

duction is higher and the *reward* is correspondingly lower.

If all rent were collected by the state, and wisely used for the common good, it would be unprofitable to hold land out of use, and the whole area of the most productive land would become available to labor and capital. From this cause alone there would be an enormous increase of wealth, without anybody working any harder or longer or more skillfully than at present.

I present an example from the *Standard* of June 15, 1925, by the present writer, showing rent does not affect price:

Suppose the quantity of wheat produced to be 100 bushels and the market price to be £25, made up as follows when rent is low:

	Value	Cost of Production
Rent 30 bushels.....	£ 7—10—0	7½ days
Interest 20 bushels.....	5— 0—0	5 days
Wages 50 bushels.....	12—10—0	12½ days
100 bushels.....	£25—0—0	25 days

Or as follows when rent is high:

	Value	Cost of Production
Rent 45 bushels.....	£11— 5—0	11¼ days
Interest 15 bushels.....	3—15—0	3¾ days
Wages 40 bushels.....	10— 0—0	10 days
100 bushels.....	£25—0—0	25 days

Here we have the same quantity of wheat in the market as before; nothing has happened to lessen supply or increase demand. Consequently price is not affected. When rent was low, the high wages did not increase the price; when wages are low, the high rent cannot inflate it.

Under Single Tax:

Rent, 30 bushels to state; interest, 10 bushels to capitalist; wages, 60 bushels to laborer, with no deduction for taxes; and also, owing to labor having access to better land than was formerly held out of use, the production would be more than 100 bushels of wheat for 25 days' work—another addition to wages.

Toowong, Queensland.

EDWIN I. S. HARDING.

## Economic Rent for Revenue

—(By Bertrand Russell)

Private property in land has no justification except historically through power of the sword. . . . The land became the property of those who had conquered it, and the serfs were allowed to give rent instead of service. . . . It is a singular example of human inertia that men should have continued until now to endure the tyranny and extortion which a small minority are able to inflict by their possession of the land. No good to the community, of any sort or kind, results from the private ownership of land. If men were reasonable they would decree that it should cease tomorrow.

The mere abolition of rent would not remove injustice, since it would confer a capricious advantage upon the occupiers of the best sites and the most fertile land. It is necessary that there should be rent, but it should be paid to the State or to some body which performs public services; or, if the total rental were more than is required for such purposes, it might be paid into a common fund and divided equally among the population. Such a method would be just, and would not only help to relieve poverty but would prevent wasteful employment of land and the tyranny of local magnates. Much that appears as the power of capital is really the power of the land owners—for example, the power of railway companies and mine owners. The evil and injustice of the present system are glaring, but men's patience of preventable evils to which they are accustomed is so great that it is impossible to guess when they will put an end to this strange absurdity.

## On to a Glorious Triumph!

EVERY disciple of Henry George may well congratulate himself as he observes the many flourishing activities now in evidence. There is abundant testimony in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM of inspiring vitality.

The Henry George School of Social Science, under the direction of Oscar H. Geiger, seems to us a movement destined to develop into a great institution. It marks a new step in an untried field, and will provide an educational center out of which will grow young and active leaders to assist us in the great battle for industrial freedom that is surely coming. It approaches its work in a spirit of full co-operation, and the generous and whole-hearted responses that have come to it since its inception are extremely gratifying.

In the meantime the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation continues to enlist the interest of scholars and thinkers by the widespread distribution of books and pamphlets and is more than ever the inspiring cause of editorial comments in newspapers and magazines. Our readers are referred to the report, on another page, of the Foundation's activities by its efficient secretary, Miss Antoinette Kaufmann. A reflex of these activities is also to be found in the editorials from many newspapers that are printed in this issue. To these are to be added "Letters to the Editor" from various pens, of which those printed on other pages are but a fragmentary exhibit.

And in the enumeration of the various kinds of work being carried on, particular mention should be made of Charles H. Ingersoll's notable tour across the continent, the large attendance at his meetings and the gratifying receptivity of the newspapers, with their full reports, in places where he has lectured; of the work of John Lawrence Monroe, of the Henry George Lecture Association, which is rapidly making Chicago the banner city of the movement in the United States; of that of the Ingram Institute at San Diego, Calif., under the direction of F. F. Ingram, attracting as it has the support of scholarly adherents of the work of the Henry George Foundation, with its busy headquarters in Pittsburgh; of the work of Emil Jorgensen, of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Federal Tax League, and of the Henry George League of New Jersey, with Alfred N. Chandler as its moving spirit.

If we have omitted citing any worthwhile activity, such omission is unintentional. Taken together, the activities enumerated form overwhelming evidences of a growing strength that will not permit a much longer delay of political repercussions in the Legislatures of the States.

Increasing thousands now know the cause of industrial depression; they know the remedy. They are thinking, they are asking questions. More and more, clearly and truly, they are being informed by our loyal workers.

The schoolmaster is abroad in the land, and the spirit of Henry George is marching on!