

munity. To permit its appropriation by private persons is to deny the real title to property, which rests in labor and is the fruit of man's exertions.

ALL down through history from the dim shades of tradition have been clear-eyed souls who saw this great truth. At times it became obscured, but every now and then it flashed forth in the inspired utterances of the prophets Moses and Isaiah; in the agony of the Gracchi, as the cruel stones beat upon them; more vaguely in the poetry of Burns and Shelley; in the high reasoning of John Locke, the wisdom of Paine, and lastly, in its full blossoming, in the brain of a great American, Henry George, who as much as any of these belongs to the ages!

MAY we dwell a moment on what the world would be if built upon a plan where all natural forces would cooperate? Men, strangely, do not trust natural forces—they look at society as a piece of machinery, something able to reach efficiency only by painful adjustments. On the contrary, society is a living, breathing thing. It works almost automatically, or if this seems to liken it to the machine quality which we have disclaimed, let us rather say as a harmony of human motives, the elaborate interplay of individual initiative, a synchronization of achievement and desire. Industry is one form of its manifestation—industry composed of a million industries, working out its plans of almost infinite coordination without any supervising or directing intelligence.

THE man of socialistic leanings calls it "planless." So far as human machinations go it is; so far as the natural process goes, it is one with the stars and their courses. And note the similarity, that the human gives no thought to these processes, but accepts both as a matter of course. "Two things fill me with awe," said Kant, "the starry heavens and the sense of responsibility in man." And he might have added the miracle by which the Dakota farmer summons with his wheat to his very door the coal of the Pennsylvania miner, or the North Carolina cotton grower by a curious magic reels off yards of cloth in Lancashire. Planless it may seem, but planless it is not, save only that as a plan it is not humanly ordered, but working in obedience to natural forces which slavery and taxation have sadly bungled and socialism would infallibly destroy.

WE have received the following from our good friend Bolton Hall, and attention is drawn to it. Mr. Hall writes:

"If it be true (which I do not believe), as you say (see Comment and Reflection, LAND AND FREEDOM for Sept.-Oct.), that 'no machine ever threw a single man out of employment,' then Henry George was wrong in saying that under normal conditions a few hours' labor a week would suffice."

THE machine is the instrument of liberation. That men may become slaves to the machine is true. But that is because the race is ignorant of its functions. Man and machines are harried by the exactions of a power that constantly calling upon them to render more and more of their product. Land monopoly lays an increasing tribute upon every revolution of the wheel. Men are thrown out of employment, not by the machine, which, like the locomotive or the linotype, creates new avenues of employment, but by the fact of the ever-increasing drain upon the productive forces of the world, so that only a small proportion of the increase remains in the hands of the workers.

THE sources of employment are multiplied with every invention; the means of deriving material satisfactions are multiplied by the machine many fold. But the machine in the hands of monopoly becomes the master and labor grows to be not the slave of the machine but the slave of a false mechanism built up out of our economic maladjustments. It is not the machine that throws men out of employment, but the slow, grinding process of acquisition by monopoly that anticipates every gain of the machine.

WHILE it is almost a certainty that under present conditions the machine does nothing more than displace labor temporarily, Mr. George's statement says "Under normal conditions." There is therefore no contradiction between our statement and his. Under such conditions as his great reform would bring about, the machine would be the handmaiden of labor, making unnecessary for the worker to labor as long and hard as he must do without the machine. We repeat, that the machine, even under present conditions, creates new opportunities for employment, but the closing of the opportunities through a vicious system of land monopoly minimizes its effect and produces the phenomenon of unemployment which we all deplore. But we do not have to recite this to so good a Georgeist as Mr. Hall.

A CORRESPONDENT has written LAND AND FREEDOM regarding the "theory" of "goods for goods" and asks us to explain in a few words the *modus operandi* of international trade, which we gladly do. It may be described in a few sentences as follows: A merchant in the United States sends goods to a merchant in Europe. Unless credit have been previously arranged the shipper takes to bank the bill of lading, with a draft on the buyer for the amount of the bill.

The draft with the bill of lading attached is forwarded to the bank's correspondent in Europe for collection from the buyer. The foreign correspondent, being in possession of the money, places it to the credit of the American bank which in turn places the proceeds to the credit of the shipper.