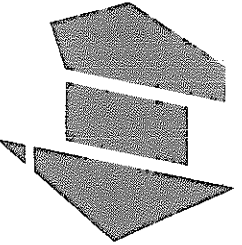


THE JOURNAL OF TAX REFORM AUSTRALIA INC.
(FORMERLY HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE — VICTORIA)



Progress

First published May 1904

No. 986

AUGUST 1992

PRICE \$1 SUBSCRIPTION \$10 PA

Registered by Australia Post Pub. No. VBH 1433
ISSN 1035-1396

Editors: G. A. Forster, B.A., B.Sc.;
H. B. Every, Dip. E.E.; E. M. Best

POSTED WITHIN AUSTRALIA
(For overseas rates see last page)

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We believe that the Earth is the birthright of ALL MANKIND.
We recognise that for most purposes it is essential for individuals to have exclusive possession and security of tenure of land.
We believe that those who have exclusive possession of land should COMPENSATE SOCIETY for being excluded therefrom.
We believe that such compensation paid annually would meet the costs of Government and permit Society to abolish all taxes on LABOUR and on goods produced by labour.

BOOK REVIEW

AUSTRALIANS IN POVERTY — (Melbourne 1979)

By **PETER HOLLINGWORTH**
(now Archbishop of Brisbane)

Review by **W. A. Dowe (1992)**

This review is called for by the wide influence of the book, the importance of the subject, and the efforts everywhere to publicise and relieve poverty while unaware of its causes, let alone the cure.

The book's concern for the poor, and its commendable good intentions, do not make up for its failure to justify its claim to explain poverty. Instead, it describes it in detail. The alleged 'explanations' and 'causes' (e.g. on pages X and 48-54) are naive; on analysis they all amount to: 'the poor are poor because they are poor'.

The recommendations given are in similar vein, nowhere related to causes or explanations, e.g. (a) increased charity and counselling, and (b) assistance with budgeting and debt-management.

EXAMINATION OF POVERTY

As no real causes or explanations are given, and no remedy is even hinted at, let us examine the kinds of poverty, and show which kinds must be relieved and which abolished.

Poverty and its cause and cure were, historically and logically, first identified by the Physiocrats of the 18th century, continuing by degrees with (inter alia) Adam Smith, Ricardo and Bastiat, and finally and conclusively by Henry George with his "Progress and Poverty" (1879).

The basic cause is the oppression, greed and injustice of the political ruling class in civilised society, made possible and accentuated by the social inertia and ignorance of the masses and our leaders. Most of us have been dulled by the acute poverty which, over the past 6 centuries, has succeeded to the golden age and prosperity of the 13th and 14th centuries.

The historical cause of our social poverty is that our political rulers have made themselves the "owners" of the land (especially our city lands), and the abolition of this poverty consists of the restoration to the people of their natural rights in the land.

There are four main kinds of poverty, respectively arising from:

1. Laziness, incompetence, neglect, waste, gambling, alcoholism and other self-afflictions. Their victims often also include other innocent people.
2. Malice, theft, violence, war, etc.
3. Accidents and misfortunes, such as fire, flood, storm, falls, collisions, quakes.
4. Political and legal injustices (i.e. misgovernment and bad laws) which create world-wide modern poverty, the devastating effects of which threaten the very existence of civilisation, and which should be our main social concern.

The first three kinds of poverty naturally concern us and we should do

all we can to relieve them. Number four is entirely different; not relief but abolition is the only effective way of dealing with it. How it can be abolished I will now try to show. Archbishop Hollingworth himself and his colleagues are continuously lamenting that in spite of all the relief the poverty grows worse.

CAUSE OF POVERTY

All over the world the basic and effectual cause is the same, but in this review I must confine myself to England and Australia. To discover the cause historically, we must start with the Norman Conquest, which established a complete royal and military dictatorship. From the 12th century onwards the Norman nobility emerged and established itself as more and more independent of and opposed to the king and as rulers of the bulk of the land, ultimately its complete rulers, the most important stages being the Enclosures

INSIDE:

- The way out of our present economic mess
 - Divide and Rule?
 - Dates for your Diaries
 - Commemoration Dinner September 2
- (See Back Page)

and the suppression of the Monasteries and the division of their lands among the 'aristocracy'. In consequence the English people are now landless and must pay the landlords for permission to live in their country (especially the cities and towns).

