

- Gov't. I told the Landlord he would have to pay my bill, and that I would have nothing more to do with taxes.
- GIANT. What did he say to that?
- Gov't. He left the place in disgust, and he has gone to work somewhere. The Land of Plenty is waiting for you again, and you'll have nothing to pay except my bill for expenses.
- GIANT. You're hired again. Get going. But this time, don't forget who is hiring you.

Act VI

The Giant and the Beauteous Belle, wearing expensive and fashionable clothing, have finished another year's work in the Land of Plenty, and are counting their money.

- B. B. \$9800, \$9900, \$10,000. Isn't that fine?
- GIANT. It begins to look as if our troubles are over, and you'll be able to get your silks and perfumes and carriages. And how I will eat!

Enter, Government.

- B. B. Good morning! I hope there isn't a landlord coming in behind you.
- Gov't. No fear of that. He's working somewhere now for himself.
- GIANT. I hope you brought your bill with you.
- Gov't. Here it is, for \$2,000.
- GIANT. (*Counting*) \$1800, \$1900, \$2,000. There it is, and we never paid a bill more gladly. We have \$8000 left for ourselves. This Land of Plenty is a grand place, and you're not so bad yourself.

The Giant and the Beauteous Belle and Government join hands and dance to this refrain:

Oh this is the Land of Plenty, and we have no taxes here,
 We plant and harvest, sing and dance, we're happy all the year.
 We pay for everything we get, and we keep all we earn,
 We've lots to eat, and lots to wear, and money left to burn.

Government stands aside while the Giant and the B. B. continue the dance.

- GIANT AND B. B. And this is now our wedding day, our quarrels are forgot.
- GIANT. And I'll love you—
- B. B. And I'll love you—
- GIANT AND B. B. Till water is no longer wet, and fire's no longer hot.

A Tilt at Blackstone

That so early an American as Robert Coram should perceive clearly the injustices of our inherited land laws, at a time when land was still a glut in our young country, is noteworthy. In his little book, "A Plan for the General Establishment of Schools in the United States," first published in 1791, his clear reasoning on the befogged reasoning of the renowned jurist, Dr. Blackstone, constitutes an important contribution to Georgeist literature. Coram writes as follows:

"The only question remaining," says the Doctor, "is, how this property became actually vested, or what is it that gave a man an exclusive right to retain in a permanent manner that specific land which before belonged generally to everybody, but particularly to nobody. And as we before observed, that occupancy gave a right to the temporary use of the soil, so it is agreed upon all hands, that occupancy gave also the original right to the permanent property in substance of the earth itself, which excludes every one else but the owner from the use of it. . . . However, both sides agree in this, that occupancy is the thing by which the title was in fact originally gained, every man seizing to his own continued use such spots of ground as he found most agreeable to his own convenience, provided he found them unoccupied by any man."

But the act of occupancy is a degree of bodily labor; that is, the occupancy extends as far as the labor; or in other words, a man has a right to as much land as he cultivates, and no more; which is Mr. Locke's doctrine. This distinction is therefore absolutely necessary to determine the quantum of lands any individual could possess under the laws of nature. For shall we say, a man can possess only the ground in immediate contact with his feet; or if he climbs to the top of a mountain, and exclaims, Behold, I possess as far as I can see! shall there be any magic in the words, or in the expression, which shall convey the right of all that land, in fee simple, to him and his heirs forever? No; as labor constitutes the right, so it sensibly defines the boundaries of possession. How then shall we detest the empty sophist, who in order to establish his system of monopoly, would fain persuade us that the Almighty did not know what he was about when he made man. That he made him an animal of prey, and intended him for a polished citizen; that he gave us bounties in common to all, and yet suffered a necessity to exist by which they could be enjoyed only by a few. Had Dr. Blackstone been disposed to give his readers a true account of the origin of landed property in Europe he might have said, exclusive property in lands originated with government; but most of the governments that we have any knowledge of, were founded by conquest; property therefore in its origin, seems to have been arbitrary.

"But after all," continues the Doctor, "there are some few things, which must still unavoidably remain in common: such (among others) are the elements of light, air and water."

