

# THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

*An Organ of Fundamental Democracy*

**Policy:** *Free Land, Free Trade, and Proportional Representation*

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## Rebel, Priest and Prophet

The Life of Dr. Edward McGlynn

"Rebel, Priest and Prophet," by Stephen Ball, is a biography of America's pioneer preacher of social justice—Dr. Edward McGlynn. This notable character was born in New York City on September 27, 1837. He was of a very large family, the son of a building contractor. It is recorded that as a boy he was "strong, athletic, fond of baseball and other outdoor sports." He attended a grammar school and later the Free Academy, from which he graduated at the age of thirteen. He was selected with his brothers as promising material for the priesthood, and was sent to Rome to be educated at the Urban College of the Propaganda. McGlynn remained in Rome nine years, and was ordained a priest on March 24, 1860. He returned to America only a few months before the war between the States sundered family and church, as well as political ties. In 1865 he was appointed pastor of St. Stephens, and at the age of twenty-nine he was entrusted with the spiritual welfare of a parish of 25,000 souls. In his early days he had to deal with the seamy side of life, but this did not harden him, but rather had the effect of developing his compassion for those who were suffering. It is stated that he was not a sectarian, but that his church was a sort of Mecca for people of all creeds. He fraternised with the clergy of all denominations, and in 1866 this caused him to be sternly rebuked by Archbishop Corrigan for appearing on a public platform with Henry Ward Beecher and Dr. Howard Crosby. Dr. McGlynn was idolized by all his parish.

In 1870 he appeared as a public champion of public schools as against parochial schools. He expressed the opinion that "it is not necessary that secular instruction should be imparted by the same person, in the same room, or on the same day of the week, as religious instruction," and that "priests were sent by their Master to preach the gospel, to administer the sacraments, and to do charity, rather than to play the pedagogue for secular instruction." Dealing with the debatable question of Bible reading in schools, he said:—

The reading of the Bible in the public schools is maintained as a kind of a fetish, not so much for any great religious value it can have for anybody under the circumstances, as because it gratifies a certain pharisaical sense of religiosity, or, worse, the wretched ascendancy of one set of religionists over another, or, still worse, or religionists over non-religionists, in schools which by their very name of "public" or "common" proclaim the essential injustice of such ascendancy.

In 1880 D. Appleton & Company published "Progress and Poverty," and a young man in the publishing house was captivated by the book and gave a copy to Dr. McGlynn. It is recorded that prior to reading this book Dr. McGlynn said:—

I had begun to feel life made a burden by the never-

ending procession of men, women and children coming to my door, begging not so much for alms as for employment; not asking for food, but for my influence and letters of recommendation, and personally appealing to me to obtain for them AN OPPORTUNITY OF WORKING FOR THEIR DAILY BREAD. I felt that no matter how much I might give them, even though I reserved nothing for myself, even though I involved myself hopelessly in debt, I could accomplish nothing. I began to ask myself, "Is there no remedy?" Is this God's order that the poor shall be constantly becoming poorer in all our large cities, the world over?

After reading Henry George's masterpiece his outlook was changed. He discussed the book with his many friends, and in one of his speeches he recorded his reaction to it as follows:—

I found an excellent exposition of the industrial and social condition of man in Henry George's book, a poem of philosophy, a prophecy and prayer. In language rare and unequalled the author presents a picture of perishing lives, and in glowing poetic language tells of God's bounties to His children, but that somehow with the increase of the use of wealth there is an increase of poverty, and where there is the congregation of the greatest wealth, by its side is the greatest poverty and misery.

I have never found so clear an exposition of the cause of the trouble, involuntary poverty, and its remedy, as I found in that monumental work.

I became all aglow with a new and clearer light that had come to my mind in such full consonance with all my thoughts and aspirations from my earliest childhood, and I did, as best I could, what I could to justify the teachings of that great work based upon the essence of all religion—the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

The concluding chapter of PROGRESS AND POVERTY is more like the utterance of an inspired seer of Israel, or of some ecstatic contemplating the great processes of eternity, than the utterances of a mere political economist.

In 1882 Michael Davitt came to America to solicit assistance in Ireland's battle for freedom. Prior to leaving Ireland he had been twitted as having been "captured by Henry George—a foreigner." At a meeting in Cooper Union he tried to free himself from this suspicion, but was followed by Dr. McGlynn, who said:—

If I might take the liberty of advising Mr. Davitt, I would say: "Explain away not one tittle of it, but preach the gospel in all its purity." I say it is a good gospel, not only for Ireland, but for England, for Scotland, and for America, too. . . . And, lest any scrupulous soul might fear that I am falling into the arms of Henry George, I say that I stand on the same platform with Bishop Nulty, of Meath, Ireland. But for that matter—to let you into a secret—my private opinion is, that if I have to fall into the arms of anybody, I don't know a man into whose arms I would be more willing to fall than into the arms of Henry George.