By oppression, force and fraud, all originating out of the royal and military supremacy of the feudal system, the ruling classes of England, for roughly six centuries from the 14th century onwards, have literally appropriated the bulk of the land from the people who now must pay the landlords for permission to live in and use their own country. This can be seen by any thinking person to be the basic cause of unemployment and the reduction of wages to a minimum, i.e. social poverty. The unearned appropriation by non-producers of the immense economic rents of city and country lands is obviously the cause of the disinheri- tance of the working classes.

Australia has inherited this landlord system from England, and the force of its grip is so great that all benefits from relief are automatically sucked into the value of land and the pockets of its owners. Charity is no substitute for justice. What is needed to cure poverty is to restore the rights of the people in the land.

From now on in this review the word 'poverty' refers only to kind No. 4.

CAUSE AND CURE OF POVERTY

The cause has already been referred to and the cure may now also be mentioned, namely the restoration to the people of their rights in the land.

How can this be achieved without depriving the landowners of their free-holds or their titles, and without injuring them in any way? All that is necessary is to collect from them immediately the economic RENT of their land, excluding all improvements. This is just, because the rent is produced by the labour of the whole community, not of the landowners, and when it is restored to the community, replacing taxation, poverty will disappear.

The rent is enormous, sufficient to replace taxation, and can be easily collected by using the present machinery of taxation, similarly to the present Council rates in N.S.W.

It is not proposed to try to collect from the landowners any of the rents unethically collected by them in the past and used by them as their private (though unearned) incomes.

SUPPRESSION OF TRUTH

The truth of all this will be resisted

by those who benefit from the poverty of others. Truth cannot be suppressed by any positive action (2 Corinthians 13.8). The best that its opponents can do is to try to ignore it. The real friends of the poor will investigate and proclaim the truth.

Ignorance and apathy are our main enemies. Poverty dulls the understanding. To abolish social poverty successfully is to remove the social cause, by restoring the equal rights of ALL to the land.

THE CURE

How can this be done? Government must collect the enormous economic rent of all land, and use it, instead of taxation, to defray all normal costs of government.

Those who are really concerned with poverty can react to all this, either by (a) ignoring or evading it, or (b) by making the mental effort to investigate it.

The best book on the subject is Henry George's "Progress and Poverty", obtainable at low cost from W. A. Dove, 19 George Street, Marrickville, N.S.W. 2204, Australia.

*Or from the addresses on the back page.

CLEVER COUNTRY IMPOSES NEW TAX

Australian manufacturers have expressed anger last night over attempts by the Federal Government to impose a surprise 20 per cent tax on industrial design and product development work, ("Age, 10/6/92). Manufacturing companies and design firms say the new sales tax could be a death blow to Australia's fledgling but award-winning design industry, already suffering from cuts in spending on corporate product development.

The latest impost on business appears to be in conflict with intensive Government efforts to turn Australia into "the clever country".

Manufacturers say the tax will hinder their attempts to become internationally competitive and accuse the Government of devising the design tax without much thought, simply seeing it as another revenue source.

The new tax is concealed in the small print of the sweeping sales tax reform legislation passed two weeks ago by the House of Representatives and now before the Senate.

Neither the Industry Minister, Senator Button, nor the Treasurer, Mr. Dawkins, could be reached yesterday for comment.

The furore about its introduction comes only three days after the release of national figures showing that recession-hit businesses are pruning their spending on research and product development to disturbingly low levels by international standards.

The 20 per cent design tax will be imposed as an initial cost on any company, including fashion houses, using designers to come up with new product ideas for, and modifications to, consumer goods.

COMMENT

The power to tax is indeed the power to destroy.

RESERVE BANK CHIEF GIVES GST WARNING

The governor of the Reserve Bank, Mr Bernie Fraser, has renewed his assault on the Federal Opposition's goods and services tax, warning that it could "blow out of the water" all the progress made in reducing inflation. (Age, 25/6/92)

Replying to a questioner at the Australian Institute of Bankers conference in Townsville, Mr. Fraser also gave a higher estimate than Treasury of the inflationary impact of the GST, claiming it would raise the consumer price index by "six or seven per cent".

AAP quoted Mr. Fraser as hinting that the coalition may have to revise its GST plans once in office. He told the questioner that what politicians did in government was often quite different from what they promised when in opposition.

"The GST could have severe implications for inflation and monetary policy," he said. "A 15 per cent tax would add six or seven per cent to the CPI."

NEW TASMANIAN STUDY

"The Effects of Land (Site) Value Rating on Kingborough (Tasmania)". A survey conducted for the Municipal Reform group by Ursula Minter in conjunction with Kingborough Council.

