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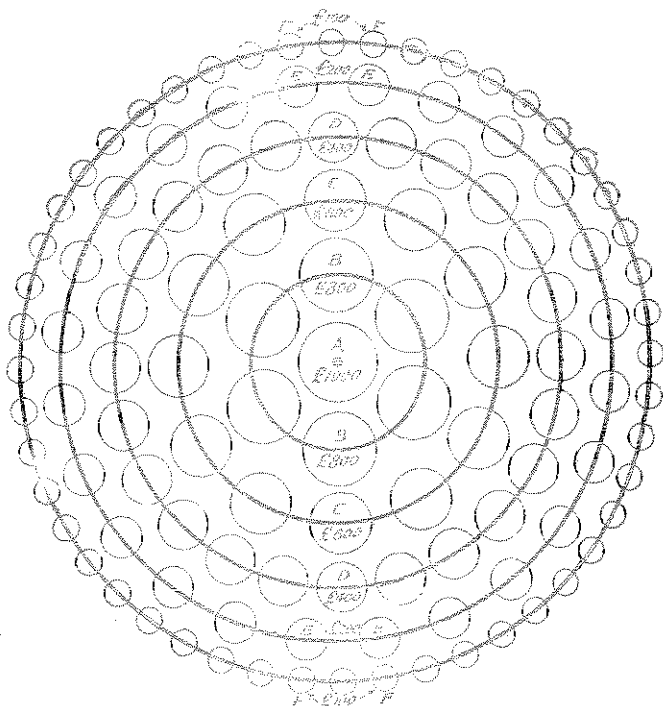
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THE DRAMA OF LIFE.

Originally Published by the Henry George Institute of Glasgow, Scotland.



The Henry George Institute of Glasgow, Scotland, has been doing remarkably good educational work. One of its publications, called "The Drama of Life," is a chart which is so suggestive and so

general in its application as to be worth reproduction here. The title page contains these quotations :

"Rent depends on the margin of cultivation, rising as it falls and falling as it rises."—Henry George.

"Rent is the effect of a monopoly.

"Monopoly, in all its forms, is the taxation of the industrious for the support of indolence, if not of plunder."—John Stuart Mills.

"Every permanent improvement of the soil, every railway, and every bettering of the general condition of society, every facility given for production, every stimulus supplied to consumption raises rent."—J. E. Thorold Rogers.

"The widow is gathering nettles for her children's dinner; a perfumed seigneur, delicately lounging in the *Château de Beauf*, hath an alchemy whereby he will extract from her the third nettle, and call it rent."—Carlyle.

"And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

"They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat."—Isaiah.

After the quotations comes the above chart with explanations, as follows :

ACT I.—Enter A.—Monopolizes the most fertile piece of land to be had, and produces by his labor wealth equivalent to £1,000. "It was done by individual interest, each man working for himself. Was not that a great lesson in economic science?"—Duke of Argyll at University Extension Society.

Conditions at close of Act I.—Rent or value of A's land,

(Since it was as free to A to use as the air)	0
Wages or return to labor.	£1,000

ACT II.—Enter B1.—Best land now available only yields £800 to labor.

B1 strikes a bargain with A, offers to cultivate A's land for him, and out of the produce (£1,000) pays A £200, keeping £800 for himself, which is the most he can obtain anywhere. B1 thus loses nothing pecuniarily, and gains over and above by the bargain the privilege of A's immediate society, while A can, if he likes, retire from industry upon the pension of £200 paid to him by B1.

(NOTE.—In order to allay the scepticism of those who may consider it a stretch of imagination to suppose that B1 could possibly be attracted by the society of Macscrew'emmore it should be explained that the latter is reckoned an authority of great weight on matters relating to Physical Science and Political Economy, and that the advantage of hearing Macscrew'emmore's discourses on these subjects is sufficient to overcome any natural repulsion that B1 might feel.)

Enter B2, B3, B4, etc., until all the available land yielding £800 to labor is taken up.

Condition at close of Act II.—Rent or value of A's land.	£200
Rent or value of land of class B.	0
Wages, or return to labor generally.	£800

ACT III.—Enter C1.—Best land now available only yields £600 to labor. C1 now offers to cultivate A's land, paying (out of the £1,000) £400 to A, and keeping £600 for himself, which is the most he can obtain elsewhere,

meanwhile gaining the advantage of living in the centre of society. A closes with this offer, since it raises his pension from £200 to £400.

Enter C2, C3, C4, etc.—Some of whom strike bargains with members of Class B, producing on their land £800, paying £200 to members of Class B, and retaining £600 for themselves, which is now the maximum obtainable by labor anywhere. It will now be observed that the land of the second grade obtains a value (= £200) through the presence of Class C.

Enter other members of Class C, who occupy all the land yielding £600 to labor as certain falls.

Conditions at close of Act III.—Rent or value of A's land.....	£400
Rent or value of land of Class B.....	200
" " " " C.....	0
Wages, or return to labor generally.....	600

ACT IV.—Enter D1—Best land now available only yields £400 to labor.

D1 finds it an advantageous bargain to pay £600 to A, and retain £400 for himself. Fresh members of Class D make arrangements as explained previously with Classes B and C, until all the land yielding £400 to labor is occupied.

Conditions at close of Act IV.—Rent or value of A's land.....	£600
Rent or value of land of Class B.....	400
" " " " C.....	200
" " " " D.....	0
Wages, or return to labor generally.....	400

ACT V.—Enter E1, E2, E3, E4, etc.—Best land now available only yields £200 to labor, and without the detailed explanation previously given it will readily be seen that, by the same process as before, all land superior in utility to that which is open to Class E has, in virtue of their presence, obtained an enhanced value. Class E occupy all the land yielding £200 to labor as certain falls.

Conditions at close of Act V.—Rent or value of A's land.....	£800
Rent or value of land of Class B.....	600
" " " " C.....	400
" " " " D.....	200
" " " " E.....	0
Wages, or return to labor generally.....	200

ACT VI.—Enter F1, F2, F3, F4, etc.—The value of the produce on the margin of cultivation has now fallen to £100, owing to the increase of population, and the results may be traced as before.

Conditions at close of Act VI.—Rent or value of A's land.....	900
Rent or value of land of Class B.....	700
" " " " C.....	500
" " " " D.....	300
" " " " E.....	100
" " " " F.....	0
Wages, or return to labor generally.....	100

The evil results which now accrue to Society from this inevitable tendency of Rent to rise and Wages to fall with the advance of population and civilization, must be counteracted by vesting in the whole community (who by their collective presence create Rent) the sole right of receiving Rent.

The single tax on land values will secure this.

Thus it is possible that the Drama called Life, which to this day has been

such a woeful tragedy to many of our fellow countrymen, may be changed, and become a true Comedy, a scene of mirth, and joy, and gladness.

[NOTE.—It will be observed from the diagram that there is a considerable amount of space between and about the circles which has not been mentioned above. These vacant spaces may be taken roughly to represent valuable land kept out of cultivation owing to speculation and other causes, and may be imagined to correspond with that indefinite amount of additional wealth which might be produced in the country under conditions of genuine Free Trade (i. e., perfect freedom both of production and exchange). The single tax on the value of land will compel land owners to set free this land, which is held out of reach of labor and capital by speculative or abnormal rents; the margin of cultivation will then tend to contract, Rent will fall everywhere and Wages will rise.]

THE STANDARD.

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the only absolute Free Trade advocate having a general

circulation throughout the United States.

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