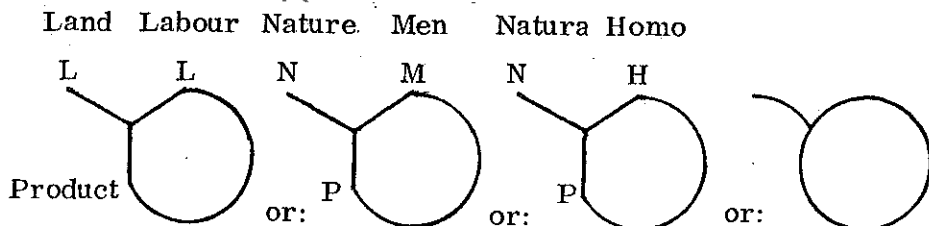


THE MEANING OF THIS EMBLEM

Our aim is to get public attention for our sake. For that purpose we present a book of some 400 pages, instead of an appalling slogan. There are members in our movement who proposed already quite a lot of such slogans. Let us collect these and make use of them.

Our first movie (For the Land is Mine) was about a teacher, who gave us a first lesson in economics. Okay, fundamental background first! But let me try to squeeze this half-an-hour theory into one short cry, or better - to be international! - a pictogramme. Therefore I propose to you:



Each of us may explain this picture in his own way, in his own language, adapted to the skill of his listener. Let me explain this picture to the skilled members of this conference.

LABOUR

This picture is the remainder of squeezing a quite elaborated picture which I have explained in a former paper, with the inspiring title: "The four Factors of Production". There I have invited you to consider the whole universe into two catagories:

1. that part of nature that's inside men, squeezed unto the factor 'labour';
2. all the rest outside the human beings, as it exists in nature, squeezed unto the term 'land'.

These are considered as the primary factors. For at the moment that human action interferes with nature, the result of it we term 'product'. Therefore we call Land and Labour the primary factors of production.

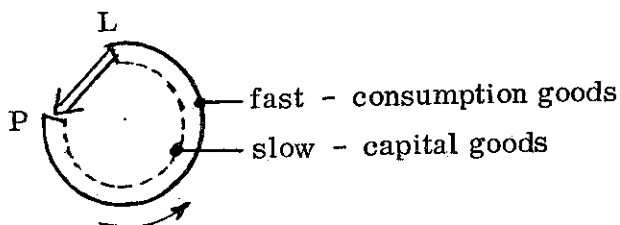
Further we can consider the products into two catagories: short living and long living products:

1. consumergoods, that make exertion of labour possible (the most important factor of production! If a labourer gets slightly less than he expects, he goes on strike and there is no production at all!);
2. products that are used as tools (capital goods), to aid and ease production. Capital goods last longer and move slower along the production-circle before they are used-up, acting as well for the benefit of the labourers).

These two I called the secundairy factors of production.

So there is a circulation of labour into products going onto men. This is the economic circle: men - labour - products (short- and longliving) - men (man's mouth and hands).

Of course there is an extensive and weary elaboration possible of this subject with semi-manufactured products, trade, risk, loss, 'scarcety' of luxus or bare necessities, and so on. But let me squeeze the whole economic library into my circle:

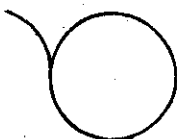


LAND.

This is wellknown the sunshine and the rain, wind and tide, land and water, plant and deer, heat and minerals underneath - in the condition as they are before men has decovered, touched, taken or used it. Here also we can consider two catagories: gifts of nature that are used-up (minerals, oil, gas etc.) and gifts that we make use-of: the surface of the globe, the non-material abstraction that lasts, whenever wet or dry. Or the limited space for radio-waves or the limited room for stationairy space—vehicles (only one circle on a specific height over the equator is available for this purpose).

These are GIFTS. Moreover very specific gifts, for without them our economic circulation cannot exist. I hate to call them under the heading 'economy'. Only at the very moment that men's labour has grasped such a gift, it circulates as an economic factor in the economic circle. But before that very moment, it is a GIFT, it has to do with privilege, because these gifts are an absolute necessity for life and labour. It is an input into the economic circlulation that cannot exist without. Even a teacher in economy cannot exist without breathing fresh air and the rest.

Land



Now about the merit of this picture for the sake of getting the attention of the people. Goods and services circulate in the economic circle in exchange for money - a medium of exchange. Money flows the other way round. But this current is split at the moment of production. For part of the money flows away in the direction of the gifts of nature. So labour gets short of money. They get short of pay for real exertion, to the amount of the drain towards the gifts (gifts?!). Money circulates clockwise against the circulation of goods and labour, but is drained out of the economec circulation in a non-economic manner. Is this money burried where the coal is excavated? Are dollarbills put deep underneath through the hole where oil and gas are taken away? No. This money flows in

the pockets of the privileged - in some way or another - who exchange it for goods and services from the economic circulation, without exertion of labour. So let it be that the money drained by the gifts of nature return in circulation, but the amount of goods and services is tapped to the same amount. So the people gets less for the same money.....and ask every year more money for the same amount of labour.

Why do we not get the GIFTS of nature free? For what reason do we pay money for LAND? Why does land have exchange-value?

That is because people need it to be able to live. And the price depends on scarcity. Without lack of fresh air, you need not to pay to breath. But water in the desert makes money. If you can have access to land, you can make a living for yourself and your family. But if your site has more value than for a bare living, you have to pay in exchange for that over-value (as Ricardo put it).

And that is so, because there are more people on earth than you alone. It is value due to people in the economic circle. It is an amount that labour gets less than their exertion. It is peoples money - cashed by the privileged who drain it from the economic circle.

The way to do it

Of course you can TAKE that money from the privileged, as Henry George advised us on p.403 of P&P ("...by at one stroke abolishing all private titles, declaring all land public property....") - and reburse that money to the people. If you reburse the money paid for land-privilege into the economic circle - in one way of another - you do the thing that is morally right, that closes the gap of the drain, that makes this economic illness sane again.

There are different ways to do it. Henry George advised lessening of taxburden, as is practised in New Zealand, Australia, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Other ways to do it comprise quite a chapter apart. Site Value Rating may be the first step, but there are other ways to do it, or mixtures of such proposals. But as a medium to explain what you propose to do, may be my economic circle.

Jan J. Pot, Welgravenlaan 27, 6741 ZH Lunteren, Holland