This is No. 29 in the Tasmanian series, and once again provides solid empirical evidence for the soundness of site value rating. The impact on various types of property is also thoroughly explained. All concerned in the production of this survey are to be warmly congratulated. Copies are available from the Tasmanian address on page 8 of this issue.

THE WAY OUT OF OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC MESS

Australia's economy is in dire straits. We are still in the depression "we had to have" (according to P. Keating, whom some misguided individual dubbed as the world's greatest Treasurer, and whom now the Labor Party has promoted to Prime Minister). Many would regard our present situation more as a depression. However, for the 10 per cent plus who are unemployed, for the thousands whose businesses have gone bankrupt, and for the hundreds of thousands of Australians falling into poverty (the vast majority through "economic" circumstances rather than their own fault), this is a matter of semantics.

The Federal Labor Party is manifestly inept. All it can do is to utter some pathetic expression about some vague sign of the economy turning the corner; this is usually negated within the next month.

The Coalition offers its "Fightback" package. Although involving the elimination of seven of our current 70 plus taxes, it involves the introduction of a 15 per cent GST on most articles and services in daily use. (GST, though officially the goods and services tax, has more aptly been named as the Grief and Sorrow Tax.) In view of the political setback to the parties in New Zealand and Canada, which introduced it in those nations, the political naivety in proposing this measure is incredible.

No wonder the voters of Wills at the recent Federal by-election returned Phil Cleary. No wonder the polls are indicating major shifts to the Democrats and to Independents.

The major element lacking attention in the current political/economic debate is the high price of land.

Yet, as was shown in our May issue, with the exception of the price of cereal land (i.e. remote rural land), land prices in all other categories rose faster than the consumer price index and average male earnings during the 1978-88 period (i.e. during the "boom" that produced the current "bust").

In the same issue it was shown that, while in 1968, the average after tax income corresponded to 1¼ times the average price of a Melbourne home site, for 1988 the ratio was 2½. Yet is this issue ever recognized by the housing and welfare lobbies?

Likewise, it was shown that if the principal in a typical housing loan could be cut by one-quarter to three-quarters (notably by lowering the price

of land), the interest payout required could be reduced to (not by!) one-fifth (actually slightly under).

The sovereign remedy for our current economic ills is to draw community revenue from community created site values, while lowering taxes on earnings, commodities and consumer services. This will lower land prices and commodity prices, and increase real wages. Site rent revenue could potentially top 25% of the gross national product, but without distortion, without a cumbersome revenue-producing apparatus, and with the result of prosperity combined with equity.

The human cost of the current "recession" is an utter tragedy. The time for tolerating the shortsightedness of vested interests is long past.

G.A.F.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR THE EFFECTS OF THE GST

Your May issue had some comments on GST and families, for which I thank you and on which I would like to offer some alternative views.

Your article quoted Dr. Terry Dwyer, who made comments about the case for exempting food from GST, as well as marginal tax rates of 80 cents/dollar and the issue of the wealthy gaining benefits from exemptions on health, education and overseas holidays.

I have more than a passing interest in various tax systems and believe that Utopia in taxation is very much in the eye of the beholder.

- GST is not exempt from food in the Coalition policy as I understand it, because of the overseas experience of defining the exemptions as well as the clearly recognised fact that food already has a large hidden indirect tax component built in.
- The allegations of tax rates of 80 cents in the dollar are wrong because 95% of taxpayers will pay no more than 30 cents in the dollar in income tax. Family allowances will double for many families.
- The wealthy do spend more on expensive food, so will obviously pay more GST.

There are some hundreds of thousands of wealthy Australians who only pay their Medicare levy which pays for about 15% of the health bill. The Coalition policy insists that the wealthy contribute more to their own health care.

As for education, surely a fundamental point is, that some freedom should be encouraged alongside the state monopoly education system, which is totally paid for by taxpayers, compared to the independent school system which has a large parent financial contribution.

The matter of overseas holidays has to be balanced with the fact that millions of overseas tourists have the use of our nation's facilities at modest cost compared to Australian tourists who travel in most of the other Western democracies.

I have only touched on some of the issues, but I was encouraged to note in your article from the "Age", I believe, that most speakers were in favour of the principle of GST.

Barry Wakelin,
Kimba, S.A.

Liberal Candidate for Grey.

(Ed's Note: All the foregoing apologia is trivial compared with the overriding issue that site values constitute the natural source for community revenue and should be the primary, major source for community revenue. Unfortunately the major political parties simply ignore this issue.)

Further, there is the failure to distinguish between wealth acquired through privilege, and wealth from the exchange of goods and services on an equitable basis.)

