

stand that the distribution of wealth is a matter of morals and answers the question "Who ought to get it?"

The Bible teaches us that the fundamental law of society is "Thou shalt not steal." It was given to Adam and Eve in Eden and amplified at Sinai, for the ten commandments simply apply the principle of respect for the rights of others, both God's and man's.

What is stealing? It is the taking of the things which belong to another without his consent and without a fair equivalent.

According to Beckwith it is quite ethical for any one who can get a surplus, no matter how obtained, to collect a return from the labors of others, in perpetuity by lending on interest, and he calls his philosophy a science. And claims to be the only true and scientific Georgeist in the world. Funny, is it not?

The cause of interest is the fact that wealth saved can buy land that will yield the purchaser a net revenue over all taxes on it.

And so long as such unearned incomes are for sale, the wealth by which they can be bought will command a similar return. When we collect all our ground rent for public expenses there will be no incomes obtainable without labor. Thus the laws of economics will be found to harmonize with the ethics of the Bible, as in fact they must, as they arise from the same source and authority.

Toronto, Ont.

ALAN C. THOMPSON.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Never were words more truly spoken, than was stated in your Jan.-Feb. number on "Some Thoughts on Organization." In the early days of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, some of our bright men who were seeking political preferment decided to join the major political party organizations to "work from within" and there were many who did. As soon as a comfortable berth was secured they did not hesitate to oppose any stand that would really advance the cause of the "Land for the People," for fear it would hurt them in their affiliation and security in the organization to which they were indebted for their jobs. I could mention at least ten names of men who were rewarded by being made candidates for various elective offices, who represented to their party leaders that they could be assured of the votes of members of the M. S. T. Club, not only for themselves but also for the entire party ticket.

Of course, there were many members of the M. S. T. Club in those early days who were averse to any alliance with these plunderers. The sole and only purpose for Single Taxers to enter politics should be to battle for the "Land for the People" and to advocate taking the entire rent of land and the abolishment of all taxes. But no alliances with any political organization.

New York City

M. VAN VEEN.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

Reading Van Doren's "Life of Benjamin Franklin," I am so much struck with this passage (p. 705) that he gave to the French people when about to return to the U. S. A. after his long sojourn in France, who inquired about America, that I think you can perhaps quote it in your next issue. "The chief resource of America is cheap land, made so by the vast forests still void of inhabitants and not likely to be occupied in an age to come. Not till the lands are taken up and cultivated and the excess of people who cannot get land thrown out of employment would there be any great poverty in America. For the present, labor was still well paid. Skilled artisans could make a good living and provide for children and old age. Farm laborers could save their wages and become farmers."

New York City

CHARLOTTE SCHETTER.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

The job for Single Taxers is not to quibble over what will happen to interest or other side issues but to concentrate on pushing the Single Tax on the location value of land.

It is evident from reading the papers that the people are at last becoming tax conscious and I think now is the time for Single Taxers

to form a letter-writing corps and write letters to the papers telling the advantages of Single Tax.

New Bedford, Mass.

R. A. SCOTT.

EDITOR LAND AND FREEDOM:

THE contention that the political method is the wrong approach to our Single Tax reform took an awful jolt when the Mooney decision in California was made. John Public was well educated in regards to the details for more than a dozen years, but until political action seated a governor who would perform the necessary act, nothing was done. The old boy could have remained there forever waiting for the education of the public to free him.

Trenton, N. J.

THOMAS J. PURVIS.

NEWS NOTES AND PERSONALS

ANOTHER of the "Old Guard" has passed to his reward. George R. Macey, prominently identified with the Single Tax movement ever since "Progress and Poverty" was first put on the counters of book-stores, entered eternal rest on January 27, 1939. He had passed his 90th birthday. He resided with his daughter, Mrs L. Marian Kapp of 155 Lockwood Ave., New Rochelle, New York, who survives him. George R. Macey ever remained a loyal follower of the Cause. It was he who first induced Henry George to publish his works in such form as to enable the multitude to obtain the books cheaply. As a result Mr. Macey organized The Sterling Publishing Co. at 77 South Fifth Ave. (later to become known as West Broadway) in the City of New York. The Sterling Publishing Co. made the books available at 25 cents the copy. They also published many tracts and pamphlets. Not long after, John J. Lovell became the publisher of George's books at the popular price of 10 cents each. George R. Macey was the Candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen in the early 20's Campaign of the Commonwealth Land Party. For many years the Editor of LAND AND FREEDOM appreciated and had the benefit of George R. Macey's acute power of discernment, and his co-operation in the work on this publication. Also, theirs was a friendship covering many years of active work in behalf of the Single Tax. Mr. Macey was a close friend of the George family and particularly of Richard, who was Henry George's second son.

WE wish to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from our old friend and faithful correspondent, Mr. Frank G. Anderson of Jamestown, New York. Mr. Anderson is one of the "old war-horses, who saw the cat" long ago and took an active part in the campaign of 1886. Though on his next birthday he will be eighty-two years young, he is still "on the job." Among his converts to the Cause, he numbers his son-in-law, Mr. Ernest C. Kessler, who has recently shown his interest by writing a letter to the Mayor of the City of New York, a copy of which we received from Mr. Anderson, as follows:

February 15, 1939

Honorable Mayor Fiorella LaGuardia

New York City

Dear Sir:

I was very much interested last week to listen by radio to the panel discussion that you carried on with members of the Brooklyn High School regarding the housing problem. Their questions were very interesting and showed a real interest and serious thought regarding the matter. However, I was very much hoping that one idea would come out of this, but this did not seem to appear.

For many years I have been a firm believer in the Henry George Doctrine of Taxation known as the Single Tax and, of course, you are very familiar with this and very likely familiar with the personal life of the great man Henry George. In the writer's opinion, our present system of taxation has developed into more or less of a grab bag plan, simply putting taxes on where it is most easy to procure them. Regardless of the fact that many of our great men in this