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Judge John R. Fuchs, New Braunfels, Texas, states:
 "The Supreme Court has sometimes held that a grant of land is a contract, but fortunately it has always held that the State may collect the full rental value from the grantee without impairing the obligation of any contract. Any enlargement of a land grant beyond a mere privilege would constitute the relinquishing of sovereign power, and our government cannot validly abdicate the sovereign power of the people. No one but government can grant a private title to land for the fundamental reason that the land belongs to the people. -- Farmer-Labor News, Modesto Calif.

There is something wonderful about a chrome-fixtured swimming pool with Marx's Das Kapital in the tiled edge being spattered occasionally with a drop of scented water. -- Bill Mauldin, in Back Home.

THE SQUARE DEAL

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THE KINGDOM ON EARTH

CHRIST'S OBJECT IN LIFE. By John C. Lincoln. Published privately, 1947. 134 pp. \$1.50. Available from the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th St., New York.

Judged by higher standards than the mere amassing of a huge fortune, John C. Lincoln is one of the most successful industrialists in the United States. In Christ's Object in Life he brings the same keen mentality and independence of thought which brought him success in business to an analysis of the aims and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Of all Biblical and theological literature, Mr. Lincoln attaches the greatest importance to the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke -- men most intimately in contact with Christ and his immediate disciples. Theories derived from later writings, and inconsistent with Christ's own teachings, he is prepared to reject.

The following quotations are merely suggestive of the content of the book -- one which, in Bacon's words, is to be "chewed and digested": --

"If Jesus were to appear in Palestine today, and in less than three years persuade the majority of the Jews there to use his method in their dispute with the Arabs, everyone would recognize a marvellous achievement. Was it any less marvellous to get the support he had from the Jews at the time of the triumphal entry?"

"We are willing to make Jesus a divine being instead of a human being, but we are not willing to take his word for it that successful living with our neighbors can only occur if we treat them the way we should like to be treated. Maybe sometime the penalties which the breaking of the moral law inflicts will bring us to our senses."

"When he said that in order to inherit eternal life we had to treat other people the way the Good Samaritan treated the victim of the robbers, he laid down a rule that has been in general too difficult for Christendom to accept... Apparently it was easier for Athanasius and the others who formulated the Nicean creed to persecute people who did not believe that Christ was part of the Godhead as Athanasius taught than it was to treat them according to the Golden Rule."

"If someone were to appear in Georgia and Mississippi and persuade a majority of the people there, in less than three years, to treat the Negroes in the way the Good Samaritan treated the victim of the robbers, would not the gang which now prospers by fanning the hatred and prejudice which exists between the whites and Negroes do anything they could to get rid of him?"

CONFERENCE IN DERBYSHIRE

The Week-end Conference at Matlock Bath, Derbyshire, May 21st-23rd brought together Georgists from many parts of England and Wales, several from Denmark and Norway, and one, Mr. N. E. Dangoor, from Iraq.

The opening session was devoted to "Recent Legislation and Future Prospects." Mr. A. W. Madsen showed how closely Tory and Socialist Governments had followed the same policies; catering first of all to the landlord interests, reimposing taxes repressive of industry and maintaining protectionist policies. The Hill Farming Act and the Agricultural Act with their doles and subsidies were flagrantly landlord measures, coupled in the last case with a terrifying regimen of Socialist control of the farmer's business.

Mr. Bue Bjoerner told something of the history of the Georgist movement in Denmark. At first people were opposed to the idea; then they would "look into it", then it became a "good idea" and finally they said they "were always in favor of it". He spoke of the separate valuation of land and improvements as one of the things which had been of the greatest value in Denmark, and one of the things British Georgists should especially work for.

At the second session Mr. F. Dupuis spoke on "Economic Ignorance the Road to Social Suicide." He declared: "The ultimate arbiter in all social questions is the average man and woman. On the average level of his or her economic knowledge depends the salvation of society."