SIGNIFICANT NEW BOOKLET

"Why Poverty Increases with Material Progress"
By Graham Hart
Published by the Georgist Education Association.
17 pages. \$1 plus 60¢ postage.

With an historical account of developments in Britain, this booklet stresses the importance of equality of access to natural resources, as the key to widespread prosperity, with full employment and full rewards to labour. The famous, illuminating chart from Thorold Rogers showing the connection between real wage levels and land tenure is included. In general, a concise and readable outline of the Georgist remedy for our current economic mess.

MASS RALLY PLANNED

The Rainbow Alliance is arranging a mass rally on October 10 in Melbourne for all who are dissatisfied with the current policies of the major political parties. Further details can be obtained from our Hardware Street office.

FIGHTBACK - A BURDEN ON FAMILIES?

In reply to T. J. Hast (May 28) some of us have given attention to the Opposition's Fightback package, and while it may have some of the advantages claimed by your correspondent, its disadvantages far outweigh these.

Inevitably a greater reliance on indirect taxes will impose greater burdens on families (hence the attack by the Australian Catholic Welfare Commission last July), lower income groups and particularly the unemployed.

Attempts to compensate for this by various methods will surely be a complex administrative nightmare.

While at present about 70,000 Australian institutions are involved in sales tax payments, with the GST some 1.5 million traders would become unpaid tax collectors.

Overseas experience (notably the UK) indicates that compliance costs are 50 to 100% higher than for income tax.

In New Zealand shopkeepers are required to log details of every transaction, and many have had to buy expensive computers and associated equipment.

Politically the introduction of a consumption tax has proven electorally disastrous in New Zealand and Canada for the parties that have introduced it.

In Britain, Germany, Denmark and New Zealand the rate of the tax has been raised from its initial level after relatively short periods (e.g. in Denmark, from 10 to 22% now).

There is an alternative, viz. revenue from community created site values (equivalent to approx 25 per cent of GNP). Mr. Hast is concerned about tax avoidance; well, you can't hide sites of land.

Income tax discourages effort and enterprise. Consumption taxes discourage spending and hence economic activity.

Site rent revenue ensures that values created by the community return to the community.

G. Forster,
Secretary,
Tax Reform Australia.
"Mornington Mail",
11/6/92.

PRESS LETTERS

RIGHT AND MIGHT

MORE RIGHTS

Mr. Doug Fenwick is correct in stating that there are no intrinsic human 'rights'. Our rights are what the environment permits us to do, the most important part of environment being other humans, in the form of social pressures, traditions, taboos and legal rights (by government law).

The point at issue is what legal rights should a sensible democracy seek to maintain to optimise the happiness of all individuals (and future generations).

Firstly we should recognise that the mind and body of each individual is personal private property, and the results of effort and skill by each individual is personal private property for each to exchange without any claim by the community (in the form of taxes on such private property).

But what legal rights should we recognise concerning land holding which is a legal 'title', not produced by individual effort? Should we not allow that all of us have an equal legal right to share the earth.

To maintain laws allowing some to hold much land ('forever'), and others land of little value, and others again to be completely deprived, is to maintain economic advantage for some to exploit others. That is another way of saying some shall have the legal right to rob others. But robbery is uneconomic and causes reduction of living standards. It is a negative sum transaction.

A sensible civilised democracy will call for government to move towards equal land rights for everyone (without considering race or ancestry). That can be achieved by steadily increasing the rate of a uniform land tax. That allows continued occupation, and does not confiscate buildings etc. made by effort.

The revenue obtained would be used to reduce other forms of taxation which do steal private property and deter the economic transactions necessary for prosperity.

Our silly democracy has been letting governments go in the wrong direction!

S. S. Gilchrist, BSc.,
Roseville, N.S.W.

THE MIGHT DEBATE

Five centuries ago it became common knowledge that all the sciences (except

the social sciences - ethics and economics) are entirely governed by natural, not human, law (nomos, not lex) although millennia ago Aristotle, and two centuries ago the Physiocrats, showed that they also are both governed by nature, not by human will. Today nobody believes that dictators or rulers have any influence on the physical, chemical or mental world. But confused professors, politicians and the public still believe, in a mixed and frustrated way, that ethics and economics can be controlled or influenced by human beings, particularly by governments.

Your correspondent Doug Fenwick (March *Gazette*) believes that ethics are not governed by unchangeable natural law, but by human practices and decisions, e.g. - that under legal slavery no right to freedom or equality existed. And, of course, that if slavery is re-enacted what dreamers fondly imagine is a natural right to freedom will again vanish, having never really existed.

