

A Word with You

ROBERT CLANCY

It looks as though we have run the gamut of "insufficient remedies" as listed by Henry George in Book VI of *Progress and Poverty*.

No. 1, greater economy in government, will probably always have its day at least once every four years. I don't know whether we can truly say, "it's been tried"—but whatever cuts in governmental expenses have been made from time to time, they haven't improved anything—and maybe they've even made some people unhappy.

There has been a great to-do about Insufficient Remedy No. 2, better education and higher productivity of workers. Of late this has been increasingly put forth as the key to the Golden Age. True, a lot of economic thinking has strayed far from the simple fact that wages come from production—and this has got to be reasserted. But standing at the peak of productive power as we do, and yet with economic uncertainty staring us in the face, this remedy is certainly insufficient.

I. R. No. 3, combinations of workmen, has certainly been tried with a vim. Gone is the crusading spirit, however, and rapidly fading is the notion that unions are the answer. Indeed, except for occasional flare-ups, most union activity seems to have merged into I. R. No. 4, cooperation of labor and capital. And still the ghost of economic uncertainty hovers outside the conference room.

No. 5, governmental direction and interference—well, what can we say?—is with us. I guess of all the insufficient remedies, this one is enjoying its apogee or something. Everything from Marx to Keynes, and then some, is running rampant. So seductive is the idea of a planned society that it will probably die hard—but a slight reaction has been setting in for the last year or so.

Finally, No. 6, a more general distribution of land, is just beginning to be a vogue in polite society. No public official would think of talking about Asia and even Europe (but not America) without declaring the need for land reform there. Well, this is a move in the right direction, anyway. It will probably take some time to realize that land distribution isn't the best answer.

And so—can it be?—dare we say that the world is moving through the entire course of insufficient remedies toward—the true remedy? (See *Progress and Poverty*, Book VI, Ch. 2!)