The remaining sessions were devoted largely to discussion of the educational work being done. Mrs. Caroline Bjoerner described the establishment of Henry George Schools in Denmark, with such success that there are now 200 teachers ready to take classes anywhere in the country. 12,000 copies of Progress and Poverty have been circulated. Incidentally, the only Danish edition of Marx's Das Kapital was one of 400 copies only.

It was announced that the next International Conference is to be held at The Hayes, in Swanwick, Derbyshire, August 14-21, 1949. The International Union has guaranteed a minimum attendance of two hundred.

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It is often said that "free enterprise is a system which works only when a country is rich enough to afford it." This is precisely the opposite of the truth. It is socialism and planned economics which are so wasteful that they cannot support themselves. -- The New Era, Dec. 19, 1947.

ENCOURAGING PESTS

Most Australian people consider rabbits to be a pest, but our politicians have other ideas. They tax the workers who trap rabbits. There is a road tax for those who cart the carcasses to the freezing works. The pretence is that such carters are taking traffic away from the railways, which don't pay on account of impossible conditions imposed by the politicians. Mr. Lawson, M. L. A. for Murray, complained about the tax and asked that it be removed so as to encourage trappers in exterminating the pest. The Minister said that other members had also complained and that he had given instructions to the department to examine the question with a view to the tax being waived for a trial period of three months. But why was such a ridiculous tax ever conjured up in the minds of politicians?

This is not the only tax imposed in support of the rabbit pest. There is a considerable demand overseas for rabbit skins, especially by the United States. In the colder weather when the rabbit skins are well-furred there is an export tax upon them. One would think that encouragement should be given to rabbit trappers with a view to helping to keep the pest down. But rabbit skins will earn dollars which are said to be urgently needed. Where is the intelligence and sincerity in our politicians when they tax the efforts to keep down a pest, and earn dollars at the same time? The position is the more serious now, because a bountiful season means that they are rapidly increasing. -- The Standard (Sydney) April 1948.

FINANCE VERSUS LAND

F. L. Brown

To tinker around with finance and leave the land problem untouched is just putting a plaster on a sore. The land question is fundamental and though you attain perfection in every other aspect of Government it will only make the agony longer drawn out, confusion worse confounded by failure to ensure perfection in that which is basic, that which underlies all wealth production, the land and man's equal inheritance therein.

The land is finite in quantity, but the wealth that may be produced from it is illimitable. Establish man's equal inheritance in the land by putting the land rent into man's treasury and you will have solved every economic problem, ensured lasting peace with and for the whole world. You have every sanction for such a step -- common sense, social, financial and religious. -- The Standard, April 1948.

THE TENTH PROVINCE

Ernest J. Farmer

The Island of Newfoundland (variously pronounced, but by its inhabitants New-fnd-land) is at one point but nine miles from the shore of Quebec. The part of the Labrador peninsula which is under the same administration is separated from Quebec by a line, little of which is surveyed. To Canadians who have thought of the matter at all, it seems anomalous that this colony, inhabited by people whom one might call "more Canadian than the Canadians", did not join the Dominion long ago. Confederation was indeed discussed by representatives of the two countries in 1867 and again in 1894, but no agreement was reached.

Recently however the question was reopened, and the upshot was that on July 22nd last Newfoundland voters decided by a slender majority that that country should become a Canadian Province. A few months earlier the people were offered three choices: government by a British Commission, independent responsible government, or union with Canada. As there was no clear majority for any of the three choices, this last vote was taken; the matter might have been settled on the first occasion, with much saving of time, trouble and expense, by a preferential vote.

The Canadian people were known generally to favor the union, but in such lukewarm fashion that a vote on the subject would have been excessively small. What little opposition was expressed generally took the form: "Why should we take over the taxes and poverty of that barren hunk of rock?" -- reminiscent of the famous "quelques arpents de neige." In Newfoundland opposition was stronger. Some feared loss of independence. Some said: "We are solvent now, why should we take over Canada's debts?" Some declared: "This is too good a country to give away; we should have got better terms."