In contrast, I believe that ethics is an unalterable and eternal social science which sternly and logically decrees that we are all social individuals with the RIGHT to live, and to satisfy our desires, and to use the earth, in accordance with the golden rule.

Our knowledge though limited is increasing towards a full understanding of nature and natural law, and in the meantime the inhuman and disastrous philosophy that Might is Right still prevails in many quarters.

In short, to accept Might is Right is to abandon the concept of natural rights and of ethics as a science, including the natural right of the producers to own the things produced by their labour.

W. A. Dowe,
Marrickville, N.S.W.

(Both in "University of Sydney Gazette", June 1992.)

LAND MONOPOLY AND CHILD PROSTITUTION

Asia trades in children. Thousands are kidnapped, hired or sold into prostitution by organized syndicates and individuals. In both remote villages and urban slums, cultural values and traditional economies have been ruined by the rise of inappropriate development policies and exploitative industries. *Deprived of their land* (our emphasis) and the means of survival, families seek desperate solutions."

"Disarming Times",
June, 1992.

DIVIDE AND RULE?

By Bryan Kavanagh

Labor has led us into a depression, so we'd better put the Libs in. It's a simplistic way of thinking, isn't it? Is there any reason to think that the Libs know what to do, either?

It is diverting and gives an illusion of real change, as we vote one of the major parties out and bring the other in. Fundamentally, nothing really changes. That suits those behind the scenes who really run the show from positions of power and privilege. They like to present politics as a fight between labor and capital; just another example of divide and rule. Labor and capital have a commonality of interest in full employment and prosperity.

The media accepts the charade that is party politics.

As the system denies jobs to our children, there is a call for more taxes for training and job creation schemes. But taxes, together with inflated (and then collapsing) land prices, have caused our present plight.

Well, what do we do?

Neither charity, taxes, socialism nor capitalism hold any real answers for the present economic depression.

So, we should listen to the only group to say that economics *is* a science – to the only body to forecast, in 1984, a depression in 1992 following the collapse of western property markets at the end of the '80s.

	SOCIALISM (The Left)	GEORGISM (The Centre)	CAPITALISM (The Right)
HALLMARKS	regimentation	liberty/prosperity	privilege & poverty
CONTROL	bureaucracy	free enterprise	private monopoly
FREEDOM/ SECURITY	are in conflict	harmonised	are in conflict
WEALTH	bought by money	created by labor	bought by money
CAPITAL	includes land	excludes land	includes land
PRIVATE PROPERTY	abolished	sustained	confused with land
LAND	nationalised	title held by rentpayer	monopolised by "owners"
ECONOMIC RENT	neglected	used to replace taxes	into private pockets
TAXES	increase; cause "bust"	abolished	increase; cause "bust"
LAND PRICES	nil	nil	increase; cause "bust"
INCOMES	"equalised"	fully to labor	minimum to labor

We should listen to TAX REFORM AUSTRALIA, promoting the ideas popularised by the American social philosopher and economist, Henry George. He said: "Slash all taxes and take land rent for revenue, and you can't have unemployment, recessions or depressions – no matter how hard you try!"

A Middle Way?

There is an alternative to the tax system which does away with the polarisations of "divide and rule".

In fact, it is actually the foundation of a new economic model – being

neither capitalist nor socialist – but based on employment opportunities and justice for all people.

Don't believe it? Still trapped in "black and white thinking"? Have a look at the comparisons on this chart.

"Radical", yet 'Middle Road' Politics to end the depression!

By getting our revenue, fairly, from the resources we use instead of fining people for working, we create a new and sustainable economic model: it conserves the planet's resources, and lets people get on with their own thing *without* penalty taxes.



LAND COSTS AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Everyone needs land on which to live, work, eat, sleep or play, since no one can do any of those things without occupying land. Therefore, if everyone in the nation is to be fed, clothed, housed, occupied and entertained, then land must be as cheap as possible, so at least one useful site is within the financial reach of even the poorest of the poor.

Furthermore, those sites must be either in or within easy reach of cities and towns, since non-farmers who seek cheaper land beyond the boundaries of urban areas usually spend more on freight and transport than they save on land.

Very Uncommon Common Sense

All of this is common sense. So simple and so "common" that it is completely overlooked, not only by lay people but by professional economists and "experts" in all walks of life.

As a result, land costs are not kept at the lowest possible level, but are constantly pushed to the opposite extreme.

