

**MORE CHEERS FOR "THE PHILOSOPHY OF FREEDOM"**

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM :

I enjoyed "The Philosophy of Freedom" very much. I feel that Gaston Haxo has notably accomplished his purpose in giving a very interesting and instructive condensation of Henry George's great work. I have found many people who find the unabridged "Progress and Poverty" too much of a chore to read through, and I believe that Mr. Haxo's book will reach them, and that many of them will become sufficiently interested to study George seriously. I found especially useful the many diagrams, and greatly appreciated the appendix. I trust that a second edition will soon be called for.

Sante Fe, N. M.

WILLIAM CHAUVENET

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM :

"The Philosophy of Freedom" seems to me a very wise departure, especially for the college-educated young men and women. "Progress and Poverty" is very hard and concentrated reading, like the Bible, and your new book may be like the Revised Version of the Bible—it may help younger people. This new book by Mr. Haxo should be very welcome to the leaders of our nation, who are trying to explain to young people the philosophy of freedom.

Southern Pines, N. C.

FLORENCE GARVIN

**GOELLER'S DISTRIBUTION CHARTS**

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM :

Some years ago I made a diagram (reproduced below) to illustrate the distribution of wealth under present conditions and under the single-tax system. Louis F. Post said of my chart: "This is an excellent diagram—simple and sound."

Note that there are three kinds of rent in society today—normal, speculative and monopoly. The normal rent line is marked "C" and the speculative rent line is "A" on the same diagram. The way to increase wages is to force monopoly and speculative rent back into the pockets of the workers whence it came in the first place. Henry George did not propose to collect *all* of present-day ground rent. What he proposed was to take all of the *economic* (or normal) rent, the object being to raise wages without resort to socialism or communism.

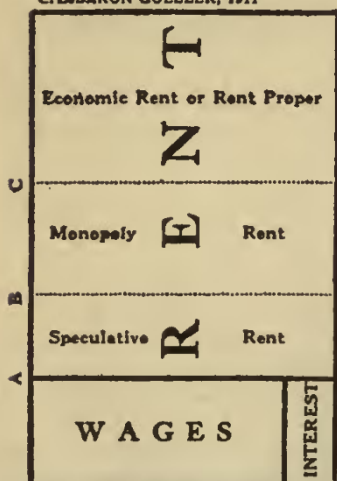
There's nothing like a picture or diagram to clear thought.

Endwell, N. Y.

C. LE BARON GOELLER

**The Distribution of Wealth**

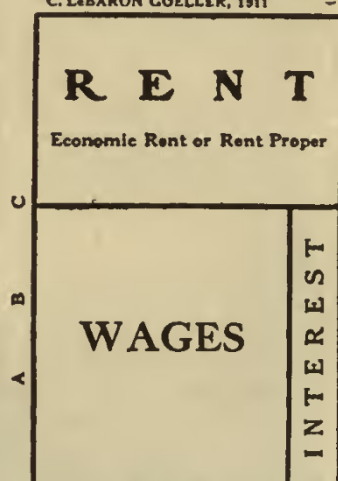
C. LeBARON GOELLER, 1911



Under present economic regime

**The Distribution of Wealth**

C. LeBARON GOELLER, 1911



Under Single-Tax System

**REPLY TO SCHLEY'S "RENT AND THE TAX FUND"**

EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM :

Mr. Robert Schley's article in the last issue is written from a point of view which must complicate a subject that should be easily intelligible—the problem of sufficiency of rent for government expenses. Mr. Schley's article is headed "Rent and the Tax Fund," but he bases his study, not on the collection of rent but on the taxing of land values. These two things are so different that one of them can wreck the best laid plans of Georgeists.

If title holders are the rightful owners of land including the rents, government has no more justification in taxing land values than it has in taxing houses or incomes. All the basis of justice then disappears from our campaign, and it degenerates into a contest between the haves and the have-nots.