There is really more point to the Canadian objection. Newfoundland living standards have been lower even than those of the unlucky Maritime Provinces (for the same reason that the latter have been lower than those of other parts of Canada.) Per capita production is small (though much improved in recent years) and distribution less equitable than in Canada generally. For some time at least, Federal expenditures upon social services in the new Province will exceed tax receipts.

The Dominion will be enlarged by an area of over 150,000 square miles, with a population of over 320,000 people of a type to be welcomed as fellow-citizens. But mere population and area do not make a country prosperous; in Europe it is rather the smaller countries, such as Switzerland and the Netherlands, which are envied. Canadians will however gain by freer trade

and easier cooperation with Newfoundland. Within a few years an immense iron deposit, partly in Quebec and partly in Newfoundland territory, is to be opened up. Administrative problems arising from this enterprise can be settled between the two Provinces without bringing in the Federal Government. But the chief gain will be in the abolition of customs barriers.

Newfoundlanders will undoubtedly be more content with the union after it has been in existence for some years. They will find that they have lost nothing of their independence; their own Legislature will control most of the matters which affect their daily lives. Unless and until the new Province is much more prosperous than at present it will contribute nothing to the payment of Federal debts. These must be paid from Federal revenues, to which it will contribute less than it receives in social services. The land will be controlled and administered as before by the Provincial legislature.

The day Confederation comes into force, Newfoundlanders will benefit (more than the rest of the Dominion) by the removal of customs barriers. They will suffer with the rest from the Canadian tariff, but will be able to trade freely with 13,000,000 people instead of with 320,000. The fishermen, who constitute almost half of the new Province's working population, and who have suffered severe poverty for years together in the past, will find a godsend not only in the family allowances but in the sick mariners' benefits.

Like the other Provinces, the new Province has its destiny in its own hands. Its opportunities are no less than those of Alberta and Saskatchewan, which have the most satisfactory living standards in the Dominion.

It is true that in proportion to its area the new Province is a poor country -- but so are other great areas in Canada, including the Provinces mentioned. There is not a great deal of good farm land -- there are not 1500 full-time farmers in the country. Most of the food, apart from fish, is imported. More than half of the Island (and of course nearly all of Labrador) is reckoned too poor to grow even pulpwood.

On the other hand, its natural resources are ample for several times its present population. In the valleys along the west coast there is enough land capable of cultivation to feed all present inhabitants -- it is not cultivated because of lack of communications, and communications are lacking because it is not cultivated. Much of the land considered worthless is no worse than much which Europeans, the Danes in particular, have made highly productive. Even in the icy wastes of Labrador, with its nine-month winter, are areas in which techniques developed in Finland, northern Russia, Alaska and the extreme north of Ontario can be applied to make a vigorous, happy population possible. In the last few years Newfoundland's forest industries (mainly pulp and paper)

have been developed to employ more than 10,000 men; there is room for much more development. Both the Island and Labrador offer unsurpassed attractions to tourists, which again wait upon communications. To develop these resources will demand much work and not a little hardship, but Newfoundlanders have shown themselves to rank high in industry and endurance.

The history of the Island explains why poverty has been so prevalent over such long periods. In Alberta and Saskatchewan, as also in British Columbia, during their formative periods there were among their leaders men who had studied the Henry George philosophy and understood the advantages and methods of free enterprise. Newfoundland, on the other hand, was for generations under a British colonial administration of such restrictive type that for many years, until about 1790, it was forbidden to build a house with a chimney. When in 1855 responsible government was granted, the people were so used to restrictions and monopolies that they hardly realized their plight, nor knew where to begin to free themselves. The government took the line which demanded the least intelligence and raised all public revenue from customs duties -- a method terribly hampering to all enterprise in so small a population. Even now there is no taxation of land values except in the cities, and there the same inefficient system is in use which has kept the Maritime Provinces and Quebec so poor and backward compared with the Provinces farther west. Everywhere it is fatally easy to hold out of use any natural resource which shows signs of being in demand.

