

The Golden Rule for the Post-War World

* WALTER LIPPMANN, nationally known columnist, gave expression to a profound truth when he wrote recently:

"This fear that one man's or one country's gain is another man's or another country's loss is undoubtedly the greatest obstacle to human progress. It is the most primitive of all our social feelings, and the most persistent and obstinate prejudice which we retain from our barbarous ancestors. It is upon this prejudice that civilization has foundered again and again. It is in this prejudice that all schemes of conquest and exploitation are engendered. It is this prejudice that causes almost all men to think that the golden rule is a counsel of perfection that cannot be followed in the world of actual affairs."

What Mr. Lippmann says is what Henry George said many times and in many ways long ago. For Henry George realized as did few others that men and nations do not thrive at the expense of other men and nations. Henry George knew, and proclaimed it to the world, that Our Mother, the Earth, is a generous provider, that there is enough and more than enough for all, that men's right of equal access to the land on which all must live, move and have their being, is as much a natural

^{ten}right as is their right to the air they breathe. Henry George knew that the instinct of men to gratify their desires with the least effort is a natural instinct, with a right to its expression; that man has an inviolable right to the fruits of his labor and that no one, individual or state, has the right to take any part of it from him. He knew that progress in the arts of production and gracious living are best fostered by the voluntary co-operation of free men.

And Georgists of today know, as they only wish Mr. Lippmann could know, that when men have access to the land, there can be no widespread unemployment; that when there is no unemployment, there will be no poverty, and when there is no poverty, a large part of crime and disease will have disappeared. They know, too, that this happy condition can be brought about by the simple expedient, as Henry Ford put it recently, of taxing land into use, and that such a step, coupled with the complete elimination of trade restrictions of every kind, so that men would be free to trade as they wished the world over, would constitute a well-nigh ironclad guarantee of a prosperous post-war world and an enduring peace.

—C. O. STEELE