Thank you for nothing, Doctor. It is very generous indeed, to allow us the common right to the elements of light, air and water, or even the blood which flows in our veins. Blackstone's Commentaries have been much celebrated; and this very chapter, so replete with malignant sophistry and absurdity, has been inserted in all the magazines, museums, registers, and other periodical publications in England, and cried up as the most ingenious performance ever published. . . . We will however never believe that men originally entered into a compact by which they excluded themselves from all right to the bounties of Providence, and if they did, the contract could not be binding on their posterity; for although a man may give away his own right, he cannot give away the right of another . . . The wants of man, instead of having been lessened, have been multiplied, and that in proportion to his boasted civilization; and the fear of poverty alone is more than sufficient to counterbalance all the fears to which he was subject, in the rudest stage of natural liberty. From this source arise almost all the disorders in the body politic. The fear of poverty has given a double spring to avarice, the deadliest passion in the human breast; it has erected a golden image, to which all mankind, with reverence, bend the knee, regardless of their idolatry. Merit is but an abortive useless gift to the possessor, unless accompanied with wealth; he might choose which tree whereon to hang himself, did not his virtuous mind tell him to "dig, beg, rot and perish, well content, so he but wrap himself in honest rags at his last gasp, and die in peace." It is a melancholy reflection that in almost all ages and countries, men have been cruelly butchered, for crimes occasioned by the laws; and which they never would have committed, had they not been deprived of their natural means of subsistence. But the governors of mankind seem never to have made any allowance for poverty; but like the stupid physician who prescribed bleeding for every disorder, they seem ever to have been distinguished by an insatiable thirst for human blood. The altars of a merciful God have been washed to their foundation from the veins of miserable men; and the double edged sword of Justice, with all its formality and parade, seems calculated to cut off equally the innocent and guilty. Between religion and law, man has had literally no rest for the sole of his foot. In the dark ages of Gothic barbarity, ignorance was some excuse for the framing of absurd systems; but in the age in which Dr. Blackstone lived, he should have known better, he should have known that the unequal distribution of property was the parent of almost all the disorders of government; nay, he did know it, for he

had read Beccaria, who treating upon the crime of robbery, says,

"But this crime, alas! is commonly the effect of misery and despair, the crime of that unhappy part of mankind, to whom the right of exclusive property (a terrible and perhaps unnecessary right) has left but a bare subsistence."

[The foregoing item is the result of research work on the part of our valued correspondent, Emily E. F. Skeel.—Ed.]

American Journal of Economics and Sociology

ANOTHER publication is about to make its appearance in the rapidly expanding field of Georgeist literature. From the offices of the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology* we have received the following announcement:

"The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation announces the incorporation of the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. The *Journal* will be a quarterly publication devoted to scholarly papers dealing with the social sciences. The directors of the new corporation are Otto K. Dorn, Charles Johnson Post, Albert Pleydell, Harry Gunnison Brown, George Raymond Geiger, Frank Chodorov, and Will Lissner.

"The *Journal* has secured the cooperation of a group of distinguished specialists, who will act as an editorial advisory board and pass upon material intended for publication in the *Journal*. Will Lissner will be editor, and Frank Chodorov business manager; Miss V. G. Peterson of the Schalkenbach Foundation will act as secretary. The *Journal's* editorial office will be at 32 East 29th Street, New York City.

"All the collaborators in this enterprise will serve without compensation. A grant from the Schalkenbach Foundation provides for the expense of publication. The first issue of the *Journal* will appear in the autumn of 1941, and quarterly thereafter. The subscription price will be \$3.00 per annum, \$1.00 for a single issue.

"The *Journal of Economics and Sociology* will be an important innovation; it will be unique of its kind. For the first time in history there will be made available to students of economics papers by professors and economists of national and international reputation, who will discuss economic and social questions in the light of Georgeist theory. The *Journal* will not be edited for a popular readership, but rather for advanced students and scholars in philosophy, sociology, economics, and related fields.

"A publication of integrity, dignity, and genuine scholarship must eventually command the respect of the academic world, and immensely increase the prestige of the Georgeist movement. The directors are conscious of their responsibility, and fully determined to make the most of their unusual opportunity."