The addition of Newfoundland to the Dominion will undoubtedly prove itself a good thing. But it would have been possible to gain most of the benefits even without union -- the customs duties might have been abolished by a reciprocity agreement. As for the social services mentioned, even a country very poorly endowed by nature can provide such services, so far as they are necessary, if it will only make its resources available to those who will use them, abolishing all restrictive monopoly.

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In the Tonga Islands, no land can be bought, nor can land be sold. Not a single acre in any of the principal islands is alienated. Europeans or outsiders requiring land for any purpose can lease it but that is all. A lease in most cases is for fifty years, but in the neighborhood of any town or village it is for 21 years only. The land is the people's. Everyone is independent in Tonga, and there is a dignity about the bearing of the people which independence brings. -- Stanley Unwin and Severn Storr, in "Two Young Men See the World."

A FANTASTIC TALE OF RED TAPE AND CODFISH

This story comes from Scotland; but some folk may say somewhat similar conditions apply to other countries -- even to ours.

A Norwegian, whose son was working in Scotland, sent him a barrel of salt cod. It appears that, in letters home, the son had told his father of kindnesses received, and the father thought that if his son could distribute the cod among friends and neighbors, it would be, in a small way, a token of gratitude.

The barrel duly arrived at Aberdeen, on board a boat that was taking a cargo of fish on behalf of the Ministry of Food. The Norwegian was not conversant with the intricacies of rules and regulations of Government control, let alone customs; but he was more than willing to pay whatever duty might be levied on the barrel.

When the cargo was landed, the barrel of cod was taken into customs to await the production of appropriate documents.

The first step by the authorities was to notify the Norwegian's son that the gift to him was over the allowed gross weight of 22 pounds -- the actual weight of barrel and contents was 70 pounds. The barrel, therefore, could not be released without an import licence.

The son made application to the Board of Trade for such a licence, and a reply was received after three to four weeks -- presumably the fish was keeping nice and fresh all that time. The reply was to the effect that an import licence could be granted for 22 pounds of the contents of the barrel -- for which, according to B. of T. regulations, a licence was not necessary at all.

The young Norwegian responded by pointing out that the nature of the contents was such that (presuming it was still fresh) if anyone opened the barrel to remove 22 pounds of fish, the remainder would automatically go bad.

After another delay, the B. of T. replied to this further communication by stating -- in a longer and more involved letter -- that it would be quite willing to grant a licence for 22 pounds of the contents.

The recipient of the gift realised that it was, apparently, not going to be much use pursuing the matter further. He informed the authorities he would send the barrel back to Norway, unopened.

And then came the crowning touch.

"Oh, no, you can't", said the authority, "not unless you have an export licence."

The barrel of fish, at the time of our communication from Scotland -- and, as far as we know, this still applies -- was in customs. -- Progress, Feb. 1948.

A WELSH EDITOR ON LAND TENURE

The Banner of Wales, leading Welsh-language periodical, recently published two articles by its Farmers' Editor, dealing with the American Decentralist movement, which evidently appeals strongly to the Welsh liberal mind. Of the second of these articles Mr. Robert Wynne of Hamilton writes: --

He starts with some Welsh history. Historians, he says, have never fully emphasized the underlying cause of the revolt of Owen Glendower (about 1400 A. D.) Almost every able-bodied Welshman seems to have joined Glendower. His court bard, Iolo Goch, gives the clue to the popularity of Owen and his revolt. The Anglo-Norman system of land ownership was encroaching upon the Welsh system of possession through use -- the only system known in Wales from time immemorial. That is why Iolo Goch is known in Wales as the Farmers' Poet and that the two terms "Englishman" and "Landlord" are synonymous in his poetry. Howell the Good, a prince of all Wales in the tenth century, wrote a code of Welsh laws. According to these laws none of his subjects could hold land unless he fully used it himself. Now I translate: --

"Possession and Ownership"

"The basic principle of the Decentralists regarding land tenure is possession against ownership. There is no real 'ownership' of land. It is a gift of nature. It has not been produced by human exertion. So long as you use land it is right that you possess it, but not otherwise, because you deny its use to your brother, who, if there is justice in the universe, has equal right of access to it. Is not this the basic law that obtained in Wales in the time of Howell the Good, before and well after his time?

