

Reflections on Georgism

By LEONARDO DE ISUSQUIZA

Translated by Matthew Ossias

ANYONE who studies the system under consideration [Georgism] cannot help but note the unusual importance given to ethics with regard to all activity of a social-economic nature. To be just and exact, we should have to define Georgism in the following manner: "the science which, in conformity with the Gospel, intends, by a simple, basic reform, to solve the problem of the distribution of wealth without running counter in any way to natural laws." Of course the last part of the definition could be omitted without changing the meaning in the least, inasmuch as a reform, no matter of what kind, which ran counter to the unchangeable laws of nature, would be necessarily opposed to purposes of God, and consequently we could not, without falling into injustice, sanction its legitimacy.

In this connection it is desirable that we contribute our bit to informing the readers of this periodical of the true personality of this great man [Henry George] — his double economic and social aspect. Erroneous and unjust accusations have been lavished on him by some Catholic authors, and have contributed unavoidably and inevitably to the formation of an atmosphere of suspicion, if not of open hostility, around his system, which has been condemned by them as guilty of socialism. Whereas, in conformity with the teachings of the divine Master, he tries to restore solidarity between men.

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