

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER  
E. A. BRYAN,  
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# REFORMER

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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Rene Levesque beefing about how the English-speaking Canadians exploit the poor French-speakers gave the example that although the Quebecois buy a lot from the Ontarians, the latter only spend one dollar in Quebec for every two dollars fifty the Quebecois spend in Ontario.

Rene would have known better had he attended the first two sessions of our economics courses. He would have learned not to confuse: the individual sphere of action with the social sphere. He would have learned that although money may make an individual rich, to a community money is a nothing. Now had he done the logical thing, he would have looked at the trade in goods and services. He would have realised that Quebec receives from Ontario two and a half times the amount of goods and services it returns. Some people would complain if a truck tipped a ton of gold-dust on their lawn.

The truth about the trade with Quebec is that under the system of equalisation, the provinces with a higher per capita income are taxed in an attempt to bring up the Quebec standard. This is the mechanism in action; more goods and services go into the francophone province than come out. In money terms the Quebecois spend more money with the "wealthy" provinces than the wealthy provinces spend with them.

The English-speakers are the scapegoats. The Quebecois could have excellent conditions tomorrow if they only knew how. The landlord system is more developed there than in the "wealthy" provinces, having begun right away with a seigniorial system imposed from France, and having gone through more stages in the divorcement of the people from their land than the western provinces have. The only way to social justice for them is to regain their rights to the earth. They must first cease to listen to dim-wits who inflame their hatred and lead them in wrong directions.

## STUDENTS NOTE:

We are wofully short of entries in our essay contest. \$100 is pretty good for one easy essay. If youhave forgotten the topic, it is; "Demands for Public Services and the Means of Paying for them."

## WATCH IT GROW

The handouts the Trudeau government is making to keep members of the subculture docile this summer(what summer?) will have an effect on the value of the dollar. Expect more serious inflation.

## LETTER TO READERS

Dear Friends,

Let us take a look at Benson's budget. We are led to believe that budgets on a national scale are drawn up by economists. If this applies here, we had better beware of where these economists are leading us. It is reputed to be a budget to help relieve the tax burden on the lower income groups and put more money into their hands to spend on the goods they need, also to boost the economy in a general way. This it will not do.

It is a fact at the present time that every person with an income from any source is required to file a tax return, and the claim is that the budget will eliminate 750,000 from the list of people making tax returns. What a hollow claim! There is no mention of how many of the number making these returns now pay no tax because of their income being too low, but we know that it has been estimated that 3,650,000 non-farm families are now living below the standard set as being the poverty line. 790,000 people living as individuals (mostly old-age pensioners) had incomes less than \$1,000 per year. If we include farm families the numbers must be still greater since farm income tends to be lower than non-farm income. Now let us subtract the 750,000 Benson is going to spare the trouble of making out a tax-return and that still leaves over three millions making out returns for the fun of it. The only saving will be in the number of forms to be mailed out.

Even the 12% reduction in the tax on margarine is a mockery. Surely the price will be lowered, but it will also cause an increased surplus of butter that will attract more government subsidy to support its price while at an Osoyoos cheese factory, milk is dumped into the river.

If this is the way an economy is planned, it will drive more people into poverty with the continual tax on our daily bread and homes.

Bureaucracy, red tape and state control will finally lead to socialism but the speculators in the land from which all our wealth is derived go free of any tax. This budget freezes the genital current of the soul with its chilly penny, and is a complete sham of a reform.

G.W. Copeman, R.R. #3, Langley.

Mr. Copeman provides some interesting information about Langley municipality. One half is unused speculatively held land. At least one half of the remainder is under-used.

Area:	78,491 acres	Land assessed...	\$33,320,945
Estimate of true value	\$250,000,000	Revenue from land as assessed	\$2,380,255
Revenue from true value (Mortgages at 9%)		Total revenue land and improvements	\$4,647,907
			<u>\$22,500,000</u>

Subtract Revenue collected from revenue possible and we have:

ANNUAL TOLL OF LAND SPECULATORS IN LANGLEY -- -- \$20 Million.

In a book entitled "Goliath", David Harris explains his attitude of protest. This man is serving a three-year sentence for his beliefs, so there can be no doubt about his sincerity.

One chapter of "Goliath", - The Myth Of Property, shows the dawning of some rational ideas. It even begins with the words, "The world is a collection of resources which offer the malleable substance out of which we shape our physical existence." In other words, man labours using the material of the earth to produce the concrete things he desires.

Unfortunately, the author goes on to condemn the idea of property without trying to distinguish between property in land and property in labour products. He introduces the concept of "need" so as to make the word meaningless, and having described the earth as a collection of resources, he says, "Need itself becomes another resource to be controlled in the exercise of power."

Harris gets so close to the truth in places that a reader could almost agree with him. He says; "property transforms what is potentially a universal means of support into a particular means of control." Had he used the expression "property in land" instead of mere Property, no-one could argue with him, but property in labour-products where all men are equally free to use the earth could confer no economic power.

In another place he says that if the world were shaped according to our need of it, then its resources would be available as a function of that need; the hungry would eat, the homeless would build homes. Poor David Harris! He does not realise that the same earth can provide all the material and space for not only the things we "need" but also every kind of "good" thing we should like, but may not "need". The world is shaped right.

As if by accident, he stumbles back to the narrow track of reason when he mentions availability. Because some few human beings are able to withhold the natural bounty and opportunity that is the earth, from the mass of human beings, then what is here and meant for all is not being made available to all.

Mr Harris is torn between the conflicting ideal of goods being supplied according to "need", and that of people by means of their labour applied to land, gratifying their desires, - "the homeless would build homes" Still, he did very well to salvage the logical idea he does express from the barren and destructive culture in which he lives.

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Vancouver Mayor Tom Campbell, "Hammer of the Hippies" had a free lesson the other day. Placard-waving members of the sub-culture invaded City Hall demanding not work, but FREE GROCERIES IN THE SUPERMARKETS. These people have learned that a person does not really need a job, merely the things that a person spends his pay-check on.