

around us. I thought, why not? We are so poor in youth and the young will not play lone hands.

Mr. Thomas in placing the collection of the ground rent first, seems to answer your proviso—"if they will not lose sight of the great principle that the economic rent of land is the first thing to be socialized."

Journeying with the Socialists would we not have increased opportunity to make those very necessary contacts of which Dr. Mark Millikin writes in this same issue of LAND AND FREEDOM?

Can we not join in the Socialist procession? They have a good band, a proved leader and, most of all, youth. Can we not march with their big army, keeping our own regiment under our own banner. The spectators at least would see us, and someone might say, "Here comes the Land Regiment."

Should the Single Taxers of all kinds meet and consider the suggestions in your very timely paragraphs, we outfielders would await the result with interest.

Gowanda, N. Y.

GRACE DONALDSON.

#### A NOTE OF DOUBT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Your suggestion that the Single Taxers join the Socialist Party (or what are you proposing?) seems to me a mistake, even if they are tending toward our ideal. Rather I would advise this course instead. Divide our movement into two branches, one political and the other propaganda, with a board of control supervising both activities. The political branch would watch all candidates of all parties in city, state and nation and cooperate with them with the object of influencing all matters of taxation in the direction of the Single Tax, and where possible substituting a pure Single Tax measure. The propaganda branch would do as now, print literature, advertise our cause and give lectures.

I think these two activities are more practical than joining some party that as soon as it got in power would be more concerned with keeping its members in office than with matters for the public good.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

HENRY W. SCHROEDER.

#### COMMENDS OUR SUGGESTION

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I want to say to you how much I enjoyed the Nov.-Dec. number of LAND AND FREEDOM—it certainly does you proud. Your editorial on Norman Thomas and the "New Socialists" has just the right tone. It is calmly and judiciously written, yet withal it is courageous and timely. I shall be curious to see what responses it will bring forth from our stick-in-the-muds!

Let us preserve our autonomy as Georgists, but when the occasion requires let us cheerfully and generously aid others who seem to want to go forward in our direction. That would be good sense and good politics. Little chance of our being "swallowed up" without a dreadful case of indigestion and calling for the doctor on the part of the unfortunate swallows!

So I say to you, good luck in your statesman-like effort to lead our little band into the Elysian Fields!

Fairhope, Alabama.

E. YANCEY COHEN.

#### DISAPPROVES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

If this isn't a private fight you have started, let me in.

As a preliminary clearing away of brush, it is well to say that nothing can be gained by combining with groups going opposite directions, Socialists and other jellyfish not provided with thinking apparatus by wise Nature.

State aid in childhood, compulsory insurance, etc., are simply dodging the issue and increasing the fog. If I am headed right, with some

definite notion of where I am going and how to get there, it is my duty to keep going. Fat chance I have of seeing the New Orleans Mardi Gras by combining with Amundsen on a trip to the North Pole. I cannot convince a mule by agreeing with him. I cannot drive a pig to market by holding on to his tail and letting him pull me into the hoglot.

The essence of any and all brands of Socialism is simply a proposal for government to do something that it is not now doing.

Government is not a compendium of wisdom or an extract of virtue. It is merely force, the power in a few hands to order some man in uniform to club some other man not in uniform.

Eons ago, when our heads were solid ivory, clubbing did not matter much, but as time softened them inside to permit the growth of brains, clubbing became objectionable to the clubbees and remonstrance began. During weary and sickening centuries, oceans of blood have been spilled to circumscribe the clubbing proclivities of government, until now some fields have been fenced off and some degree of sanctuary established.

Economic freedom is our aim, to vitalize and stimulate what political freedom we have achieved. Bigger and better sanctuaries from the clubbing activities of government. Our weapon is the taxation of land-values, to whatever extent and by whatever means is immediately available at the spot where we are. The least little bit is good, and a little more makes it better.

Those who are discouraged and yearn after combination are not leaders, but class-room pedants who have been lecturing a sleepy class on the dry technicalities of political economy. The leaders are not the technicalists, but the applicationists. If you know the story, then make an application to everyday affairs in your immediate vicinity. That is leadership, and it is getting results wherever tried.

