

He had to return east, however, to help his father organise a new dress manufacturing concern. For the next thirty years, Ezra was active in this business. Though he was busy in trade associations, in religious and charitable circles, there was no activity that gave greater pleasure and satisfaction than his work in the George movement. He was a trustee of the Henry George School of Social Science, and of the Schalkenbach Foundation; and last summer was elected a vice-president of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

A few years ago, following the death of two younger brothers who had been associated with him in the manufacturing business, he liquidated the concern and became a travel agent because he had travelled much and was interested in all lands and peoples. He and his wife, his constant and devoted companion, made many trips to all parts of the world, firing his imagination and fortifying his Georgeist convictions.

People will remember Ezra Cohen, the man, as the delightful host carving a roast with a finesse of an international chef, or the gardener in his Connecticut summer place for whom nature bloomed, or the after-dinner speaker who recounted with such imagery and charm his adventures abroad, or the serious lecturer who painted such a vivid picture of the world that could be. Ezra Cohen lived in far greater measure by reason of this dedication to that which he deemed just and right and befitting the dignity and the uniqueness of the individual.

—M. S. LURIO, Boston.

Correspondence

EDUCATION IN A FREE SOCIETY

To the Editor of Land & Liberty.

Sir,—In his "Education in a Free Society" (L & L July, 1960), A. J. Carter calls it a "fundamental injustice" of state schools (called "public schools" in the U.S.A.) that "those without children must subsidise those with children."

But does such subsidy really occur? Mr. Carter himself indicates that "Children... are neither part of their parents nor the property of their parents but human beings in their own right, and therefore the State has a justifiable interest in them."

Can a childless couple properly complain, then, against the state providing free schooling to the ten children of a neighbouring couple? I think not. The childless couple, *when they were children*, had the same opportunity to attend the free schools as is now enjoyed by their ten young fellow citizens nearby. Each human being receives equal treatment from the state. Each, as a child, has equal opportunity to attend the state schools. The notion that state schools constitute a subsidy of large families by small ones arises from the idea that children are the property of their parents and have no rights of their own.

It is a curious fact that here in the United States the staunchest advocates of "private" schools over public schools still seek and accept land tax exemptions and other forms of subsidy. It will be a sorry trade if our public schools should be so successfully abused as to be replaced by private ones over which citizens lose control but for which they continue to pay tax support.

It goes without saying that state schools should be financed by taxes on the value of land. To a substantial extent they still are so financed in the United States.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT TIDEMAN

Henry George School of Social Science,
San Francisco 3, Calif.

POTATO QUOTA

To the Editor of Land & Liberty.

Sir,—The Potato Marketing Board has determined that 1961 shall be a quota year and that each Registered Producer's acreage shall be equivalent to 90 per cent of his basic acreage. As a Member of the Board I opposed the imposition of a quota. I considered it would be completely unpracticable as far too many unpredictable factors are involved.

Weather conditions during the growing season have a greater effect on the home crop—quotas included. The variation in average yield between good and bad years may be as much as two tons per acre, a difference of about 1½ million tons of potatoes. How can the Board, or anyone else, tell whether there will be a shortage or a glut next year? No one knows how many tons of potatoes will be imported during 1961; the total home demand is also unknown.

To prove the truth of these arguments one has only to look at the experience of 1959. The operation of acreage quotas failed completely and pathetically to regulate the British crop. Growers were forced to pay the Board about £200,000 in excess acreage levies; few, if any, would claim they have received any real benefit from this additional expense.

Although centralised planning of quotas may appear reasonable on paper, it interferes with rotational cropping and harms agriculture by tending to prevent farmers using their own land to the best advantage, as in the case of those occupiers of clean land, suitable for potato growing, who have inadequate quotas or none at all.

Yours faithfully,
JACK MERRICKS

Winchelsea, Sussex.

Curly Cucumbers A Crime — OFFICIAL. The state monopoly Tomato & Cucumber Board last month prohibited the sale of curved cucumbers from August 19-31. Penalty for infringing this latest anti-customer measure: £100 fine (maximum) plus half the proceeds of any contravening sale. **The New Daily** gave national publicity to this impertinence. The Board has over-reached itself this time and signed its death warrant.

LAND & LIBERTY