

And Mr. Ross propounds on one page the significant question: "What has become of the ancestral estate in our America?" What indeed?

Congratulations, Mr. Ross!

We must now bring to an end these quotations. But our thanks are due for a very notable contribution to the literature of freedom.

J. D. M.

WANDERING IN DARKNESS

The Insecurity of the Security Programme, by Professor Harvey Lutz, Princeton University.

Our educational system has a lot of explaining to do. I need not go into much detail to justify this statement. I will consider only two exhibits as sufficient. "A" is our condition of depression, unemployment and poverty for which education has offered no remedy or explanation. "B" is our brain trust, forthcoming from our greatest universities, in response to the President's natural and trustful request for help; and all the "frank experiments" it gave us. So I am curious, whenever an educator with Ph.D. and AB, such as H. L. Lutz of Princeton has, lectures in such a topic as "The Insecurity of the Security Problem"—to see what he says.

I remember meeting Prof. Lutz in Trenton, when, as an adviser of a taxation league, he answered my suggestion that the land value tax be put on their programme, decidedly in the negative; a bad start economically. Now let us see if Prof. Lutz with a record of teaching economics at Oberlin and Stanford and at present heading Public Finance at Princeton, helps to account for education's weak position economically, when civilization is at the crossroads.

He starts with an effective picture of the confusion on this security subject; and especially the sentimental and socialistic viewpoints. He classifies this with the absurdity of the idea that Uncle Sam stamping "this is a dollar" on a piece of paper actually makes a dollar; to which my reaction is that Uncle Sam should be able to do as much as any solvent corporation whose I O U does not have to be secured with metal or anything else.

Then comes the economic concept of security: (a) a job at producing wealth and (b) "a share" in the division of the product; (c) what to do with the minor number unable to produce. Prof. Lutz has intelligently stated the problem and the bearing of economic science upon it; now let us see how he handles this basic of all problems.

Is it not obvious that economics must have a solution? Is it not obvious that it lies in the production of wealth and labor? He says so, but he does not compel economics to give the answer. He says the answer lies in full production and only there. He has mentioned "division" but seems to forget that as a factor he overlooks the fact; that 1929 terminated a period of miraculous production of goods ending with a bang and seven years of "recovery" that still demands an explanation.

This oversight reflects a greater one that casts a deeper shadow on college economics. What of a 100 year era of vast production that piled up 200 billions of wealth. Did this supply the full measure of security that Prof. Lutz promises as the fruit of "large and steady production?" Then the professor's negative weakness becomes positive. He states that the division of product is "perfectly familiar as the ordinary mechanism of exchange." No problem of "division of wealth" that even Huey Long told us of, and Father Coughlin states effectively.

Having established this false basis of economics, it is natural that he should run amuck on the subject of taxation. He gives all his attention to volume of taxation and none to its source. Use of social revenues for social purposes, to abolish all the evils of taxation he pictures he ignores or has not heard of.

So here we have another exhibit—"C"—in the case against our colleges, which is that our education does not educate; that our edu-

cators most need education. That our most baffling problem is how to stop communism, with our whole educational system feeding it.

Recapitulating; this professor says our problem of social security (which is also our problem of depression and poverty) is in large production and not in division of the product. This is not supported by history cited, by opinion of authorities, by economic science, nor good sense. Division of wealth produced must be to the producers, wholly; they are labor and capital. Prof. Lutz should know that basic monopoly now takes about half the product, and must when production is greatest. And in taxation, the professor should know that taxing labor products doubles their cost to the consumer, cuts consumption and employment in half, and exempts the monopoly that feeds off labor and capital, making security impossible.

New York City.

C. H. INGERSOLL.

Correspondence

THINKS SOME OF OUR TERMS ARE VAGUE

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The Bible tells us that the vague terms used by the builders of the Tower of Babel caused them to disperse and this in turn was the cause of many and diverse tongues.

