

'ROUND AND 'ROUND SHE GOES



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AND WHERE SHE STOPS NOBODY KNOWS. Which is true enough as far as it goes. But the assumption seems to be that nobody knows HOW to stop this mad whirl. To most people the problem seems beyond solution. However, science—the science of political economy—is able to analyze the situation and forecast its solution.

The chief element in this roundelay is WAGES (salaries, commissions, fees, etc., etc.) which always have a tendency to fall behind the advance in the cost of living. Very gradually, with occasional jumps, the cost of living has gone up, and workers have banded together to make their incomes advance at the same rate. Thus in the past sixty years the cost of living has about quadrupled, and wages have advanced at just about the same rate, with large numbers of men being refused opportunity to work after reaching the age of forty years—(32 in California).

What then, is the PRIME or CHIEF or REAL cause of this constant rise in the cost of living which makes a relative decline in wages when compared with production? The answer is MONOPOLY. But there are many monopolies; what is the worst one? The worst monopoly on earth is the monopoly of earth itself. LAND MONOPOLY is the final cause of this constant race of wages trying to catch up with the advancing cost of living.

The first effort therefore to fight inflation is to attack Land Monopoly, though, as we have said, this is not the only evil to be attacked. But if the Land Question (or Rent Question) is not first solved efforts along other lines will in the long run be nullified by this primary evil.

It must be plain to the veriest tyro in social problems that there are TWO chief agents in ALL production; Land with all it implies, the entire natural universe outside of man himself; and Labor, which means all human exertion, of brain and brawn. Man is the active partner in the production of wealth; land is the silent partner. Therefore anyone who can control the land (i.e. appropriate its rent or value) has the ultimate control of the share of the other partner, which share is called wages.

We have not space to go into this further but it is all fully explained in Henry George's "Progress and Poverty" in Book III.* Land Monopoly can be smashed by TAXING ITS RENT (actual and potential. Ibid. page 166). Other monopolies and evils of government can then be successfully attacked (without causing an increase in the cost of living) AFTER land monopoly has been put out of existence. It is not a question of classes versus the masses, but of LAND MONOPOLY.—C. LeB. G.—1950.

*Cloth, Indexed, 571 pp. \$1.00. Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 E. 69 St., N. Y. C. 21, N. Y.