"What has happened in America has happened in Britain. The system was merely transplanted west. Field was joined to field to become large estates and latifundia. Ownership became centralized. We in Wales face at this time a more ominous centralization than even that -- state ownership. Such a system tends to distribute land unjustly and unequally. According to statistics before me less than 5 per cent of U. S. farms represent more than 60 per cent of all farm lands. We well know of the same conditions in Wales on a limited geographic scale but therefore more intense in its results. Indeed, it happens daily before our eyes.

Further, land varies in quality. Some is naturally fertile, naturally drained, more accessible to roads, railways and harbors. There comes to the user of such land a special advantage not enjoyed by the users of less favored lands. This advantage can be naturally

and scientifically measured by the rent or price that others would be willing to pay for its enjoyment. The term used for this value is 'economic rent' and it has to do with the value of land alone, excluding all improvements, buildings, etc. As the best land is quite limited in quantity, those who occupy it and enjoy its added advantage should, rationally, share this advantage with their kin who are relegated to the less profitable land and the landless. The only democratic means of doing this is by paying the rightful share of the advantage to the public fund. Under such an arrangement no man would exercise an unfair advantage over another in the making of a living.

"In a decentralized society this fund would be utilized locally with a quota transferable to the central government body which would of necessity become a body with well docked wings and clipped claws. It is argued with much force that the collection of the value of the above natural advantage is the only natural and reasonable source of government revenue. Through it the daily interplay and activity of a community produces its own revenue as a tree bears fruit. The imposts on buildings, purchases, chattles and all labour products could be abolished and in time even the tax on income."

There is half a column on the Decentralist treatment of the soil, irrigation, power development, erosion, etc., and the article ends: --

"Will it be possible in a reasonable time to re-educate our little nation and to teach it that this alien attitude towards our agriculture and our land is the reversal of our national tradition and usage, thrust upon us in comparatively recent times by Anglo-Norman conquerors whose solid ring of castles that completely encircled Wales is an eternal proof of the immeasurable difficulty encountered when the iniquitous system was being thrust upon us?"

(Editor's note: The nationalist viewpoint in the article described is apparent. Actually, the early English system of land tenure was little different from the Welsh. The Anglo-Saxon population was exploited and oppressed by the Norman conquerors much as the Welsh were later -- except that closer contact mitigated the oppression to some extent, as it did that of the slaves in the southern States. Even when the landlord class in England came to be largely of Saxon blood, the social and economic relations between landlord and tenant remained largely those of conqueror and conquered. The article is however another illustration of the fact that the ideas of just men as to land tenure are hardly or not at all affected by national feelings.)

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A land title deed gives the holder an exclusive right of possession, as against any other person, but gives him no right to pocket the rent value of any site, if that value is demanded by State, Country, City or Nation under a Federal, State or local tax statute. -- J. Rupert Mason (San Francisco.)

MONTREAL NEWS

Strethel Walton

Classes are starting on September 29th. As an experiment we are charging \$7.50 for the course including the text-book with a refund of \$2.50 if the student attends 8 sessions. Our board here thought it might attract a better type of student. However so far the results of our advertising have not brought in so many enrollments as the advertisements for the free course. The next two weeks will tell the tale.

We are starting a course in the Science of Political Economy, taught by Mr. Alec Mathieson, in two weeks. Other teachers in the School this season will be Mrs. Helen Russell, Mr. P.J. Blackwell, Mr. Jas. Turner, Mr. Thos. James and myself if needed.

We are having a public meeting in October, but the date is not settled as we have not found a suitable hall. Emmanuel Church, where we held our meetings for some time has been sold to the Salvation Army, and the halls have been turned into offices.

