

possibility of untried forms of social relations. Successful progress creeps from point to point, testing each step.

"The final introduction of a reform does not necessarily prove the moral superiority of the reforming generation. Conditions may have changed, so that what is possible now may not have been possible then. A great idea is not to be conceived as merely waiting for enough good men to carry it into practical effect. That is a childish view of the history of ideas. The ideal in the background is promoting the gradual growth of the requisite communal customs, adequate to sustain the load of its exemplification."

Students of the Malthusian theory will be intrigued with the chapter that traces the actual history of Europe viewed with the Malthusian doctrine in mind. Mr. Whitehead successfully refutes Malthus, but by a method unlike that used by Henry George.

It is with regret that we find no word about Henry George in this unique history of ideas. The author discusses the sudden arrest of great civilizations, and points out that they burgeoned into fullness through commerce, and that at a certain point, commerce began to fail and an "arrest" set in. Mr. Whitehead says that if we could understand the reason for that arrest, *we would solve the main problem of sociology*. To the man who can so well explain the part that Plato had in conditioning thought for more than a thousand years, it seems strange that George's startling and essentially revolutionary idea that land must be made accessible to all should be ignored. It is this very wall, this very problem of civilization's decay, that each earnest and serious present-day writer stumbles against, yet, like the thinkers of old, who vaguely felt that there was something wrong, and knew not that it was slavery, our modern men know not that the land, absorbed by the few, is the condition that arrests progress, and threatens each civilization.—ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN.

## Correspondence

### DISCUSSES A NAME FOR THE MOVEMENT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I am always glad to read anything written by that valiant champion of the Single Tax, Stephen Bell.

He suggests many titles or names in lieu of the Single Tax and particularly commends "Georgian Socialism" as his first choice.

Bi-Socialism, a book by Oliver R. Trowbridge, published in 1903, stated it was the proper function of the State to socialize only land values and public utilities and a majority of Single Taxers agree with that concept.

Trowbridge (I hope he is among the living) is or was a follower of Henry George.

Louis F. Post in one of his magnificent editorials in *The Public* maintained that Single Taxers were "Natural Socialists;" that the State by its very nature was socialistic, but should confine its socialistic activities to the socializing of land values and public utilities and nothing else. Of course he recognized the right of the State to maintain peace.

If my memory serves me right Mr. Post's editorial was written shortly after Trowbridge's book was published.

Pseudo-socialism in its various guises, masquerading as "the great political and economic emancipator" would be stripped of all its economic errors, when contrasted with the truths of the Single Tax; i.e. "Natural Socialism;" a name that will induce many to enquire into the philosophy of Henry George.

Chicago, Ill.

ALEX PERNOD.

### UPTON SINCLAIR CORRECTS OUR REVIEWER

EDITOR LAND FREEDOM:

I thank you for your courtesy in sending me the review of "Upton Sinclair Presents William Fox." I quite agree that this is an ex parte statement. It is avowedly that. However, I think it is fair to add that when an ex parte statement has been on the market for exactly six months, as this attack has been, and when no reply is made, we

may claim that the defendants have pleaded guilty before the bar of public opinion.

Your reviewer says he is satisfied "that the downfall of the vast chain of movie houses assembled by Mr. Fox cannot be attributed solely to the extravagance and dishonesty of his successors. Generally bad business conditions, I suspect, had much to do with the debacle." Your reviewer would have found his suspicions justified if he had read the book more carefully. For example, on page 325 "Of course this collapse of Fox Theatres was in the midst of a general collapse of business, and can't all be attributed to Wiggin and Clarke and Stuart and Otterson!" The exclamation mark in the above was intended to indicate to the reader the absurdity of the idea of overlooking the influence of the depression upon the events narrated.

Also your reviewer thinks that it is "poor taste" for me to refer to "the victim" as "the Fox." This also is fully explained in the book. Mr. Fox continually refers to himself as "the Fox," and I more than once called attention in the book to this habit of his. Very early in the book, page 19, occurs the following:

"A vital part in the life story of William Fox is the story of little Eve Leo. It was an odd coincidence that a Fox should have married a Lioness; they both of them make puns upon this coincidence."

Los Angeles, Calif.

UPTON SINCLAIR.

### VOLTAIRE AND THE PHYSIOCRATS

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I have just been reading the July-August issue of LAND AND FREEDOM which is, as usual, extremely interesting. I note there is an article by Mr. Danziger on Voltaire and the Physiocrats. I cannot throw any further light upon the question of whether Voltaire changed his views or not; but you may find it interesting to know that the physiocrats wrote a very able reply to Voltaire's attack upon them. An account of this controversy was given by Prof. Leroy-Beaulieu in his "Treatise on the Science of Finance." An abridged translation of this will be found in *Land Values* for September, 1916, page 99.

It appears to me that the physiocrats had very sound ideas as to the incidence of a tax on the value of land.

London, Eng.

F. C. R. DOUGLASS.

### FROM A CUBAN SUBSCRIBER

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

It gives me great pleasure to be able to congratulate you on your masterly exposition and criticism of the National Recovery Act. Do you think the "brain trust" at Washington will read it?

Mr. Roosevelt has publicly stated that the country demands bold economic experimentation. It seems we are to get plenty of it. However it appears rather childish to experiment when basic laws are known. We need not throw ourselves from twenty story buildings in violation of the law of gravitation to demonstrate that we will be killed.

Oteen, N. C.

EVARISTO MONTALVO.

### PROGRESS IN ROUMANIA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

According to the pamphlet entitled "The Agrarian Reform in Roumania," which was sent me by Mr. George Anagnostache, Vice-Counsel from Roumania, the land-loving people of that country have effected an agrarian reform.

Previously to the revolution, "not even half owned the land which they worked, while fifty per cent of the cultivated land was in the hands of a very small proportion of large landowners, representing less than 0.56 per cent of the total amount of landowners."

The strong democratic currents which led up to the land reform were prompted by Mr. I. C. Bratiano, who went on the sound principle that "the land must belong to him that works it."

Finally, pressure became so tense that the King of Roumania in