

IU NEWSLETTER

IULVTFE

NO. 11

FEBRUARY 1970

AN I YOU CHAT

There is an earnest evaluation going on by quite a number of Georgists as to the position and prospects of our movement, as evidenced by several contributions in recent issues of the IU NEWSLETTER. This is a good sign, it shows deep concern and out of it may come the clues we need as to the progress we all want.

We all agree on one point: that the movement is not making enough headway. Unfortunately, beyond that we have little agreement and frequently we get diametrically opposed explanations: that we have changed our approach, or that we have not changed it; that we are too academic or are not academic enough; that we are too overbearing or too timid; and the like. Where do we go from there?

Perhaps we are flagellating ourselves too much. The main problem may be quite simply that people are not ready for our answer; in fact, that most of them are not looking for any fundamental economic solution at all. A personal economic solution, yes - but a solution that has to be applied on a social scale, with the difficulties that involves, with no hand-outs promised?

Try to recall how you first learned the Georgist philosophy. When I first learned it, I was looking for an answer, and I am sure this is a common denominator. Was it not so in your case? To quote the corny saying, "The friends we seek are seeking us." The most beautiful, concise, forceful, modern, factual, practical, inspirational presentation will mean nothing to the person who has no interest in an answer.

This does not take us off the hook. It still behooves us the spread the word far and wide. For, as Henry George said, "it will find friends." It is remarkable that no matter where in this world we have planted our banner, there have been those who have rallied around it. Not as many as we want - but they do come.

Of course we need more than a few friends. Then we must simply exert more effort to gain more friends. If you have a better way to do it, apply it, and the results will speak for themselves. It stands to reason that the more friends we find, the greater will be our chances of success.

I believe we should have a core of effort that teaches the full Georgist philosophy, and a core of people who know it thoroughly. Beyond that, we ought to take advantage of every opportunity that presents itself. We have to remember that politics is "the art of the possible," we cannot always be choosy about the chances, and we have to take what we can get. But we can try to keep the well-spring pure.

Robert Clancy

Editor

The IU NEWSLETTER is distributed to members of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. (Minimum annual dues, £1 or \$2.40 or equivalent.) For articles and letters to the Newsletter, write to: IU NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 52, Jackson Heights, N.Y. 11372, U.S.A. For membership and other matters relating to the Union, write to: IULVTFE, 177 Vauxhall Bridge R., London, S.W.1, England.

NEWS AND MESSAGES

We are sorry to record the death of Mr. H.R. LEE of Southsea, Hants., England. He was just short of his 93rd birthday when he died on Dec. 29, 1969. One of the old guard, he was cited as the mentor of Mr. L.A. Tooke of Portsmouth in IUN No. 9.

LUKE BENTLEY (London, England) would like to know what are the reasons why we do not publish addresses of authors and others in the Newsletter, as noted in IUN No. 10. The main reason is to protect the persons concerned from unsolicited mail, etc. Any member wishing to personally contact any other member may do so by writing to that person c/o the Newsletter (or c/o London Headquarters, if more convenient), and the communication will be forwarded (as has already been done)... Mr. Bentley, upon receiving the Nov. 1969 IUN, asked when the next one would appear. This is it - and in case of doubt, you will know if you have received all issues consecutively by consulting the number of the issue on page 1. This is issue No. 11.

EQUAL RIGHTS (not Land Tax Review as noted in IUN No. 10) is the name settled upon for the new quarterly published by the Henry George Foundation of America. And it has joined the ranks of printed Georgist periodicals rather than being offset. The first issue is dated Autumn 1969, is edited by Profs. Steven Cord and James L. Busey, and reports interest in LVT in Bradford, Pa. and Springfield, Ohio. Subscription \$1 a year, Henry George Foundation, 404 Magee Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222, USA.

