

Urgency and the Amateur

by TOM SHERRARD

In *Henry George, Dreamer or Realist?* Professor Steven B. Cord carefully keeps his title man in context. From this the reader can get a good perspective on his subject without common distortions. It should help satisfy a long felt want.

In the reconciliatory spirit of the author, we trust Georgists will have no trouble in accepting the book substantially with necessary reservations about its shortcomings.

As an ethical argument for land value taxation George has observed that only the community gives land its value. Professor Cord indicates there is no ethical reason to single out land since laws of supply and demand set the value of everything, land included. See his page 232. Apparently he overlooks the meaning of "supply" in the expression "supply and demand." As distinguished from products, no one

has anything to do with creating a supply of land. People restrain its availability to others, but how can this be ethically equated to providing a supply of products? Only when there's compensation to the community for the right to possession does the ethical equation seem to be in balance.

Also, the author does not emphasize the *priority* nature of land reform. Perhaps he deleted this to avoid an atmosphere of urgency. To some professional economists urgency and advocacy are sure marks of the amateur. Steven Cord is obviously no amateur. We amateurs hope his fellow professionals will appreciate his contribution.

***Henry George, Dreamer or Realist?* by Steven B. Cord, a Georgist student who went "professional" is in steady demand at the special price of \$5 a copy—at the Henry George School, 50 East 69th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.**