Dr. McGlynn raised the ire of some of the clergy by his preaching the doctrine of social justice, and in 1887 he was removed from the pastorate of St. Stephens by Archbishop Corrigan, who stated that such teaching was contrary to the teaching of the Catholic Church. An enormous protest meeting was held at Cooper Union, and a big crowd was

unable to get admission. Eloquent speeches in favor of Dr. McGlynn were made, and the following resolution was adopted with great enthusiasm:—

Resolved that Dr. McGlynn, the exemplary priest, the loving friend of the poor and oppressed, the virtuous and public-spirited citizen, the able, eloquent and fearless champion of right against might, the advocate of justice to the people, the man who has bravely stood by the masses against the classes, has our most earnest sympathy, and that we pledge ourselves to stand by him as he has stood by us, and to support him by all the legitimate means within our power, moral and material; and

Resolved that a committee be appointed from this meeting with instructions to decide in what practical form we may show our respect and gratitude to Dr. McGlynn, and make it manifest to the world that American Catholics claim political liberty for their priests.

Letters were sent to the Catholic and daily press expressing indignation at the removal of Dr. McGlynn from his pastorate, and Archbishop Corrigan was condemned for the action he had taken. A Catholic writing in the "New York Tablet" said:—

Archbishop Corrigan has taken the side of the Graces, the Kellys, the millionaires, and the money changers of New York, the very kind of men that Christ whipped out of the temple. He has taken to his heart or hearts the robbers whom his Divine Master scourged with leathern thongs. The good priest who is summoned to Rome, "the man of splendid intellect and Christ-like heart," should be the Archbishop of New York instead of a man who has turned his face away from the poor and taken the part of the bankers, corporations and politicians.

Those conversant with the life of this great priest know that he was excommunicated in 1887. Space will not permit of lengthy reference to this phase of his life, but it is sufficient here to say that when he prepared a "Doctrinal Statement" for consideration, Mgr. Satolli and the university professors of theology and canonical law declared unanimously that THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE LAND PHILOSOPHY PREACHED BY DR. MCGLYNN THAT WAS CONTRARY TO CHRISTIAN FAITH OR TO CATHOLIC DOCTRINE.

Recently there has been a discussion in a section of the Catholic press in which it was asserted that Dr. McGlynn recanted on his land doctrine, and that was the reason for his reinstatement in the church. At a meeting of the Anti-Poverty Society, held at Cooper Union, New York, on January 8, 1893, this aspect of the question was dealt with by Dr. McGlynn, who said:—

I have often said that, with the help of God, I would die under the most adverse circumstances, I would lay my head on the block and have it chopped off; I would die at the stake—rather than take back what I taught you, believing it to be the truth.

No such retraction, I repeat, has been demanded of me as a condition of the removal of the ecclesiastical censure. Most of you are willing to take my word for it, but there is obvious proof in the fact that I am here to-night to preach the same doctrine I have preached all these years.

Dr. McGlynn passed away on January 7, 1908. His funeral in Newburgh was one of the most remarkable ever seen, all sections of the community threw aside their beliefs to do honor to a noble character. All the Protestant clergy of Newburgh and the one Jewish rabbi assembled at the First Presbyterian Church and marched in a body to St. Mary's to the seats reserved for them. Such was the unifying character of this priest's Catholicism. From Newburgh the funeral went to St. Stephen's Church, where his old parishioners desired to pay their tribute of love and honor to the priest they devoutly believed had been taken from

them unjustly. The "New York Journal," dealing with the gathering, said:—

Thousands of eyes dim with tears looked on the w. face in the coffin in St. Stephen's Church. Father McGlynn had come to his own again. The storm and stress of life was ended, and with it passed away the bitterness. He was back among his own people, to whom he gave twenty-one years of his life.

In that gathering were hundreds who had not set foot inside the door from the time Father McGlynn was deposed. For this man was loved beyond the comprehension of most men. There was something almost fanatical in their devotion to their priest.

The book is a remarkable biography of a remarkable man. It should be read by all who believe in social justice. It reveals what a noble man was prepared to do for liberty of expression in regard to an economic doctrine which he believed would give practical effect to the Christian principles he preached. The biographer has done his work well. The book is over 300 pages, nicely bound in cloth, and the price is 10/-, postage 6d. extra. Send for a copy without delay. Obtainable from Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide.

## ESPERANTO CONGRESS

Mr. A. W. Madsen, secretary of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, writes regarding the above Congress taking place in London during the first week in August, and at which 2,000 delegates are expected from all over the world, viz:

One of the Special Meetings of the Congress will be devoted to the Henry George principle and policy, and it is now for us to recruit to that Congress, and especially to that meeting, as many Esperantist Single Taxers as possible.

In Esperanto we already have, and hope to be able to use, the Memorandum on the Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression, presented by our International Union to the Economic Conference at Geneva, May, 1927; the "Manifesto to the Rulers of the World," issued by our International Conference in Oxford, 1923; and the translation, which gained first prize, of the chapter from Henry George's "Social Problems" entitled "The First Great Reform."

