

## The Cubans Should Learn From Henry George

By JOSEPH B. ROSE

A LAND LAW recently enacted by the Cuban Government has just come to our attention. It is not a land tax in the Georgean sense but it seems to be a step in the right direction. After its passage by the Cuban Congress, and the authorization by President Carlos Prío Socarras, S. A. G. E., the New York student group (Society for Advancement of the George Economy), wrote to the Cuban Government for more information. A copy of the law was sent together with a letter of appreciation for our interest in the Cuban economy. Following are a few excerpts made possible by our translators:

*"Agriculture Law No. 7, Chapter 1, Article 5*

*In renting contracts, any agreement will be void which exceeds the payment of an annual rent of 6% in relation to the selling value fixed for the land in the "Registro Territorial del Municipio", or, if there be lacking a price so fixed, that in the last title of acquisition. In no case may the selling value of the land be considered to exceed that which would produce 6% per annum, with relation to the last annual rental value recorded in said "Registro" . . .*

*Article 17.*

*Every owner of land that can be cultivated, or can be used for the raising of cattle, or has an extension greater than necessary for its adequate use, must rent it to the farmers who request it, in lots not greater than 5 "caballerías" . . .*

*Article 18.*

*If the landowner refuses to comply with what has been decided upon, he will have to pay a tax of 20 pesos per year for each "caballería" not rented. Half of said tax will go to the respective "Municipio" (City) which will use it for the construction of roads in the neighborhood; the other half will go to the coffers of the State, to be deposited in a Special Account for the improvement of the Provincial Agricultural Schools and for the creation of scholarships or the like in said educational institutions for the children of the farming population."*

The S. A. G. E. Research Committee attempts to keep informed about every piece of enacted or proposed legislation related to the Henry George philosophy. We continuously keep in mind our main goal (A tax equal to the full rental value on all land), and any tendency favorable to this purpose is immediately encouraged. The policy is to send a set of Henry George's books together with a year's subscription to The Henry George News to all outstanding individuals favoring or proposing legislation of interest to us.

We observe a greater inclination toward realization of the importance of ground rent in our present economy. This may be our big opportunity. In doubling our efforts we can make greater strides now than was possible in the past. S. A. G. E. is persistently pushing the iron door open—our efforts will not have been in vain if, together with others we manage to swing it just a fraction more. We certainly could use more pushers!

S. A. G. E. will send the works of Henry George to the Cuban Representative responsible for the introduction of the above mentioned law. We hope he can see that he has but scratched the surface. We trust he will realize the really tremendous service he can perform if he will go the whole barrel and introduce the full rental value of the land.