

A permanent economic revival depends upon a spiritual renewal. Furthermore let me add that I believe this may be in the cards."

**H**OW to properly characterize this and continue to be polite is a problem. So we shall fall back on Charles Lamb who asked us to extend the same measure of commiseration to an apparently maimed comprehension that we extend to the physically disabled. But perhaps this would not be polite either.

**M**AYOR LA GUARDIA said in a recent talk: "An economic background with some college degrees are certainly a big help to a fellow. If I had said the economic system was screwy everybody would call me a radical." The Mayor need not fear. No man who knows the meaning of the word radical will ever accuse him of being one.

**W**HEN this very well meaning political opportunist was floundering around for some avenue for political preferment we landed him in the office of Borough President. Mr. LaGuardia was elected by nine hundred plurality. Running on the Single Tax ticket the editor of LAND AND FREEDOM got several thousand votes drawn for the most part from the Democratic nominee. In this way Mr. LaGuardia was elected and his political career begun. And for a time Mr. LaGuardia, opportunist always, flirted with the Single Taxers and acted as if he might know what it was all about. But of course he didn't. However, the accident that started him on his political career is not forgotten. In the steady trend of economic thinking in our direction now so plainly obvious the incident is not important.

**D**OROTHY THOMPSON, for whom we have an unstinted admiration, speeds around on her flashing skates on very thin ice at times. When she says with an air of finality, "I have decided that public ownership of property is a complete mirage if unaccompanied by political freedom," we want to add that before property is defined, public ownership must always be a mirage. For the public ownership of property, unless we first agree on what is property, is wholly destructive of political freedom. Economic freedom is the basis of all liberty. If Miss Thompson will sit down and read "Progress and Poverty" she will add to her repertoire of significant truths a new foundation for her often interesting and occasionally brilliant speculations. Remember, Miss Thompson, "Progress and Poverty" is THE BOOK OF A THOUSAND YEARS. No one in the days to come will influence civilization in any way comparable to this humble printer who blazed for us a new world. No one can afford to be ignorant of these slowly gathering forces which are remaking for a happier civilization all

the nations of the earth in which his teachings have found a lodgement.

**P**ERHAPS it is a mistake to emphasize too strongly the benefits that will go to capital as a result of the taking of economic rent for public purposes and the abolition of all taxes. What capital per se will gain is purely incidental, though it will gain much. When Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty" he was not thinking of capital—he was thinking of labor, of labor underpaid, of labor robbed of its inheritance in the natural resources of the earth, of the unemployed, of the steady pressure of poverty upon all those who work for a living.

**O**F capital he was not thinking, particularly. He knew, as all of us know, of the power possessed by so-called capital where and when it bargains with labor for employment, which is due of course to the helplessness of labor divorced from the land. Karl Marx saw it too, but belatedly—too late to revise his earlier conclusion. We refer our readers to the last chapter of "Das Kapital" in which he declared that the divorcement of labor from the land was the basis of exploitation.

**T**HAT "capital" will benefit by a free world economy is conceded, but it will be deprived of certain powers it now possesses, which are the vantage grounds of all contracts it makes with labor for employment. Such advantages are but temporary, it is true, since capital sells its products and cannot afford to lower the general level of wages which is its market. But temporarily it is a very real power, and this deceives the mind that does not look below the surface. It does not see that the causes that determine and make inevitable the inequalities in any bargain for employment finally react to the disadvantage of capital in restricting its market.

**C**APITAL merely assist labor in the work of production. It has no other function. It neither determines wages nor pays them. Causes independent of both capital and labor determine wages. It is not to the advantage of Capital that wages should be lowered. Nearly always the true interests of Capital is to conserve wages of superintendence and the return to the entrepreneur, about which so much fuss is made by certain economists who do not clearly apprehend the relation. For there are only two returns outside of rent, and no other return is conceivable—wages to labor and interest to capital.

**T**HAT justice is the highest quality in the moral hierarchy I do not say; but that it is the first. That which is above justice must be based on justice, and include justice, and be reached through justice.

—HENRY GEORGE, "Social Problems."