A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE reveals that there is increased interest in LVT among top officials in Washington. The President's Task Force on Suburban Problems has submitted to him a report (not yet made public) in support of a heavy land tax as one way to insure more orderly development of the suburbs. Although land taxes are local, the Federal government anticipates that as its "share the revenue program" with states and municipalities goes into effect, this will give the Federal a means the leverage it needs to encourage the local governments to adopt this tax concept in the interest of better planning. (LVT is called a "new" concept, in case you haven't heard of it.)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL featured on page 1 of its issue of Dec. 12, 1969, an article, "Henry George Lives: Single Tax Advocates Persevere in the U.S." The article tells of a California campaign by the White Hat Committee for Tax Reform, spearheaded by Irene Hickman, Assessor of Sacramento, to get an initiative measure on the ballot in 1970 calling for the shifting of property taxes to land. The work of the Henry George School is also cited.

NOAH D. ALPER, President of the Public Revenue Education Council (705 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, U.S.A.) continues indefatigably circulating literature. A recent mailing to educators and leaders offered "a free reading course" on taxation. Of 6713 circulars sent, 730 requested the course. A better than 10% response! PREG has also advertised in The Wall Street Journal.

ROBERT D. BENTON (Michigan Henry George School, 4134 13-Mile Rd., Royal Oak, Mich. 48072, U.S.A.) has issued a number of interesting reprints recently, including the Wall Street Journal article above-mentioned; an article from Human Events by Walter J. Conlon, "Should U.S. Cities Switch to Land Tax?"; an article from the Morgan Guaranty Investment Corp. Newsletter by Prof. C. Lowell Harriss, "City Finances and the Property Tax"; and several other informative items.

ELIZABETH BROWN (Mrs. Harry Gunnison Brown, Columbia, Mo., U.S.A.) had a feature article in Christian Advocate of Dec. 11, 1969, entitled "To Remove Slums, Don't Penalize Improvement." Mrs. Brown had an article on the same theme in The Christian Century, Oct. 1968. Prof. and Mrs. Brown have collaborated on other articles and pamphlets on LVT.

OFFICIAL INTEREST IN LVT

Mrs. Elaine O'Connor of New York City wrote to Mayor Lindsay recommending LVT and received the following reply from John L. Fava, Deputy Finance Administrator:

"Your recommendation of a higher land value tax to curb speculation and lower the market price of land is interesting and theoretically sound, and we have of course been aware of the arguments of those favoring land taxation.

"However, it is not certain that the benefits claimed will be forthcoming. For example, you spoke of wanting to increase the development of low cost housing. There is no assurance that the use of higher land value taxes would necessarily lead to more low income houses."

In her reply to Mr. Fava, Mrs. O'Connor asked, "is it not the high, speculative price of land in New York today that is leading to high rent housing? Speculation is almost daily boosting the price of land in the city. Builders say that with land prices so high, they cannot afford to build anything but high rent houses. The result is that people of middle incomes not living in rent-controlled apartments are forced to flee the city, and poor people must depend on subsidized housing. A higher land value tax would correct this situation by bringing down the price of land." Mrs. O'Connor cited the experiment in New York City following World War I: "New buildings were offered a 10-year exemption from taxes, but the land continued to be taxed at its full assessed value. The result was a tremendous boom in multiple dwellings at moderate rentals." The film, "Better Cities," produced by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, was also recommended.

Mr. Fava replied: "We have already held a viewing of the film 'Better Cities' which Perry Prentice presented to a group of officials from the Finance Administration. We have been in frequent touch with Albert Pleydell of the Schalkenbach Foundation and have had representatives at a number of meetings on assessing policies in which they have participated." Mr. Fava also made mention of Dick Netzer's book, Economics of the Property Tax.

"Better Cities" has been shown far and wide and Perry Prentice has been lecturing far and wide. One of his appearances was a well-publicized talk before the Metropolitan Development Association of Syracuse, N.Y. He castigated public housing and subsidies as failures and urged the MDA to look into the proposal to shift taxes from improvements to land.

Syracuse is the home territory of Jerry Enright, who wrote to the legislature at New York's state capital, Albany, advocating the adoption of LVT. He received a reply from Mary E. Mann, Associate Attorney for the State Board of Equalization and Assessment:

"Some well known economists and urbanists have recently criticized the property tax, particularly in respect to their belief that heavy taxes are a deterrent to rebuilding of the big cities when city tax rates are high in relation to suburban rates. This analysis has led to a revival of the single tax movement you espouse (which in current terminology is referred to apparently as 'site value taxation') as an alternative form of taxation. See Dick Netzer, Economics of the Property Tax, Brookings Inst. 1966; pp. 197-212.

