

Not to be Taken Lightly

JAMES L. BUSEY, a professor of Political Science in the University of Colorado at Boulder, and author of an abridgement of *Progress and Poverty*,* is also a specialist on problems of the Southern Hemisphere and Alaska. Recently he visited Central America on a fellowship provided by the university's council on research and creative work. An article entitled "Mission to Somoza Land" describing his visit to Nicaragua appeared in *The Nation* on February 27th.

This article introduces co-rulers of fabulous wealth—the Somoza brothers—and discloses the fact that protesting and suffering Nicaraguans have reason to believe a generally accepted opinion that the U.S. State Department approves of this dictatorship. The American Embassy is the only one situated cozily within the heavily guarded section where the brothers Somoza live. The U.S. Ambassador's long tenure of nine years in that hot, muggy country also seems to suggest to natives that he is "playing footsy with a hated dictatorship."

On February 15th the *New Leader*, published in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, carried Professor Busey's re-

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port on "Conflict in Panama," reaffirming, as was noted in the December HGN, that U.S. occupation in the Canal Zone is complicated most onerously by discrimination against natives for the better jobs, a dispute over profits, and the sovereignty issue.

This is a careful study of the Panamanian rage against the United States and makes imperative a very wise reiteration of sovereign rights as they were stated in the treaty of 1903.

The proposal to permit the Panamanian flag as well as the American flag to fly over the Zone is still being considered by the State Department, but Professor Busey sees a necessity for a forthright decision between three alternatives: sovereignty by the U.S. alone, by Panama alone, or by an international administration such as United Nations or the Organization of American States.

He suggests that a better plan might be for the United States to propose buying the entire Central American half of the Republic of Panama. This would remedy the present situation in which the Republic is divided by the Canal Zone. Still another alternative is to build a Nicaraguan canal (\$4.1 billion) but that would require negotiations with the regime of Somoza brothers, and this is where we came in.

LOOK AT THE LAND TAX

Also from Boulder, Colorado comes news of an award won from Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania by James O. Corriell, editor of the newspaper, *Boulder Daily Camera*, for an editorial. Mr. Corriell is the author of another editorial of interest to Georgists entitled "Why Not Look at the Land Tax." This is available from the Henry George School as a reprint (free), and has been in huge demand ever since its appearance. One reader says he encloses a copy of it with his checks when he pays his bills. This short, well written endorsement of Henry George's plan deserves all the attention we can give it.