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Who am I that I should sell the land? I might have the right to sell my interest in the land, but who am I that I should sell my children's and my children's children's right to the land.-- Chief Black Hawk, Chief of Sac and Fox Indians.

The land must not be sold, for we do not believe that those who come before should have more than those who come after. -- Chief Joseph, Chief of the Nez Perce Indians.

The land is no man's property; none shall possess it as property. -- Tertullian, earliest of Latin Fathers.

THE SQUARE DEAL

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Ernest J. Farmer, Editor.

JOHANNISBURG REPORTS ON MUNICIPAL SINGLE TAX

In Johannesburg, South Africa, for the last 25 years City taxes have been levied on the land alone. In June 1944 the City Council appointed an independent Rating Committee to inquire into the incidence of municipal taxation, examining the land rating system and recommending whether buildings should be taxed and whether provision should be made for other methods of local taxation.

The majority report, brought in in July 1945, after dealing with the comparative merits of the present system of rating on site values and alternative methods proposed by various witnesses, recommends that there should be no change. "The system of rating on site values is the fairest."

The spokesmen of the Institute of Real Estate Agents, which made various proposals, agreed that site value rating tended to reduce slums; as site values went up the owners were tending to rebuild or sell; where there were more amenities the valuations increased; assessment rates should not be based upon income, the result would be to drive people from the towns.

In the evidence, written and oral, fully supporting the established system, the Johannesburg Chamber of commerce stated that land rating had achieved, and was achieving, its objects of beneficial land utilization; if improvements were taxed, building would be penalized and progressive members of the community who wanted to put up good buildings would be discouraged; basing rates on general increases of property owners would be most undesirable and would be impossible to achieve; specific services for which separate charges were made to consumers should not be financed or subsidized, except in special cases, from the rate fund, and services should not be used to subsidize the rate fund.

The result of the Committee's investigation is on all counts a triumphant vindication of the soundness, the beneficence and the justice of the land values policy. It should have a material influence in the advancement of the movement throughout South Africa and beyond. -- Land and Liberty, October, 1945.

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In a city such as Panama, or Havana, the vacant lots and unimproved neighborhoods were the localities which always gave us most sanitary trouble. I was soon convinced that if any scheme were brought about whereby it would be disadvantageous for speculators to hold vacant places out of use, this scheme would be of the greatest use to sanitation. -- Surgeon-General W. G. Gorgas, in an address to the Business Men's Club, in Cincinnati in 1914.

DOMINION 1945 BUDGET

Ernest J. Farmer

The Budget has been brought down, and as intimated in Mr. Owens' article in our last issue there is little relief for the taxpayer. It is only too evident that the income tax is to be a permanent feature of Canada's budget. In the Appendix to the Budget speech -- the appendix being the voice of the Finance Minister's officials -- the following appears: --

A feature again prominent in the tax revenue of the year was the large proportion derived from direct taxation of income. This form of taxation is generally recognized as being most equitable. Under the individual income tax it is possible to impose taxation measured approximately by ability to pay, while direct levies on corporations under the corporation and excess profit taxes assure that abnormal and unreasonable profits are not made from war production. The proportion of tax revenue derived from direct taxes in 1944-45 was 62. as compared with 32.6% in 1938-39, the last pre-war year.

Under the ability-to-pay (or inability-to-dodge) principle, which is the departmental chart and compass, it is not surprising to have the Minister of Finance say: "I think there is no doubt that the personal income tax in the post-war period will continue to occupy a major place in our taxation structure." The Finance Minister, however, has misgivings: he continues: "I am impressed -- with the great and harmful effect which our present high personal income tax is having in discouraging work and initiative in all groups at a time when we need a rapid expansion of employment and a willing mobility of labor." He then announces that the personal income tax will be abated 16 per cent., roughly decreased one-sixth. The Minister, however, forecasts in the near future "a thorough overhaul of the whole rate structure of the personal income tax," based, of course, on the premise of its continuing to occupy a major place in our tax economy. The alternative, of course, -- which has not yet occurred to our budgeteers -- would be to divert the billion dollars a year, which we pay to the holders of land titles for permission to live and work on Mother Earth, to the public treasury instead.

The present income tax retains a flagrant injustice of recent Budgets. Among the rates in force from July 1944 to October 1945 are such as the following:

Unmarried persons without dependents: Income of \$660, no tax; income of \$810, tax \$48; income of \$960, tax \$79. The person with the \$960 income pays \$48 on the first \$150 above the exemption and only \$31 on the next \$150.