Rank Stupidity

From society's point of view, inflated land prices and rents are little short of rank stupidity! They exist because unused land can be withheld from prospective tenants and purchasers, until the proffered price or rental reaches an owner's "reserve" - regardless of the occupier's "ability to pay".

The results include poverty, hardship, homelessness and unemployment - as land costs (rent, or a purchase price plus interest) absorb an inordinate share of many incomes, and leave both domestic and commercial buyers and tenants with relatively little money for living and/or running costs. This virtually forces governments to tax all and sundry as they try (vainly!) to help, and saddles the nation with a costly, intrusive and cumbersome taxation system, and with an equally complicated welfare state.

Charge for the Use of Land!

Most socio-economic evils could be overcome quite quickly, if everyone who held land paid for the privilege, on a weekly, monthly or annual basis - with the land use charges being:

1. collected as revenue, in lieu of taxes on incomes, sales, etcetera, and
2. moved up steadily, until the charge assessed against each site was equal to its current market rental value for any given period of occupancy.

That simple reform will not increase overall costs of production or home ownership - at least for anyone who is receiving income and/or paying tax. But it will increase the running costs of landholding, and force all owners to:

- (a) use all the land they hold effectively, to earn income with which to meet the land use charge,
- (b) let sites to others who will use them and pay rent - from which the owner can pay the land use charge, or
- (c) allow the land to pass to someone who will do either (a) or (b).

Whereupon the supply of land on the market will reach the maximum level, and land costs will fall to the lowest possible level (whatever that may be at any given time and place). Then involuntary homelessness, poverty and unemployment will be vastly ameliorated, if they do not disappear from the face of the earth.

The Valid Solution is also Simple

The solution to most serious social problems is *that simple*. *Too simple* for those who think that everything must be complicated and hard to explain.

Or is this simple solution neglected, because most of the world's politicians and "opinion makers" (that is, those who either govern or shape public opinion) already own a more than adequate share of the earth, and are not, therefore, unduly troubled by the current, inflated price of land?

Rent as Revenue

Readers who require more information on this fascinating and not unduly difficult topic may obtain a copy of my recent book, *Rent as Revenue* - which treats the whole subject in greater depth.

Rent as Revenue 154 pages. 18 diagrams. Index. Available from: Dr. Les Hemingway, 18 Banyan Street, Warrnambool 3280. Phone (055) 61 1488 (business), 62 3921 (home). Price \$12.00. \$15.00 posted.

MOSES

We girdle continents and we progress
We constantly get new inventions
Power of production increases
But no less are complaints and contentions.

Beside glutted warehouse humans grow faint
They suffer from hunger and cold
Under shadow of churches festers vice
Born from wants of young and old.

Want in the midst of plenty
Ignorance in the midst of intelligence
Aristocracy in democracy
We must wonder why and whence.
Moses saw real cause of enslavement
Was possession by a class of the land
From which the whole people must live
But few with a right to demand.

He saw permit to unqualified private ownership
Would inevitably separate very rich and poor

Few would be masters of many
Whatever the formal law.

Everywhere in Mosaic institutions

His vision is always greater

Land is always treated

As the gift of the Creator.

Speaking of land, Moses uses

Appropriate terminology

Not the land you "bought" or

"conquered"

But "which the Lord thy God giveth thee".

He provided for redistribution

By instituting the Jubilee

if all the laws of Moses were practiced

There would be no monopoly

Man was not made for the Sabbath

The Sabbath was made for man

One day in the week to call his own

Helps bring justice within his span.

It is common to venerate the form

Yet its spirit to deny

The Mosaic institutions

Would help lessen the workers' sigh.

From the free spirit of Mosaic Law

Sprang intensity of family life

That amid all depression and

persecution

Helped moderate much of the strife.

"No man knoweth his sepulchre unto this day"

D spoiled tombs of Pharaohs whose subjects bowed in fright

Mock the vanity that reared them

While Moses remains a beacon of light.

From the depths of the unseen

Such characters must draw their strength

From the fountains that flow from the pure in heart

Wisdom must come at length.

Of something more real than matter

Higher than stars in the cosmic swell

A light will endure when suns are dead

and dark

In passing phase of which such lives tell.

Men like Henry George are rare, unfortunately. One cannot imagine a more beautiful combination of intellectual keenness, artistic form, and fervent love of justice.

Albert Einstein, physicist.

