

regulations interfere with personal liberty, but such laws are for the general benefit of the vast majority of people. And prohibition is one of those laws. I know of its general benefit in many cases. Traffic lights are a denial of personal liberty, but don't drive by when the red light is on.

W. L. CROSMAN.

Revere, Mass.

MR. ASHTON IS VIGOROUS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The debate now waging, as to whether rent is the hen or the egg, reminds me of Kant's critique of Pure Reason, and also brings back a flood of memories of my law school days when it was a daily ordeal to conform my mind to the "cramping" (as George styles it) which creates a distinction where no difference in aims exists. It is this interminable search for the absolute that wrecked Protestantism into fifty-seven varieties and which gave Heinze his idea for a pickled fortune.

If I had not fortunately read George's unanswerable argument for moral results before meeting the present contest of wits and words on the theoretical ultimate I would now conclude that Single Taxers were more concerned with an argument than with the regeneration of humanity.

Your debaters of the moment are simply creating the very condition which they profess to avoid, i. e., mental confusion. We have burdens enough without becoming spectacles to those whom we would convert. If such highly educated antagonists as Prof. Seligman of New York and Dean Dowham of Cambridge, are not concerned whether rent is the head or the tail of the dog I am sure that those unfamiliar with Single Tax are less concerned whether rent is the hen or the egg. Who shall have the egg is our only concern. On this point there is no argument and it ill becomes Single Taxers to provide anti-Single Taxers with the defense of confusion in the minds of Single Taxers. If the antis should ever raise the question as to priority of the hen or the egg in economics then, in legal parlance, the burden of proof is upon them.

We have hay to make while Depression's sun is shining, so let's not start an economic education in "cramping" until we are safely passed our industrial cramping and until the economic eggs are safely stowed into the commonwealth's market basket.

Kant undoubtedly enjoyed his journey into the field of Pure Reason. Has any one else enjoyed it? Has Kant alleviated humanity's sufferings? Let's avoid reducing Single Tax to cant.

Fall River, Mass.

THOMAS N. ASHTON.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

ANOTHER extraordinary find is to be credited to Benjamin W. Burger, or rather to one of his legal assistants, in the purchase from a London bookshop of a rare pamphlet. We quote the title page: "Printed for John Palaiet at Dukes Arms, Strand, being Considerations on the Several High Duties which the Nation in General (as well as Trade in Particular) Labors Under, with a Proposal for Preventing the Running of Goods, Discharging the Trader from any Search and raising all Public Supplies by One Single Tax."

And this little work was printed in 1743!

Of course it is not the Single Tax as we understand it. The writer would substitute "one single excise duty over all Great Britain and that upon houses." He would exempt the poorer inhabitants from this duty, and he dwells upon the advantage to the people of "paying one duty instead of many." It is one of the earliest pleas for free trade, for he would wipe away almost every duty upon importations. While indicating that necessity might excuse certain exceptions to the rule he lays down, he says: "That all prohibitions are in general hurtful, however, has ever been my opinion."

ROBERT S. DOUBLEDAY, of Takoma, Wash., son of the late E. Stillman Doubleday, is Democratic candidate for Secretary of State. He

will emphasize the land question and opportunities for the unemployed. With a combination of Democrats and Progressives his election seems very probable.

THE *Fairhope Courier*, organ of the Single Tax colony at Fairhope, Ala., in its issue of August 4 began the 39th year of its publication.

CHARLES D. BLACKHALL was the maker and originator of a series of "sticker" stamps in the '80s. He is now preparing for distribution a series of leaflets suitable for handouts or for enclosure with regular mail. He will print and distribute at actual pay-out cost, making no charge for his own time. Each item is to contain fifty to one hundred words on a sheet $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. There should be about fifty in first lot printed on large sheets to keep down the cost. Mr. Blackhall wants copies of statement from readers of LAND AND FREEDOM who are asked to get busy and mail copies to C. D. Blackhall, 35 North Division Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

HOWELL CLOPTON HARRIS, of Cordele, Ga., in an excellent letter in the *Macon Telegraph*, analyzes the tariff statements of a speaker before the Rotary Club of that city. Mr. Harris makes good fun out of it.

H. W. NOREN has made a demand that the grave of Jefferson be opened in order to determine whether he has turned over on hearing of the proceedings at the late Democratic convention.

DR. JAMES MALCOLM, of Albany, wrote to the editor of the *Nation* a letter on the Single Tax which that paper refused to print. Mr. Malcolm wrote a second letter to Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard intimating that he had regretfully reached the conclusion that Mr. Villard was hostile to the Single Tax, to which that gentleman replied: "Not hostile, just uninterested and not convinced." Which prompts us to advise Single Taxers to leave Mr. Villard alone. The same applies to Arthur Brisbane, who defends land speculation and the diversion of about thirteen billions of publicly created value goes into private pockets, part of it into Mr. Brisbane's pockets. "Not interested," says Mr. Villard. "Very much interested," says Mr. Brisbane advising his readers to get in and help themselves to it. And the *Nation* is a reform paper—God save the mark!

MAJOR GENERAL PENDLETON is an inmate of the Naval Hospital at San Diego, Calif. General Pendleton is seventy-two years of age and since his retirement eight years ago has served as mayor and councilman of Coronado.

FATHER COX on the morning of June 9 addressed 10,000 of the ex-service men and shouted: "Who owns the land of America—Herbert Hoover, incorporated, or the American people?"

WALDO J. WERNICKE, of Los Angeles, is as usual extraordinarily active in letter writing to newspapers and official bodies.

EMIL KNIPS, of Fairhope, has written to Jackson Ralston congratulating him on the article from his pen in July-August LAND AND FREEDOM. He calls it a clear cut and convincing analysis of the farmer's problem and suggests its publication in leaflet form for wider distribution.

A. G. BEECHER, of Warren, Pa., who needs no introduction to the Single Taxers of the country, is now about after a five months stay in the hospital, and is slowly improving. He has written a hymn for our cause to the tune of "My Country, 'tis of Thee" and also makes a suggestion for a badge or button to be worn by Henry George men.

CHARLES G. BALDWIN, of Baltimore, sailed on the Ile de France on