

Letter from Argentina

THE director and editor of *Revista Reforma Agraria*, published in Buenos Aires, Mauricio Birabent, whose magazine is published in his home and enjoys a monthly circulation of 10,000, enrolled 20 years ago in a crusade "for the diffusion of economic truth." He lost several lucrative journalistic positions, but fortunately he is a man of means and he says that literary vanities are not among his cares. "Instead of creating a beauty that is skin-deep, I prefer to seek the beauty of the truth," he writes, "even though this task is hard and bitter, and though I am alone."

Mr. Birabent reports that "vast sections of the population are in misery. Others, very few in number, are swimming in ostentatious riches. A tremendous social pressure is struggling to demonstrate with violence. The country is becoming communized at an accelerated pace. The time will come when, without firing a shot, the Marxist ideologists will be masters of this huge territory."

Soviet propaganda, he says, is of crushing proportions. Newsstands offer quantities of pro-Communist, anti-Yankee literature, and any effort at eradicating this dread doctrine simply diffuses it. Those who struggle for liberty, justice and ethics must do so alone and are forced to depend solely upon their personal financial means in an unequal and discouraging contest.

"If we had means," he writes, "it would be a different matter. The doc-

trine of enslavement obfuscates the truth. With adequate means, we should win the battle, especially if those of us who fight for it used arguments of the liberal, Georgist, physiocratic type, which, when well presented, secure notable echoes among the population.

Referring to an experience in 1946 he stated that liberal agrarians supported Mr. Perón's presidency in 1946, but following his election he reversed his stand — did not keep his promises to the farmers and city workers — and surrendered to his Marxist advisers. As a result everything was stolen. Argentina was robbed and exploited by its own politicians.

Mr. Birabent expressed himself at length in this letter because he felt this information would be useful to us in understanding some of the things that have brought them to their determination to change chaotic systems.

He concludes bravely, "your friends at the school may trust that I shall never give up. Our doctrine is the only antidote for communism. All our hope centers now in securing a nucleus of good human values, young statesmen, laborers, certain military friends, and numerous sympathizers with the periodical and its views, so as to form a civic movement around our simple, convincing and fruitful doctrine, adapted of course, to the idiosyncracies of our people. Also we are helped by the position taken by your President. May he not defraud us!"

Senator A. W. Roebuck of Canada sent, with his much appreciated contribution to the Henry George School in New York, the kind of endorsement which cheers a director's heart, to wit: "*Of course you know how thoroughly I approve the work of the School. Were Henry George here he would be happy in the sound progress you are making.*"