

freedom, may be said to derive from economic freedom. But the work of those who toiled for Liberty has not been in vain. The rays of the sun do not penetrate an overcast sky. The clearer and purer the atmosphere, the more radiant is the solar glow. Our forebears in the struggle for Liberty have helped to clear that atmosphere. We, who toil for economic freedom, will find our work easier because of what they did.

## "Please, Son—Carry On!"

**T**HE following letter was written by Joseph Dana Miller, in 1934, to a student of the Henry George School of Social Science. Mr. Miller had an abiding faith in Oscar H. Geiger's vision—to spread the truths of political economy and real democracy by educational methods.—Ed.

"Dear —:

"This is indeed a personal letter.

"This is an appeal from a man who has devoted a half century to the propagation of a religious conviction, to one who has recently acquired a knowledge of this philosophy, and to whom the old man cries out:

"'Please, son—carry on!'

"You do not know me, perhaps. I am Joseph Dana Miller, the Editor, for over thirty years, of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, official organ of the Single Tax Movement in America. During these years I have recorded in the pages of this bi-monthly the activities, ideas, hopes of thousands of men and women who have poured out their life's blood at the altar of economic liberty.

"In all these years no single effort to advance the movement, to increase the number of those familiar with the philosophy, has been nearly as successful as the class method developed by the Henry George School of Social Science. In only two years thousands\* of thoroughly-informed converts have been added to the movement, and plans afoot indicate that within less than a decade at least one hundred thousand followers of Henry George will be recorded.

"My one wish is that my life shall be spared until I see that achievement, for from the dynamic force of so many devotees, the political enactment of at least part of our philosophy will be more than a possibility.

"But, even if I am not here, I hope there is some provision in the scheme of things beyond that will permit me to look on while you and others like you carry on the work, to bless you, and to comfort my soul with the thought that the years I carried the torch were not in vain.

"You will, I am sure, carry on.

"Yours sincerely,

"Joseph Dana Miller."

\* Today, the number of graduates and students is around 13,200, according to a recent report of the Henry George School of Social Science.

## The Economy of Spain

By ROGELIO CASAS CADILLA

**I**N the fourteenth century, Spain was a free and prosperous country. The arts were cultivated, the profession of letters was protected and many industries such as textiles, steel of Toledo, silks, spices and carpets, were very flourishing. From all countries people came to buy and sell their products. Freedom of thought was respected in all its purity. No one was persecuted for his ideas. Mohammedans had their mosques, Jews their synagogues and Catholics built their cathedrals. The most famous cathedrals of present-day Spain were constructed in that epoch.

The dignity of man and the sacred respect for individual rights had always been the glory and honor of the Spanish people. The citizenship which evolves from individual liberty was a quality of the Spaniard of those glorious times. Kings were treated familiarly and they were denied the right to reign if they lacked the support of moral law. This was the indomitable race of the "Fuero Juzgo"; the Court of Leon was convoked seventy years before the English established their parliament in London in the twelfth century, in the Court of Borja, the predominance of the community or peasantry was recognized and from the time of Alfonso the Third the right and duty of insurrection was proclaimed. In Aragon the mar called "Judge" became superior to the man called "King." The fearful "yes" or "no" of the Justice was upheld before the throne. It was a people who, at birth held Charlemagne in check, and at death repulsed Napoleon.

The intrigues of religion brought into power the daughter of King Henry of Trastámara and the famous battle of Toro gave the power to that lady who, meanwhile, had married Fernando of Aragon. This marriage brought about what is known as "National Unity"—the beginning of the downfall of the Spanish people. The attempt to dominate the whole Peninsula involved them in a struggle over the region in the hands of the Arabs. After sixteen years of bloody warfare the Catholic monarchs emerged victorious. At the end of the war, which was really one of extermination, Queen Isabella granted honors and titles to all who had aided her economically and gave them dominion over the towns and lands. The common people who had been happy with their "ejidos" or public system of land ownership, were gradually impoverished. Under their public or municipal system of land ownership they were provided for; there was no need to impose taxes upon consumption and there were ample funds for public education. However, when the newly created nobles deprived them of their lands and properties, they lost everything.

