

the following words: "It is true that rent would be insufficient for all the present expenses of government"; but as he offers no considerations of his own to support this assertion, and as he reviews none of the considerations in the article from which it was concluded that rent *would* be sufficient, I am unable to see in what precise respect I have roused his disagreement. His own separate conclusion, that if government were limited by law to collecting rents created by its own productive enterprises, and if its only expenses were the costs of its productive enterprises, then, given practical wisdom, its income would equal its outlay, is unassailable; but I cannot see that it sheds any light on the question whether true economic rent, the differential income of lands superior in productiveness to the best available free land, would be sufficient for the expenses of government.

Portland, Oregon

ROBERT SCHLEY

A SUGGESTION AS TO "EMINENT DOMAIN"

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

Our President says: "The principle of eminent domain permits the government to acquire or to use, for a fair and reasonable price, any property necessary for the proper functioning of the United States."

Is that principle to be used only when the government wishes to make more up-to-date killing machines? Why not use the principle of eminent domain to buy the natural resources from the few who now own and control them, for the whole people, *never to be sold again*? Would that not add to the proper functioning of the United States?

Is this idea at variance with the basic aims of the Georgeist philosophy? Why not write to Congress and the President, suggesting it?

Philadelphia, Pa.

GEORGE T. FELDER.

IS INTEREST NATURAL?

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

Mr. Hodgkiss' "Australian View on Interest," in the November-December issue, agrees with Mr. Haxo (and "an avalanche of letters to the Editors") that interest is not due to the reproductive forces of Nature. But notwithstanding this basic scientific error he endorses the "Progress and Poverty" theory that "wages and interest rise together"; resting it upon the familiar proof (!) that wages and interest were high in the Gold-Rush field.—Apart from the fact that *Rents also were high*, more careful consideration is vitally important.

The Georgeist teaching of increasing interest is obviously antagonizing workers so as to practically prevent acceptance of the land rent remedy. Therefore advocates of the remedy must responsibly determine whether such teaching is true or libelous.

When the remedy cuts off all land-investing, it is obvious that *all* savings of normally prosperous and provident people will have to be used as capital,—or else suffer natural wastage. This will naturally *increase the supply of capital available for business demand* as compared with the *present supply apart from land investments*. And even under present less prosperous conditions "idle" savings mount up enormously, safety being the main requirement.

Interest yield to owners of capital *must now be "equalized" with rent yield to owners of land* (in the judgment of investors). But when the alternative of land-investing is cut off, the law of supply and demand will naturally control, and scarcity alone can compel interest. Of course *capitalists may earn indefinitely by participating investments*, but this has nothing to do with "increasing interest" to mere owners of capital.

Intelligent investors commonly recognize that "safe" interest to

mere owners of capital *does actually equalize* with "safe" rent yield from land investments; and that *only participation in business doings and risks gives hope of further (indefinite) yield*. No capitalists are converted to public collection of rent by this promising of increased interest, but workers are strongly (and wrongly) antagonized by advocacy of increasing incomes *to do-nothing owners—whether of land or capital*. Business earnings apart from monopoly are naturally respected; confusing them with unearned income breeds Communism and Socialism.

Reading, Pa.

WALTER G. STEWART

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

FRIEDA S. MILLER, Chairman of the Committee on Discrimination in Employment, New York State Council of National Defense, has requested LAND AND FREEDOM for a statement to assist in the campaign to crystallize public opinion on the principle of equality and non-discrimination in employment. We have submitted the following: "The fulfillment of the American way of life involves the provision that every person be granted an opportunity to earn his livelihood on an equal basis with every other person, and that no discrimination be made on account of race, color or creed. Where such discrimination exists, an endeavor should be made to seek the cause and to remove it."

FROM Josef Hoop, Chief of the Government of Liechtenstein, has come an appreciative acknowledgment of the article on that tiny country—"Liechtenstein, Land Without Army or Taxes," by Pavlos Giannelia—which appeared in the November-December 1940 issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

READERS will note the addition of two Special Correspondents on the masthead of this issue—A. G. Huie of Australia, and J. W. Graham Peace of Great Britain, the latter being restored after a lapse of some time. We regret being obliged to drop two of our other Correspondents—J. J. Pikler of Hungary, and Lasar Karavanove of Bulgaria. We are unable to communicate with them at the present time, but look forward to the day when we shall hear from them and be able to restore them as Special Correspondents.

BERTHA SELLERS writes: "John F. Conroy, a late veteran, though perhaps not a conspicuous one, in the Henry George cause, formed a chain of about two dozen letter writers covering many cities in the country, contributing to many papers. It is proposed to reorganize this group and to greatly enlarge it. If any readers would like to join, please address: Bertha Sellers, 133 Ogden Ave., Swarthmore, Pa."

AMONG the most tireless writers of letters to periodicals and persons prominent in the political and educational worlds are H. W. Noren of Pittsburgh and J. Rupert Mason of San Francisco. Both men, and the many others who engage in letter writing, serve to keep before prominent people the fact that Georgeists are still in the field to secure a much-needed reform.

O. B. COLLIER, a friend in Detroit, has commenced editing a new series of releases entitled "World News Analysis." A sentence in one of the releases suggests the aim of the series: "A straight reporter may call it a day when the day's greatest catastrophe has been written up, but W N A believes that someone must ferret out the hidden news and expose it to the public eye."

B. W. BURGER's valuable collection of Henry George memorabilia was exhibited in the Annual American Hobby Show in the Hearn's Auditorium, New York, July 14-26. Mr. Burger's exhibit included photographs and a bust of Henry George, autographed editions of his work, letters and notes, and other interesting material. It is Mr. Burger's hope to stimulate interest in George by presenting the biographical aspect.