Married persons without dependents: Income of \$1,200, no tax; income of \$1,500, tax \$98; income of \$1,800, tax \$170. The person

With the \$1,800 income pays \$98 on the first \$300 above the exemption and only \$72 on the next \$300. The income tax reduction, being that percentage of the tax, does nothing to correct this injustice.

Tariff changes are postponed; but one of the best things in the budget is the abolition of the exchange tax on imports from the U. S. The Henry George Society was unfortunate enough to import over 100 books just before the abolition of this tax was announced.

The Finance Minister has somewhat mitigated the evil of the sales tax, one of the taxes termed highly regressive by the Sirois Report. Bearing in mind that the Government has put itself on record as intending to abolish all regressive taxes at some time in the future the Minister confesses to being impressed "with the extent to which the sales tax" is having a discouraging effect on the rapid and efficient modernization of our productive equipment". So he proposes to remove taxes which result in higher costs in the case of firms who are about to make extensive investments in plant, machinery and equipment in the transition from war to peace industry. Although the loss from this concession is estimated at \$30 million, receipts from sales tax are expected to be \$15 million more than in the present fiscal year. The Finance Minister closes his discussion of the sales tax with this statement:

There will be later periods when reduction of taxes on the classes of consumer commodities subject to tax will be more necessary and will have a more beneficial effect than now.

It is encouraging to note the official admission of defects in the tax structure and of their harmful effects. It would be interesting to review the arguments used when the sales tax was instituted and to see how they panned out. The Government has made a gesture towards saner economics in its tax concessions, but we still await the proposed "bolder solutions."

A CORRECTION

In the article "A Grave National Menace" on page 2 of the last number of THE SQUARE DEAL, an error crept in, due to the misreading or misunderstanding of an account of a meeting of the Ottawa Property Owners' Association: namely, that Mr. H. G. Barber was President of that body. While now a member, Mr. Barber has not at any time been President.

It remains clear, however, that many local Property Owners' are of much less reactionary type than the Toronto one; but that the Canadian Federation is largely dominated by the reactionary Associations, and by the Toronto Property-Owners' Association in particular; and that through the Federation the resources of all such Associations are likely to be used for anti-social ends.

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The Lord giveth and the landlord taketh away. -- A Chicago newspaper man.

BECAUSE

Donald Murray

Because of private ownership of land we have in Australia, with a population of less than eight millions, an unemployed problem, although the country should be able to support many millions more.

Because of land monopoly we have an Arbitration Court sitting in solemn conclave to decide upon exactly how little a man, his wife and a fractional family can just keep alive.

Because of land monopoly we have thousands of parents distraught with anxiety over the future of their children, seeing little prospect of their earning a reasonable living on an overstocked labor market.

Because of land monopoly we have "Preference to Unionists", "Preference to Returned Soldiers", and discrimination against aliens, these being necessitated because there are not enough jobs to go round.

Because of land monopoly we have Governments making work for unemployed men and the taxpayer meeting the bill.
Because of land monopoly we have crime inspired by fear of want and social insecurity.

Because of land monopoly all the benefits of post-war reconstruction will ultimately find their way into the landowners' pockets. This is necessarily so because the more progress made the more the landowner is able to rake off. Where some appropriate that which they do not earn, others who do the work must accept less than they earn.

Because of land monopoly industry and energy are severely handicapped.

Because of land monopoly we have great wealth side by side with grinding poverty.

Because of land monopoly we have goods unsaleable while those who need the goods are unable to purchase them.

The cure is simple, direct and effective; but only the people can compel the Government to apply the cure. Only the votes of the parents who desire social security for their children in a free land; only the votes of the men who desire freedom from the giant spectre of unemployment can force the hands of our legislatures. So long as our politicians waste their energies on party politics and their own interests we have no hope of reform. The ballot box is the only weapon the politician fears.

The men who have left their peace-time occupations to risk their all in our defence are worthy of every consideration. Are they to be asked to pay monopoly prices for a piece of the land they defended? Are they to return to a land still held firmly in the grip of land monopoly? These are questions which will be asked after the war, not on Australia only. -- From "Australia: Poverty or Progress?" Henry George Foundation of Australia, Melbourne, 6d.

