

FREEFOLK

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A PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO:

Explaining the social nature of ground-rent
and the injustice of taxation.

A PUBLICATION ADVOCATING: THE COMPLETE
ABOLITION OF TAXATION: THE PUBLIC COLLECTION
OF THE FREELY OFFERED AND AUTOMATICALLY
ADEQUATE GROUND-RENTS

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MY FIVE ACRES

Question: If you had your way ^{and} everyone had to pay the rent of the land he occupied would I be cut of pocket with my five acres?

Answer: The reform we look for would change the distribution of wealth so that no-one could gain a cent from land speculation. In that case you would lose the \$25,000 that your 5 acres would bring today.

--- What you propose is subversive and revolutionary. You are communists.

--- What we propose would lead us from the communism we have today and direct us to a state of social justice. Today's communism results from taxation - taking privately earned wealth and using it for public purposes. We would stop that. If when you call us subversive you mean that we want to overthrow the government, we can accept that label. However, we believe in the use of peaceful means, particularly education. If when you apply the term "revolutionary" to us, you mean that we wish to cause the social system to revolve, we must accept that label too. We want to strip the mighty of the power they obtain through unjust laws which grant economic privilege. We want to see restored to esteem the dignity and worth of the person who does a useful job well.

--- You are Utopians.

If you mean by that, that we are working towards an ideal, we will gladly accept the Utopian epithet too. Robert Browning said "And but a man's reach should exceed his grasp." We shall continue to reach.

--- It'd be better off keeping my 5 acres than going along with you.

--- When all the unearned income from land goes to the public treasury and when wages are untaxed there will be a tremendous increase in wages. You have had your 5 acres 15 years to make \$23,000 dollars. In that time you must have paid \$50,000 in taxes one way or another. It is a poor exchange to lose \$50,000 so as to keep your \$23,000 of speculation. Only if your interest as a landlord exceeded you interest as a worker would you

be worse off by exchanging ground-rent for taxes. Few people come into this category.

— I still think there's something screwy about it.
— That's your privilege.

LANGUAGE & EDUCATION

To continue with the pre-school education of a child, it would be appropriate to discuss here the question of a second language. Many children in Canada have immigrant parents who speak one language in the home, and another at work or among friends. Again there are some immigrants who try to speak nothing but English in the home in order not to confuse the children. Experience has shown that where a child is fluent in two languages, the child can think more clearly than if unilingual. This would lead us to attempt to teach languages more than we do at present. In any case, the curriculum that demands a child begin to learn a second language at the age of 13 is not realistic. Very young children are specially equipped to learn languages quickly and effortlessly. The older they are, the greater the effort required. If we observe brothers or sisters who came to this country already fluent in another language, we find that one sibling who began at perhaps the age of eight, learned to speak English with the local accent as though born here. Another sibling who began to learn English at the age of 13 speaks with an accent reminiscent of his native tongue, and will continue to do so to the end of his life.

This is just one more proof of the beneficial forces of nature. When we need to learn a language we are at the maximum of our language learning ability, even though very young. Therefore parents who want to have their children fluent in other languages should start at an early age. There is no reason why a child should not begin to speak in two languages. Remarkably, confusion will not result. The poet Swinburne spoke English as his father's native tongue and French as the native language of his mother, learned at her knee. He composed poetry in French as well as in English without ever confusing one language with the other.

Modern research shows that children raised bilingually tend to think more clearly than unilingual children. If we assume that most people verbalise their thought processes, imperfection in language will lead to imperfection in thought. Since two different languages are hardly likely to be delolient in the same areas, the learning of a second language will quickly point up the faults of a person's native tongue. John P. Hughes in "The Sciences of Language" says: "It may be said that many notions of thought and reality are suggested and limited by the language one uses." unless, through having learned to use several, one has gained independence of any."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor, Freefolk,

I have been following your series on education with interest. However, a question comes to mind; when are you going to talk about the way people are today being cheated by the public education system? I think it should be explained to readers that illiterate teachers are put in front of students to brain-wash them with opinions, half-truths and often downright misrepresentation. Students are made to memorize and repeat on an examination all the misconceptions that these illiterates have themselves memorized, or read in some book.