OBITUARY**Lewis Alexander Ellis**

26 April 1910-15 April 1992

By John Hall

My first meeting with Lew Ellis was in the early seventies. Driving in Adelaide, I closed up behind a station sedan which carried the message: **GROUND RENT FOR REVENUE - JOIN THE HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE.** As a recent arrival from the U.K., and a Georgist for more than a quarter of a century, I was delighted to see this sign of local support. I followed that vehicle to its destination, introduced myself to the driver and so met Lew Ellis. He arranged a meeting with David Brooks, another active local Georgist, and from then on we met on a regular basis.

There are many within the Georgist movement more familiar than I with the contribution made by Lew over many years. They know of his contribution to South Australia's Georgist paper, "The Peoples' Advocate", and his work in support of the State's Georgist member of the House of Representatives, Mr. E. J. Craigie. For twenty-seven years he was an elected member of the City of Enfield Municipal Council where he served as Councillor and Alderman and, on occasions, as Deputy Mayor. He had previously been introduced to local government as a Councillor on the District Council of Morgan and never missed an opportunity to promote the benefits of site value rating.

In his early years, the family were hard workers in the local Presbyterian Church. Lew held the position of S.A. Secretary of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia and was the organiser of their young mens' annual camps. It was at one of these camps during a debate on patriotism that he first learned about the philosophy of Henry George and, from that moment, his whole attitude to life changed. He became an ardent and devoted supporter and worked enthusiastically for the cause of Georgism until the end.

Apart from his wide range of intellec-

tual interests Lew Ellis was also a keen sportsman. He played A Grade soccer, was interested in basketball and volleyball and played competitive tennis with success until age 69. He competed in athletics and listed ballroom dancing as his favourite pastime.

Though born in Adelaide, he was proud of his Scottish ancestry having parents who married in Glasgow in 1908 and emigrated to South Australia on the maiden voyage of the SS 'Waratah'. At his funeral it was a sad and emotional moment when a lone piper led the family, friends and a large number of mourners to the graveside for the last farewell.

Lew was proud to be a Trustee Emeritus of the Henry George Foundation of Australia and a life member of The Electoral Reform Society of South Australia, the Enfield Probuss Club and the Clearview Tennis Club. He is survived by his wife Ivy, daughter Judy and son Neil.

(Addendum: Electoral Reform Society of S.A. Secretary, 1946-47. 1960, Committee, 1962-70, President, 1970-74, Secretary, 1976-78, President. Thereafter, life member.)

SAVE THE LAND

(When God made the Land it was
Clear and Free)

When God made the land it was clear
and free.

It didn't belong to you or me,
'Cause it didn't make sense and it didn't
seem fair.

That the land was owned. It was there
to be shared.

But years passed away and the land was
tamed;

It was zoned; it was fenced; it was
legally claimed

Still it didn't seem fair and it didn't
make sense,

That the land was owned at the
other's expense.

Save the land, I ask you neighbour.
Help it flourish; help it prosper; help
it grow.

Tax the land, not goods or labour
And the world will be a better place
to know.

We all have a right to a land that's free;
To a land that's rich; to a land
that's clean;

To the best of things that the land can
produce.

So the land should be worked for its
highest use.

But the owners of the land are very
strong willed.

They don't need to plant, they don't
need to build.

They can just sit back; they can just
relax,

While the rest of us are paying their tax.
Save the land, I ask you neighbour.

Help it flourish; help it prosper;
help it grow.

Tax the land, not goods or labour
And the world will be a better place
to know.

Since the land belongs to everyone and
cannot be replaced,

We need a way to help it. Do not let it
go to waste.

Let the owners pay in yearly tax, the
value of their rent

And no more will land be misused,
wasted, or mispent.

Save the land, I ask you neighbour.
Help it flourish; help it prosper; help
it grow.

Tax the land, not goods or labour
And the world will be a better place
to know.

Save the land, I ask you neighbour.
Help it flourish; help it prosper; help
it grow.

Tax the land, not goods or labour
And the world will be a better place
to know.

And the world will be a better place
to know.

Words and Music by R. Cassler
Guitar and Vocals by Gregg Smith
Copyright 1990 by The Henry George
Foundation of America

GOOD GOVERNMENT

The bi-monthly for serious thinkers
Official journal of the

ASSOCIATION For Good Government

122 Little Eveleigh Street, Redfern

N.S.W. 2016

\$10.00 (A) \$10 (U.S.) Overseas

LAND and LIBERTY — 6 times a year

Since 1894

● 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road

London SW1V 1EU

£7.50 (sig.) \$15.00 (Aust.)

● 121 East 30th Street

New York NY 10016

\$13.50 (U.S.)

FOLLY OR WISDOM

By Hugh Ferris

Were half the power that fills the world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,

Given to redeem the human mind from error,

There were no need for arsenals or forts!

