

# Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

By V. G. PETERSON, *Executive Secretary*

"We ought to do something about the Army and Navy." Our visitor, a gray-haired little lady, was full of gentle reproach at our apparent neglect of the boys in uniform. The fact is, as we explained to our visitor, they are one of our chief concerns.

Early last year we offered books to camp libraries, but were rejected. Later, when the Victory Book Campaign was launched, the ban on serious books relaxed and one hundred copies of "Progress and Poverty" were accepted.

Further sleuthing has revealed that pamphlets meeting government requirements can be circulated through the USO. One organization has printed two hundred thousand pieces for this purpose. Not to be outdistanced in this race to the soldier's heart, we are preparing a pamphlet which we hope will prove acceptable for similar large-scale distribution.

Uncle Sam has become the nation's largest publisher. Popular books, fiction, non-fiction and some of the classics are being printed by the hundreds of thousands and will be spread through every branch of the service. Will "Progress and Poverty" be included? We have petitioned the Committee on Selection and await their decision as we go to press.

Our shipping clerk says he has lost ten pounds this winter and is casting sly hints about a raise. More than a thousand orders for "Progress and Poverty" alone,

have come in as a result of our newspaper advertising. Add two thousand copies of "Economics Simplified," a thousand "More Progress and Less Poverty" and five thousand miscellaneous books, and you will see what has made our clerk grow slimmer.

Welcome visitors this spring were Judge and Mrs. John Fuchs of New Braunfels, Texas. The Judge, a tall, broad-shouldered Texan, has been a Georgeist for twenty years. The journey north was made to give Mrs. Fuchs her first glimpse of New York and to find publishers for two books the Judge has written. A small group, including trustees of the Foundation of the Henry George School and Associate Editor, William Newcomb, of LAND AND FREEDOM, entertained the Judge at luncheon.

Sylvanus A. Stockwell, honored member of the Old Guard, will rise no more to plead for freedom. He died on April 17, at the age of eighty-six. Born of New England pioneers, he devoted his life to supporting Indian relief, the Negro cause, public ownership, various farm and labor movements, Henry George, the initiative and referendum, American Civil Liberties Union, and defense of Political Prisoners. He entered the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1891 and served in both chambers almost continuously until 1939. We mourn the loss of this kindly and distinguished man and extend our sympathies to the bereaved family.

## Correspondence

EDITORS, LAND AND FREEDOM:

In your January-February issue, Benjamin C. Marsh makes a plea for the management of agriculture by government, but to my mind, nothing could be greater folly or more at variance with George's philosophy of freedom. That much of our agriculture is inefficient and wasteful is obvious, but it is far less open to condemnation on that score than the operations of government. Would control by political bureaucracies bring any improvement?

Is there any reason to suppose that officeholders are superior to our farmers in wisdom or judgment? Can they direct farm operations any better than those directly concerned with getting results, and conversant with local conditions and needs? The writer has had long years of contact with agricultural problems and has also been in close touch with political affairs. He has lived all his life in the Capital City of our greatest state, has had the contacts with political administrations which newspaper work brings, and has spent years in the state service. Leave farming to farmers and recall Jefferson's warning: "Were we directed from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we should soon want bread."

Are we to be blind to the obvious fact that no small part of the food problem of today is the direct result of the disastrous AAA experiment—the "farming for famine," the plowing under of crops, and the slaughtering of young livestock? It is high time to reverse the trend, and to end subsidies and controls which hold back production, and which have already prostituted the farm bureaus to political ends.

With the ever-growing drift to the expansion and centralization of the powers of the state we are fast going the way of the totalitarianism which we profess to fight, and it is high time to call a halt. It must be conceded that in a time like the present crisis we cannot well be over-insistent on every petty right, but this is no reason for sacrificing our liberties in ways which spell disaster to our economic life. A legion of keen thinkers have sounded repeated warnings of the imperative call to control our own governments, which may easily become agencies of oppression rather than of protection. Put your faith in natural law and in liberty, as George taught, "oh ye of little faith."

GILBERT M. TUCKER.

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## Lafayette College Winners

(Continued from page 17)

Our answer to the problem, then, is acceptance of the single tax theory of Henry George with modifications to fit the modern economic scheme and to provide as economically sound a measure as possible.

The college and its president, William Lewis, are to be commended for their support of the contest. Professor Frank R. Hunt, representing the Department of Economics, deserves special mention for his counsel to the students in the face of interruptions occasioned by the war. Four of the prize winners are now in the service.

## H. Norman Markland

The Montreal Georgeist movement has sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. H. Norman Markland, who died on April 16th, at the early age of 45. Mr. Markland was born and educated in England, and had been connected with the firm of J. & P. Coats Co., in England, Switzerland and Belgium. He came to Canada in 1936 as Canadian plant manager of the Canadian Spool Cotton Co. He joined a study group in Montreal, was sold on the Georgeist philosophy, and became a voluntary teacher and led groups from season to season. His groups were popular, his enthusiasm and earnestness contagious. He will be sorely missed.