"In the past few years, various members of the legislature have asked for our comments on this alternative form, to which we have responded that there are both advantages and disadvantages. For example, the aforementioned economist, Mr. Netzer, who, like you, has no love for the property tax, concludes that 'there is a strong economic argument for tax location rents via the site value tax, but considerations

of both equity and revenue adequacy indicate that such a tax cannot be a complete replacement of the existing tax on real property, save in rare instances.' Id. p.217.

"There is every indication that the legislature is well aware of the growing dissatisfaction with the New York property tax in its existing state. Presently a joint legislative committee is studying exemptions and probably other studies will be made of a more fundamental nature. The question of alternative forms is a most serious one for the property tax traditionally and in fact constitutes the chief source of local revenue."

* * *

THE REAL ENEMY

By E.P. MIDDLETON (Sydney, N.S.W., Australia)

Ashley Mitchell raises, in IUN No. 9, important questions which demand answers. I will attempt to provide one.

The failure of Georgists to make real progress, in my opinion, is due to the fact that we have accepted a formula for change which is back to front. We have been working on the assumption that once land value taxation is in operation all the rest of the recognizable evils in the body economic will disappear. Instead, we should be attacking the economic theories of the present rulers of our society and working to eliminate the effects of these theories, so that we shall have cleared the ground for acceptance of the proposition that the State's proper revenue is the economic rent.

LVT as now imposed, already a failure in Australia, has no hope of achieving the Just Society which is the Georgists' true *raison d'etre*. Its advocates are wasting their time, like a tribe of white ants attacking a fortress of steel. (White ants would have more sense; they know when they're beaten!)

The great enemy in the path of acceptance of the Georgist economic philosophy is inflation. Until we can demonstrate how to eliminate this, the major evil of modern society, we shall continue to be ignored by those to whom we should be able to look for leadership and action. Georgists must study economics - not the London School of Economics brand, though we have got to be able to expose its fallacies in its own terminology - but through our own master of economics, Henry George, as set out in his Science of Political Economy - and forget about land value taxation, the distortion of his remedy, for which distortion, I admit, George himself is partly responsible. We must expose the economic planners for the pragmatic amateurs they are, and the barrenness of their ever-changing theories. We must show the people that the taxation system under which they have lived and suffered so long is a gigantic conspiracy to defraud. We will not convince the ordinary taxpayer that he is going to derive any worthwhile benefit from LVT ("just another tax?") even if applied 100% overnight, which we know to be a pipe-dream. We must strive to show how he can rid himself of the appalling burden of taxation and the cost of over-government.

The real enemy is Socialism by default, which in Britain is already self-exposed in all its horror and only needs a few good minds like that of Enoch Powell (without his unfortunate racial bias) to bring about its destruction.

To me, it is sad beyond words that the entire Georgist movement is bogged down in a worthless struggle to implant at the level of local government a minor tax reform, while the whole structure of society is in danger of crumbling into chaos the final end of which is a despotism of either right or left - it won't matter much which, once we're in it.

Let us change direction while there is still time. It could pay exciting dividends.

PROCLAIM IT FROM THE HOUSETOPS

By H.T.A. MCGAHAN (Matamata, New Zealand)

I agree with Fred Auld (IUN No. 8). Never was the world more in need of the remedy we can offer, but never were we so ineffective in the counsels of government. If the proposals of the Valuer-General of New Zealand now before our Parliament becomes law, unimproved values legislation as we know it will disappear from our Statute-Book. That's where we have arrived after 80 years of preaching!

The problem before us is to couch our remedy for the world's economic and social ills in a language the ordinary people, the people who make and break governments, can understand. Convince the ordinary man and his wife that our remedy has something for them and we won't need to split straws about what "rent" means. Convince the ordinary man that we have the answer to his ever-continuing battle with rising prices and we won't need to worry about the so-called intellectuals.

We should never forget that Henry George wrote Progress and Poverty to find out why it was that in spite of increasing productive power wages tended to give but a bare living. It was not to make half-baked political economists. And the problem that George concerned himself with is our problem today. Far too many of our citizens live too close to the breadline for us to be complacent.

