

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrims' pride!
From every mountainside,
Let freedom ring!

Henry Carey

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The days of the nations bear no trace
of all the sunshine so far foretold;
The cannon speaks in the teacher's place—
The age is weary with work and gold,
And high hopes wither, and memories wane;
On hearths and altars the fires are dead:
But that brave faith hath not lived in vain—
And this is all that our watcher said.

Frances Brown

ATTENTION PLEASE

Can we be spared the injustice and miseries of Mass Unemployment? Can we take the advice of great Political Economists and Statesmen who have studied the subject? Prints, page over. Just make it impossible for any person or syndicate to hold more land than is required for their needs. Let all unused land wait in the Public Domain. The surface of our Earth is the Primary Creation on which all Life depends. Unused land should be conserved for our children to come. Each one of them deserves to be free from the injustice of disinheritance. Failure to make way for coming generations has made history a continual succession of tragedies, both Public and Private. We must pay attention to the difference between land which has been here for billions of years and products we take from the land which wear out as we use them. Land-holding depends on sovereignty, not on production; Man cannot produce land. To produce shelter, food, etc. Man must share in the sovereignty of Land-holding. To let a few own land as if it was a product of labor cheats the landless. Given time, this mismanagement of Land-holding will wreck our civilization. The Professors of Political Economy have chosen to call Rent paid for land the "Unearned Increment". Should our complex of Nations suddenly erupt in Revolution, the modern machinery of war may leave no one to write history.

1976 MYSTERY

We progressively increase our capacity to produce wealth. With this progress we find an increasing need for Charity to ease the poverty of unemployment. This is because we do not pay ATTENTION to the mismanagement of Land-holding as mentioned above. The MYSTERY is that our public servants in government callously support this crime of exploitation. The economic rent belongs only to the sovereign Treasury of The People. There is only one name for this graft, it is crime. The solution presented by the lucid American Political Economist, Henry George, can correct this social blunder. You will find it in his classic "PROGRESS and POVERTY". Here it is: Land-holding must be administered with care to prevent Land Monopoly. All the ancient civilizations succumbed to this erosion. Is our War-scarred civilization immune? The process of erosion is slow, all the more dangerous for it takes an acute perception to sense it. It is so easy to just go along with the Established Order. The wealthy land monopolist is admired in spite of the fact that land monopoly is the cause of unemployment and poverty. Do we need a revolution to harmonize this Established Order? Henry George evolved the Peaceful Process: Put the economic rent of land in the Public Treasury. That will stop the demoralizing graft of land monopoly and land speculation. The large Landholders will lose their special privilege, but it will be worth it to them, for they will share in a sane and orderly civilization. We cannot have a dependable civilization while we continue to pay for government service twice, once in the economic rent of land paid to privileged Land-holders, and again by taxes on our homes and industry. A MYSTERY? Well, why should it be so hard to understand?

The few persons and syndicates, so fortunate as to come into possession of active business locations acquire millions upon millions of dollars by collecting the economic rent. Professors of Political Economy gracefully call this the "Unearned Increment". Well named, but no less corrupting and corroding on our War-scarred civilization. Land-monopoly does cause the unbalance in our economy. If we continue tolerating Land-monopoly, low wages and unemployment will stay with us up into the Ice Age. Workmen's wages granted by strikes are always cancelled by the continual rise of ground-rent.

We have many syndicates using the mail, calling attention to the miseries of poverty and begging money for relief. Any one who could persuade them to pay attention to the cause of unemployment and poverty would be performing a miracle. Charity can only help to perpetuate the Established Order of Land-monopoly and Land-speculation which no intelligent person denies is, as it always has been, the cause of unemployment and poverty. No intelligent human being can escape this responsibility; no matter how wealthy one is, if our civilization fails there will be nothing to live for. Shall we pray only with despair? Unemployment statistics in the millions can only be due to injustice, felt but not understood. Why accept industrial depressions as inevitable fate? That is like the submission we expect from animal pets. Special privilege violates justice, this violation of justice brings on depressions. Charity cannot replace justice, nor compensate for injustice. Human justice is waiting to be fit into the Grand Design of the Natural Order. Using the economic rent of land for their legitimate earned revenue, our governments would stop special privilege, provide Equal Rights to all making it possible for this civilization to survive.

SUMMARY

If our United States Congress would be so bold as to collect our economic rent of land for our Public Treasury instead of letting it be collected by landholders, Congress could repeal the Income Tax, Sales Taxes and any other nuisance Taxes. Now we are paying for our government service twice, once in the economic rent of land, ("the Unearned Increment") to landholders and a second time in Taxes on our homes and industry. The millions of unemployed could soon be back to work. No one could hold land except to use it. No need for make-work projects, which can only add to the Tax burden, like trying to lift one's self by one's boot-straps. Let's get together and insist on common sense. Now or never! There is no objection to Wealth, the objection is to Poverty.

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THERE IS A DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN ownership of our Earth which has been here for billions and billions of years and ownership of products we take from our Earth with our labor to sustain life. It is self evident that Social Justice is impossible so long as we fail to understand that our Earth is our common inheritance, whereas products we take from our Earth is the private property of the producer. That is the difference! We need the wisdom and the justice to keep the Economic Rent of Land for the Public Treasury.

Many great lawgivers and economists have said landed property is different



MOSES (1400 BC): The land shall not be sold forever; for the land is Mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with Me. *Leviticus XXV.*



JOHN STUART MILL (1806-1873): Landlords grow richer in their sleep without working, risking, or economizing. The increase in the value of land, arising as it does from the efforts of an entire community, should belong to the community and not to the individual who might hold title.



BARUCH SPINOZA (1632-1677): The whole soil should be public property.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809-1865): The land, the earth God gave to man for his home, sustenance, and support, should never be the possession of any man, corporation, society, or unfriendly government, any more than the air or water, if as much. An individual, or company, or enterprise requiring land should hold no more than is required for their home and sustenance, and never more than they have in actual use in the prudent management of their legitimate business, and this much should not be permitted when it creates an exclusive monopoly. All that is not so used should be held for the free use of every family to make homesteads, and to hold them as long as they are so occupied.



WILLIAM BLACKSTONE (1723-1780): The earth, therefore, and all things therein, are the general property of all mankind, from the immediate gift of the Creator.



HERBERT SPENCER (1820-1903): Equity does not permit property in land. . . . The world is God's bequest to mankind. All men are joint heirs to it.



ADAM SMITH (1723-1790): Ground rents are a species of revenue which the owner, in many cases, enjoys without any care or attention of his own. Ground rents are, therefore, perhaps a species of revenue which can best bear to have a peculiar tax imposed upon them.



LEO TOLSTOI (1828-1910): Solving the land question means the solving of all social questions . . . Possession of land by people who do not use it is immoral—just like the possession of slaves.



TOM PAINE (1737-1809): Men did not make the earth. . . . It is the value of the improvement only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property. . . . Every proprietor owes to the community a ground rent for the land which he holds.



HENRY GEORGE (1839-1897): Our primary social adjustment is a denial of justice. In allowing one man to own the land on which and from which other men must live, we have made them his bondsmen in a degree which increases as material progress goes on. It is this that turns the blessings of material progress into a curse.



THOMAS JEFFERSON (1743-1825): The earth is given as a common stock for men to labor and live on.



DR SUN YAT-SEN (1866-1925): The (land tax) as the only means of supporting the government is an infinitely just, reasonable, and equitably distributed tax, and on it we will found our new system. The centuries of heavy and irregular taxation for the benefit of the Manchus have shown China the injustice of any other system of taxation.