

By George

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NEW FRONTIERS

Within the first half of this century farm population in the United States has dwindled to less than 50% of its pre-1900 level. Farms are larger and mechanized. The efficiency of the individual farmer is at an all-time high. He can raise sufficient produce to feed 22 people besides himself and maintain them on the highest standard of living in the world. Farm subsidies have made him prosper but they have created tremendous surpluses which we are unable to use.

Our farms have grown larger and more efficient because the economic pinch hit first at the small farmer. High land prices, high taxes and the readiness of established large landowners to increase the size of their farms to enable them to utilize their mechanized equipment more efficiently has forced the small farmer to sell and try to support his family working at war industries and in the new industries of a peacetime economy. The small farmer has been swallowed up. Trees have been leveled, houses torn down, and the fertile fields now stretch greater distances than before this present century. All our cities have grown-swelled by the displaced small farmer and sons of farmers who can find no opportunity on the land.

Think of the millions of boys and girls cheated out of living their formative years on the farms! I would say that a farm is more than a place to raise crops and produce -- it is also an excellent place to raise good citizens.

A young man who wishes to become a farmer today can only do so by inheritance or by marriage. Opportunity is lacking for a man to start on his own unless he has a large amount of money to invest in land and equipment.

With the advent of the atomic era the government has been duly concerned about the vulnerability of the large cities and industrial complexes and is seeking a way to encourage the decentralization of industry. What better way could be found than to encourage the return of the small farmer? In order to return he must be allowed to prosper. Henry George gave us the answer. He might have said -- "Lower land prices by taxing the land and raise farm income by reducing taxes on production and improvements".

We should not penalize the farmer if he wishes to improve his property. Let him paint his barn red and be proud of it! The tax assessor couldn't raise his eyebrow. Let the farmer's sons find opportunity on the land and they will stay there. This may be a new frontier.

-- Paul A. Jordan

FULL SCHEDULE FOR JUDGE LUCAS

Judge Frank Lucas of Johannesburg, South Africa, new president of the International Union for Land -- Value Taxation and Free Trade, comes to San Diego on November 6 for a six-day speaking engagement.

His first engagement is before the San Diego Open Forum, Sunday evening, Nov. 6 at 7:30, held in the Unitarian Church, 1541 Sixth Ave. His subject, "Can Africa Achieve Human Equality?". The meeting is open to the public, admission free.

OTHER MEETINGS:

Mon. 11/7 12 noon -- Optimist Club at San Diego Club.
Tues. 11/8 11:00 -- Student body assembly S. D. State College in Little Theatre.
Wed. 11/9 12 noon -- North Park Lions Club, 3927 Utah Street.
Thurs. 11/10 6:30 P.M. -- Coronado Kiwanis held at La Avenida Cafe, 1301 Orange Ave., Coronado. Open meeting. Coronado grade and present students, both men and women, welcome.
Fri. 11/11 12:15 -- S.D. University Club. 6:00 P.M., Pot-luck Dinner at Bard Hall, Unitarian Church, 1541 Sixth Ave.

WATCH FOR TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMS.

Arrangements can be made for invitations to attend any of the above club or student meetings by calling Belmont 3-0779.

LAST MEETING:

At the regular monthly meeting Mr. Evans, recently returned from the Scotland Conference, told of his talks with Georgists in Denmark, France, England and Spain.

In Denmark he visited with Dr. V. Starke. In France he talked with the editor of "Terre et Liberte", and in Madrid, Spain, he found a small band of Georgists determined to spread the work of George despite an unfriendly regime.

All formal or scheduled speeches given at the Scotland Conference are available in printed form at our school headquarters: Britain, North America, Australia and Denmark had the largest representations; but there were also delegates from Spain, Norway, Sweden, Holland, Germany, France,

At the business meeting a resolution to change the Alumni name was voted down. Approval was given to appoint a committee to map plans for a scholarship based on an essay of Progress & Poverty, open to all high school seniors.

-- Gordon Gran