Another blunder has been to talk about the "land question." We are not concerned with land at all. What concerns us is the public revenue and its collection. Therefore, we should concentrate on the taxation system and its reform.

The truth is that our governments don't know their business; we single-taxers must teach them. Certainly no one else can. The government, our agent, virtually gives to the site-holder a gift of the value of those community services that governments are established to carry out. But these community services cost money, and to get the money necessary to pay for them governments resort to the taxing of goods. Taxing of goods must make the goods dearer. Worse still, the amount imposed on goods represents a gift to a non-producing section of the community.

All this is well illustrated in English history. Our modern system of taxation dates from the imposition of the excise on beer and other liquors by the Long Parliament in 1643. The old feudal dues had certainly become oppressive, but the remedy was not their abolition but changing to some form more suited to the altered circumstances, as George pointed out in Progress and Poverty, Book VII, Chapter 4. Historians generally agree that the landowners of the time relieved themselves of their financial responsibilities to the State and transferred them to the wage-earners.

Disraeli wrote his book Sybil (1842) after two centuries' experience with the system of taxing commodities in order to make a gift to the site-owners on the "Golden Mile" in our cities and towns. He said that "the principle of the system (the Dutch system of finance) was to mortgage industry to protect property... It has made debt a national habit and has made credit the ruling power... a mortgaged aristocracy, a gambling foreign commerce, and a home trade founded on morbid competition and a degraded people. Here too was brought forth that monstrous conception which even patrician Rome never equalled in its most ruthless period - the mortgaging of industry to protect property." Like a good politician, Disraeli did nothing to correct the evil when he had the opportunity.

In our unimproved values legislation we have the answer for finding the revenue necessary to maintain the State without increasing the price of goods. Let us proclaim that from the housetops. Surely we couldn't achieve less than we have after 80 years of trying to make half-baked economists of well-meaning searchers after a better system of wealth distribution.

A BOOST FROM A BANK IN BANGKOK

Mrs. Ilse Stillwell (Tehran, Iran) has been on a trip to the Far East, and from Thailand she sends an item from The Bangkok Post, Jan. 17, with the headline, "Bank urges new land tax system." In its Monthly Review, reports this item; the Bangkok Bank editorialized that land speculation was "in direct contradiction to the country's social and economic development objectives." The editorial asked for the introduction of a new land tax system to "take the sting out of its devastating effect on the economy." Land speculation has been a barrier to economic development, has driven away both foreign and local industry and has deprived small investors from an otherwise attractive investment area. "However, the editorial noted, with a revised land tax system which was efficient and could control people who hold large, unused pieces of land, the problem could be solved."

* * *

RENT AND PRICE By BENJAMIN F. SMITH (Ada, Mich., U.S.A.)

I have been reading IUN No. 8, pages 5 and 6 and IUN No. 9, page 8. I don't believe Messrs. Hall and Tucker understood Gaston Haxo who proved exactly that rent is in unit price.

I have revised Mr. Haxo's chart slightly (see below) by changing his sequence because the marginal land is the first step. I have also shown rent and wages in produce and in money and, I think, clarified the ratio of rent per unit, and wages per unit to market price. What I think is most important is that Gaston Haxo's chart proves not only that rent is in unit price, but the ratio of rent to price increases with the better land.

I think the IU NEWSLETTER is doing a wonderful job in bringing out all the various opinions.

Produce	D 10 Margin	C 20	B 25	A 30	Change in Relation to Land Quality
Wages in Produce	10	10	10	10	Constant
Rent in Produce	0	10	15	20	Increasing
Wages in Money	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	Constant
Rent in Money	\$00.00	\$20.00	\$30.00	\$40.00	Increasing
Total Sales	\$20.00	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$60.00	Increasing
Market Price or Unit Cost	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	Constant
Wages per Unit	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00	\$.80	\$.67	Decreasing
Rent per Unit	\$ 0.00	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.33	Increasing
Ratio to <u>Unit Price</u> :					
Wages per Unit	1	1/2	2/5	1/3	Decreasing
Rent per Unit	0	1/2	3/5	2/3	Increasing

HOW DO WE GET THROUGH TO THEM?

