephants mad with pride are the fruit of a grant of land." We wonder if she got this from Henry George or elsewhere in her reading.

THE *Providence Journal* contains a list of recent accessions to the Elmwood Public Library and describes Dr. George Raymond Geiger's "Philosophy of Henry George" as follows: "Gives a complete account of the work, historical background, philosophy and economic significance of the great American thinker, whose Single Tax formula and the social doctrine derived from it fits the mood of many readers today."

JAMES P. KOHLER's name is frequently seen in Single Tax communications to the Miami, Florida, *Daily News*.

THE *Conserver*, published and edited by George P. Dyer at Los Angeles, Calif., is enlarged and much improved in appearance. Its editorial contents are as vigorous as ever. Mr. Dyer's address to the soldiers of the Spanish-American War (Mr. Dyer is a veteran of that war) in the July issue of the *Conserver* is especially to be commended.

EVARISTO MONTALVO, of Havana, Cuba, is temporarily located at Oteen, N. C. The opportunity of meeting Herbert C. Allen, of Asheville, was seized by Mr. Montalvo, and together they conversed on matters of interest to the movement. Mr. Montalvo favors us with an extract from a communication of Dr. Carlos Portela, of Havana, who writes: "I am still overflowing with optimism. My crusade for establishing the great experiment of Natural Taxation and Natural Money is making headway. Mr. programme of economic reforms for Cuba is in the hands of My Sumner Welles and is being favorably commented upon by the Havana papers as well as the rest of the papers throughout the Island."

IN the issue of the *Dakota Free Press* of July 28, Dr. Chas. J. Lavery, of Aberdeen, S. D., has a large display "ad" addressed as an open letter to the South Dakota Legislature urging the adoption of a land value tax in lieu of all taxes.

ASHLEY MITCHELL, of Huddersfield, England, was a recent visitor to the States and met a number of the friends of the movement here.