If we tax land values 100% the land values disappear, we have neither tax base nor taxes, and government is bankrupt. This, of course, is an absurdity, and the prospective convert who hears this is through with Georgeism. If we tax land values 25% or 75%, the effects on the land values and on the tax base are so unpredictable that the intelligent fixing of a tax rate would be impossible. If the rent of the land belongs to the people, why not take the rent, instead of taxing the loot and going into partnership with the looters? If we base our study on the collection of the rent, the problem of financing the state will be as simple as the financing of an office building, because they are exactly the same problem.

People who receive services, from a state or from a business man, should expect to pay the cost of the services. Every dollar expended by government legitimately is for service, and the only beneficiaries of these services are the title holders. Rent is the measure of these services, and a tenant cannot benefit by these services unless he lives somewhere and pays the title holder the full value of these services.

A bridge which costs a million dollars, and which does not add a million dollars value to the locations which it serves, is a blunder whether it was erected by a state or by an association of title holders. If the state collected the rents of these locations, and if the bridge is worth its cost, citizens would be glad to pay the increased rentals necessary to finance the bridge.

In the same way, the total rents, if collected by the state, would pay for all the expenses incurred by the state, the total of these expenditures being the cost of the total values which have been imparted to the lands by these expenditures.

The public finances are now in a state of hopeless complication, but these complications are the result of the present system of taxation, and they would disappear if the state collected its income from its customers as any business man must do. A grocer who should give away his goods to the first comers, as the state gives away its rents, and then hold up the passers-by to collect for his expenses, would develop complications which no expert accountant could untangle.

It is true that rent would be insufficient for *all* the present expenses of government. Title holders who would compete for valuable sites on the payment of the rent which covered the cost of the improvements, would be unwilling and unable to pay a rental which would cover the cost of boondoggling extravagant public works, and all the rest.

Graft and incompetence in politics will never be eliminated while politicians have the privilege of taxing at their sweet will. If they were limited to accepting the rents which their wise spending had created, and could get their salaries in no other way, they would speedily learn the economy, the intelligence, and the honesty which they must employ in their private enterprises.



If we will bear in mind that "the actual visible chaos of existing conditions" is the necessary result of the unjust and illogical system of finance which gives away its earnings and then picks the pockets of the citizens to replenish its coffers, we will more easily grasp the obvious truth that title holders are the sole recipients of the values created by government expenses, that the rent of land is the measure of these values, and that the collection of rent would automatically equal the cost of the services, that is, the government's budget.

Jamaica, N. Y. JAMES SNYDER

[We believe that Mr. Herbert T. Owens' article "Assessing Land on Gross Value," answers Mr. Snyder's objection to land value taxation.—Ed.]

#### EDITORS LAND AND FREEDOM:

Permit me to offer a word of comment on Gaston Haxo's "Theory of Interest."

Capital is a vital necessity of modern business.

In large scale business, borrowed capital is the rule rather than the exception, as evidenced by the billions of security values listed in our Stock Exchanges, Insurance Companies, Building and Loan Associations, etc.

By the promise of Interest, a million trickles of small savings accounts are now induced to come out of hiding and flow into one vast pool where, under experienced management, they accept the risks of industrial activity and assist in providing work for our people.

Whether we call this promise "Interest" or "Insurance" or some other name is of no importance. But the principle, that when one individual entrusts his funds to another, he accepts a risk of loss, is of the greatest importance. And unless there is an adequate inducement to compensate for this risk, only a lunatic would consider the proposal.

Any attempt to deny this compensation for risk, dams every one of these capital trickles at the source. The pool of capital funds available for the encouragement of industrial enterprise dries up. Every form of business dependent on borrowed capital would tend to degenerate to what each individual manager could provide from his own resources. Conditions of unemployment would be indescribable.

Chula Vista, Calif.

RAY H. TABER

## John Radcliffe

The Cleveland Extension of the Henry George School has lost its faithful Secretary, and many of the workers in the cause of freedom have lost a rare friend.