By BRUNO EICHERT (Jackson Heights, N.Y., U.S.A.)

Luke Bentley's suggestion (IUN No. 10) that a little psychoanalysis may do us some good deals with a painful situation. It would certainly seem that Georgism should now have a much larger number of adherents, considering the time and money and talent that have been devoted to this cause. Does the blame really rest on us or is our failure due to other factors?

I was formerly a member of another "failed" group, namely the Consumers Co-operative. The membership consisted almost exclusively of people with a passionate desire to eradicate poverty, with a fairly high level of intelligence. Moreover, the co-op concept is easy to grasp. Yet somehow or other, the movement never caught on in New York in spite of the tremendous efforts to expand and attract new members.

Several months ago, I wrote a letter to the New York Daily News explaining how LVT could be applied to development of mineral or metal deposits on the moon. I sent a copy to a psychiatrist, Dr. Arnold Eichert (my brother, but not my analyst) and requested him to tell me if it could be understood by some one who was not a Georgist or who had never read Progress and Poverty. Here is his reply:

"Whether such a letter is ever understood depends as much as anything on the attitude of the reader. Whether he is sympathetic or not to the point of view expressed or whether he wishes to learn, or many other nuances of reaction will determine his acceptance or rejection of the letter. Your letter is an attempt to express a somewhat obscure point of an exceedingly complex subject in a few words. The result is bound to present some difficulties of understanding, in addition to many points at which those who wish could carp. Perhaps this explains in part my failure to become a Henry George disciple. I do not disagree with his theories; in fact I rather believe there is much to be said for most of them. But when I read an argument on a subject in which I am not an expert, I reserve an opinion until I can hear the arguments of those on the other side. After all, every social problem spawns hundreds of ready solutions, and some familiarity with the theories is necessary to separate the meritorious from the meretricious or the mendacious."

On one occasion, Robert Clancy remarked that when we explain unearned increment to people, they want to know how they can get some of it. Most of the people I have encountered believe the landowner is just as fully entitled to rent as the laborer is to wages or the capitalist to interest. As an example, I wrote a letter to Dr. Hans Sennholz concerning his article on "Tax Policy," in The Freeman, and here is how he answered me:

"I beg to differ with you on the desirability of higher taxation of land values. I am one of those landlords with 65 acres of land near a growing city. I am profiting from rising land values and rentals. Similarly, I own gold mining stock which I hope will go up greatly because society may soon attach greater value to gold and gold deposits in the ground. Why do you want to destroy me and many others?"

Luke Bentley wonders why we repel so many ordinary citizens to the point of incurring their active dislike. If you thought some one was trying to destroy you, wouldn't you be apt to shun him or offer resistance to his endeavors? There are far too many persons who share Dr. Sennholz's fears. How do we get through to them?

(Mr. Eichert, who has been teaching the Georgist philosophy for many years in Jackson Heights, is retiring from business and moving to Florida, where many good Georgists go, and where he plans to continue spreading the word.)

A DO-IT-YOURSELF THEORY OF MONEY

By J.J. POT (Slikkerveer, Netherlands).

Dr. David B. Ascher ("Two Questions," IUN No. 9) proposes to change the backing of currency from gold to land. But may I ask, what is money? If one has no barter for my produce, I accept gold. But that is sheer nonsense. I cannot eat it, I have no use for it, for I am not a dentist or a jeweler. Why then do I accept gold for goods and labor? Only because I trust that all other people will be so stupid as to accept my gold for delivering goods and services to me. Gold as barter-called-money is solely based upon confidence. As long as we all trust that gold, or paper money (with or without gold behind it) will remain exchangeable for goods and services, the system works. So the only backing of money is confidence.

If I render a service to Dr. Ascher, a payment with land is of no use to me. And paper money backed up by land has value to me only so long as I trust that all other people will accept it for goods and services, for the backing with so much land is of no use to them, either. Again the money is based upon confidence. (By the way, in case of lack of confidence, would the government sell the land?)