Mr. Madsen adds:

Re Bengough's Primer. It would be splendid if this (the Esperanto translation now in manuscript) was printed and published with supplies here in hand, in time for this London Congress.

A copy of the manuscript has been forwarded to Mr. Madsen, as it is possible that quicker finance might be arranged in London than here to put this wonderful Primer into covers that will take it and its simply told lessons into every country in the world IN ONE LANGUAGE.

The address of the main Esperantist delegate available in South Australia is, Mr. Crouch, 65 Harrow Road, St. Peters.

## "THE STANDARD"

An Australian Journal to advocate the rights of the people in the land, abolish taxes upon trade and industry, and tax land values.

Subscription, 2/- per annum, post free.

A. G. HULE, Editor and Manager.

Office: Daking House, Rawson Place, Sydney.

## HOW MONOPOLY WORKS

### The Colonial Sugar Refining Company

The statement of accounts for the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. for the year ended March 31, 1938, have been presented and reveal the blessings of monopoly. These accounts are presented half yearly, and the net profit for the half year ended September 30, 1937, was £509,895, and for the half year ended March 31, 1938, the profit was £550,891, which was a record for a long period. Out of these profits half yearly dividends of 7½ per cent. have been paid, amounting to £977,500 for the year. The financial statement reveals some interesting details. The reserves to March 31 amounted to £1,384,974, which did NOT include replacements and depreciation fund of £3,700,479. There is a suspense account amounting to £2,419,159, and it is hard to say just what this represents.

This company has proved a veritable gold mine to those fortunate enough to get in on the "ground floor." This is the position in regard to the capital of the company:—

Bonus share capital . . . . .	£13,175,000
Return of Capital . . . . .	3,900,000
	<hr/>
	9,275,000
Capital subscribed in cash . . . . .	2,425,000
	<hr/>
Present capital . . . . .	£11,700,000

It is interesting to recall the fact that in September, 1934, certain reserves were capitalised, and one share given for each share then held. This meant a watering of stock to the extent of £5,850,000, or to put it more plainly, shareholders were made a present of shares to the value of £5,850,000 without the payment of one penny piece for them. There is a dividend of 15 per cent. per annum paid on these shares, and anyone buying them at present quotations on the Stock Exchange must pay over £48 each for them. At the present rate of dividend the return at this price is about £3 3/6 per cent. as an investment. Investors are willing to take this present low return in expectation of watering of stock at some future date. The position of the company is very sound, its assets being £22,083,951, which includes investments to the extent of £3,140,390, the nature of which is not disclosed.

In relation to production of sugar the figures for 1937 show a record output of raw sugar, 810,000 tons. Of this quantity 365,000 tons were sold in Australia at £24 per ton, the remainder being exported and sold at £8 6/0, which is a slightly higher figure than has been realised for some years past. Ignoring the "excess" sugar the average price realised by the Queensland mills was £17 11/0 per ton. But 24 per cent. of the Queensland output was "excess" sugar which brought the average price down to £15 6/5 per ton. The average price of the New South Wales mills was £16 4/9. The home market absorbed 45 per cent. of the total production of sugar. The embargo on sugar really represents on the above figures a subsidy of over £6,000,000 a year, which has to be paid by the sugar consumers of the Commonwealth.

At the meeting of the company held on May 25 the chairman was optimistic as to the future of the company. He stated that a "Building material division" had been established for the production and sale of insulated materials and building boards, made from cane, and which would be marketed under the trade name of "Cane-ite."

Two technical officers had been abroad making investigations concerning the manufacture of such boards, and were now returning, therefore such work would be pushed on in connection with the new building board factory. A new factory was also in course of construction at Fiji for canning pineapples, and good results from this were anticipated.

The huge profits secured by the company are no doubt a source of satisfaction to the fortunate shareholders, but sugar consumers are exploited so that the profits may be maintained. If it were not for the sugar embargo this exploitation could not continue. Unfortunately, all parties in the Federal Parliament support this great monopoly, and until the consumers of the Commonwealth vigorously protest against the continuance of this manifest injustice exploitation will continue.

## BENGOUGH'S PRIMER

A first book of lessons for little political economists in words of one syllable, with pictures. Designed for use in schools, colleges, universities and other seats of learning. Because of its amusing and convincing way of explaining the ideas in "Progress & Poverty," it is especially helpful to teachers who are dealing with young students, but its appeal is universal, and we believe it will delight young and old alike.

Printed in English, octavo size, price 1/3 (1/4 by post) it is available from the Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

At the annual meeting of the league it was resolved that all members be invited to take part in a drive to double the membership of the league. This is possible if each member will get only ONE new member during the year. It is well known there are a great number of people who are in sympathy with the work of the league and who advocate Henry George principles, but they are not linked up with our organisation. The minimum subscription to the league is only SIX SHILLINGS per annum, and this carries a copy of the official organ, "The People's Advocate," post free, each month. Many give a much greater sum to other organisations, and it is felt that if those in sympathy with our ideals were approached and asked to link up with us that many would respond. Free leaflets and specimen copies of our paper are available to all who desire them in connection with this membership drive, and we extend a cordial invitation to all our readers to participate in this work. If you are a reader of this paper and not a member of the league, why not join NOW?

