

WINSTON CHURCHILL'S ANTI-DEPRESSION PROPOSAL, by William Edwards Clement. Sponsored by Public Revenue Education Council, St. Louis. 226 pages. \$4.25. Special offer of \$3.50 to graduates of the Henry George School. Order from The Henry George News, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

Reviewed by **NOAH D. ALPER**

THE rising tide of books and articles relating to Henry George has recently been augmented by William E. Clement, now retired—an elder statesman among Georgists. He has had much experience in gaining public acceptance of new ideas through his years of association with the New Orleans Public Service Corporation, and he presents the theory of land-value taxation in a way that will surely appeal to non-Georgists and Georgists alike.

"Few know that long ago this profound thinker, statesman, writer and man of action made a study of what is still the world's basic problem, the recurrence of depressions," the author states. "Sir Winston fought a long, uphill fight, pressed his views earnestly and insistently upon the public; and if he did not move the people to accept his solution, he laid the grounds for action in these later and now more perilous times." It is perhaps little known, even by his many admirers, that Churchill made a number of important addresses in Parliament and elsewhere advocating the "transfer of taxes from goods and capital to ground rent of occupied and speculatively-held vacant lands."

Mr. Clement shows how in Eng-

land "ground land-lords" were in control of the government and placed most of the tax burden on commerce and manufacturing—this had the effect of enormously inflating the rental and selling price of bare land—a basic cause of recurring depressions in England and the United States.

Many quotations support the main thesis, and many examples of right and wrong taxation bolster the impressive argument. A section on free market, land-use committees outlines a possible means of assessment and planning divorced from political influences. A smooth running economy can make depressions a thing of the past, the author notes. Using the wheel as a symbol for industry, he indicates how imbalance brings unemployment and lowered morale.

Original ideas and contemporary interpretations are introduced in a chapter entitled, "Nature's Atom Pattern Shows the Way." The final 62 pages of the book include appendices with information on land tax reform in Pittsburgh; excerpts from Francis Neilson's review of Toybee's *Study of History* with special reference to the land question; and extensive material on taxation by authorities from Benjamin Franklin to the present. Much space is given to the Henry George School—its extensions and directors, as well as its aims and methods.

Given a wide circulation this book should play a constructive part in abolishing the economic and political slavery which results from our present land tax and tenure policies. It is printed in large, easily readable type, and contains 62 illustrations.

Gilbert M. Tucker, the author of the (unsigned) 12-page booklet, *How About Your Town*, suggests that since a number of HGN readers wrote for copies of the booklet, others might wish to make a civic contribution by sending copies to persons whose names appear in the daily newspapers as being interested in housing, slum clearance and city planning. This excellent idea is especially timely in view of the shocking slum conditions now being exposed in New York. Mr. Tucker is president of the Economic Education League, 17 D&H Building, Plaza, Albany, New York. Price, 10 for \$1 or 100 for \$5.