If the buyer of my goods or services runs short of cash, he may render me an I.O.U. In that case, I will look over his shoulder to see whether the amount is covered by a bank account, a house, some bonds or shares, or other valuable and exchangeable things. In that case, I will trust his I.O.U. and in doing so, we have "made" money according to our needs. Sometimes it will be easier to use currency, if available, but that is not essential. If a country no longer trusts the currency of another country, the merchants will only exchange goods against I.O.U.'s or credit notes when they know there are useful tangible things behind it. They will make their own money as they need it, based upon confidence (*).

Besides the well-known and quite normal protection by law against falsification and the like, violation of confidence in money can occur basically by the two prime factors, land and labor. In the case of labor: If the labor unions exert the power to enforce for labor more pay than the value of its produce, the difference is void. Nevertheless, this difference-without-product circulates with the currency, so the currency is debased. In the case of land: If the landowner exerts the power to sell the land for more money than it was bought with, the difference lacks produce, so is void. Nevertheless this difference also circulates with the currency, so the currency is debased.

Under land value taxation, the above-mentioned power of land would no longer exist. The power of labor can perhaps be lessened with LVT, if rent exceeding governmental expenditure is distributed among the citizens, as has been done in Alberta, Canada. But members of parliaments are not representatives of the people, but of special-interest groups who fight like lions for the power to rob from others. And this is the very reason for the violating of confidence, that is, of debasing the currency, in spite of gold or land.

Dr. Ascher says, "If the value of the land goes up - as it will if production increases..." Well, then: if the value of the land is backed by production, the money of Kuristan is covered by production. The (rental) value of land is merely an indicator of production. Certainly, marginal land does not have a price, so marginal land cannot back money or be a yardstick for money; yet there is production on marginal land.

(*) Oscar B. Johannsen in the June 1969 Henry George News says that paper money is government's I.O.U. on which no interest is paid. In the same issue, Robert LeFevre refers to "whale money" as an instance of private enterprise coinage.

THE SINGLE TAX - NO COMPROMISE

By STEPHEN MARTIN (Fordingbridge, Hants., England)

The longer I live the more I am convinced that compromise is a sign of weakness; indeed, experience has taught me that any tactical advantages gained therefrom are a snare and a delusion. My greatest successes over the years have always been when my rigid adherence to the principles involved have aroused the mental vigor of my opponents. For this reason I say that in advocating land value taxation we should never fail to emphasize that we mean a single tax.

Early in my life I was convinced of the soundness of LVT, but my conversion was not complete until I realized that all other forms of taxation were immoral and inimical to the well-being of society, and a negation of personal liberty.

Subsequently the single tax and its economic thesis provided me with an answer to my doubts on many social problems. I now no longer believe in State education and health services or State participation in and ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange. Neither do I accept rational planning and zoning of the use of land. This brings me to another point in the potency of the use of the term single tax. I have on occasion had discussions with members of the Socialist and Labor Party who have avowed their convinced support for LVT only to find that where we parted company was their inability to accept the consequences of its full implementation, namely the diminution and abolition of political direction and power over the way people live and their right as individuals to decide their own destiny.

Concerning local government taxation we often use the phrase "take rates off buildings and levy them solely on land values." Why not "take taxes off wages and incomes and tax land values"? To emphasize our objective as a single tax levied solely on the rent of land may raise searching questions but they can all be answered satisfactorily. To the man in the street it would surely create a new vision.

It is true that State paternalism has made the answers more difficult to get over than in the age when Henry George wrote his great classic, but we cannot and must not compromise. Private monopoly in labor and capital, and State monopoly have established themselves more firmly than ever before in the history of mankind. Our task is that much greater. Some time we must win through, if not in our time then in some future generation.

* * *

SVT VERSUS LVT By CLAUDE W. ARNOLD (Fairhope, Ala., U.S.A.)

I believe we should speak of "site value taxation" rather than "land value taxation." The land is not the thing that should be taxed, but the site value should be collected by the people. If the land is not valueless from a use standpoint, then the title holder is beset by fear of having his land taxed away from him when he hears "land value taxation" mentioned. To one accustomed to discussing the subject and familiar with the terms in use relating to site value taxation, this distinction apparently is meaningless: if, however, one will employ the use of the term "site value taxation" in conversation with those totally uneducated, as nearly 98% of our vauntedly "educated" Americans are, one will find that the two terms register in vastly different respects with the "great unwashed" public.

