

forces which Mr. Eve said always work against planning, are the natural instincts, desires and customs of people who dislike being planned and who only submit under protest. Human nature cannot be altered by human plans, but human nature is the one factor which planners usually leave out of their calculations. The existence, locality, amount and growth of land-values are other manifestations of human nature; people live together in communities because their instincts are gregarious, and their doing so creates a value which attaches to the land they occupy - it becomes desirable for various purposes and therefore valuable. These communally-created land-values are large or small in proportion to the number of people forming the communities and are rightly described as people-values. Other things being equal, if a number of people were to remove from one town or district to another, the land-values which by their presence they would continue to create, would attach to the land where they had newly settled. With a given standard of civilisation, the value of land in one town is similar to that of land in other towns of equal size and population, and estimates of land-values measured by population and population measured by land-values would be equally reliable.

Destruction of land-values.

Whether land-values can be destroyed by planning would depend, as Mr. Eve argued, on whether such planning "went against economics." If contrary to the wishes of the people affected, if such plans made "getting a living" more difficult or unpleasant, then they would be "against economics," and the mental effect would be reflected in the activities of the people concerned and land-values would depreciate. This would indicate bad government and a lowering of the standard of civilisation.

Land-values restored.

More important than the amount of land-values is the question of their enjoyment; to whom do they rightly belong? That they are due to the presence and industry of population is an obvious and indisputable fact; that the population (all the people) are therefore morally entitled to collect and use them for the benefit of all is incontestable. It only remains to ask: Can this be done? The answer is that the people's land-rights have received practical recognition in various countries where Land-values Taxation has been adopted for local or national revenues. It will be adopted in Britain when it becomes a test question in elections.

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PEACE AND HAPPINESS are Nature's rewards for those whose lives conform to the natural order, which includes Freedom and Justice. In "Progress & Poverty" Henry George shows the easy way back to the natural order, beginning with the restoration of equal land rights.

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THE PORCUPINE

(WITH SOME TELLING POINTS)

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March and April 1951

1951-2000, WHITHER TENDING? "Strange contrasts of advance and recession have marked the past fifty years. Political emancipation and almost universal suffrage have been accompanied by the rise of Fascism and Communism. The economic co-operation and political goodwill among the peoples which it was hoped to foster through various international agencies, such as the League of Nations and the United Nations' Organisation, have been vitiated and nullified by tariff barriers, passports and mounting nationalism. Inventions and the tremendous increase in wealth production have gone hand-in-hand with world trade depressions, mass unemployment, and poverty and suffering in the midst of plenty. Twice already this century has been drenched in blood, and the peoples enter the new era fearful of another, greater conflict.

"For more than fifty years, as successive governments of various political persuasions throughout the world have sought to meet each ever-worsening crisis with increasing regimentation and further restrictions, "Land & Liberty" has proclaimed its simple message that economic depression, social evils and political trouble result from man's present unnatural relation to the land, and the limitation and denial of liberty. Consistently we have asserted that given equal access to the land and the freedom to produce and exchange the fruits of their labour, untrammelled by taxation and other forms of governmental interference, the peoples of the world could live in peace, friendship and growing prosperity. Man and society cannot stand still. Either the lesson of the past fifty years is learned and heeded, and mankind goes forward in liberty and justice towards the Millenium; or it is ignored, and civilisation perishes." (From "Land & Liberty," January, 1951)

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PRIVATE & PUBLIC ENTERPRISE

In a report published by the Transport Committee of the Manchester City Council in December there is evidence of the demoralising

effects of what are called 'safe jobs.' These are usually associated with local and national governments. In Manchester the cost of painting a bus in the city's own depot (where the element of competition is absent) is £74.9.6, whereas the same work done by a firm of outside contractors (who work competitively, for profit) is £41.18.10. The labour cost of overhauling an engine in the municipal workshops is £36.12.0, while an outside firm's charge is only £21.12.3. The sub-committee investigating these matters concluded that "the security of the job associated with local government service has a marked detrimental effect on output," and that many employees deliberately impose on this security by wasting time in many small ways.

In the City Architect's department investigation has revealed similar waste and inefficiency. People in that department have been employed in making detailed plans for projects that are not likely to be carried out. And, as the "Manchester Guardian" remarks: "there is not the least doubt that public money is being wasted in similar ways all over the country." Competition is natural & good.

It is said that competition forces wages downwards and leads to "sweating," but this objection comes from people who have not taken the trouble to discover the underlying cause of unemployment and low wages. In free conditions - where alternative jobs and opportunities for self-employment are available - competition is beneficial. But it is easier to denounce competition than to work for freedom. The great barrier which stands in the way of emancipation is MONOPOLY, and the worst form of this evil thing is the monopoly of land. This affects everybody: We all live on land, we get our food, our clothing, our homes, our ships, our aeroplanes and all our "capital" by the application of labour to the land. And as the word "land" in economics means the whole surface of the earth, we can say truly that the fish we eat is also produced by labour applied to land. But such simple facts are overlooked by people who take the circumstances of their lives for granted and think the modern struggle for existence is in the natural order of things. Circumstances, however, do not just "happen." Most of them are man-made and can be shaped by intelligent action either to promote "peace on earth and goodwill among men," or become the tools of selfish interests and ignorance in creating all the bad features of modern civilisation. Equal freedom.

When it is understood that real freedom is equal freedom; that poverty is not part of a divine plan and therefore inevitable (a stupid libel on the Creator) but is man-made and can therefore be cured by appropriate action, then human laws will be made to con-

form to the requirements of the moral law. With monopoly destroyed, all jobs will be safe, and the free play of individual and combined efforts in production and service will work for the good of all.

But real progress is impossible without knowledge of economic facts. This can be found in Henry George's "Progress & Poverty" which can be obtained from the "Porcupine" office, 4/-, post-free.

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FREE TRADE & UNEMPLOYMENT.

"Chief of the false economic notions of Protectionists is that Free Trade would cause unemployment. Let us see. Trade being simply an exchange of goods for goods, nothing can come into a country without something going out - be it goods or services. What a country imports is, of course, produced outside that country, but the more it imports, the more employment is called for to produce the goods that must go out in exchange. Free Trade neither creates nor reduces employment; it simply changes its direction and increases the general stock of wealth by the division of labour. While vested interests can gain through the imposition of tariffs, there will always be a cry from them for protection, their case being made more plausible and virtuous-sounding by their hypocritical concern for the unemployment they allege Free Trade will cause. The fallacies of Protection, fortified by the increase in the number of private interests, spread their way into text-books on political economy, there to give rise to even further fallacies regarding the cause and cure of unemployment. Thus there has been built up a network of economic fallacies, founded not so much upon ignorance of fundamental economic laws, as upon the special pleading of private groups." (V. H. B. in "Land & Liberty.")

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SOME EFFECTS OF PLANNING. At the Town & Country Planning Conference in London in November, Mr. Trustram Eve said economic forces worked against good planning, and the lesson to be derived from the plans so far adopted was that economics was the master of planning. The test of the effects of economics on planning, he continued, was land-values, and it was profoundly untrue to say that good planning would not destroy land-values but would merely shift them. On the contrary, every time planning went against economics, land-values were destroyed. The appreciation of land-values, he said, was of vital importance. In reply to a keen discussion, Mr. Eve conceded that human and social considerations must come first - as if planning and land-values were outside the scope of such considerations! How land-values are created.

Economics is another name for Political Economy which, in simpler terms, means The Science of Getting a Living. The economic