WIDESPREAD LAND REDISTRIBUTION

H. T. Owens

The cataclysm of 1939-45 has brought many countries to the consideration of primary questions. These crystallize around land tenure. The news carries pregnant items. "Estates in Saxony Divided by Russians" is one headline, and the item reads: "by autumn of this year all the big estates in Saxony will be broken up and given to small farmers." Under the Russian occupation and the Lublin government the large estates in Poland were confiscated. Tito's government in Yugoslavia has done the same thing. In the early years of Czecho-Slovakia and under the Venizelos regime in Greece, large estates were cut down, while in the Russian revolution land was forcibly nationalized. Liquidation of the great landed estates will be effected wherever Russia has a paramount interest in Eastern Europe. When Premier T. V. Soong of China visited Ottawa recently he told correspondents that land reform is one of the tenets of the Kuomintang government, and remarked: "We had already embarked on land reform before the war." A spokesman for Turkey has said that a move is on foot there to break up the large estates. In "People on Our Side", Edgar Snow tells us that in Outer Mongolia, now known as Mongolian People's Republic, "the state owns the land, which formerly was the property of lamas and princes", and that both farmland and pastures are given rent-free to the people for their own use. He says further that "every Mongol is entitled to the free use of a hectare of land for farming purposes provided he cultivates it."

So much for countries where the leaven has been working. But what about those where no such move has been made? Mr. Snow pictures India as a country where 90 per cent of the peasants are serfs or bondslaves for a few million zemindars or landlords. One of the sore spots to the British when Burma had to be evacuated was that the great majority of the Burmese did not lift a finger to aid the British Raj. No less an authority than Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has said the reason for that situation was that, under British rule, zemindars from India had bought up the bulk of the rice-lands in the fertile valleys of Burmah, and had so rackrented the Burmese that their resentment against the rulers who had allowed that condition to develop made them prone to listen to the blandishments of independence offered them by the Japanese. The present plight of the Japanese people in their own homeland is due not only to the militarists but also to the feudal landowners of Japan, and one wonders if General Douglas MacArthur, or the Commission to be set up on East Asia control, will be enlightened enough to tackle the land question in Japan. Korea, which is to be independent in the new Pacific set-up, has heretofore been a paradise for landlords, both Korean and Japanese. It is to be hoped that Korean freedom will not be merely the freedom to live under new landlords.

All of which is only to say that the land question is paramount everywhere -- even in Canada.

THE MINISTRY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

J. A. Martin

For some years I have had the idea that a very fertile field almost entirely unworked lay fallow in the Christian ministry. I have set myself to the task of trying to cultivate it with no very adequate means of contact, except that of personal contacts in the ministry; and I find those whom I have been able to reach rather woefully ignorant of any fundamental economics. I have made some efforts to get the announcements of the Henry George School before the conferences of the synods of the churches when they meet. As almost all of these assemblies devote some part of their time to a discussion of the subject of Social Problems, it would seem wise to seize these occasions. -- Henry George News.

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Instead of trying to adapt the teachings of Jesus to the machine age, people should adapt the machine age to the teachings of Jesus. -- Rev. D. C. MacTavish, in the Henry George News.

MONOPOLY

The late Pierpont Morgan said when he had completed his shiping monopoly: "We are the advanced Socialists; we have discovered that combination, not competition, means success in trade, and we are going to take the profits of combination until the people are sufficiently intelligent to take the profits for themselves."

Well, the people are sufficiently intelligent, that is why we are going to have a nationalized air service run for the people by the people and in the interests of the people. -- New Zealand Railway Review.

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What we misleadingly call 'capitalism' is a system in which privileges are much more important than capital, bringing in much greater incomes than does capital; a system in which privileges are bought and sold like capital, and commonly spoken of as if they were capital. -- Arthur Black Farmer.

Give the people full freedom, give them access to the soil and capital will be their assistant and not their enemy. They will determine their own wages. All the concentrated capital in the world cannot stop grain and textiles from growing or the cows from giving milk. -- T. O. Thompson in "The Progressive" (Madison Wis.)

Nothing on earth can compete with men working for themselves in freedom. Wherever free men have confronted slaves, whether in war or in industry, the free men have always won. There have been no exceptions. -- Dr. L. R. Coleman, reported in "The Argus" (Melbourne) May 31, 1945.

ENDORSEMENT OF MR. COWAN

G. M. Fowlds

When the report is published of the intensive inquiries carried out in the Dominion of New Zealand by Mr. H. Bronson Cowan, formerly Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture, some startling results will be established. After nearly two years in New Zealand and many months in Australia, Mr. Cowan has probably made the most methodical study of rating ever undertaken anywhere. Mr. Cowan was sent abroad by a body of citizens in Canada and the United States to investigate the penal effect of rating improvements and the results of exempting the same. His deductions, which were assisted by information supplied by Government and local body officials, support an unanswerable case for the system of removing rates from improvements. Many of these officers were previously indifferent or opposed to the system but when shown the facts as set out on the 20 provisional reports which Mr. Cowan has sent back to his principals have concurred in practically all his findings.