* * *

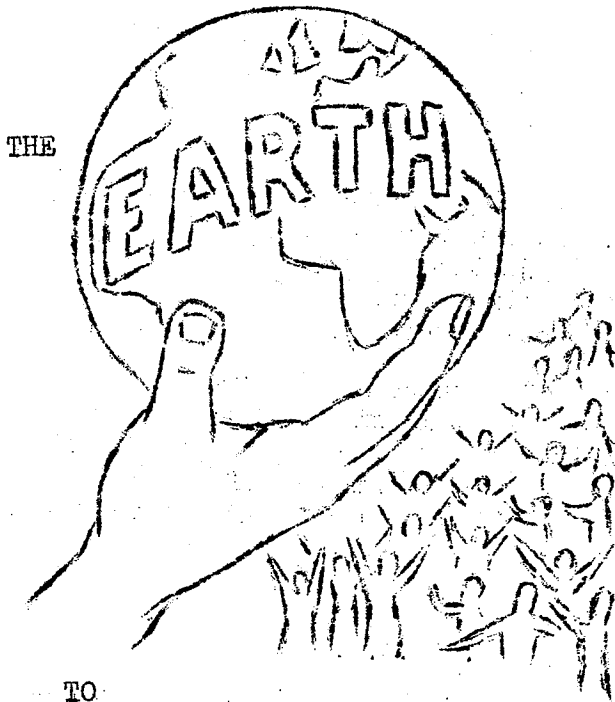
THERE were two answers to Question 2 of David B. Ascher's "Two Questions" (IUN No. 9 - one in IUN No. 10 and one in this issue - but no answers to his Question 1, which asked whether LVT was as applicable to Cambodia as to the U.S.A. The item on page 6 of this issue, from Bangkok, would indicate that LVT is very applicable to Thailand, a country comparable and geographically close to Cambodia. - Ed.

EXTENDING SEASON'S GREETINGS

Several greetings received this past Christmas season had a Georgist theme. President Ashley Mitchell sent with his greetings the little classic, "Uncivilized" by Edmund Vance Cooke, feeling it is too good to be forgotten. It won't be: this satirical Georgist poem has developed a well-deserved life of its own and pops up from time to time in our literature. It was picked up from Mr. Mitchell's greeting and reproduced in Joseph Zashin's "Dear Friends" letter (see IUN No. 10, page 9). Other greetings included the following:

The card reproduced below was received from CARL SHAW, currently at West Point, N.Y. and studying assessing for future service.

THE
GIFT OF GIFTS



THE

TO

ALL MANKIND

WHEN WE HAVE ECONOMIC JUSTICE
THEN SHALL WE HAVE PEACE

HELENE MULLINS (New York, N.Y.) expressed her season's greetings in poetry and added an extra poem from her new book, The Mirrored Walls (Twayne Publishing Co. which in 1968 published a book on Henry George):

MANHATTAN ISLAND

The white men bought you in an artful
sale:
the Indians had no language for selling
land,
free gift to them from Manitou: but the
pale-
faced strangers were welcome guests. From
hand to hand
passed tokens of friendship, colored beads,
sharp knives.
With the wilderness transformed by
civilization,
the white men loaded guns to defend their
lives,
while marking the heathen for extermina-
tion.
Mercurial island your lifeblood never
purged
of rapacity and cunning, ingeniously
the good and evil in you are crudely
merged,
fostering the growth of your maturity.
Reformers plead, excoriate in vain:
your corruption, glory, canny spell
remain.

* * * * *

J. ANGLADA-PRIOR (Barcelona, Spain) included on his greeting card a quotation from The Science of Political Economy by Henry George in three languages:

English

Spanish

Esperanto

Political economy is a science, and must follow the rules of science, and seek in natural law the causes of the phenomena which it investigates.

La economía política es un ciencia y ha de seguir las reglas de la ciencia, y buscar en la ley natural las causas de los fenómenos que investigar.

Politikekonomio estas scienco kaj devas sekvi la regulojn de Scienco, kaj serĉi en la natura leĝo la kaŭzojn de ĉi fenomenoj, kiujn ĝi esploras.