Queen Isabella realized the great error she had made in paying for services rendered with lands and properties that were not hers, and she requested, in several royal

decrees, that the lands and resources be returned to the cities, but she was never obeyed. At her death, in her famous testament, she again requested that the lands be returned to the people, but the newly rich, the famous Spanish nobility that she had founded, were immovable. They not only disobeyed Isabella's request, but they demanded more lands, saying that they had been paid very little for their services and they should be given the Province of Castile, in addition to Andalusia and the parts of Estremadura which had already been granted them. Cisneros, tutor of Charles the Fifth and a man of great talent and dignity, opposed the demands of the nobles but the fatuous Charles the Fifth gave himself over to them wholly, and, with the aid of his German invaders, destroyed the Communities of Castile and beheaded the leaders who defended the sacred right of every man to the products of his labor.

Charles the Fifth was the worst king Spain ever had. He launched wars of conquest, established a dictatorship in Spain, created the commercial monopoly of the trade with the Indies and destroyed with cannon-balls the free cities of Italy where the Renaissance and The Modern Age had their beginnings. He ended the free trade between cities and liberty of thought disappeared. Under his son, Phillip the Second, the economic situation grew worse from day to day. Hatred towards the liberty of man increased. During the reign of Charles the Second, who was known as "The Bewitched" and was the last ruler of the fatal house of Austria, prayers were screamed in the streets, so desperate had become the condition of the people. A nation of thirty-two millions of inhabitants was reduced to seven millions. The industries of silks, mosaics and knitted goods, etc., had disappeared. Roads went to ruin because of lack of traffic. Communication became impossible. The best careers open to a man were to enter the church or become a highwayman. The Church swayed the kings to its will, and when the state had even million ducats of income, the Church had thirteen millions. It is impossible, in a few words, to explain how work was carried on in this epoch. A directed economy dictated by unions and guilds had reached unbelievable limits. For example, a sardine fisherman could not fish for any other kind of fish because the authorities would not allow him to sell it later. The carpenter of oak could not work in pine wood.

The people of Spain had entered into a hell of their own making. They are still in it, and to come out of it will cost much sacrifice and effort.

With liberty in Spain the country could be a cauldron of industry where now one finds only misery. The Americas would again turn to Spain by the mere attraction of its enlightenment and prosperity. Liberty is the magnet of progressive association. Liberty and the return of the land to its rightful owners, the people, would bring to Spain:

Production without tariffs, consumption without taxes, communication without blockage, industry without proletariat, riches without parasites, speech without gag, law without deceit, strength without armies, fraternity without class consciousness, work for all, and harness for none.

It would be the *ideal* become the actual, and as there exists the guide swallow, there could exist the guide nation.

A Spain of equal citizens sharing equal rights in the land, would be a vigorous Spain. A democratic Spain would be a fortress Spain, a supreme, inexorable reality.

Liberty is immutable. It is always tranquil because it is indivisible, and invincible because it is contagious. He who attacks it, acquires it—is absorbed by it. The army that is sent against it rebounds against the despot.

A Spain with liberty and without private property in land would be an irradiation of the true, a promise for all. Totalitarian Spain awaits the spirit of Henry George.

## One of Rent's Masks

By LAURIE J. QUINBY

**D**URING the days when land values were booming, I remarked to a merchant that as land rent advanced wages and interest declined. This he disputed, saying, "You will agree that in this location land values have at least quadrupled in the past ten years, while our payroll and interest (dividends) have enormously increased."

"I agree to your former statement," I replied, "but doubt the latter part of it. Do you keep a cost-finding system?"

"Yes," said he, "and I can show you."

"But wait a minute," I asked: "You own this building and the site on which it stands. Do you charge against merchandising business a rental, and if so, how often do you revise it?"

He replied, "Yes, we do charge a rental against the merchandising business, but, coming to think of it, we have not revised it during the past ten years. We are still charging the same rental as then."

"Well, then," I suggested, "would you mind looking over your cost system as to your relative payroll and earnings then and now, in comparison with what is a fair rental now?" He assented.

Several days later I called. As I approached, he smiled. "I am having fun with my partners," said he. "I am proving to them that we are losing money."

"So," I rejoined, "you found that you are profiting not as merchants but as landlords?"

"That's about it," he admitted. "And I wonder how many other merchants who own their properties are overlooking that fact."