## "PROGRESS"

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS

Monthly. 2/- a year posted.

Henry George Club, 18 George Parade, Melbourne

All reformers are handicapped by temporisers who study results, which they cannot foresee, and forget principles which never fail.—Wm. Lloyd Garrison.

## HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The annual meeting of the Henry George League was held at the league rooms, George Parade, on Tuesday, May 31. The president (Mr. M. H. McDonough) occupied the chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed on a motion by Mr. A. N. Morgan, seconded by Mr. A. Chappel. The annual report had been placed before members in the *People's Advocate*, and the financial statement for the year was presented by the secretary and treasurer. In moving the adoption of the report and financial statement, Mr. McDonough said he was pleased to report we had another successful year, thanks to the secretary and those who had assisted in propagating the Henry George doctrine. Mr. Bayly had done fine work in connection with the Study Circle, and had devoted a considerable amount of time to that phase of the work. The financial position of the league was sound, notwithstanding the heavy expenses throughout the year. The movement had received a good "boost" on account of the general elections last March. All were pleased the secretary had again been elected for Flinders, and were sorry that Messrs. Schubert and Denman had not been returned in their districts. Notwithstanding their defeat on this, the first time of contesting, good work was done and he looked for victory at the next trial.

Mr. A. N. Morgan in seconding the motion congratulated the secretary on the fine work accomplished, also Mr. Bayly for his work in connection with the Study Circle, and the assistant secretary, who was especially good in informing members as to matters relating to the work of the league. He was sorry that Eyre and Chaffey districts were not won, but he was confident they would be in the near future. It was not an easy task to put the doctrine before the people, as a great number were more interested in sport.

Mr. A. S. Bayly in supporting said he thought the balance in hand was the highest we had for many years. He desired to add his congratulations to those tendered the secretary and assistant secretary. Mr. Craigie's work stood out as the effort of an honest statesman, and he was sure he not only earned the respect of the members of the league but also that of the members of Parliament. He was hopeful that great results would be attained, and looked forward to the time when classes for the study of political economy would be established in the suburbs. Many people would listen to social reform. He had addressed meetings with over 40 present, including three ministers, and had received an attentive hearing and a number of questions.

Mr. R. M. Smyth supported the remarks that had been made. Our work was not spectacular, the work in connection with the Study Circle was not seen, but the evidence would be available later. A lot of people were thinking on Georgian lines, thanks to the work the secretary had done. People did not deny the truth of our doctrine, and anyone advocating our principles was not wasting time. In the Referendum on the marketing question the majority in this State was greater than in any other, and the Milk Bill had stirred the people to the evils of monopoly. Mr. Bayly was to be congratulated on the fine work he had done for political economy, and he added his congratulations to those offered to the officers of the league.

Mr. A. Chappel said the report was good, although our work did not provide for anything spectacular. There were many politicians who were prepared to do the wrong thing,

rather than deal with causes. He thought that the other electoral districts might have been won had the work been started earlier in those centres. He was pleased that notwithstanding the fierce opposition in Flinders the electors kept to the straight and narrow path.

Mr. H. F. Penny said there were many persons who did not want reform. They looked upon a reformer as an enemy to society. We should not be much concerned about looking for immediate results. We had the inward satisfaction that we were doing the right thing. It was better to fail in doing right than to succeed in doing wrong. We had scores of friends who believed in the doctrine, yet they would not join with the league. He wished he had Mr. Bayly's gift in imparting knowledge to others. He paid a tribute to Mr. Craigie for his loyalty to principle.

Mr. T. Hubbard said it was four years since he had been present at an annual meeting. He had noted that many of the old members had passed away and was anxious to know if new ones had enlisted to take their place. He thought that politically Mr. Craigie was the worst enemy that Mr. Butler had. He was of the opinion that notwithstanding the vote of the people we would still have a five year Parliament. He was glad that Mr. Bayly was going on with his work in connection with the Study Circle. What we needed was not to stress single tax, but to make it clear we wanted the rent of land. He gave some interesting details regarding the evil of land monopoly in his own district.

Mr. L. A. Ellis asked concerning the number of new members elected during the year, and this information was supplied. Motion for adoption of annual report and financial statement carried.

Mr. A. Chappel was appointed Returning Officer in connection with the election of officers and declared the following elected for the ensuing term:—President, Mr. M. H. McDonough; Vice-President, Mr. A. N. Morgan; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. E. J. Craigie; Assistant and Minute Secretary, Mr. T. E. Craigie. Mr. McDonough thanked members for the confidence shown in re-electing him for a further term, and intimated his intention of doing all in his power for the movement. The other officers also returned thanks for their election. It was resolved on the motion of Mr. A. Chappel, seconded by Mr. Penny, that a letter expressing the appreciation of members be sent to Mr. F. Thompson for his services as honorary auditor to the league. An interesting budget of correspondence was received.