Get some land value taxation operating in your city, your ward, your block, and you won't have time to watch where the pensioners and the insurers are going, and it won't matter. Let the socialists get lost in their bramble patch if they wish, only see that they don't drag you along.

Kansas City, Mo.

EDWARD WHITE.

#### MR. GEIGER REPLIES

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The "fight" you started in your last issue is evidently not of a private nature, and as long as it is a "free-for-all," perhaps even I may have a chance.

My answer to Friend White's objections and remonstrances is Yes and No; that is, whichever fits and according to the point of view. But, seriously, White isn't thinking of taking a trip with Amundsen, is he?

Of course, White is in Kansas City (perhaps through no fault of his own) and a trip to the New Orleans Mardi Gras from Kansas City is understandable and forgivable, even by way of the North Pole, though I admit that such a route would be a little inconvenient.

But suppose White and Amundsen were seeking human perfection and an ideal life instead of amusement; suppose, too, both had agreed to go in quest of such an ideal life, but that each had a somewhat different idea of what constitutes an ideal life. Amundsen having been everywhere and seen everything might say the North Pole approximated more nearly than anything or anywhere else his ideal, while White being in Kansas City would naturally cast favoring eyes upon New York City. And supposing now that Amundsen had asked White to go with him in quest of this ideal life, expressing his opinion, of course, that they would have to journey to the North Pole to find it, what would White have been likely to say in view of the fact that his own ideal life was epitomized and glorified in the City of New York, and in view of the further fact that New York was situated between Kansas City and the North Pole, and that the road from Kansas City lay, generally speaking, through New York.

Would not White, being an intelligent man, be likely to say to

Amundsen, "Well, I believe New York to be the ideal place, and as you have got to go by way of New York anyway to reach your ideal place, the North Pole, why not let us go to New York together? White would have said this to Amundsen not only because he wanted good company on the way, but also because Amundsen had a vision of an ideal life (though blurred and not perhaps so clear as White's—White admits this in his letter to the Editor), Amundsen's was yet the vision of a kindred soul that was willing to go in quest of *his* ideal and pay for and suffer in its attainment.

Yes, and there would still be another reason why White would journey as far as New York with Amundsen. White is one of those fellows with a great deal of confidence in his own ideals; and knowing New York City to be the quintessence of culture, progress and achievement, he would know that Amundsen, being also intelligent, would see the obviousness of his, White's, contention when they got to New York and would gladly remain and sing its praise. If he didn't, Amundsen could still go on, while White could remain and keep up a correspondence with him, pointing out the features of New York that Amundsen had overlooked and keeping "A" in mind of the hardships and pitfalls of a trip to the North Pole, for by that time they would have become real friends, respecting each other's good faith though quarrelling (as good friends will) about the incidentals of their various opinions and beliefs.

Is it necessary, Mr. Editor, for me to draw analogies? Is it necessary for me to point out that the "North Pole" of the Socialists and the "New York City" of the Single Taxers are both but visions, both goals still to be reached? Fortunately (or unfortunately, as some may view it) the road to both lies along the same general path and over the same obstructions. At some points there is no roadway,—forests must be cleared, streams forded, planking laid, bridges built and in some places almost insurmountable obstacles overcome.

We can multiply the Whites and the Amundsens, but as yet we cannot find a sufficient number of men with vision and ideals to cooperate and make the work of "clearing the brush" and building the road light enough even for those who have set themselves the task of carrying on.

Shall we, then, who have the vision that urges us on, and a goal that requires such effort and sacrifice, shall we make the quest harder by dividing the hands that can help at least to the point where our figurative paths branch off? And who can say that in such work thus communally done there shall not arise a mutual understanding that will make for the survival of what is right.

For myself, Mr. Editor, I am somewhat in the attitude of mind Mr. White displays in his letter—I am sure I am right. But there the similarity ends. I am so sure I am right, so confident of the reasonableness and the justice of the philosophy of Henry George, that I am not afraid to trust it to the consideration of our friends the Socialists, or to trust myself in their company while pursuing our common ideals so far as we know them to be common; and I am further confident that by the time we together have cleared away the brush on the way to Human Equality, and have achieved our common goal, the Equal Right to the Use of the Earth by the Nationalization of the Rent of Land and the Abolition of All Taxes, our friends the Socialists will have become Single Taxers because their ideals will have been realized.