SOME RESULTS OF SINGLE TAX IN NEW ZEALAND

A few years after the death of the Rt. Hon. R. J. Seddon, (Liberal Premier of New Zealand for 13 years), a Swedish economist, Johan Hansson, visited New Zealand to investigate our rating system, and he published a book -- now out of print -- giving the incidence of land value rating. He found as follows: --

The population of the towns that had adopted rating on the unimproved values had increased by 29 per cent while the population of the towns remaining on the older system had increased by only 15.9 per cent, just about half.

The value of improvements in towns rating on the unimproved value had increased by 82.3 per cent as against only 36 per cent for the others.

The land values in the towns that had adopted Unimproved Value rating had increased by 105.2 per cent as against only 51.9 per cent, again an advantage for U. V. rating of about fifty per cent. -- Commonwealth of New Zealand, May-June, 1945.

FARMLAND PRICES

In the old-dustbowl area land is now selling from 100 per cent to 300 per cent above the 1939-40 prices, and over 50 per cent above the previous peak reached in 1928. Black prairie land around Dallas, Texas, is bringing 25 per cent above 1939 prices. In the Tennessee Valley area there is a general rise of 30 to 100 per cent in farm values. An operator of a small farm near Knoxville, Louis Hefferbert, cites this history of one 77-acre farm: "In 1941 it sold for \$1,800. Ten years later that man sold it for \$3,600. The man who bought it in 1941 sold it last year for \$5,200, and that buyer refused \$6,500 for it this year. -- Henry George News.

OTTAWA NEWS

H. T. Owens

On October 17 the Ottawa Society had the great pleasure of a visit from Rev. W. Wylie Young, of Batavia, N. Y., who has done some outstanding work on Georgist lines across the border. Mr. Young finds it compatible with his Christian ministry to conduct or sponsor study groups in Henry George economics in his own congregation, and in his address he told of his success in that project and also of the reactions from Presbyterian ministers in the United States to a series of ten letters he had sent to some 8,000 of them. Some replies, he said, were adverse, but the great majority welcomed and acknowledged the enlightenment and many bought "Progress and Poverty" or enrolled in correspondence courses. Mrs. Young accompanied her husband. From Ottawa they went to Montreal to fulfil an engagement there.

A group studying "Progress and Poverty" enrolled at the home of Mr. H. G. Barber on October 18 and is holding up well. Mr. W. S. Bond is assisting in the study sessions.

MONTREAL NEWS

Strethel Walton

Henry George School of Montreal held a very successful meeting October 18th, in the Emmanuel Church Hall, on the occasion of the visit of the Rev. W. Wylie Young to Montreal. Mr. Young's talk on "When Liberty is Real" was heard by a large and enthusiastic audience who were inspired by his oratory and his clear explanation of the philosophy of George. Both members of the School who understand the philosophy and their friends who do not felt that Mr. Young had given them a great deal on which to think. Mrs. Young accompanied her husband to Montreal, and they were entertained at dinner by members of the School and after the meeting were taken on a moonlight tour of the city.

There are two classes at present in "Progress and Poverty" and another about to start. The Public Speaking Club which was formed last spring is proving a big success in training speakers.

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Of all the great thinkers, I consider Henry George the most original, the most penetrating and daring, the most Christlike the Occident has ever produced. It is worse than useless to try to solve the economic problems of the world, to set up a government, to try to organize an enduring peace, or think one thought about social problems without being familiar with "Progress and Poverty." -- Salom Rizk, author of "Syrian Yankee" and other popular books.

HAMILTON NEWS

R. Wynne

John Wilson has a class of about twelve at St. Enoch's Presbyterian church every Wednesday. There is a class of seven in "Protection or Free Trade, led by Howard Stobbs, at the I. O. F. every Tuesday. There is a class now forming in Westdale, organized by Frank Greensides and W. F. McQueen. They hope to start soon.

The first six of the Wylie Young letters have gone out to about 40 ministers. Next week, graduates will follow up with interviews with the recipients.

Three graduates are taking public speaking courses at W. E. A classes. The press writers to the editors are exceptionally busy. There is a real letter war going on, with the Georgists decidedly gaining the upper hand.

OTHER CANADIAN NEWS

On November 5th Controller Stewart Smith presented to the Toronto Board of Control a brief, in which he charged that "in city assessments measurement of value has been replaced by guess-work. The net result appears to be a gross discrimination against the home owner in general and especially against the small home owner." Among the Controller's recommendations were "that tax maps be made at least for downtown areas; land value maps be prepared for the whole city; and definite rules be made for estimating depth, corner and alley influence."