Mr. A. S. Bayly reported that preliminary meetings in connection with the Study Circle had been held, and the opening meeting of the course would be held on the following Tuesday. He regretted that at times like these there was so much apathy and indifference among the people concerning the vital things of life. He was hopeful that some of the class members would open classes in the suburbs, and thus assist themselves as well as the other members. Report adopted. Mr. Smyth asked if the embargo on the sale of literature at the Botanic Park had been lifted by the Board, and enquiries are to be made. Accounts passed for payment. One new member elected.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed change in the form of the *People's Advocate*. It was resolved that a change be made to bring the paper in line with the papers published in the other States. A committee consisting of Messrs. Bayly, Penny and Morgan was appointed to read a

manuscript submitted for publication and report back to the league meeting.

Mr. L. A. Ellis thought a special effort should be made to increase the membership of the league. It should not be difficult for each member to get one new member each year, and if this were done it would double our membership and increase our propaganda effort. He was supported by Messrs. T. E. Craigie, R. M. Smyth, A. Chappel, A. S. Bayly and M. H. McDonough. It was resolved that all members be invited through the columns of the People's Advocate to aid in this membership drive. Mr. T. Hubbard proposed and Mr. H. F. Penny seconded a motion for the printing of 3,000 copies of "The Story of Archimedes," which was regarded as being excellent for propaganda purposes. Items of interest were discussed and meeting declared closed.

NEXT LEAGUE MEETING, TUESDAY, JUNE 28, at 8.

Financial Statement for the year ended May 23, 1938.

RECEIPTS		£.	s.	d.
Cash in hand b/f		54	12	3
League Subscriptions		106	8	8
Savings Bank Interest		1	13	3
Subsidy, Henry George Foundation		240	0	0
Literature		42	1	2
Henry George Social (1936)		0	3	0
Henry George Commemoration Dinner		12	15	0
Interest Received, Redfern Bequest		102	10	0
Interest Received, Henry George Society Ltd.		32	3	6
Land & Liberty		2	13	10
Land & Freedom		0	10	8
The Standard		1	0	0
The People's Advocate		22	6	10
Eyre Fighting Fund		15	18	6
Chaffey Fighting Fund		14	5	6
Miscellaneous		1	9	0
		£644	11	7
EXPENDITURE		£.	s.	d.
Salaries		304	15	0
Donation to Henry George Society		39	0	0
Commission and Exchange		1	7	5
Postage and Telephone		39	6	11
Henry George Commemoration Dinner		11	3	0
Lighting		2	7	5
Miscellaneous		4	17	2
Printing and Advertising		117	5	9
Literature		1	5	0
Land & Liberty		2	10	7
Land & Freedom		0	15	6
The Standard		0	19	6
Office Requisites		14	13	11
Eyre Fighting Fund		15	18	6
Chaffey Fighting Fund		14	5	6
		570	11	2
Cash in Bank		74	0	5
		£644	11	7

Audited and found correct with books, vouchers and cash produced.

(Signed) F. THOMPSON, Auditor.

May 30, 1938.

## NATIONAL INSURANCE

At the request of the Democratic Women's League, Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., addressed that organisation on "The Economic Effect of National Insurance" on Friday, June 17. The president (Mrs. Jeanne F. Young) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The address was followed with great interest, and at the close there was a big number of questions. A vote of thanks to the speaker, moved by Mrs. Polkinghorne, seconded by Mrs. Newton, was carried by acclamation.

## THE OPEN FORUM

Question.—The Henry George School of Social Science has received a charter from the University of New York. Would it be possible to hold such classes in Australian Universities?

Answer.—Application has been made to the Workers' Educational Association, an extension of the Adelaide University, for the establishment of a class for the study of political economy as outlined in "Progress and Poverty." A reply was received stating there was a class in general economics and that at present there was no arrangement made for study along the line suggested.

Question.—The gross value of Australia having grown from nil to approximately £900,000, which represents a capital value of £1,400,000; and the National Debt from nil to £1,262,971,884. Are there any relation between these two figures?

Answer.—A large portion of the money raised by way of loans has been expended on social services of various kinds. These were necessary because of the presence of the people. The rent of land also comes into existence by reason of the presence of the people, therefore there is a definite relationship between the two. This is very marked in South Australia, where the land values amount to £105,000,000, and the Debt to £108,000,000. The land values work out at £180 per head of population, and the Debt at £184 per head. If a correct system of financing social services had been adopted at the beginning of the State there would then have been no need for a National Debt, as the rent of land is sufficient to defray the cost of all NECESSARY government.

Question.—It is frequently asserted that it is unjust to collect the rent of land for public purposes; and that to do so would be to place a heavy burden upon wealth producers, particularly those in the rural areas who have vast areas of land. Is there any truth in this assertion?

