

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

One fact no one dare dispute is that the ordinary man does not want war. This is true in every country. All that the ordinary man everywhere asks, is an opportunity to earn an honest living, to work at his trade, raise his family and be a useful citizen. Given this, he sees no reason for war, nor does he care to shoot down men of other nations who are asking but the same simple things he himself hopes for. They are not in any way his "enemies."

But—if the diplomats of this country bring about a war and the ordinary man enlists, he is then assured of three meals a day and some little money for his family if he is killed. Does civilization of today promise him that in times of peace? Does our age, so rich in mechanical invention, in material advance, offer the ordinary man the security he deserves to live a natural life, work and support his family? Can we say that it does so, even in our own country, referred to as the "land of unlimited opportunity," when we have today, in round numbers, thirteen million unemployed?

Therein—and only therein—the braggings and howlings of dictators to the contrary, lies the great danger of war. We do not make peace profitable for that great and important stratum of our population that asks only opportunity to earn a living. Today, peace is profitable only for those who, by their control of natural resources, exploit the labor of their fellow-men.

An all-important lesson for the world of today—and mayhap even of tomorrow—to learn is this:

Make peace profitable for the ordinary man who asks only an opportunity to work and earn a living, and we will make peace possible for all humanity.

BERT MERCHANT.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am enclosing copy of a letter I wrote and the reply thereto, which I think will be of interest to your readers. AMELIA E. DU BOIS.

Professors A. A. Friedrich and A. A. Atkins
Radio Committee of New York University
Gentlemen:

I listened in to the discussion on "Unemployment and the Depression" with much interest, and accept your invitation to comment on it. I trust you will let me know your reaction to my point of view. As it is almost impossible to listen to the radio and take notes at the same time, I trust you will excuse and correct any misquotation I may make.

You began by saying that "unemployment, poverty and depressions are major and fundamental problems for us to solve, and if we do not solve them there will be a great change in our country." You also said that there is sufficient wealth in our country to give a good living to all our people. All of which I most heartily endorse. You also said that the fundamental factors in the production of wealth are land, labor and capital, and enterprise, to which I also agree, except enterprise, which seems to me is included in labor, as labor includes all human exertion including individual skill and capacity.

It would seem then, would it not, that if labor had access to land it could produce all the wealth necessary for its subsistence with enough to spare for comfort and cultural developments? If then that is the case, is our problem not that of freeing labor by giving it this opportunity to produce? It seems then that what both capital and labor need is this opportunity to employ themselves. For is it not true that when labor is idle, capital is also idle? This seems to be clearly demonstrated by the fact that when wages are low, interest is also low. When we have idle lands we have idle hands. Is it not true then that since our present system encourages land speculation it in turn causes unemployment?

In order to enjoy true democracy it would seem that we must first find the solution to these economic inequalities. For under true democracy we must expect that everyone will have an equal opportunity with everyone else.

Please understand me, we do not mean that all people are equal,

but merely that in order to develop true democracy equality of opportunity should prevail.

I believe that it is our duty to make democracy function, thereby leading the world in a better way for all humanity and the spectre of poverty, unemployment and war will of itself disappear.

Amelia E. Du Bois.

My dear Mrs. Du Bois:

Your letter of February 27th was very interesting, and Professor Atkins joins with me in appreciation of your comment on our radio discussion.

Your statement that "under true democracy we must expect that everyone will have an equal opportunity with everyone else" is unquestionable. How to achieve this result is, of course, beset with many difficulties and uncertainties. That one of the major interferences is in land speculation would be accepted by economists generally.

I should be pleased to hear from you again in response to our future radio discussions.

Very sincerely yours,

A. A. Friedrich, Associate Professor of Economics.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

MRS. ELIZABETH MAGIE PHILLIPS of Arlington, Va., has just gotten out a greatly improved Landlord's Game. It is manufactured by the well known Parker Brothers, of Salem, Mass. Mrs. Phillips has had considerable difficulty on account of infringements upon her patents in the past.

In the new game will be recognized a representation of the underlying cause of the world's distress—land speculation. Any reasonably thoughtful player of the Landlord's Game is bound to absorb its meaning.

Both Mrs. Phillips and the manufacturer, Parker Brothers, are anxious to receive any comments that players care to make. The information will be used for the making of whatever change may be found necessary or advisable in another edition.

We recommend the Landlord's Game to our readers. It can be made to serve a very useful purpose in making converts.

WE are in receipt of a highly valued communication from our old friend August Weymann, formerly of New York City, but now residing in Los Angeles, Calif. Gus, as he was fondly called, during his residence in the East, was a very close personal friend of Joseph Dana Miller, and they held each other in the highest esteem. Gus writes: "Joe Miller was one of the most intellectually honest men I ever knew. That's more than can be said for most men; he loved beauty, he loved fun, he loved truth. And that was a great part of his charm." In his letter, Gus voices his disgust with the populace and their demands for nostrums and goes on to say that: "There is a great need for a few sane people even in a mad-house, so, when one like Joe Miller goes, I am sorry for the race aside from the feeling of personal loss." He also includes a most complimentary statement when he adds that, "I think that the work done in the last two issues of LAND AND FREEDOM by the Associate Editors was splendid." Thank you for those kind words, Gus. We appreciate your enthusiastic support and hope by our conduct of the trust imposed upon us to merit the continued cooperation of our many well-wishers.

THE annual election of officers of the Boston Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship was held at the Y. W. C. A. building, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston, on Friday evening, May 26. A change was made to provide for three vice-presidents, and they were elected. A number of short addresses were made. Refreshments were served at the close of the session.

BENJAMIN W. BURGER has been invited to address the South Midwood Association at the Church of the Nativity in Brooklyn on June 19 on the subject of "The truth about your taxes."