

Unionism and Communism

By FRANZ OPPENHEIMER

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(Continued from page 13)

"But I will not decide until I have consulted with my wife," he told his counselors.

Better even than the four doctors, she knew the tragic risk entailed; however—"You should do your duty at whatever cost," she answered.

And months after his death she wrote:

"He was my companion and teacher for thirty-six years and I wonder how to live without him. I try to find comfort and do, in the fact that I was useful to him."

To be useful to one who is serving a just Cause, is a great thing to be. Just *how* useful Annie Cor-sina George was, she never realized. But to one who knows their story well, comes the belief that had it not been for the unfailing faith and the deep understanding of his wife, Henry George, genius though he was, could not have achieved all he did.

Oh, bitter "Georgeist widow"—if down the years, as we have known you; if you had loaned your man, with better grace to what he believed to be his spiritual responsibility; if you had added your strength to his, in pointing the cause and cure of war—would history have written this bloody page?

But that page is now in the turning!

Take heart! Here is your chance to carry on: to find God's way—that it may be on earth as it is in Heaven.

For there's Peace to be written!

Impressions from

By Alexander Boardman

This publication has many contemporaries in the international arena of economic truth. The typically busy person is unable to subscribe to few or all of them, and to give our readers a bird's-eye view of some significant paragraphs we asked Mr. Boardman to review recent issues. This was a herculean task, and we are glad to express our sincere appreciation for his preparation of the following.—Ed.

CAUSE AND EFFECT of Chicago, Illinois, writing on those who fear unemployment when our soldiers return from the war, says, "We haven't run out of land; the same land that provided employment for the Pilgrims is still here, and will be when the soldiers return. Who found employment for America's most noted party of immigrants—the Pilgrims—when they landed on the bleak and barren shores of Massachusetts Bay? No one! Endless employment awaited every mother's son of them the instant they stepped from the deck of the *Mayflower* to the land of their adoption. What was the source of their employment? Good old Mother Earth!"

The Oklahoma Union Farmer of Oklahoma City applauds the National Resources Planning Board for Section 5 of its "Bill of Rights" that says, "the right to live in a system of free enterprise, free from compulsory labor, irresponsible private power, arbitrary public authority, and unregulated monopolies," is the right of the people. It calls the N.R.P.B.'s statement "the most civilized document that has come from any public body since our government was founded."

The Square Deal of Toronto compares the per capita wealth of the four western provinces that tax the site-value of land with the maritime provinces. "At Confederation, the maritimes were the richest section of the Dominion; the western provinces possessed little beyond bare necessities. Fifty-five years later, in 1926, the rude frontier settlements had developed into the four richest settlements in the Dominion. The poorest of them excelled the richest of the maritimes by \$1,180 per capita."

People's Lobby Bulletin, Washington, D. C., reports, "Property interests in agriculture take the same attitude as the steel and aluminum industries toward expanded production! They are fighting against expansion by small farmers, hoping to drive them off the land, in order to have a cheap labor supply available."

The Standard, Sydney, Australia, tells a story about the city of Griffith: "Lands in the main street, Bauna Avenue, were not sold originally,

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but leased at rentals said to vary from 5 pounds per block to 15 pounds. A Special Land Board heard evidence regarding the value of these lands with a view to revising the rents, which are for the land, irrespective of improvements. The new rents vary from 40 pounds, 1 shilling, to 344 pounds. Most of those quoted are now over 100 pounds. The values per foot frontage vary from 26 pounds, 14 shillings, to 125 pounds. These facts give very clear evidence of the remarkable progress made at Griffith, one of the chief centers of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation settlements. It shows how the public interest is to some extent protected by perpetual leases of town lots, instead of selling them for nominal sums."

Land and Liberty, London, devotes considerable space to the report of the Committee on Land Utilization in Rural Areas to the Minister of Works and Planning. The Committee refers to farming in the neighborhood of urban centers being poor, because agriculture was regarded as an interim use, pending sale for development. "In other cases the land was not farmed at all; the speculative buyers allowing it to lie idle until the market was considered suitable for sale. This is why so much derelict land was to be found on the borders of built-up areas. The threat of the builder overshadowed and sterilized it."

The People's Advocate, Adelaide, Australia, looks afield and notes, "Lord Londonderry said in the House of Lords, 'I claim that the coal industry is the best managed industry in the country.' So well managed that, as disclosed to the Coal Industry Commission in 1919, Lord Londonderry was receiving 14,684 pounds a year in royalties. So well managed that he and his brother landowners are now being paid a capital sum of 66,450,000 pounds out of the public purse to buy out the royalties on the coal which they never put there. He can afford to bestow his praises on all by whose skill and industry the industry has borne fruit, so much of which has fallen to those partners 'who grow rich in their sleep'."

Fairhope, Oklahoma, was founded on the belief that the economics of Henry George were practicable. It is a corporation that leases sites and makes rents the only local tax. **The Fairhope Courier**, a weekly, gives the treasurer's statement for 1942. It shows rent receipts of \$38,433 out of a total income of \$42,773. After all charges were met the corporation had \$6,141 to invest, mainly in U. S. Government bonds.

The Forum, Stockton, California, analyzes a \$5,000 state salary, and finds it is paid in the following way:

Sales tax, use tax, and permits.....	28%
Motor vehicles and fuel levies.....	27
Bank and corporation taxes and franchises	10
Personal income tax.....	9
Alcoholic beverage revenue.....	5
Gouged out of buyers of insurance....	2
Gouged out of inheritances.....	2
Other gouges, fees, fines, etc.....	17
Levies on land titles.....	0
	<hr/> 100%

The Porcupine, Manchester, England, commenting on Sir William Beveridge's statement, says that the maintenance of employment is the most urgent, important, and difficult of reconstruction problems. "Employment needs neither maintenance nor any other treatment. It is not a human institution, but a natural human function, like breathing, and the only condition necessary to abolish involuntary unemployment is freedom of access to Mother Earth."

The Advocate, a Catholic review of the week (of Melbourne, Australia), publishes a letter written it by a devout Catholic, Hon. P. J. O'Regan, Justice in the Compensation Court, Wellington, New Zealand. Judge O'Regan takes to task the indifference, and sometimes opposition of the clergy to the teachings of Henry George. The letter concludes with, "we have historical precedent beyond dispute for the proposition that land monopoly is a wicked denial of natural right, or, as Dr. Nulty puts it, 'an impious resistance to the benevolent intentions of the creator.' . . . I find that there are many Catholics in Australia who feel as I do—that Catholic publicists are not doing themselves justice in their attitude towards the greatest social reformer of modern times."

Nebraska Union Farmer, of Omaha, Nebraska, says, "The Farmers Union of Nebraska has followed a consistent program for the past 25 years—a program of going straight ahead building genuine cooperatives. In legislation, we have advocated measures that would remove special privileges, and have opposed measures that would grant special privileges. Cooperation is the method of stopping waste and extortion and establishing economic justice that we can practice every business day right where we are. Once in two years, we get a chance to vote by ballot in state and national elections, but every time we go to town we can vote by our patronage for the development of the cooperative system to checkmate monopoly and stop profit-piling."