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'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.

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UNION POWER

Copies of "Freemolks" will probably be detained somewhere in the postal system, for postal unions in Canada are stepping up their rotating strike action.

On the one hand, the postal workers are poorly paid, on the other hand, a person who stamps a letter and puts it into a mail box should be able to expect the service he paid for. The package is his personal property, but the strikers are detaining it to use as a weapon in a struggle for higher wages. Each little item of mail detained becomes a source of power in the hands of the unionists, just as each cross on a ballot adds to the power of the politician.

Private firms are now undertaking collection and delivery formerly done by the post office. If we all cease to use the federal postal service, union power collapses. If we all refuse to vote for politicians their power collapses too.

RICHMOND DOES "GOOD BUSINESS"

The Vancouver Sun of June 27th. carries a eulogistic account of Richmond's land deals. This municipality, located on a part of the Fraser delta, and lying to the south of Vancouver, includes the international airport, is low-lying, peaty, and intersected by very deep ditches into which septic tank effluent seeps, and in which there are regular drownings of unfortunate people who somehow stray too far from the centre of the road.

The Sun gives many figures which serve to give a laudable picture of the situation, but a little study reveals the same old leitmotif of municipal ineptitude when faced with the phenomenon of land values and the management of public funds.

In 1962, the Brighthouse Estate was bought by the municipality for \$2,400 an acre. Since that date, 340 acres have already been sold for \$3,394,378. Now, the cost of servicing has been \$2,382 Millions, and we are told that only one-third is as yet serviced (i.e. 180 acres). Lots must have been sold with the promise of service, and so, to service all those 340 acres, it will cost, at the same rate, \$4.5 Millions. Add this to the \$.91 Millions paid to Brighthouse for 340 of the 540 acres and we have a total of around \$5.6 Millions, cost to Richmond, yet the 180 acres was sold for \$3,394,378, we are told.

The newspaper account calls this a "handsome profit". With this

Figure 1

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

kind of profit, Richmond's mill rate will skyrocket. Acting chief administrative officer Wm. T. Lane says, "I think we have done a pretty good job." If we remember what private speculators have been doing for themselves across the river in Burnaby, it's hard to agree. Between 1962 and 1970 prices of lots have risen at least five-fold with no servicing costs to the speculator, and Richmond in spite of odour, noise and danger, also abuts up to expanding Vancouver's boundaries.

Of course few municipal leaders have the sense not to alienate public land. They are after the immediate bucks a sale will bring. Why worry about the future? That will be some later council's concern! "Money is where you can get it" is their philosophy.

Land not alienated can be rented at short lease. Whenever sites are needed for schools, hospitals, or any other public purpose, they can be taken over at the mere cost of compensating for displacement. (A common local house-moving charge is \$1,000) Projects like road widening would not be prohibitive, and anent this, it was estimated that it would have cost \$1 Million in land acquisition to widen Garden City Drive and Granville Avenue, two-thirds of what was paid for the Brighthouse Estate. How much of these 540 acres will the municipality have to buy back in future years, and at what cost, as population increases? causing the value of the land to increase?

Richmond councillors, more than anyone, should have a little knowledge of the social nature of land values. If the municipality did not maintain the dykes, the whole area would be flooded at high tide. The land would be worthless. If the municipality did not keep the pumps going, extracting the nauseous liquor from the ditches to pollute the Fraser, there would likely be outbreaks of disease associated with neglect of human excrement. Everyone would leave fast. Again no land value. It is not good business to allow people to benefit from public activity and not charge them the cost. Some people never learn.

ANCIENT BUCEPHALUS SHOWS THE WAY

When Bucephalus was given to Alexander, no groom could ride him, and people said that he was a rogue horse. Alexander, however, after much thought and observation discovered the truth of the matter, - the horse was afraid of his own shadow. To control Bucephalus, Alexander rode him towards the sun. The horse, unable to see his shadow was soon calmed. Alexander knew that when we have a problem to solve, we must get down to root causes if we are to come up with a workable solution.

The rogishness of Bucephalus originated with fear. How many of our social ills are perpetrated because of fear? We know that it is wrong to kill, wrong to steal. We fear that if we stop killing we shall be killed by the other group, if we stop stealing, we shall descend to the level of the victims of theft. Let us be Alexanders and turn the eyes of people from the feared shadow, towards the light of reason.

people's eyes from the feared shadow towards the light of knowledge. Men will stop killing and stop stealing - and none shall make them afraid.

DOUBLE TALK

A C.B.C. broadcast announced that the "seasonally adjusted unemployment rate" for June is 6.2 per cent, the highest at this time for eight years.

What is "seasonally adjusted"? In what way have figures been derived and then "adjusted"? Are the government's figures meaningful in any other sense than as a tool of propaganda? All these questions naturally occur when we are confronted with a term like "seasonally adjusted".

We have become accustomed to accept the term "unemployment rate" as referring to people actively seeking employment and registered at the manpower department. We know that such a limitation has never presented a true picture, for it omits people who being poor competitors on the labour market, have given up the search and relapsed to a state of "welfare" acceptance. It does not include the ever-increasing number of retired people whose pensions will not support them as inflation progresses, and who are on the look-out for casual jobs. In other words, these percentages have always been optimistic, but today, they are wildly inaccurate.

The unemployment percentage figures do not include people locked-out, or on strike, nor does it include those working short time because of a consequent slow-down in business aggravated by a newspaper strike which prevented buyers and sellers coming together in the advertisement columns.

The unemployment figures do not include the percentage of the population held in detention institutions known as schools, colleges, and universities, and there is no way of arriving at their number for we cannot tell how many would be there if lucrative employment were everywhere available and they were free to take it.

If the C.B.C. statement had said that the unemployment rate was twenty per cent, that would have been much more credible although perhaps still too modest.

ABSTRACTS FROM THE GARGOYLE

WILL ROGERS QUOTES

"There's no credit in being a comedian when you have the whole government working for you. All I do is report the facts. That's funny enough. I don't even have to exaggerate."

In 1928 through Life, the human magazine, he ran for president on the Anti-Bunk Party, complete with campaign promises and oratory. He said "We will not only give the farmer relief, we will cure him of being a farmer."