John Radcliffe, whose frail body harbored a fine intellect, died after a brief illness at the Glenville Hospital and was buried this May at Youngstown beside his mother and his father, who was Billy Radcliffe, S. T.

Besides John's sure grasp of economic principles, his outstanding character was his gentleness and quiet, retiring disposition. When, back in January, 1938, John Monroe reorganized and greatly expanded the work of the Cleveland Extension, he prevailed upon John Radcliffe to guide its work and progress. To this undertaking John gave his all and gave it gladly. His unassuming leadership was an inspiration to his associates.

Now he is no more. But his influence lives on. On Thursday, May 15th, a small group of friends, composed of Philip Balaban, George F. Dort, George Downer, and H. K. Rice, met at the home of the writer informally to discuss ways and means to keep the torch of Libertarian Economics shining. John Radcliffe would have wanted it so.

FRED SCHULDER

## NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

CONSUMERS' COOPERATION, official national journal of the Consumers' Cooperative movement, gave us a "puff" in its April issue. Under the headline, "We Salute the 40th Anniversary Number of LAND AND FREEDOM," the following appeared: "While we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Cooperative League and the 27th Anniversary of *Consumers' Cooperation*, we also pay tribute to our contemporary, LAND AND FREEDOM, upon its 40th Anniversary issue. Particular tribute is paid to the former editor, Joseph Dana Miller, a true prophet who could see so clearly into the future more than 20 years ago." Miller's prophetic words on the world scene, which so impressed *Consumers' Cooperation*, may be worth repeating here:

"Great God! We are the torch-bearers of an economic world gospel! We bring balm for the healing of the nations, a message for the oppressed, a new Magna Charta of emancipation for mankind. If rejected, Leagues of Nations, covenants of peoples, are veritable 'scraps of paper.' Again autocracy will challenge the political democracies that even now are shaken by internal revolutions. Again the Man on Horseback, a pinchbeck Hohenzollern or a real Napoleon, will over-ride the world. Again on dying democracies, by power of cannon and shot and shell a modern Tamerlane will seek to fatten."

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR carried nearly a full column biographical sketch of Henry George on its Daily Features Page, May 9th. The article, which included an attractive portrait of Henry George, gave a warmly sympathetic account of the author of "Progress and Poverty." The lines open: "Henry George was a great American social philosopher. His name will always loom large in the annals of labor." The article closes with a word about "Progress and Poverty": "Today it is still an authority among social philosophers."

WE, THE CITIZENS, Chicago Georgeist organization, has been circulating attractive folders calling the public's attention to "The Basis for a World Peace." Mr. C. R. Walker, Secretary of We, The Citizens, writes: "We are working on plans, building equipment and accumulating munitions that will make for the success of the 'blitz' we propose to inaugurate in the not too distant future. Be assured that We, The Citizens is a busy organization." If interested in the program of this organization write to We, The Citizens, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

J. B. CHAMBERLAIN, of Kensington, Md., believes that a more intensive effort should be made to interest people of Washington, D. C., in the philosophy of Henry George. He proposes to establish a lecture room where the philosophy might be taught; and he believes that the endless procession of visitors who would like to go some place toward the close of the day would be a fertile field to work upon. In addition, the many governmental employees from out of town should be interested in such lectures.

THE students of Gaston Haxo's "Science of Political Economy" class at the Henry George School feted their master, on May 22, with an "over-consumption dinner," according to the clever menu drawn by Mrs. Sylvia Wiren, one of the students. The bill of fare included Cold Veal a la Adam Smith, Pommes de Terre Physiocrats, Spring Salad Ricardo, a Wealth Cake divided into Rent, Wages and Interest, and Coffee with Cream Henry George.

J. RUPERT MASON sends us news of the death of John F. Conroy of Lowellville, Ohio. "He was a fine worker," writes Mr. Mason, "who circulated timely items about taxation, tariffs, etc., to a dozen or so widely separated friends, who would write to their local editors, and in turn write their friends to do the same—a sort of chain letter idea."