

MEMORANDUM
as to
NATURAL RIGHTS

By Lawson Purdy

If there is no natural law we have only expediency to guide us. That is the doctrine of "Socialism (which) takes no account of natural laws, neither seeking them nor striving to be governed by them." (Science of Political Economy, Book II, Chapt. VII, p. 198.)

For a discussion of the doctrine of expediency, seeking the greatest good for the greatest number, and its fallacy and the derivation of the law of equal freedom, see "Social Statics" by Herbert Spencer, the Introduction and first six chapters. I know of no exposition of the derivation of natural rights and the law of equal freedom which compares with this.

Equal Rights and Joint Rights

In applying the doctrine of equal rights to the use of land it is necessary to avoid confusing equal rights with joint rights. (Perplexed Philosopher, Part I, Chapt. IV.)

Justice of Equal Rights to Land

"That alone is wise which is just. That alone is enduring which is right." Read "Progress and Poverty" Book VIII, Chap. I.

Natural Right

Vague recognitions of Natural Right by various writers are quoted and discussed by Henry George. "Science of Political Economy," Book II, Chap. VII.

The Rights of Man

In Social Problems, Chapter X, Henry George says, "These Natural Rights, this higher law, form the only true and sure basis for social organization." He quotes our Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution and discusses what we believe and wherein we fail to carry out our belief.