Answer.—No. The essential justice of collecting land rent for public purposes cannot be disputed, for the simple reason that the value of land is not a value arising from any individual's own effort. It is a value that arises purely from the presence of the people and from the growth and development of the whole community. It is thus a value that society—the Government—itself creates, and in all justice and morality therefore belongs to the Government. This has been recognised by every economist of repute from the physiocrats of a century and a half ago down to the economists of the present time.

Adam Smith in his "Wealth of Nations" (book 1, ch. 11) wrote: "Every improvement in the circumstances of the society tends either directly or indirectly to raise the real rent of land, to increase the real wealth of the landlord, his power of purchasing the labor or the produce of the labor of the people."

Professor Thorold Rogers in his "Six Centuries of Work and Wages" said: "Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway and road, every betterment in the general condition of society, every facility given to production, every stimulus to consumption, raises rent."

Also John Stuart Mill, "Principles of Political Economy" (book V, ch. 2, sec. 5), stated: "The ordinary progress of society which increases in wealth is at all times tending to augment the incomes of landlords; to give them a greater amount of wealth of the community independently of any trouble or outlay incurred by themselves. They grow

richer as it were in their sleep, without working, risking, or economising."

Henry George in his writings has made the justice of taking land rent for public purposes abundantly clear, and it is pleasing to find that so many of the orthodox economists agree with him on this point.

Since the value of land is thus a population-made value, and hence entirely unearned by the individual, it is unquestionably just that it should not be left with any individual but should be taken into the public treasury and used to defray the cost of government. When this is done there is no need to tax the value which is due to the private effort of labor and capital, and this unjust taxation could be abolished.

With regard to the second part of the question as to the effect on primary producers of taking land rent for public purposes, they, in common with all producers, would gain by the adoption of such a policy. Under the present system heavy taxes are levied upon everything needed by wealth producers. This is done by means of tariff legislation. In addition, income, motor, stamp, amusement, sales and probate taxes are levied upon their earnings, with the result that in many districts production is not possible on a payable basis. To abolish these taxes and take land rent to meet the cost of government will benefit all, with the exception of the few who profit through land monopoly. Although the farmer has a large AREA of land, its VALUE is low as compared with land in the busy centres of industry. Therefore the primary producers have all to gain by a change on the lines suggested.

**Question.**—It is frequently argued that under the policy of collecting ground rent for governmental purposes, great benefit would accrue to country residents, as land values are lower in the country than in the metropolitan area. Is there not a real danger in the fact that city storekeepers would pass on the tax or rent in higher prices for goods which country people would have to pay, and thus would not get the benefit anticipated?

**Answer.**—Opponents of the land value principle frequently warn country people against giving support to our sound economic policy on the ground that if applied to the high value sites in the city, prices would immediately rise, as the tax or rent would be passed on. This statement is fallacious, as it is not possible for those in possession of land to pass on the payment of rent to anyone else. It cannot be passed on either to a tenant in the form of higher rent, or to a consumer in the form of higher prices for goods. The reason for this is that the payment of the annual rent will fall upon idle and undeveloped lands as well as upon those lands which are in use. The pressure upon the owners of the vacant lands will therefore tend to induce them either to use their land or to allow others who will to secure possession. In any event the keener competition among the land speculators to get rid of their land will effectively prevent higher rents from being charged on ground that is already in service.

Lest it should be thought that the collection of land rent is similar to a tax upon industry and its products and will only result in passing the burden on to the tenant or consumer, it will be interesting to see what the masters of economic science have said on this point.

"A tax on commodities is always transferred to the consumer. A tax on rent cannot be transferred." (Professor Thorold Rogers, "Political Economy," p. 285).

"A tax upon rent is borne solely by the owner of the land." (Bascom, "Treatise," p. 159).

"A tax levied in proportion to the rent of land and varying with every variation of rents . . . will fall wholly on the landlords." (Walker, "Political Economy," p. 413).

"A tax on rents falls wholly on the landlord. There are no means by which he can shift the burden upon anyone else." (John Stuart Mill, "Principles of Political Economy," Book V, ch. 2, sec. 2).

"A tax on rent would affect rent only; it would fall wholly on landlords, and could not be shifted." (Ricardo, "Principles of Political Economy and Taxation," ch. 10, sec. 62).

"Though the landlord is in all cases the real contributor, the tax is commonly advanced by the tenant, to whom the landlord is obliged to allow it in payment of rent." (Adam Smith, "Wealth of Nations," Book V, ch. 2, art. 1).

"A tax on ground rent cannot be shifted upon the tenant by increasing the rent." (C. B. Fillebrown, "ABC of Taxation," p. 31).

"Not only the entire school of Ricardo and Mill, but also nine-tenths or more of other economic writers make it a fundamental doctrine of their science that such a tax can never be transferred to tenants." (Thomas G. Shearman, "Natural Taxation," p. 130).

"If land is taxed according to its pure rent, virtually all writers since Ricardo agree that the tax will fall wholly on the landowner, and that it cannot be shifted to any other class, whether tenant, farmer, or consumer." (E. R. A. Seligman, "Incidence of Taxation," p. 222).

