



I have been waiting for an article to appear in HGN that would give the *reason* for the depletion of the gold reserves of the government. Although no article gives this information, Sydney Mayers in "Views the News," (March) indirectly gives the *reason* when he writes . . . "A lessening of speculative pressure on the American dollar in foreign markets . . . resulted in a dip in the price of gold, currently selling again in London at its 'normal' price of \$35.35 an ounce." Notice that Mr. Mayers very correctly put the word *normal* in quotes. This is the *reason* for gold leaving the country—that the government has arbitrarily set the price it will pay foreigners for gold!

Should the price be increased by the government, gold would immediately flow back to Fort Knox. Thus the *root cause* of the fluctuation of the supply is the price fixing. No government can change the natural laws of economics!

SANFORD FARKAS
Boston, Mass.

The article "The Kingdom of Cotton" (March HGN) is depressingly interesting. It is the same vicious circle that occurs in so many areas of economic life. The cotton grower can't make a living, so he gets a subsidy. The cotton exporter can't compete with foreign growers and exporters, so he too gets a subsidy. The American manufacturer can't compete with foreign manufacturers, so he gets protection in the way of tariffs or quotas on imports.

Cure: make better use of the land tax, and reduce or abolish other taxes.

When bread was selling at 24¢ a loaf, I was informed that the tax was 12¢. So I am assuming that the same is true of cotton garments.

Well then, if we could buy shorts, shirts and socks at one-half the present price, perhaps the American growers and exporters wouldn't need protection.

WALTER W. GERVER
Lancaster, Penna.

Enclosed is my check for renewal of my subscription.

Here in Wisconsin we are in the middle of a tax muddle, as they are in Minnesota and other states. Our Governor had a "blue ribbon" tax committee at work many months. Other state committees too are stumbling around with the sales tax, excise taxes, withholding plans, etc. They will get about as far as a bunch of builders, who, in trying to put up a house, scorn the use of a square and a level.

What an amazing paradox that in this scientific age those "statesmen" whom we entrust with the operation of government remain so oblivious of the quite obvious elementary principle that the rental of land is natural public revenue. That plain fact is rarely mentioned. Why is there not someone in every state to bring this to the attention of our dense legislators?

THEODORE BUEHLER
Alma, Wisconsin

I wish to commend Oscar E. Johannsen's article "The Libertarian's Predicament" (February HGN). I plan to send this to an educational publication, the editors of which appear to take the view that statism is the cause, rather than the effect, of loss of freedom.

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