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MEMOROK

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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The late Dr. S. Vere Pearson, specialist in pulmonary diseases was also an advocate of justice and freedom. Two generations before most of our environmental activists even gave ecology a thought, he recognised problems of ecology generated by irresponsible land tenure and political power. In his studies of human ecology he did considerable research into an ancient problem of Ceylon, -- how a numerous nation managed to exist in the semi-arid northern half where today few people live. He wrote a paper on the results of his findings, a paper which has interest for us today.

Using the run-off from the mountains in the north, the earliest people built an expanding irrigation system. As more water was needed, the irrigation canals were extended. The water was adequate for the needs of the community and no more. The water served not only for irrigation, but for the domestic use of the people. Women stood in the water and stirred it around as they performed the ordinary tasks of the household. In this way the water never ran clear in sunlight.

Dr. Pearson's paper explained that the larvae of the malarial mosquito can only thrive in clear water in sunlight. In the southern half of Ceylon, the streams, although clear, run through dark jungle vegetation. Here, the light factor needed for reproduction of the mosquito is absent, and so malaria is not a problem, the jungle itself is.

In the northern part of Ceylon, the lack of vegetation caused the sun's light to fall constantly on the water, but the utilisation of every drop ensured that it would always be stirred up and in a muddy state. This circumstance prevented the malarial mosquito from breeding. As long as additions to the irrigation system were in pace with the increasing population, malaria was unknown.

However, ruling princes began to covet greater power and undertook expeditions on the mainland. Men were killed in this warfare and the population was reduced to the point where the irrigation system was too extensive to ensure total utilisation. The water in the unused parts of the irrigation system settled and conditions favourable to the malarial mosquito appeared.

Now when malaria began to take its toll, less people still were left to keep the water in motion, resulting in a further increase in conditions suitable for the mosquito. The nation was quickly wiped out by malaria.

Mary Rawson sends us a cutting from the Toronto Daily Star.

A recently arrived Swedish girl, assistant to the Swedish Trade Commission is being interviewed. She is amazed at the considerable number of apartments advertised for rent, and contrasts this situation with that in Sweden where there are rent controls and public housing. Applicants for apartments there must wait four or five years unless they wish to proceed illegally by paying up to \$10,000 "key money"

This situation should be borne in mind when listening to reports of Tommy Douglas declaring that we must have public housing as in Europe. The ex-M.D.P. leader is plainly senile, for facts and logic mean nothing to him when they contradict the doctrine he has been pickled in most of his life. The economic forces of nature will not be denied by government fiat, nor will they go away if we have a new government of "good guys". Scarcity of any sort, in Sweden or in Canada will be relieved only by smashing the land monopoly that exists in Upsala and Kapuskasing alike, for land is the source of all wealth as well as the location we need to enjoy that wealth. Public charity does nothing to reduce the price of land, in fact it only serves to maintain it. Douglas should be shouting for FREE LAND for this is the only road to cheap housing which everyone can afford.

Public Charity directly puts up the price of land. Geo. Copeman is quoted in the Langley paper as citing a case in which a recipient of "welfare" was made an allowance to maintain payments on an agreement for sale. (mortgage to most folk) Public charity in this case was used to buy acreage which the holder sold for \$100,000 and then made off for pastures new.

GAUDEAMUS IGITUR:

Thanks to all those who remembered their subscription to FREEFOLK. We sent out a number of copies of our basic economics course. A few local people are to receive instalments as long as they show interest. New members have been enrolled in the Commonwealth Society for Economic Education this month. Recently interest has been increasing.

SUMMA CUM LAUDE:

President Gunnar Jeberg of the Society for Economic Education attended the awards ceremonies of the Queen Elizabeth Senior High School to present a cheque for \$100 to student Robert Chesney whose essay on "Demands for Municipal Services and the Means of paying for them" was judged to be the best submitted in the essay contest.

The lesson is that powerful rulers in their pride and ignorance cause unnatural use of land areas. In Canada, the plans of a wheat board a hog board or any other body with overall control are likely to result in similar calamities because somewhere the ecological balance is upset. Last year rape seed was grown on the Prairies in a few scattered areas very profitably. This year because of an unhappy experience with government control of wheat sales, many farmers went over to the production of rape. The resulting unnatural conditions of great acreages of rape resulted in the multiplication of the bertha army worm. Poisons were brought in and men were killed applying them, but the problem is not solved. Only by freeing the earth for the use of all men and by freeing men so that they may decide for themselves how they will work to produce the things they need, will our human ecological system come to a state of near-equilibrium in which a healthful environment can be assured.

HOW THE OTTAWA FOLK TALK:

Fraser Valley East member asked for a straight answer to a straight question replied thus: "I would be prepared to suggest that." If this is how Jerry Pringle gives an unequivocal answer let's see how he mutilates the English language. Writes Jerry, "When affluency abounds"... His vocabulary does not match his enthusiasm.

Fraser Valley West member Mark Rose describes problems basically, he writes "The problem for the apple-growers has been compounded by two successive years of low crop returns, and the banks have been tightening credit on those who purchased orchard land at high prices." Mark Rose has greater awareness of the land problem than most politicians.

C.B.C. ANNOUNCER TALK.

"Prime Minister Sato announced his determination to stand alongside the U.S. in relation to its position on two Chinas..." The Colossus of Rhodes has nothing on this boy! That statue only bestrode a harbour. Sato's going to stand in the sea, - perhaps off the West coast, and hopefully, close to Amchitka.

"Lufthansa has another five days in which to change its mind."
Only the individual can change his mind. Lufthansa has no mind

"The U.S. feels that its two China policy is receiving more general acceptance." Only the individual can feel. The U.S. cannot feel.

Let's resist this degradation of language for those who can persuade us to accept nonsense talk as sense, will have no difficulty in persuading us to engage in illogical action.