

## Argentinian Deplores Protectionism

FROM a reader in Buenos Aires, Alberto Alves de Lima, comes a letter telling of an address to the Parliament of the Empire of Brazil, by José Bonifacia de Andrada e Silva, nephew of the founder of the Constitutional Charter in 1822, disproving a protectionist move from a colleague.

"Let us not be the last ones to follow the path of 'progress in economics and politics,'" he said, "the protectionist system is already doomed, and I cannot accept the arguments given by 'the noble deputy from Bahia.'"

He said national independence, growth in production and diversity of development were used as arguments by the protectionist school, and these could be reduced to one — independence. But independence, he says, implies independence from everything alien. The contending deputy, however, has a French cook, a Swiss butler, and a wife who wears pearls and feathers from exotic lands. He serves meat from Belgium, wines from the Rhine or Rhone valley, his favorite horse is Arabian, his dog a Saint Bernard and his art gallery is filled with Flemish pictures and Greek statues.

He listens to Italian singers and enjoys French ballets. He embraces philosophy from Greece and Rome, geometry from Alexandria, arithmetic from Arabia and religion from Palestina.

People are rebelling against protectionism, said the Parliamentarian, because they feel that something is wrong in the economic system. Today the problem persists. In one of the largest countries of the world why should the cost of living be so high and why should there be any scarcity of goods? The reason is land speculation which has reached its climax. Owners of land 20 miles from cities like Sao Paulo, and others, prefer to sell their plots as real estate rather than to cultivate them.

The new agrarian law, although complicated, aims at lessening the privileges of the landowner. The results of this experiment are being watched with interest. Many intellectuals no longer believe in communism because Russia's trials over so many years have not proved this method to be an aid to economic conditions. They are finding that natural laws evidently cannot be modified by political systems.

R. Clifton Caughron is a student at Montana State College in Bozeman, Montana. He turned in a class theme on "Incentive Taxation" after getting some cheerful help from Russel Conklin, now the new state auditor at Great Falls. His final draft was rated AA. Mr. Conklin shared the pupil's pride and sent a copy to us.

"Clif reached his conclusions in his own way," said Mr. Conklin. He did not take any of the classes formerly taught by Mr. Conklin, the director of the Henry George extension. But he was a member of a class that was taken to visit the Montana State Legislature the day Mr. (State Representative) Conklin made a speech on land value taxation. The teacher of this class is a LVT advocate. So you see, folks, the mills grind slowly! "Clif" is the second member of the class to show a real understanding of the land problem. The first was Judy Gilson, whose term paper on "Henry George and the Single Tax Idea" influenced the co-author of a textbook to change sections of his work on Henry George.