

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
E. A. BRYAN
25805 Fraser Highway,
R.R. 3, Aldergrove, B.C.

SUBSCRIPTION
\$1 PER ANNUM

“FREEMOLK”

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.

Sent by G. Jøberg, 1760 Rearden Way, Port Coquitlam, B.C.

Vol 1, #1 Jan '70

INTRODUCTION

This simple publication is designed to fill a need which is beginning to be felt in British Columbia. It will be a focal point for collecting and spreading information of interest to those who are studying economics as a science. Significant events on the local scene will be its concern. Analyses of current situations and articles of economic interest are solicited from our supporters.

SIGNIFICANT EVENT

A second discussion group in scientific economics held its first meeting in the New Westminster Public Library at 7-30 p.m. Jan. 13th. Twenty students are enrolled in the course.

VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. A Henderson, newly arrived in Surrey, paid a surprise visit to the New Westminster group's inaugural session. They have both been active with the School of Economic Science in Calgary where 100 students are presently enrolled. Gratifying progress is reported from Alberta where it appears that a town, Milk River, has already removed taxation from improvements. We look forward to hearing more from the dynamic Hendersons.

VISITOR

Mr. John Pincham of the School of Economic Science, London, was in Vancouver on business September last. He gave a talk to a hastily assembled group who were very keen to learn what progress was being made in England in the dissemination of scientific economics. He estimated that 700 students were at that time enrolled in various courses which include not only basic economics but also discussions in the realm of more abstract philosophy.

LAND SPECULATION IN ONTARIO

The Hamilton "Spectator" has recently done a series of studies on the result of the Metropolitan Toronto & Region Transportation Society's ^{Plan} Let us quote from the issue of Dec. 27th. last: "Whatever the politicians thought of the plan, one thing was sure - to those with enough money to play, its details and maps looked as good as licences to print money.... It was all there in black and white - the details of land which should be prime development property.... It is now more than 18 months, more

Jan. 1970. P. 2

than \$300 Million, and more than 100,000 acres later. And in the meantime, shuttlescock land deals have yielded fortunes with profits often running to 1,000 per cent"

Naturally when the newspaper gives a picture of non-productive speculators on the local and international scene all getting rich at public expense, the reader would expect to see some suggestion of how to cope with the problem. Part 3 of the study, dated Dec. 30th, contains the following - "A surer brake... is contained in Edgar Benson's recent white paper.... With the introduction of a capital gains tax, the "dabbler"... will get hit." It is very hard to understand why after a lot of painstaking research into the land speculation picture, a person would be so ready to accept at face value any proffered solution, especially when such a journalist has just written "90 per cent of this country's land speculators beat the (federal) taxes on their profits."

No, we must think more basically and stop speculation by collecting the full economic rent of all land for public purposes. This system is so simple and so scientific that its operation will immediately stop all land speculation. On the other hand, we can be sure that if Edgar Benson's proposals ever go into effect, they will fail to collect that part of the public ground dues caused before the date of valuation. We can be sure too, that speculators will employ lawyers and accountants who will quickly point out how to evade payment of "capital gains", and the bigger the firm, the more effective the advice; the smaller the "dabbler" the greater the chance of being caught in flagrante delicto.

Coming attractions;

Shortly we hope to bring our readers an account of the municipal finance picture in Vancouver. Carl Iversen has some very interesting figures relating to the incidence of municipal taxation. Vancouver City Council in a last-minute change of heart to accommodate the little old ladies in little old houses on double lots did a shift onto improvements. Imagine who really benefits!

IF SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE MORAL PROBLEMS, THEN WE MUST WAIT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO BECOME GOOD BEFORE WE CAN HAVE GOOD SOCIAL CONDITIONS.
IF SOCIAL PROBLEMS ARE PROBLEMS IN ECONOMIC SCIENCE WE DO NOT NEED TO WAIT SO LONG. ALL WE MUST DO IS SPREAD KNOWLEDGE.