This is also why Friend Bolton Hall played a huge joke on the astonished Single Tax on land values fraternity. This is why ordinary people cannot grasp our simple idea. Let us therefore discard all erroneous phrases like unearned increment, rental, Single tax, etc., in place of rentable value, and call the movement "tax abolition." Thus we will attract questions and discussions now lacking.

Governments possess a legitimate source from which to derive revenue—the rentable values which accrue annually to natural opportunities because of the proximity of civilized populations which demand public service.

New York City.

M. W. NORWALK.

IN DISAGREEMENT

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

I want to comment on the speech of Edward White in Nov.-Dec. LAND AND FREEDOM. I think that all Georgeists will agree with the author's views except those expressed in the paragraph: "The notion that rent enters into price or is an element of cost, is seen to be an inversion of the natural order, for obviously rent is a reduction, the user of a superior location producing at less cost per unit than those using inferior locations." I draw exactly the opposite conclusion, and base my opinion upon his own statement in the very next paragraph. Let me state it. If rent in effect was a reduction of cost, because the user of a superior location produced at a less wage and interest cost per unit than the user of an inferior location, the product of a superior location would sell for less than the product of the inferior location, but since the product of both locations sell for the same price per unit the cost of production in both locations must be the same. The difference between the wages and interest cost of production on the superior locations represents the rent of the superior location; it, therefore, becomes an element in the actual cost of production and hence enters into price.

Rochester, N. Y.

HARVEY H. NEWCOMB.

THE CAMPAIGN IN CALIFORNIA

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

In the California struggle for real taxation reform, or rather the substitution of reason in the collection of governmental revenues for the present want of system, we have reached a period between campaigns which offers little of dramatic interest. This does not imply that there is a dearth of work to be done. The future has to be planned for and this is being done in several different ways.

As to education, there is the giving of talks and the writing of letters. To these are to be added the more specific means of spreading the light afforded by the H. G. Schools of Social Science which have been or are being established in a number of our larger cities. These are slowly but we think surely increasing in interest.

The legislative field is not to be entirely neglected or overlooked, as the legislature is now in session for the introduction of bills and some miscellaneous work. In a few days it will take a recess till the first of March when its real legislative work will begin. Before it will be, among other matters, a bill presented by a section of the Commonwealth Club of the state which looks to such a correction of the Initiative laws of the state as will prevent hereafter such conditions as enabled the Supreme Court to rule us off the ballot.

It is interesting to note that there will be several bills before the legislature which seek to modify or get rid of the sales tax. While too early to predict the fate of these undertakings it seems highly improbable that in any material way changes of importance will be accomplished—in other words, the sales tax will not be abolished and at the utmost will be slightly reduced or taken off on some present objects. The general picture will not be changed. Our campaign can therefore be renewed as before. A reason for this is that the State administration is against any loss of revenue which would come from the abolition of the sales tax and against anything savoring of a direct tax upon any kind of property. While a majority of the lower house would go a long way toward abolishing the sales tax, the governor holds a large majority of the upper house and thus controls the situation.

As before indicated, it is too early to discuss in detail the measure to be placed before the people at the election next year. We may say that it will in substance be like that heretofore offered, affected possibly by legislative action, and also by study of the events of the last campaign. These will be no essential modification of principle.

A recent trip to the state capital disclosed the perfect unity of our support and cheerful confidence in our future success. This was general among labor circles and the members of the legislature who were with us, as well as such newspaper men as give us support. We are certainly in the fight to win.

We have to chronicle one very severe loss. David Woodhead of Los Angeles recently left us by death. We counted upon him as one of our best and clearest headed advisers and thinkers. His departure will be deeply felt.

Palo Alto, California.

JACKSON H. RALSTON.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS.

THE Free Homestead League has been organized in Seattle, Washington, and Messrs. Fleming, Warren, Freeland, Falvey, Booth, Erickson, Matthews, and Doubleday are a few of the familiar names we note in its literature. The League is sponsoring an act relating to the disposal of lands which have been acquired by cities or counties for non-payment of taxes and the restoring of idle lands so acquired to the tax rolls.

