

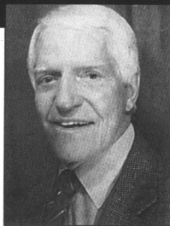
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

JERRY STOVIN (right) has been appointed Letters Page Editor. Jerry was a serviceman when he first visited England. He returned from Canada after the Second World War as an actor. He appeared in movies like *The War Lover*, with Steve McQueen, and in Stanley Kubric's *Lolita*. He settled in England and became a prolific writer of letters to the editors of national newspapers.

Write to *Land & Liberty*, 427 London Fruit & Wool Exchange,
Brushfield Street, London, E1 6EL, UK

Or e-mail: henrygeorge@charity.vfree.com

Remember, brevity of letters will increase the likelihood of publication.



“Replace the term Free Trade”

Sir, The national markets today are not so heavily dominated by monopolies and privileges as they were 100 years ago. Today the idea of Free Trade prevails over the idea of Protection that was dominant a century ago. But the national markets are not functioning as well as they could possibly do, and we still want to abolish the privilege for landowners to withhold for themselves the public created rent of land.

The market outside national jurisdictions today is extremely free, dominated by influential and wealthy international companies who are able to direct their profit to nations that will give them the advantage of low taxes, and to direct their activities to nations that will give them other advantages. The national governments are unable to stop exploitation of differences in law systems and development of societies, and they cannot avoid damaging effects of sudden changes in supply and demand.

Today nobody is able to regulate international trade, and where some rules have been given by supra-national organizations nobody is able to maintain the power of justice needed to enforce the rules.

This almost absolute freedom for giant international companies means less freedom for producers, traders and consumers in the national societies. During the recent decades it has caused tensions that have led to social unrest and commotion, of which the disturbance in Seattle, November 1999, against the World Trade Organization (WTO) was a serious manifestation.

People don't like the free trade they are witnessing; they want provisos to be taken.

Georgists want that kind of Free Trade that

Henry George wrote about - most strongly in his book *Protection or Free Trade*.

The Georgist idea is based on the philosophy that all human beings have equal rights to the gifts of nature and to the values created by generations of citizens in social cooperation, and to the values created by nowadays' public spending.

This idea needs protection against those privileged citizens who want to withhold for themselves the value of the common created advantages that they are able to collect or enjoy from their privileges.

Further, I am convinced, Georgists have always accepted certain regulations of production and trade maintained in order to avoid injuries on health and life of human beings. I am sure also, that Georgists accept restrictions against certain risks of production and exchange of services and goods, including restrictions that shall avoid immoral treatment of animals, and pollution of soil, air, water and - at some locations - noise, and interference of radio waves.

That indicates that the Georgist Free Trade does not mean absolutely free trade.

Today people in general understand Free Trade as complete freedom to act and trade. They don't like Free Trade, and want protection against it. Therefore, today Georgists cannot proclaim that they are struggling for Free Trade without being misunderstood!

We have to find an expression instead of Free Trade. But WHICH?

Ole Lefmann,
London, England

☐ The full analysis, in English or Danish, is available free on request. Telephone: + 44 20 8881 7965, or e-mail: iu@interunion.org.uk

When fraud is govt. policy ...

Sir, From the article by Dr Michael Hudson on debt (L&L Winter 1999), it seems that global financiers are not nice to know. They appear to be highly sophisticated crooks who are the enemies of Mankind. Possibly headed by the Rockefeller dynasty which owns the Chase Manhattan Bank for which Dr Hudson once worked.

I'm a country doctor working in the wilderness of Dartmoor and far removed from the world or high finance. Nevertheless certain facts appear to me to be self evident for anyone to see who is willing to look.

- Central banks create and issue money as credit.

- Money has to be borrowed into existence. In Britain about 3% of the currency is minted and printed by the government as base metal coinage or banknotes. 97% is created and issued as credit by one mechanism or another, by private financial institutions such as banks.

People borrow money believing that it is money on deposit with the lender, money that he is not using and is willing to lend out at interest. People and governments do not realise that credit is created out of thin air and credit becomes legal tender the moment it is borrowed. The borrower creates money by borrowing it. The borrower unwittingly counterfeits money by borrowing money and is a counterfeiter by proxy. But this is no ordinary counterfeit money because Interest has to be paid for its base and it must be returned to the lender as money. The lender of credit will not accept repayment with credit, only with money, which previously didn't exist.

Stated in these stark uncompromising terms we are looking at the biggest scam in human history. But nobody ever says so. It is fraud and I asked the Chief of Police to investigate.

“Dr Hamlyn” he replied, “when fraud becomes government policy it is no longer fraud.” How true, but of course government itself then becomes the fraud.

Dr E.C. Hamlyn,
President,
British Association for Monetary Reform,
Ivybridge, Devon, England

Sites not on Land Registry?

Sir, How many Georgists own land sites which are not registered at HM Land Registry? I suggest you look at your deeds and verify.

Some time ago the *Guardian* published a short sentence saying that there are approximately 5,000,000 sites in the UK the ownership of which are not known and according to the Registry this represents about 30% of the whole.

This, of course, puts a severe constraint on the introduction of LVT

although new legislation now provides (from 1998) for compulsory registration on a conveyance or a First Legal mortgage. This will speed things up marginally but Georgists could help further by searching their deeds for evidence of such registration and initiating the process if it is called for.

Gordon Rudlin,
Beech Glade,
Stonesfield,
Witney, Oxon., England