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# FREEFOLK

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## A PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO:

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-DUES

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LATEST FOLLY

Our brave B.C. reform government have come to grips with the land problem and have taken another fall. They "froze" farm-land and its price jumped 40% immediately (municipal assessor Somerfeldt's statement) It has climbed dizzily since and it is certain that only a millionaire will be able to farm from now on. This government ordered realistic land assessments for local taxation and backed down when the speculators raised an outcry. They now have a Bill calling for public officials and candidates to disclose their interests, and this is their third great fall in this attack on land speculation.

It is common knowledge that fortunes are being made in land deals by elected and appointed municipal officials. Their powers to zone or otherwise grant permission to change the use of land, donate millions to the recipients. Advance knowledge of where land values will increase - confers another advantage. We can be sure that the officials will want to get on the band wagon and share in the "windfall" goodies. Let us listen to a conversation:

- Block bros. took an option on our place and applied to have it rezoned. They gave up the option the day before yesterday because the council would not rezone the place for them... A funny thing; last night there was a phone call from a person who has been interested before and who has connections with the council. He wanted to know if the property was still for sale and made a lower offer than Blocks'. I am sure that Blocks' application was deliberately blocked and any other will be also unless it comes from the party with the connection. Is there any doubt that municipal corruption is concerned chiefly with land speculation? Is there any likelihood that a disclosure act will prevent it?

All land problems are the result of treating land as property. The pressing housing shortage results entirely from a land problem even though the politicians refuse to

admit it. None of these problems will be solved or even alleviated until we adopt the simple plan of collecting the full rent of land from users in place of taxation as presently levied. Until this is done, private individuals will be able to gain from increase of population and community-provided services by marketing permission to build a house, permission to farm, permission to make a corner safe for traffic, - in fact permission to live on the freely provided earth.

#### FARMER TALK

"Baler twine, (sisal hemp) was under \$8 last year, now it's as high as \$27."

- "Yes, and it's going to get dearer. A group from the U.S. has been going round the suppliers buying up all they can get hold of."

This conversation was the usual "mirabile dictu" kind of thing we hear all the time, but it shows lack of thought. Baler twine has got to get cheaper because private enterprise has seen a chance to make a quick buck and already small components are on sale to convert a baler to the use of nylon at \$17. Anyone making 1000 bales of hay will be ahead to convert and use nylon twine. Thereafter he will be \$10 ahead for every 9,000 ft. There will be a lot of sisal unsold. The dealers will have to drop their prices, and the buyers-up of baler twine will feel sorry they forgot that individuals use all their ingenuity to solve a problem when they are free to do so.

We can trust to natural law to ensure that if people are free to produce and exchange, their greed results not in excessive benefit to themselves, but in a general

benefit to the public. Conversely, it ensures that those who try to "corner" commodities and then charge excessively, will find that their market will diminish.

#### DEMOCRACY?

The Mayor of Moncton was chosen by the votes of the Conservative Party of his constituency to be its candidate in the 1974 election. Robert Stanfield, leader of the Conservative Party vetoed his candidature because he had taken a stand against the Federal Government's efforts to spread bilingualism. Stanfield was thinking about the way the voters of Quebec would support a party which endorsed a candidate not in favour of the imposition of French culture on anglophones.

Perhaps those who voted for the mayor felt deeply about governmental enforcement of something that should be a matter for everyone's individual choice. The language a person speaks is up to him. Those speaking English, French, Chinese, German, have equal rights to keep their own language, but if left to themselves, will naturally speak the common language around them if it pays them to do so. If not, they will keep to their mother-tongue. This can be seen at Abbotsford where there is a strong German element. Those who have dealings with English-speakers in the course of their business quickly learn to speak the language. Farmers who associate with German-speaking neighbours and attend churches where the services are in German never attain any facility with the language.

Whether or not they were motivated by this kind of principle, they democratically chose their candidate believing him to be the best for them. Stanfield's veto

says in effect, that vote-getting is more important than principle, that democratic forms must be swept away if they conflict with the power-hunger of the party bosses.

Those who still believe that they live in a democracy because they can vote to be chastised by Conservative price and wage freezers, Liberal inflators, or N.D.P. consensus of chip-on-the-shoulder-bearers, are living in a dream-world.

#### ELECTION

A disappointment is in store for those who put their trust in the ballot box. The key topic of the 1974 election is inflation and no party has offered to stop increasing the money supply if elected.

The mess we are in stems from implementation of the ideas of John Maynard Keynes. He had the idea that unemployment was caused by lack of spending, and that the cure was for governments to spend money to create employment.

Consequently governments spent more and more of the money until now less than 50% is spent privately. Rulers had to increase spending because they were not solving the problem, merely compounding it. "Printing money" was a means they took to soften the blow of taxation and to hide what really was being done. Naturally, being the wrong solution, inflation merely increased, so did unemployment.

None of the parties is able to offer a solution, because unemployment does not begin with lack of spending. It begins with a check to production where labour is locked out from access to raw materials by the high price of land. Only production of goods and services can form effective demand. The spending of money created in a vacuum of goods can only increase inflation as well as unemployment.