JOHN C. ROSE of Pittsburgh urges that the Henry George School might widen the sphere of its activities by establishing a department of research. There are great possibilities in this suggestion. Ultimately the results of such research could be embodied in a pamphlet which would serve as an excellent companion for the Teacher's Manual.

F. W. LYNCH of San Francisco writes: "I want to record my objection to the term Georgeist. I heartily approve the letter of W. G. Stewart of Reading, Pa., in favor of the Single Tax as a political name.

RURAL Electrification and Farm Land Taxation is a pamphlet containing an address delivered by William E. Clement. There is

much in this pamphlet on the practical application of our principles. Mr. Clement is director of the Electrical Association of New Orleans.

E. B. GASTON, editor and publisher of the *Fairhope Courier*, and one of the founders of the Single Tax colony at Fairhope, Alabama, recently celebrated his 75th birthday.

MR. S. TIDEMAN who died Nov. 5th at the age of 84, was born in Sweden and emigrated to the United States in 1882. He was a machinist and toolmaker by trade. He read "Progress and Poverty" in 1888 and his wife who survives him tells how both of them familiarized themselves with the use of English by the reading of George's works. In 1931 at the age of 79 he published a book in which he linked the present control of finance with the monopoly of land. He was a frequent contributor to LAND AND FREEDOM. He leaves three sons, two daughters and numerous grandchildren. He was successful in transmitting his philosophy to his children with the result that the name they inherited has become well known throughout Single Tax circles. It is gratifying to record that in the fifteen years of his later life spent on a farm near Fisk, Missouri, he retained his faculties and his interest in world events and the progress of the cause he loved.

HON. JOHN J. MURPHY, former Tenement House Commissioner of this city under the Gaynor and Mitchell administrations, and active in the Single Tax movement for many years, passed away on December 6. Mr. Murphy was born in Ireland seventy-one years ago, and came to America at the age of seventeen. For a time he was Secretary of the Citizen's Union of this city. He made a fine record as Tenement House Commissioner and was praised by Mayor Gaynor as having conducted his office "with the maximum of efficiency and the minimum of friction." He was interested in Irish-American relations and was president of the American Irish Historical Society. He was Secretary of the American Single Tax League. He was one of the directors of the Schalkenbach Foundation, having been named for such office in the will of Robert Schalkenbach who left a substantial sum for the publication and circulation of the works of Henry George. He was the author of "The Wisdom of Benjamin Franklin." He was a charming after-dinner speaker and his ready wit and Irish humor—more French than Irish—made his speeches a delight. He was a wonderfully interesting companion and it is hard to realize that he is gone. He is survived by two daughters, Teresa and Deirdre, and a son Brendon Murphy.

STEPHEN BELL has an excellent letter in the *New York Times* of recent date. He says among other things: "Consumer demand is the mainspring of all production. How can the restraint of consumer demand encourage production?" There is no writer living today who tells the truth about the tariff so clearly and persuasively as Stephen Bell. We are glad to announce that Mr. Bell has completed his life of Father McGlynn.

FEW papers have published more Single Tax letters than the *Bridgeport, Conn., Post*. They must average well over a dozen a month. The man back of all this is William J. Lee of Stratford, helpfully abetted by Dr. Hayes of Waterbury, Dr. Sage of New Haven, Joseph R. Carroll of Norfolk, and other Henry George men at a distance, Messrs. Beckwith, Swinney, Noren and Rose among the latter. We thank the *Bridgeport Post* for the hospitality of its columns.

WILLIAM A. WARREN, acknowledging receipt of LAND AND FREEDOM adds this encomium: "It is a pleasure to have such a paper to read."

FRED PEASE writes us that the Henry Georgeist of Milk River and they are all Georgeists there, sponsored a very successful carnival