Soon after assuming office, the present Saskatchewan Government imposed certain taxation upon mineral rights, held principally by the C. P. R. and the Hudson's Bay Co., within the Province. The interested parties promptly made an attempt to have the legislation annulled by the Dominion Government. The Saskatchewan Government retained Lewis Duncan, K. C., former Controller of Toronto, to oppose the annulment. At last word, the Minister of Justice had recommended against the use of the power of annulment; so apparently the taxation, greatly needed to restrict the holding idle of mineral resources, will be applied.

Some time ago the B. C. Legislature appointed a Commissioner of Enquiry re Education-Finance, whose findings the present government has promised to implement. The Victoria Henry George Club presented a brief to the Commissioner, and the Square Deal Editor wrote him a strong letter pointing out the comparative effects of basing educational costs on land and of basing them on improvements. The Commissioner nevertheless brought in a report recommending a tax of five mills on land values and on 75 per cent of improvement values. As B. C. municipal taxes, heretofore including the greater part of educational costs, have been levied in proportions on improvement

PERSONALIA

Rev. D. C. McTavish, of Telfordville, Alta. visited the Henry George School of Social Science in New York in October. Mr. McTavish is the author of a booklet "Individualism versus Socialism", in which most that is of importance on the subject is stated in 40 pages. It was mainly through his efforts that the village of Sanguedo, Alta., adopted municipal single tax some time ago.

David Farmer became the father of a vigorous healthy daughter on Nov. 7th. (The Editor is thus raised to the status of a granddad.)

Albert Emby has moved from Oshawa to 66 Brock Ave., Brantford.

THE SACRED LANDHOG

George Cartwright

Few but gamblers in land realize how a tax capitalized cuts wages and raises rents. All public services, city, state and federal, and all public projects increase land rent, sale value of which is mortgage debt. Each \$1000 annual revenue raised by higher parking meter or toilet tax, sale tax or gasoline tax, when money is worth 4 per cent, will make land worth an increase of \$25,000. That increase, sooner or later, arrives as a debt businessmen must pay rent upon to landholders.

In 1947 a lot, 9-10ths of an acre, in San Francisco sold for \$37.50. Taxes paid by consumers, homebuilders, etc. enabled landholder to retain it unused until 1926. In that year it leased for 99 years at \$10,000 a month to a skyscraper building concern. Some 2500 users of that building, doctors, lawyers, accountants, engineers, etc. have their wages cut \$10,000 a month for 99 years.

Concurrently, Modesto Irrigation District residents pay 90 per cent of district's revenue in power and light bills, so landholders may pay less than 10 per cent in water tax. In the wilderness the Israelites worshipped the golden calf; the Parsees of India worship the sacred cow, and we in America worship the sacred swine, the tax free landhog who pays not a penny tax on unused land, for this world war or the last -- all of which is in the cost of our living.

-- Farmer-Labor News, Modesto, Calif., Nov. 2, 1945.

Legislature last year; Mr. F. W. Davey has promised to send the addresses of all new members so that copies may be sent to them.

U. S. NEWS

The HCSSS in New York is holding 14 classes weekly at the School headquarters, besides six advanced classes. The number of classes in different neighborhoods increases continually. A number of showings of the film "Millions of Jobs" have been made in different localities; a showing at the Educational Alliance, a settlement house at 197 East Broadway, was attended by more than 500 people. A good many have been influenced by this film to take up the study of Fundamental Economics.

Of 100 classes planned in Chicago and suburbs for the fall term, 88 actually opened, with an enrollment of 757 -- a large advance over any previous term. Women students are slightly in the majority. In addition to these, there is a teachers' training class of 26.

Newark, N. J. opened its term with 25 classes in Fundamental Economics; Los Angeles with 21, with an enrollment exceeding 300; Philadelphia and St. Louis report 9 classes each, Boston 6 and San Diego 4. Fresh extensions are opening in all parts of the country.

ENCOURAGING VOTE IN AUSTRALIA

On August 24th Oakleigh, Victoria, Australia, which voted to adopt municipal single tax in 1921, voted on the question of reverting to the taxation of buildings. The Mayor and Council went to extremes to give the land speculators every unfair advantage in the voting, but the single tax system was upheld by a vote of 1761 to 587 -- exactly three to one. Councillor De La Rue, one of the active advocates of the land speculators, was badly defeated in the election for Council held on the same day, and the Mayor escaped defeat only through the absentee postal vote, which plays an important (and injurious) part in Victoria civic elections.

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All the observations I have made in other countries have confirmed me in the fundamental principles I learned in the Henry George School. -- Major Wm. Quasha, member of General MacArthur's staff.