CLASSES IN PROSPECT.

David Farmer has a good class organized, to begin the study of Progress and Poverty before the end of October.

Herbert T. Owens has moved to Russell, Ont., not a great distance from Ottawa, and expects to begin some class work there soon.

CONFERENCE OF HENRY GEORGE SCHOOLS

The Conference of Henry George Schools, held in Chicago on July 23rd to 25th showed a great advance from the time when Mr. Henry L. T. Tideman, with no advance publicity and with some misgivings, opened the first class in 1934 to the past year, with scores of classes in various parts of Chicago. The Conference brought together speakers from many and distant parts; Strethel Walton from Montreal, J. B. Ellert from Milk River, J. Rupert Mason from San Francisco, John C. Lincoln from Phoenix, Arizona (President of the New York School), William B. Truehart from Los Angeles, Robert Clancy from New York, and many others.

The Conference closed with the "Economist's Bus Tour." Mr. Robert King, who spent two weeks collecting the data for this tour, said that there is enough material in Chicago for six such tours.

(We have material for at least two such tours in Toronto. The Prince Edward Viaduct, which at a public expenditure of one and a half millions added fifteen millions to the assessed value of the land effected -- and at least twice that to the actual value -- would be one of the most striking but perhaps not the most instructive exhibits. -- Ed.)

"PROTECTING" A TOWN TO DEATH

George M. Fowlds

In 1845 there were more than six hundred American ships engaged in whale-fishing, and at these a considerable number visited New Zealand annually. In the off-season, Russell was the rendezvous, where boats congregated from the whaling grounds of the southern Pacific to obtain provisions and fit out for another chase of the sperm and right whales. But the number quickly lessened when the first steps towards a protective tariff were taken after the annexation in 1840, by the new Governor, who imposed customs duties on the staple articles of trade. This made the port highly expensive for the whalers and the falling off in trade affected the Maoris who had prospered by bartering pigs and potatoes for guns, powder, bullets, clothing etc. The action also had quite an important bearing on later events.

The white population of Russell about 1840 numbered 1000, but by 1844 as a result of the above tariff restrictions, it had fallen to 400. The New Zealand Gazette of Sept. 1841 said, "the receipts at the Bay of Islands from furnishing supplies to whalers averaged for several years about £145,000 annually, and now this trade is nearly extinct." -- From an article, "Tariff Troubles in Early New Zealand."

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Nothing is ever settled until it is settled right. The protective tariff is all wrong. It is wrong in economics, wrong in morals, and a great corrupter in politics. Therefore the protest against it, and resistance to it, will never cease. -- Professor W. G. Sumner.

To the objection that England cannot be the only Free Trade country in a protectionist world, the answer is that England was exactly that very thing for seventy years, and it resulted in the period of the greatest prosperity and freedom the world has ever known in the last years of Victoria's reign. In England there was three times the work at three times the wages at the end of the seventy years during which trade was free. -- Commander G. Bowles, R. N., in the London Daily Telegraph, Oct. 20, 1944.

For our own salvation we in the United States must co-operate with other like-minded nations in setting up a sound and equitable system of commercial and economic relationships among all nations.

A vigorous and expanding international trade is indispensable to such a system. It can be achieved only by joining with other nations in clearing away the economic barriers that throttled international commerce after the last war and in preventing new barriers from arising. -- Franklin D. Roosevelt, in an address to the U. S. A. National Foreign Trade Council, Oct. 11, 1944.

THE HOUSING QUESTION

In "Housing and Land", (Henry George News, June '48) Hiram B. Loomis states: "On page 190 of Breaking Through the Building Blockade University of Chicago Press) Robert Leach summarizes the previous experience of the Federal Public Housing Authority. The total cost per unit was \$36.31 per month; this was met as follows: the tenant paid \$20.38, 50 per cent; the local community contributed in the remission of taxes \$6.68, 18 per cent; the F. P. H. A. contributed \$8.38, 23 per cent; other income was \$0.35. This means an average gift of \$180.72 per year to each family that occupied these houses".

