

FREEFOLK

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Explaining the social nature of ground-rent
and the injustice of taxation.

A PUBLICATION ADVOCATING: THE COMPLETE
ABOLITION OF TAXATION: THE PUBLIC COLLECTION
OF THE FREELY OFFERED AND AUTOMATICALLY
ADEQUATE GROUND-RENTS

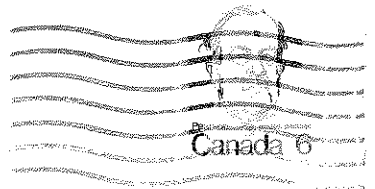
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A certain person, seeing a giraffe for the first time said that it looked like something put together by a committee. A committee never gave birth to any new idea, in fact, consensus has always been a barrier to progress in human thought. The whole idea of committee consensus is repugnant to elementary ideas of justice, for individuals should always be held responsible for their actions otherwise those aggrieved have no recourse in demanding satisfaction for wrongdoing.

We suggest that readers encourage their children in respect for language and that they oppose the "collegialism" that has become the popular word for mindless teachers in the public school system.

C.U.P.E. CAPITAL

"Journal" is published by the Canadian Union of Public Employees. Its Nov. - Dec. issue has bold headlines announcing "Human Capital Investment Will Yield Fair Treatment for Alta Hospital Workers." It appears that a certain Al Cunningham wants some of Alberta's "excess" \$900 million put into "human capital" - the hospital workers.

What the C.U.P.E. spokesman misses is the fact that oil and gas royalties in Alberta are the common property of all Albertans. Hospital workers do not have any title to "three or four months' interest on the \$900 million" which they say will meet their demands. They have a good title to an equal share in the rent (or royalty) from all the land in Alberta. If they realised this and worked for its implementation their wages would naturally rise as competition of workers for jobs was replaced by competition to hire people. They too would do a better job as they worked seriously without their present ill-will.

CONFUSION EVERYWHERE

Anyone who wants to make something or to provide some service, needs first of all, a site to work on. If he has to pay too much for a site, he either has to accept a low return for his work, or he has to forget the whole thing. It seems logical therefore, that as the price of land titles rises, only the most efficient workers will be able to carry on. Unemployment will increase. This situation is prevalent throughout the world today, and it is the one authoritarian governments are trying to correct.

Before we had political planners, unemployment increased and poverty became more general until owners of land-titles had to look for buyers. As prices dropped people could once more set themselves to work. Now, in ignorance of how social life operates, politicians can see only one way of cutting down unemployment. They create new money and spend it to put people to work. But the creation of this money leads to inflation and lack of confidence in the money. These circumstances lead to increased demand for land titles which seem to offer more security than possession of the inflated money. Consequently production is quickly checked again by the rising prices of land titles.

Caught in a vicious spiral, politicians have no idea what to do. A politician does not have to possess any knowledge beyond how to get votes, and so he turns on the public with threats. He sets up commissions and boards to chastise wage-earners for demanding more of the inferior money, housekeepers for being foolish enough to pay high prices, storekeepers for asking too high prices. The public lacks discipline, and strong measures are needed, he says. He threatens to control wages and prices as though the extra money he puts into circulation can miraculously continue to buy goods at the old prices.

The politician, unaware of the control exerted by the price of land titles wants to inflate to create employment, yet he does not want prices to rise. So, we see Gerald Ford in a quandary. At last he has decided to inflate by returning to people money taken from them in taxation, except that this is not quite the case. He will create new money to return to taxpayers; he can't return the money already taken from them and spent. This, of course will create more inflation, but only in a different way than before. Previously the government has spent new money into circulation, thus taxing the public. This time the public will be the issuers of the money. The effect on the course of inflation will be zero.

However, now that the government is not to do the spending in a pump-priming attempt, government power and bureaucracy may not be as dominant as it has been. This will be an improvement, but the twin problems of unemployment and inflation will remain unresolved because in the background, the controlling factor, the price of land-titles, is still in effect.

There is only one measure that will abolish inflation and unemployment together; that is the abolition of ownership of land by the public. The public can have greater security of tenure than they have today, for they will become strong independent citizens with a government too weak to continue to oppress them.

NOTICE OF MEETING: The Commonwealth Society for Economic Education will meet Tuesday Feb. 18th at the home of President Gunnar Jeberg, 340 Pine St. New Westminster. This is to be the Annual General Meeting. Begins 8 p.m.

JUST WORDS

Have you noticed how when you think, words pass through your mind? If we verbalise our thoughts in this way is it not reasonable to suppose that the person who best understands language has the best chance of coming to logical conclusions? Maybe we should amend that question to signify use, rather than understanding. Put this way, is it not logical to assume that whoever uses language accurately and efficiently, has a good chance of reasoning logically?

It should be the concern of all who wish to see reason prevail that language be understood and used well. Unfortunately in our society we witness a deterioration in language usage. The teachers in our schools can so rarely spell words correctly. Many of them understand so little of what they are doing that they change from a singular subject to a plural one while using the same verb, uttering gibberish like the following, "Any girl who has left their tote basket in the gym.... etc."

The radio announcers hold forth with all the confidence in the world. The listener would take them to be experts, but often they cannot pronounce the simplest words. Unfortunately literacy is not required of people whose voices regularly are broadcast to the public. A hot-liner had such a confused mind that he began; "There is even a more painless situation...." More, less, wetter drier, - blacker, whiter. What does this verbal garbage mean?

Even though our schools are in the business of making communists out of our kids with all the togetherness they enforce, and the "getting along" rather than developing latent capabilities, we should resist this trend. We should resist the collegiate idea in teaching for only cowards would pass the responsibility for their actions onto a committee. If a teacher is negligent, how can a committee of teachers accept responsibility?