Such unanimity of opinion among the economists should convince the most sceptical that there is no means whereby a tax on land values, or land rent, can be passed on as suggested by opponents of the measure. If it could be passed on as claimed, there would not be such fierce opposition manifested against the proposal.

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# THE STORY OF ARCHIMEDES

(By Twark Main)

"Give me whereon to stand," said Archimedes, "and I will move the earth." The boast was a pretty safe one, for he knew quite well that the standing place was wanting, and always would be wanting. But suppose he had moved the earth, what then? What benefit would it have been to anybody? The job would not have paid working expenses, let alone dividends, and so what was the use of talking about it. From what astronomers tell us, I should reckon that the earth moved quite fast enough already, and if there happened to be a few cranks who were dissatisfied with its rate of progress, as far as I am concerned, they might push it along themselves. I could not move a finger nor subscribe a penny-piece to assist anything of the kind. Why such a fellow as Archimedes should be looked upon as a genius I never could understand; I never heard that he made a pile, or did anything else worth talking about. As for that last contract he took in hand, it was the worst bungle I ever knew; he undertook to keep the Romans out of Syracuse; he tried first one dodge and then another, but they got in after all, and when it came to fair fighting he was out of it altogether, a common soldier in a very business-like sort of way settling all his pretensions.

## The Force of Land Monopoly.

It is evident that he was an over-rated man. He was in the habit of making a lot of fuss about his screws and levers, but his knowledge of mechanics was in reality of very limited character. I have never set up for a genius myself, but I know of a mechanical force more powerful than anything the vaunting engineer of Syracuse ever dreamt of. It is the force of land monopoly! It is screw and a lever in one; it will screw the last penny out of a man's pocket and will move everything on earth to its own despotic will. Give me the private ownership of all the land, and—will I move the earth? No, but I will do more. I will undertake to make slaves of all the human beings on the face of it. Not chattel slaves, exactly, but slaves nevertheless. What an idiot I would be to make chattel slaves of them. I would have to find them salts and senna when they were sick, and whip them to work when they were lazy. No, it is not good enough. Under the system I propose the fools would imagine they were all free. I would get a maximum of results, and have no responsibility whatever. They would cultivate the soil; they would dive into the bowels of the earth for its hidden treasures; they would build cities and construct railways and telegraphs; their ships would navigate the ocean; they would work and work, and invent and contrive; their warehouses would be full, their market glutted, and—

"The beauty of the whole concern would be  
The wealth they made would all belong to me."

## How It Works

It would come about in this way. As I owned all the land, they would, of course, have to pay me rent. They could not reasonably expect me to allow them the use of the land for nothing. I am not a hard man, and in fixing the rent I would be very liberal with them. I would allow them, in fact, to fix it themselves. What could be fairer? Here is a piece of land, let us say, it might be a building site, or it might be something else—if there was only one man who wanted it, of course he would not offer me much, but if the land be worth anything at all, such a circumstance

is not likely to happen. On the contrary, there would be a number who would want it, and they would go on bidding one against the other in order to get it. I should accept the highest offer. What could be fairer? Every increase of population, extension of trade, every advance in the arts and sciences would, as we all know, increase the value of the land, and the competition that would naturally arise would continue to force rents upward, so much in many cases that the tenants would have little or nothing left for themselves. In this case a number of those who were hard-pushed would seek to borrow, and as for those who were not hard-pushed, they would, as a matter of course, get the idea into their heads that if they only had more capital they could extend their operations, and thereby make their business more profitable.

## Advance to Landless

Here I am again. The very man they stand in need of; a regular benefactor of my species, and always ready to oblige them. With such an enormous rent roll I could furnish them with funds up to the full extent of the available security; they could not expect me to do more. As to interest, they could fix it themselves in precisely the same manner as they had fixed the rent, and as in the case of rent the highest offer would, of course, be accepted, everything below par being prudently declined. I should then have them by the wool, and if they failed in their payments it would be the easiest thing in the world to sell them out. They might bewail their lot, but business is business. They should have worked harder and been more provident; whatever inconvenience they might suffer, it would be their concern and not mine. What a glorious time I would have of it! Rent and interest, interest and rent, and no limit to either, excepting the ability of the workers to pay. Rents would go up and up, and they would continue to pledge and mortgage, and as they went bung, one after another, it would be the finest sport ever seen.

## Ownership of People

Thus, from the simple leverage of land monopoly, not only "the globe itself," but everything on the face of it would eventually belong to me, and the rest of mankind would be my obedient slaves. It hardly needs to be said that it would not be consistent with my dignity to associate with the common rank and file of humanity; it would not be politics to say so, but as a matter of fact, I not only hate work, I hate those who do work, and I would not have their stinking carcasses near me at any price. High above the contemptible herd I would sit enthroned amid a circle of devoted worshippers. I would choose for myself companions after my own heart. I would deck them with ribbons and gewgaws to tickle their vanity; they would esteem it an honour to kiss my glove, and would pay homage to the very chair I sat on; brave men would die for me, parsons would pray for me, and Bright-Eyed Beauty would pander to my pleasures.

