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begins where production begins - at the land from which all wealth is derived. Because land is treated as private property belonging to a few privileged persons, production is restricted and it seems that many people are poor because a few people are rich.

The removal of the barrier of Landlordism would banish involuntary poverty and enable all to reach a 'higher level' without injustice or strife. The destruction of the Land Monopoly must be the first step towards economic freedom, and the practical policy for its achievement is the Taxation of Land Values.

STUPIDITY or CUPIDITY "The United States is afflicted with a surplus of butter, eggs and kindred products.

A hungry world could do with it, but bad government is in the way. The Government buys up the butter, eggs, etc. to keep up the price for the producer at the expense of the consumer. Of course there is a sleeping partner in the background - the rents of land are kept up in the interests of the landowners. There is talk of giving away the surplus dairy produce, but who is going to take it? Countries in need of it have their own food systems for victimising consumers. For free food to come in would never do. So the world's surplus production fails to reach the hungry populations in need of it. The causes of this deplorable position are the restriction upon trade and production." (From "The Standard," Sydney, N.S.W.)

CHEAP LAND FOR DAIRY-FARMS In a pamphlet published in Melbourne appears the following information:

In Queensland, Australia, the price of land is kept low because the rating system impose heavy public charges on land values. The difference in land prices in the two States can be expressed as equivalent to £14 per cow, and the farmer with 48 cows in Victoria requires a capital outlay of £670 more than the owner of a similar farm in Queensland. On the extra outlay of £670 the Victorian farmer must pay interest amounting to £30 per annum, and with other costs his higher annual payments are at least £52. In Victoria the majority of dairy-farms are started on a credit basis; the land is mortgaged, and stock, implements and machinery are commonly purchased on credit. The Queensland dairy-farmer, starting with the same amount of capital as the Victorian, has £223 more in cash to work with than his neighbour in Victoria. Thus, the lower price of equivalent land in Queensland, due to the weight of public charges on land-values, enables the Queensland dairy-farmer with the same capital as the Victorian, to save in annual charges to the extent of £97 per annum. Alternatively, it means that citizens can become producers themselves with considerably less capital behind them than would be required in Victoria.

ONE SHILLING a year, Post free, from
The Manchester Land Values League

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THE PORCUPINE

(WITH SOME TELLING POINTS)

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SOMETHING TO EAT The possibility of increasing the production of food in this country was considered in a recent debate in the House of Commons, and proposals were made for the development of commons and marginal lands. One member said the commoners should be given a portion of the common which they could enclose and cultivate. Whatever his motive, this would be an extension of the iniquitous Enclosure Acts which robbed the people of millions of acres of common lands on which poor cottagers had kept a cow or geese and from which they had obtained fuel. This member's concern for the public welfare was shown, however, by his suggestion that there should be a verge of from 30 to 40 yards on each side of the common; that this land should be open to the public who could scatter waste paper on it, beer bottles and empty tins. Another speaker declared that there were at least 2,000,000 acres in this country suitable for production, and people should be encouraged to invest their money in the land. In plain English, this means that some people ought to pay other people for opportunities to produce food, which opportunities could, nevertheless, continue to be held out of use, as now.

In his reply on the debate, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture said it was useless to talk as though there were vast areas which would produce food if the Chancellor of the Exchequer provided enough money. They had first to discover which land could be made reasonably productive. It is said that ignorance is bliss, but whether real or pretended, ignorance is also an excuse for avoiding an obvious duty. Whenever attention is drawn to the need for increasing employment in the production of food, action is avoided by a call for an enquiry from an unofficial agent of the Ministry of Procrastination. Their zeal for information is constant and insatiable, and the service thus rendered is indispensable to governments who invent policies to solve social problems while they resist every effort to remove the underlying causes.