I've quoted these words before, but I think they are worth quoting again. It should be obvious that those who organise or disorganise our social ways are in urgent need of enormous correction from errors. If we think only of the unemployment problem; obviously it isn't a natural disaster, but a man-made maladministration. Plenty has been written about it, but nobody

seems to take it seriously. Even Biblical references are brushed aside as needing too much thought. In an early book of Moses there is a verse "The land shall not be sold forever 'for the land is mine' said the Lord". It should be obvious that no man has a right to sell the land, because he did not make it. In the Psalms a verse says "The Earth hath He given to the children of Man i.e. mankind - not the children of some men only." Other Biblical references can be found also. The organisation of society should be based on logical ways which follow the rules of cause and effect - not on political whims.

"Organic Gardening & Farming Society,
Devonport Branch,
June 1992 Newsletter.

"The most dangerous man, to any government, is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane and intolerable, and so, if he is romantic, he tries to change it. And even if he is not romantic personally he is very apt to spread discontent among those who are."

H. L. Mencken

In my opinion the least bad tax is the property tax on the unimproved value of land, the Henry George argument . . .
Milton Friedman, economist.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Lunch-hour videos, Series, 12.30 p.m. 1st Monday of month.
- Executive Meeting: 7.30 p.m., Thursday, September 10th.
- Melbourne School of Economics - 10.30 a.m. Wednesdays.
- Commemoration Dinner Wednesday September 2, 6.30 p.m. Dallas Brookes Centre, East Melbourne. Speaker - Richard Giles, Association for Good Government. Cost \$25.00.

DEADLINE FOR PROGRESS:

Noon on 12th of previous month.

The views expressed in articles are those of the writers and not necessarily of Tax Reform Australia Inc.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

VICTORIA - TAX REFORM AUSTRALIA INC.
31 Hardware Street, Melbourne 3000

NEW SOUTH WALES - ASSOCIATION FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT
122 Little Eveleigh Street, Redfern 2016 (02) 319 3813 or
P.O. Box 443, Enfield NSW 2136

QUEENSLAND

SITE REVENUE SOCIETY
P.O. Box 6179, G.C.M.U., Bundall, Qld. 4217

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE
Visitors welcome to meeting.
Enquiries: John Hall

26 Lansdowne Ave., Belair. 5052 (08) 278 7560

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

GEORGIST EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (Inc.)
10 Broome St., South Perth 6151
Phone (09) 367 5386

TASMANIA

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE
G.P.O. Box 1370P, Hobart 7001
Phone (002) 34 6353
Fax: (002) 34 5607

Published by G. A. Forster, 31 Hardware Street, Melbourne, 3000, and printed by The Print Press, 452 Neerim Rd., Murrumbidgee, 3163.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

I agree with the ideas of Tax Reform Australia.

I enclose \$16 annual fee - including PROGRESS

NAME

ADDRESS

Signature

Annual Subscription: \$10 posted (Aust.)

£4 (stg) C'wealth Countries, \$A12 other countries

Cheques to: TAX REFORM AUSTRALIA INC., 31 Hardware Street, Melbourne, 3000. Enquiries: (03) 670 2754.

Honorary Secretary: Geoff Forster. Office Supervisor: Loma Sutton. Fax: (03) 670 2754.

INCENTIVE TAXATION

Monthly bulletin from the Centre for the Study of Economics,
2000 Century Plaza, Suite 238, Columbia, MD 21044, U.S.A.
Subscription \$US8 p.a. Editor: Steven B. Cord.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Bill Mason, 8 Cherry Place, Pearce A.C.T. 2607
Phone (06) 286 1353

NEW ZEALAND

Henry George League, 20 Connaught Terrace,
Brooklyn, Wellington, N.Z. 389 9975
The Crown Leasehold Association,
P.O. Box 6038, Auckland, N.Z.
The New Zealand Land Value Rating Association,
P.O. Box 6038, Auckland, N.Z.
Enquiries: Mr. R. D. Keall, 45 Dominion Street
Takapuna, Auckland, N.Z. 486 1271

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

I enclose one year's subscription to Progress

NAME

ADDRESS

Signature

Annual Subscription: \$10 posted (Aust.)

£4 (stg) C'wealth Countries, \$A12 other countries

Cheques to: TAX REFORM AUSTRALIA INC., 31 Hardware Street, Melbourne, 3000. Enquiries: (03) 670 2754.

Honorary Secretary: Geoff Forster. Office Supervisor: Loma Sutton. Fax: (03) 670 2754.