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MEMORK

DEVOTED TO: explaining the
social nature of ground-rent and
the injustice of taxation.
ADVOCATING: the complete
abolition of taxation. The public
collection of the freely offered
and automatically adequate
ground-dues.

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A recent trend on the Vancouver scene is the creation of a "with it" shopping area in the pioneer, run-down, Gastown district. Boutiques with all kinds of exotic wares have become such an attraction that large numbers of people are once more frequenting the area, particularly on a Sunday when all the regular stores are closed according to law, and when it is becoming a popular thing to make a Sunday tour of one of the few places where life is to be found on that weekly day of mourning.

Inevitably, there has been a shift in land-value from the centre of established shopping to the resurgent Gastown. Inevitably, screams have arisen from those landholders who think that it is their right to keep people in the accustomed places, and so maintain the surplus they receive as ground-rents. They demand that the Sunday-closing law be applied to Gastown as well as to Granville.

The picturesque fauna of Gastown counter with the claim that since they are located in a historic area, they should be allowed the kind of indulgence given to vendors of picture-postcards at the Fort, the Bastion or Barkerville.

All this would be slightly amusing and true to form were it not for the intervention of Police Chief Fisk. He was quoted on C.K.N.W. as recommending that the Gastown merchants be allowed to carry on unmolested. Fisk appears to have a wrong idea of his function. He is part of the executive authority whose job it is to enforce the law without fear or favour. In his official position, he should keep his mouth shut lest people judge that he is friendly to the idea of the Police State in which there are so many laws and such incomprehensible ones, that few can be enforced, and the selection, interpretation, and enforcement being left to the Chief of Police, we slip be degrees into a reign of terror under a new Himmler.

The laws should be so few and so simple that they can be understood and so obeyed, by all. They should apply equally to all. Unwitting criminals, or deliberate law-breakers, we now go in fear of bad laws, dormant or enforced, let's start abolishing them.

In our November issue, we predicted a high rate of inflation in the coming year and jocularly advised our readers to buy land. We must modify this advice to read: - If you belong to the right "service club", the right church and the right political party, BUY LAND. Others can't win.

IN IUVENE VERITAS

One of our members regularly writes "letters to the editor" and at times feels that his efforts are ignored. He was rather surprised after publication of a letter protesting the idea of handouts to India, to receive a phone-call from a high-school student requesting further information to be used in a Social Studies discourse. This young man was given a copy of "Are Population Experts Running Wild" and other random information. When he returned these, he gave an account of what took place.

He made his presentation addressing the class and taking the position that overpopulation does not exist. It must be remembered that most high-school students are indoctrinated with Paul Ehrlich's alarmist creed, and that the class was hearing new ideas. In spite of this preceding indoctrination, the students showed a keen interest, and when the presentation was finished, they were asked to show hands to indicate what opinion they now held. More than two-thirds of the class thought it unreasonable to state that the earth is overpopulated.

Now listen to what kind of a grade this student made. He said his teacher awarded him 100%. Few teachers of social studies are as open-minded as that. The majority have learned their little piece which they dutifully regurgitate before their victims. To question the validity of what they have learned is to commit the crime of threatening the basis of their job-security. Let us hope that this teacher and this student go far.

A NEW TYPE OF ORACLE

A recent T.V. programme dealing with U.S. life in the sixties, showed the latest idea in university research into social problems. Now it appears that instant expertise has found a new way to come up with answers.

The method seems to stem from a form of treatment of mental illness, the "psychodrama", in which unfortunates act out their problem within a group. This new "socio-drama" is played out with individuals representing and arguing for the various interests that may appear to be involved in a specific social conflict.

The limited glimpse of what goes in is not heartening. The "actors" can only give their own interpretation of a problem. Being in a theatrical situation, they will not think any more clearly than in any other situation using their habitual language, they will never come up with logical terminology. Their ideas will be no less vague than the terms they use. They will still rely on words like "capitalism", "profits", "income", and all the nebulous terms whose use characterises the twilight of the age of science.

LAND FOR INDIANS

The Gargoyle is a periodical we receive on an exchange basis. In view of what the Canadian Indians are claiming at the present time, let us quote what Oscar B. Johansen has to say about handouts;

What seems to have been forgotten in this mistaken feeling of guilt of present-day white men, is that the white man had just as much right to the land in America as the Indian had. No better and no worse. The white man who pioneered here in their ignorance did not appreciate the fact that the Indian system of land tenure was far superior to that practiced in Europe. Because they did not, not only are present-day Indians suffering but present-day white, black, brown, yellow and every color of man in America has been harmed as evidenced by our sick economy and increasingly corrupt society.

The Indians did not recognise private ownership of land. They were too wise for that. If there was anything approximating the concept of ownership it was that the land belonged to the tribe. It is believed that the famous or infamous sale of Manhattan Island by the Indians for \$24, actually represented a deal by which the Indians granted to the Dutch rights to hunt, fish and utilize the land. But whether the Dutch at that time understood this or not, they obviously acted on the assumption that they had purchased the land.

Such actions as this would not have meant much however, except for one important fact. Those living here were not on a par with European civilization as far as force goes. In effect, by comparison they were children, and the European man "stole the children's candy"--- a reprehensible act under any circumstances. Had the Europeans found people here with the knowledge and power that they found in China or Japan, they never would have so casually divided up the two continents of the Western Hemisphere.

But what happened in the past is not the fault of those living today. What those of us who are alive today are responsible for is to see that we do not practice injustice on our present living fellowmen.

And giving land to the descendants of the original Indians is actually perpetrating an injustice. It is no different from the land grants which were made in the 19th Century by which millions of acres of land were given to sharpsters and others on specious prettexts of one sort or another, such as the necessity to build railroads. It is true, the motive today is a better one, even if it is a mistaken one. But, giving this land to these Indians is penalizing the rest of us. It may be a small matter in comparison with how the land has been divided in the past. But the important thing is that it indicates there is no recognition of the injustice involved.....

Give the land back to the Indians? No! It will always belong to all of us who are living.