Here is a picture of a senior high-school teacher as seen from the receiving end: Educated at the University of Victoria, famous for having the only president with a mail-order Ph.D., boasts to his classes that a group of students put a dog through university, which graduated with second class honors, or that one of his English "profs" put into a hat slips of paper on which were written either "A" or "B". The students each drew one out and that was their final grade. This person cannot read aloud from the Grade XI textbooks without mispronouncing common words. The questions he sets would be laughable if it were not so tragic that students had to take them seriously or be sent to the office to be grilled and threatened, in my case by four pig-headed staff members. Let me give you one of his in-

Famous questions exactly as it appeared: "After WWII Canadian became ever more aware of Natural Resources, list 5 areas where the extraction of natural resources where playing a prominent role."

This man is just a beginning teacher. I wonder how many students will have to suffer his ignorance in the years to come. I wonder why he has not been fired for incompetence. My guess is that incompetence is not a disadvantage in a teacher. An incompetent idiot can be persuaded to do any ridiculous thing through fear of losing a job. An ignorant person can easily be indoctrinated. An ignorant person is obedient. An ignorant person is "safe".

Tom Raagner.

IN PLAIN TERMS

Shall we ever get enough support to collect the land-rent for society?

This is a question no one really can answer, but we can all be concerned with the issue of putting our ideas in simple terms in order to make it easy for people to understand our intentions. Many years ago a friend told me this: "The idea of any message written or verbal is that it should be understood."

When we are sloppy in our expressions, we reduce our chances of effective communication. We ought to specify as clearly as possible what we are talking about by avoiding putting unlike things into the same category, thereby confusing both ourselves and others.

The two terms, "rent" and "tax" are often used in a way which easily gives the impression that the two are of the same kind. We should realise that the uninformed person doesn't know that the market price of land will disappear when the public collects the rent, so when we talk about a "land-value tax", he sees it as a tax levy that will be added to the existing price of the land, and conceives it as a burden or an obstacle like all other taxes.

Cover

Many times I have heard this argument from opponents: "You say you want to eliminate all taxes, but on that which is necessary for all you can't get enough taxes. "And believe me, this goes over as a powerful argument with economic illiterates who don't realize that land-rent is a product resulting from the existence of a society.

In Denmark where I was involved in political activities I was taught that because the value of the ground is due to society, it is logical to conclude that the rent is owed to society, and by virtue of this fact it is called "ground dues." Rent is compensation to the community for community advantages. Taxation is robbery in which the robber does not distinguish between yours, mine, and ours. By lumping everything together, the facts are obscured with the result that people cannot notice even that which is self-evident.

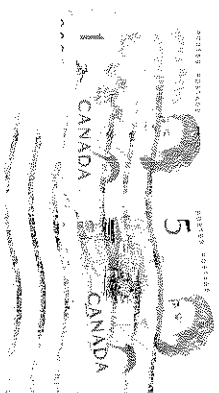
Confused people seeking for solutions join this or that group in an attempt to get protection through little monopolies in their own areas, preventing others from engaging in useful activities. Group confrontations are commonplace. So are demands that the government tax this or that group at a higher rate and hand out "equalisation" payments to other groups.

But robbery is still robbery when carried out by groups and legalised by government. If we care about equal rights for all and special privileges for none, we must sort things out, relate them to their origin and call them by their proper names. Two definitions from Webster's dictionary support these points: "TAX; levy imposed by the state on income, property, etc; burden" "RENT; periodical payment at an agreed rate for use and enjoyment of something, esp. land, houses..... Think about it.

Gunnar Jeberg.

The government is now paying your money to encourage poultrymen to decrease flocks so you pay more for eggs.

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