

Land and Freedom

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Comment and Reflection

JUST as this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM was about to go to press, the cowardly bombing of the Pacific islands by the aggressors of Japan was adding another chapter to totalitarian treachery. If there was any doubt before, it should now be clear that it is impossible for democratic and fascistic governments to live together harmoniously in the same world. More than once this journal has declared that the defense of political democracy against fascism was essential to the attainment of our own goal. Therefore, LAND AND FREEDOM, as the voice of our movement in America, now calls upon all Georgeists to present a united front against the ruthless forces of totalitarianism. The better to cement our solidarity, we present herewith the convictions of some outstanding Georgeists on democracy in the light of the larger freedom we espouse.

READERS will recall that Joseph Dana Miller was quoted on this subject in our last issue, and Henry George's position as set forth by his son was also mentioned. We now quote Thomas G. Shearman, a close friend of Henry George and a prominent leader in the early days of the movement: "I am indebted to Henry George for the first fixed conviction that the British system was vastly superior, considered in the interests of humanity at large. . . . If, therefore, the opinion of Henry George was formed upon a sound basis, there is always a presumption in favor of Great Britain, whenever it is engaged in a controversy as to boundaries or the possession of land, so far as the interests of the whole human race are concerned."

OSCAR H. GEIGER, founder of the Henry George School of Social Science, wrote as follows to Dr. Percy McDougal of England, in 1934: "I like your 'Antidote to Fascism,' in defense of British liberties against Fascism in Britain. I hope you will not need to issue a 'Call to Arms,' but it's a fine move to arouse in the minds of the people a realization that there is a danger. Great Britain has long stood as the defender and upholder of liberty and democracy. It will continue to do so because of the true British spirit manifested in your 'Antidote'."

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, daughter of Henry George and president of the Henry George School Board of Trustees, wishes to record her views in this matter. On December 6, one day before the Pearl Harbor outrage, she sent us the following almost prophetic statement: "Today the

question is not whether we approve of war—no one can want war but a depraved sadist. The fact that must be faced is that the most far-reaching and devastating war in all history is upon us. How can we end this war most quickly and leave a wound least difficult to heal? By throwing our strength with the invaders, the dictators? This we certainly will do unless we actively throw our strength on the side of those who are fighting to keep alight the torch of democracy, as typified by our own Bill of Rights. 'Peace at any price' is the talk of 'appeasers,' the sort of talk that wrecked France—that acts as an opiate and develops an apathy that threatens utter destruction of what civilization man has as yet attained. Henry George abhorred war, but worse than war he abhorred slavery. He deeply regretted that during our Civil War he was too far away to strike a blow against chattel slavery and for the union of our States. He made a serious attempt to go to Mexico to help the Juarista Party throw off the yoke of the dictator Maximilian. Would he be an 'isolationist' today? I do not believe so. Would he not side with the democracies, since he knew that the only hope of economic freedom is via political freedom—that unless man can hold what freedom he has, true justice is retarded for centuries?"

MRS. DE MILLE adds: "Tired of having it said that Henry George was against war *no matter what the provocation*, of having it insinuated that by my own present stand I was denying him, I wrote my thoughts on this matter to a friend—one who has taken an active part in the Peace Movement in the United States and who personally knew Henry George—Alice Thacher Post, widow of Louis F. Post." Mrs. Post replied to Mrs. de Mille in a letter from which we quote, through the courtesy of Mrs. de Mille and with the permission of Mrs. Post: "I agree with your interpretation of the present crisis absolutely, and while I would not venture of myself to be sure what Henry George would decide, I would be surprised and sorrowful if I thought he were deciding any other way. . . . Democracy is not just another kind of government. It is the appearance in modern times of the working out of the 'right of choice' in mass life—even though at present only imperfectly. . . . Only free man can work with God in the making of a free society. Never before has an issue been put before the world on so stupendous a scale and with so definite a quality. Men are answering the challenge according to their inner temperaments and visions of value. I *believe* your father and Louis Post are working on the freedoms in the great universe of the spirit in these fateful days."