It is unlikely that many future housing schemes will cost as little as those mentioned. The Regent Park plan now started in Toronto will cost, according to present estimates, at least \$300 per family per annum. Mayor LaGuardia estimated that in New York the cost for land alone would run from \$6,000 to 7,000 per unit, (as against about \$1500 for the F. P. H. A. projects) making the cost greater by about \$250 per family per annum. It is becoming more and more evident that the socialistic method of improving housing conditions is too crude, wasteful and inequitable to be of universal application.

Contrast with this the economic method of improving housing -- to reduce or abolish taxes on buildings and improvements and increase taxes on land to compensate. In the same number of the Henry George News, Mr. Gilbert Tucker says (in "What is Land Value?") "I had to take a terrific licking on a house because a crazy tax system made it impossible to replace an obsolete structure with a modern and profitable building. Had the city followed a wiser course taxes would have been increased on this holding by nearly four hundred dollars. A new untaxed building, appropriate to today's needs, would then have been possible and would have made a "white elephant" into a desirable investment. Incidentally the city would have been assured of a larger tax income and housing would have been provided for about sixty families".

Publicly subsidized housing appears to work -- so long as it is on a small scale. It is easy to see the improved condition of the families who get homes for from 40 to 60 per cent of what others pay. Their condition would be as much improved, often more, if they were paid the subsidy in cash. But let such schemes increase -- the increased weight of taxes which rest upon the unsubsidized, now unnoticeable, will lead to an ever increasing demand for the subsidy, until the unsoundness of such schemes cannot be denied. We shall find as the Standard (Sydney) remarks: "Private enterprise gets the kicks, the government stroke gets the privileges, but private enterprise completed 80 per cent of the houses built in New South Wales in 1947".

BUREAUCRACY IN ACTION

At the May meeting of the London Georgists' Discussion Club, members heard Mr. F. House give a talk entitled: The Modern Farmer -- Free Man or Serf? Mr. House, who is one of the dispossessed farmers and has suffered serious personal and financial loss at the hands of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, illustrated his talk with a colored film, which, though not taken for propaganda purposes, nevertheless provided unmistakable evidence of the almost unbelievable treatment he had received. Mr. House had taken a film of his Sussex farm at the time he took it over, when its neglected condition was apparent. After spending £3,000 to effect improvements ordered by the local officials of the War Agricultural Executive Committee, he received notice to quit for "failing in good husbandry" and the farm, with all its improvements, went to a member of the Committee. Film shots showed clearly the regeneration of the farm by Mr. House and left no doubt whether he was a good husbandman or not. In answers to questions, Mr. House said that orders made by the Committee had to be obeyed, even if agriculturally "bad", under penalty of dispossession, and if eviction did take place, the farmer had no legal redress. -- Land and Liberty, May-June, 1948.

It is remarkable that while the Government forced up prices, with taxes, it maintains a costly Prices Commission in a futile endeavor to keep prices down -- A. Thodey in the Melbourne Herald, Aug. 18, 1947.

The paper shortage is largely due to the fact that the State is now overwhelmingly the largest consumer of paper in the country. It lives on paper money and paper propaganda at the expense of good money and sound publishing private enterprise. -- Cecil Palmer in the Publisher's Circular, Sept. 9, 1947.

Lucy says that before the end of the year there will be a demand that baby-sitters be government-inspected, licensed, unionized and guaranteed a minimum wage. And after that it won't be long before amateur parents will be prohibited from sitting with their own babies. -- Toronto Saturday Night, May 8, 1948.

Word comes from Britain that a great number of people are now keeping exactly 49 hens apiece. This is not because the number 49 has a religious significance (being seven times seven) nor yet because, the egg situation being what it is, that they would not be willing and in many cases able to keep more. It is because it is safer and more economical to decapitate any superfluous fowl than to undertake the arduous and costly task of procuring a Government permit, now necessary if one is to keep fifty or more.