

British genius for invention and enterprise is steadily being choked in a whirlpool of government paternalistic syrup, a thoroughgoing libertarian programme, presented with its detailed historical background and enlivened with many an interesting anecdote of personal experience, should come as a breath of cool, fresh air. But to impress his audience the author must come down from his ivory tower and take account of the hard realities of life. He must acknowledge that free trade and the gold currency are tainted with the social injustice of the times in which they thrived and that unreasoned proposals to return to them will hardly bring supporters thronging to Hyde Park.

Perhaps the explanation for Mr. Smedley's apparent lack of compassion for the victims of economic freedom and his failure to involve his reader with him is that his book identifies no central or basic root to the obvious wrongs in society. Despite his reading of Henry George, the taxation of land values is seen merely as an instrument to correct the "inequity in the distribution of created wealth" and to change the economic and political "climate". That such a reform would much more vitally affect the economic and social condition of the people and so transform the position of the wage-earner that protection, inflation, the welfare state *et al* could steadily be phased out, does not seem to have struck him.

All the world loves a fighter, and Mr. Smedley, as a crusading libertarian, demands our esteem and our encouragement. But his approach needs a greater degree of warmth, he could use some sharper tools of persuasion and he must demonstrate more human understanding for those who may be caught in the toils of the reforms he urges.

Libertarianism is a fine and welcome philosophy but if it is to thrive in the world of 1976 it must have a human face.



ADAM SMITH PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION to mark 200th anniversary of **THE WEALTH OF NATIONS**

"The relevance of Adam Smith for 1976"

£1,000 for best entry of writers under 30 (on 1st January 1976); length 2,500 to 3,000 words. A second prize (£600) and a third prize (£400) may also be awarded.

£2,000 for best entry of writers without age limitation; length 5,000 to 6,000 words.

Conditions

1. Three copies to be submitted to:
IEA Essay Competition, 2 Lord North Street, London, S.W.1.
to arrive not later than 31st July, 1976.
2. Entries to be typed in English, double-line spacing, one side of A4 or foolscap paper.
3. Entrant's name, description, address and date of birth on a separate sheet.
4. All entries may be considered for a symposium to be published by the IEA: a payment of £50 would be made for essays selected, excepting the prize-winners.

INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

ROGELIO CASAS CADILLA

KIND, true liberal, Geogist, Rogelio Casas Cadilla has passed away. He stood for everything that meant freedom: the freedom of education as established by the Arabs in Spain, the political freedom Marti fought for in Cuba, the freedom of trade.

During his life he wrote for *La Reforma Social* Geogist magazine that circulated in Spain from 1934 to 1936. He had a particular interest in spreading knowledge of the English language among his fellow country men: he thought that by doing this the Spanish people would learn to appreciate the values of the Anglo-Saxon world, the ones we see disappearing little by little.

At the end of the free trade era of the British economy, in the 30's, Casas Cadilla wrote: "The English character so used to freedom, what has given them their greatness and wealth, is changing and the future of the British economy will be disaster."

R. Casas Cadilla is now a pillar of the temple reserved for those who choose the uncompromising way to freedom and justice.

GERMAN LEMA