

## Mme. Chiang's Rising China

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK has written a thoughtful article on her country, "China Emergent," in the May, 1942, *Atlantic Monthly*. "We have chosen the path that we shall tread in the future," says Mme. Chiang, and proceeds first to tell what that path is not. Foreign exploitation will not be tolerated, all forms of authoritarianism are to be rejected.

Mme. Chiang adds: "We are disposed to be politely skeptical of sweeping claims such as are made by Henry George's single taxers, who believe that all that is wrong with the world could be righted by a tax on land values." But when China's leading lady tells us what her country plans for after the war, it sounds very much like the state of things Georgeists are seeking. ". . . we shall grant private capital its rightful place . . . no individual will be permitted to wax rich at the expense of others . . . private capital must be given every encouragement to develop the resources and industry of the country—but only in cooperation with labor." And Mme. Chiang makes this observation: "Over 90 per cent of our people are dependent directly or indirectly upon the land—the overwhelming proportion directly." That a land reform, such as proposed by single taxers, must figure large in China's economy must be admitted by Mme. Chiang!

The whole modern Chinese ideology, according to Mme. Chiang, is based on the principles of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Was he not an ardent follower of Henry George? Indeed, as one reads through "China Emergent," he finds the Georgeist philosophy buttressed throughout. There is, for instance, the friendly reference to Rousseau's "Social Contract." If China will do all that Mme. Chiang promises, we will be very happy to allow the Chinese to remain "politely skeptical!"