

of opportunity demands positive action, and is not to be achieved by anarchy. The ingenuity of individuals will always be used to secure privileges for some unless unceasing vigilance is used to prevent it.

Moreover, freedom of exchange, although of enduring importance, and, it might be said, under existing conditions of paramount importance, is not the sole end to be sought. The relations between men are also governed by the property rights which are created and enforced by the State. Without property there can be no exchange, and the distribution of property conditions the distribution of wealth. Here again the conflict of extreme views obscures the real solution. Those who wish to preserve untouched all existing individual property evoke a reaction to the other extreme of wishing to vest all property in the State. It is true that the latter extreme is impossible, for articles of consumption must ultimately become the property of the consumers, and the most that the State can attempt to do is to prevent its citizens from exchanging them with each other so as to maximise the enjoyment which each individual can obtain.

The solution can only be found by relating the results of economic analysis to the concept of property, by recognising in the first place that besides the fruits of individual effort there are also the fruits of collective effort and co-operation. The latter register themselves in the value of land, the payment which must inevitably be made year after year for the privilege of enjoying a certain situation within the ambit of the community and of being able to avail one's self of the manifold advantages which flow from social life and co-operation. This value should form the revenue of society and not of individuals. Taking it for the equal benefit of all members of the community we can safely leave the use of land to individuals. Utilizing this natural source of revenue we can find the means of abolishing the tariffs and other taxes which prevent exchange and hamper industry.

In this way, and in this way only, can we find a synthesis which will reconcile the rights of the individual and the rights of the State and which will reconcile equality of opportunity with economic and political freedom.

F. C. R. D.

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PALESTINE

In 1937 a Royal Commission reported in favour of the speedy termination of the Mandate for the administration of Palestine and for the setting up of two independent Jewish and Arab States between whom the major part of Palestine would be divided. Although this proposal was at first favoured by the Government, it was not proceeded with in the face of strong adverse criticism.

Disorders and disturbances have continued in Palestine, and the Government now propose to submit a new plan to the League of Nations, the main feature of which is that a defined maximum of Jewish immigration will be permitted for five years, and thereafter arrangements will be made at a date not specified to set up an independent administration on lines not clearly defined.

We need not pursue the discussion of whether contradictory and misleading promises were given to Jews and Arabs during the war period in order to enlist the support of both races. It seems clear, however, that the effect of the present proposals would be to terminate Jewish migration to Palestine when the new government is given power, for evidently the Arab majority would control it and the Arabs are bitterly opposed to an increase in the Jewish population. At a time when Jews are being forced in large numbers to leave their present homes, such a proposal must meet with strong opposition on humanitarian grounds. Many of the critics, however, support for their own country stringent restrictions upon the immigration of Jews and others. If the principle of an open door is applied to Palestine, it should be applied elsewhere.

The discussion in Parliament and in the Press has strangely ignored the fact that discontent in Palestine has steadily grown with the rapid increase in land values, which has made conditions more difficult for the landless population both Jews and Arabs, and there are many of both races who are landless.

In our issue of September, 1937, we made from the Report of the Royal Commission extensive quotations relating to the conditions of land tenure in Palestine, the extremely unequal distribution of land, the rapid growth of land values, and the heavy burdens of indirect taxation imposed upon the working population. If a real effort had been made by this country as the Mandatory Power to solve these troubles, and they could easily have been solved, economic conditions for the mass of the inhabitants of Palestine could have been enormously improved, and Jewish immigration would have become a benefit to all the inhabitants of the country and would have evoked no opposition except perhaps from the great land monopolists. Until the land question is solved there will be no peace in Palestine no matter what form of Government is adopted.

SPAIN

We have been happy to hear from Sr Baldomero Argente, writing from his home in Madrid. Well in health, he follows with greatest interest the news received of activities in the Henry George movement throughout the world, but in Spain its forces are at present dispersed. He gives greeting to all in the desire that the world may enjoy peace and that the teaching of Christian economics, the Georgeist teaching, may illuminate people's minds on the causes which divide humanity and produce so many sorrows.