## Law and Order

For the proper management of public affairs I would have a Parliament, and for the preservation of law and order there would be soldiers and policemen, all sworn to serve me faithfully; their pay would not be much, but their high sense of duty would be a sufficient guarantee that they would fulfil the terms of the contract. Outside the charmed circle of my society would be others eagerly pressing forward in the hope of sharing my favors; outside of these

would be others again, who would be for ever seeking to wriggle themselves into the ranks of those in front of them, and so on outward and downward until the deep ranks of the workers for ever toiling and for ever struggling merely to live, and with the hell of poverty for ever threatening to engulf them. The hell of poverty, that outer realm of darkness where there is weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth—the social Gehenna, where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched—there is a whip more effective by far than the keenest lash of the chattel slaveowner, urging them on by day, haunting their dreams by night, draining without stint, the lifeblood from their veins, and pursuing them with relentless constancy to their very graves. In the buoyancy of youth, many would start full of hope and with high expectations, but as they journeyed along, disappointment would follow disappointment, hope would gradually give place to despair, the promised cup of joy would be turned to bitterness, and the holiest affection would become a poisoned arrow quivering in the heart! What a beautiful arrangement—ambition urging in front, want and fear of want bringing up the rear.

### Cut Throat Competition

In the conflicting interests that would be involved, in the throat-cutting competition that would prevail, in the bitterness that would be engendered between man and man, husband and wife, father and son, I should, of course, have no part. There would be lying and cheating, harsh treatment by masters, dishonesty of servants, strikes and lock-outs, assaults and intimidation, family feuds and interminable broils; but they would not concern me. In the serene atmosphere of my earthly paradise, I would be safe from all evil. I would feast on the daintiest of dishes and sip wines of the choicest vintage. My gardens would have the most magnificent terraces and finest walks. I would roam 'mid the umbrageous foliage of the trees, the blooming flowers, the warbling of birds, the jetting of fountains, and the splashing of pellucid waters. My palace would have its walls of alabaster and domes of crystal; there would be furniture of the most exquisite workmanship, carpets and hangings of the richest patterns and choicest textures, carvings and paintings that were miracles of art, vessels of gold and silver, gems of the purest ray glittering in their settings, the voluptuous strains of the sweetest music, the perfume of roses, the softest of cushions, a horde of titled lackeys to come and do my bidding and a perfect galaxy of beauty to stimulate desire and administer to my enjoyment.

### The Result

Thus would I pass the happy hours away, while throughout the world it would be a hallmark of respectability to extol my virtue and anthems would be everywhere sung in my praise.

Archimedes never dreamt of anything like that. Yet, with the earth for my fulcrum and its ownership for my lever, it is all possible. If it should be said that the people would eventually detect the fraud, and with swift vengeance hurl me and all my courtly parasites to perdition, I answer:—"Nothing of the kind: the people are as good as gold, and would stand it like bricks, and I appeal to the facts of to-day to bear me witness."

Copies of "The Story of Archimedes" are available in pamphlet form for distribution. The price is 3/- per 100, or 6d. per dozen.

## POTATO CONTROL

Recently potato growers in the South East sent out S.O.S. signals to ascertain the views of members of Parliament as to the chance of a Potato Board being established in South Australia to control the marketing of potatoes. The experience of control in England is not such as would justify its adoption here. Dealing with the question in its April-May issue, "The Free Trader" said:

Our Potato Marketing Board has lately been congratulating itself on its smooth and profitable working, but it has recently struck a bad patch, and has asked the Board of Agriculture to permit it to tighten up its administration and increase its powers. "The Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Trades' Journal" sees in the new proposals "the completion of the Board's stranglehold on the industry. It is determined to act as supreme dictator over producer and distributor alike." The first amendment gives the power to increase the maximum penalty which the Board may impose on a registered producer in respect of incorrect statements NEGLIGENTLY or knowingly. "A slip in the measuring of a potato acreage, a clerical error on the part of those more at home with the plough and potato digger than with the pen, will swell the already bloated bank balance of the Board, and add still further to the weight of the stick with which the Board can belabour its vassal industry." Another amendment gives the Board the right "to clarify its powers" to buy surplus potatoes, and in due course to sell potatoes so purchased, "means in effect that it can buy and sell where it will, create whatever competition it desires, and remain impervious to the feeble protests of its victims." The "Journal" "regards the Potato Marketing Scheme and all other marketing schemes as among the greatest of post-war calamities." How can abundant home-production, which the Government says is so necessary in view of the wars, be furthered in the face of the restrictive policies these Boards?"

The experience of control wherever it has been tried has proved it a failure. It does not produce anything of a beneficial nature for the producers, but rather hampers and restricts their enterprise. Inevitably it has the effect of increasing the price to the consumer. South Australia would do well to profit by the experience of the Boards in the Old Land and have nothing to do with marketing control.

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