Now, Mr. Editor, just one more thought. Mr. White, in inveighing against Socialism and in his desire to get into the "fight," as he expresses it, loses sight entirely of what you said with reference to the gradual disintegration of the Marxian dogmas. He evidently has taken no notice of your illuminating quotation from Arno Dosch Fleurot in the *New York World* of Dec. 9, and surely has omitted to note the words of Norman Thomas, Socialist candidate for Mayor of New York in the last election, and which with your permission I will quote again. Referring to assessments Mr. Thomas demands:

"HONEST AND EXPERT ASSESSMENTS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT LAND-VALUES BELONG TO THE COMMUNITY WHICH CREATE THEM."

And in stating the principles upon which the Socialist Party might consider affiliation, Mr. Thomas says:

"THE SOCIALIST PARTY WILL NOT, HOWEVER, GO ALONG WITH ANY GROUP THAT AVOIDS OR HEDGES ON THE CAUSE OF NEW YORK'S TROUBLE—LANDLORDISM. THE PEOPLE MUST GET THE BENEFIT OF THE LAND-VALUES THEY CREATE."

This from the Socialist candidate for Mayor of New York! Does Mr. White stand any squarer on the essentials of the Single Tax? This from the man who in this rock-ribbed seat of conservatism polled 174,000 votes, while playing the light of far-seeing radicalism on the maladministration of government without an unkind word against or smirch upon anyone! Can White point to a better or more worthwhile leadership.

Let me suggest to Mr. White and to others who think or feel as he does, that we can do no better than to cooperate with Norman Thomas "Amundsen" on our way to White's Single Tax New York and confidently trust to the intelligence of all who are with us when we reach a safe and sure haven to determine for themselves whether the journey's end has been reached. Let us demonstrate our confidence in our own philosophy by casting it in a common cause, and ourselves following to see that its principles are kept clean and unsullied. My guess is, Mr. Editor, that if we will do this The Single Tax Philosophy will emerge as a pillar of light guiding the mass, and remain enthroned at the end as the realization of all hopes and all ideals.

New York City.

OSCAR H. GEIGER.

#### THIS VETERAN STILL AT WORK

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

This is to greet you upon the festive occasion of Christmas and to wish you all joy and a very Happy New Year. At this time I want to thank you personally for the wonderful work you are doing and have been doing for so many years in the good cause which means so much to you and to me. I envy you this just as I did the wonderful influence exerted by Mr. Post. Sometimes the progress being made by the George philosophy seems awfully slow and discouraging. Why are men so stupid as not to see the light that burns so brightly for those whose eyes have been opened?

Tonight I go to speak to the Carpenters Union on Henry George and his philosophy and, of course, am hoping that what I say may bear some fruit. I shall distribute some of the condensed copies of "Progress and Poverty." I do what I can to spread the idea. Such events as the Edinburgh Conference are encouraging and we must not lose faith!

Wichita, Kas.

HENRY WARE ALLEN.

#### A CHEERING MESSAGE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I'm handing it to you for pluck, stickativeness and failure to show the least evidence of weariness in well doing. While, when the spirit fails me or my knees weaken, I go way back and sit down, dejected, hopeless, despondent that my tiny spark sheds no beam across the darkened walks of men, you go cheerily, radiantly on as though in sight of the advancing goal and assured of a physical entrance upon the joys of a new earth in which dwelleth righteousness. God bless you—sail on and on and on!

When I get your paper I go through your "Comment and Reflection," without a stop, much as my fathers when downcast would fall upon their Bibles. The rest can wait. From that I get just what they got—the food needed—and I arise revived, refreshed, inspired, and summarily overflow into a letter to the Grange, my pastor or anyone else whose name comes before me, and am soon again on the heights taking in the beauties and raptures of the dispensation I am helping to usher in. Then I hear some one was seen reading a copy of LAND