LOST — or

What has become of the findings of all the Royal Commissions, The Committees and other bodies appointed by Parliaments during the last fifty years to discover whether the land of Britain is used as a Treasure House for the people, or a Pleasure Ground for the wealthy? Having served their purpose in showing that 'something is being done,' these reports have been pigeon-holed, forgotten, lost or destroyed, and the beneficiaries of social unrighteousness have not been disturbed. Attacks on ancient wrongs are thus made harmless, and occasional new enquiries satisfy everybody.

Ignored facts

As long ago as the early days of the present century the Duke of Marlboro - an agricultural expert - said the transference of bad or indifferent grass land to arable would put millions of acres to the plough and take back to the countryside hundreds of thousands of labourers. He asserted that £40 worth of food could be produced from one acre of fair ground.

A campaign to improve the productivity of agriculture in West Europe has recently been conducted, and practical steps are suggested in a report issued last year by an O.E.E.C. sub-committee. In this appears a statement that in the United Kingdom there are 7,000,000 hectares of neglected land, the productivity of which could be greatly increased by improvements well known to experts. But it is not lack of information that delays action, but lack of will to understand the problem and courage to remove the ancient wrong of landlordism which is responsible for the neglect or misuse of natural resources in town and country, causing unemployment, scarcity of food and homes, and constant poverty.

Simple Problem; Simple Remedy

The problem of the use of land needs no new enquiry for its understanding - unless it be to hide the truth. Without examining the history and effects of the British land system, it can be said that the cultivation of land for the production of food depends in the first place on the people who own it. These people, landowners, possess a legal right to use land productively, to allow others to pay them rent for permission to do so, to use the land for sport or to withhold it from use altogether. To bring all such lands into uses beneficial to the public, it is only necessary to convince the owners of the desirability of such a change, and this can be done by taxing all the land on the basis of its selling value, whether used, misused or unused. The unimproved value of all land is due to the presence and activities of populations and it is therefore just that these values should be taken by taxation for the benefit of the public. And as no-one would willin

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if a tax on property which produced no revenue, owners of unused but cultivable land would take steps immediately which would lead to an increased demand for labour and greater production of good things. This policy is the Taxation of Land Values, and its value has been proved in the countries where it has been adopted.

Alternative to Freedom

Schemes are now being considered to encourage emigration from 'over-crowded Europe,' but the alleged overcrowding is a result of what is, in effect, a reduction of the area of the country where land is withheld from use. Expansion to its natural size and usefulness will take place when the Taxation of Land Values is adopted, and abundant food will then be available for all the people who wish to earn a living in the land of their birth.

HUNGER IN HEAVEN

"If we will not use the intelligence with which we have been gifted to adapt social organisation to natural law; if we allow dogs-in-the-manger to monopolise what they cannot use; if we allow strength and cunning to rob honest labour, we must have chronic poverty and all the social ills it inevitably brings. Under such conditions there would be poverty in paradise." (Henry George)

TOO MUCH!

In a speech made some time before the recent general election, Mr. E. Shinwell said "Some people still have too much." He proposed to 'iron-cut' the differences in standards of living. "Those on the higher level," said Mr. Shinwell, "must come down, no matter who they are."

TOO LITTLE!

In the opinion of Mr. Herbert Morrison, some people are getting too little. In a speech last year he described the desire for something more than a minimum standard of life as a praiseworthy ambition, and said it would be better if the rewards of industry reflected that principle.

Both of these gentlemen hold Cabinet rank in the same Government, but their speeches seem to justify the taunt that there are as many kinds of Socialism as there are Socialists.

Conflicting ideals

Only ignorance of the nature of wealth, its production and distribution, can account for the desire to abolish poverty by taking from the rich to give to the poor. And such ignorance is not confined to members of the Labour party. Wealth is not something created in the past and unfairly divided. It consists, mainly, of good things such as food, clothing and homes, and its production must be continuous. If production - including all the services involved - ceased for one month, famine and the death of millions would follow. Injustice in the possession and enjoyment of wealth