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'PROBROOK'

DEVOTED TO: explaining the
social nature of ground-rent and
the injustice of taxation.
ADVOCATING: the complete
abolition of taxation. The public
collection of the freely offered
and automatically adequate
ground-dues.

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SOVIET STILL LAGS

At the March 24th meeting of our basic economics study group, one of the members, Moses Popoff described an extensive tour of the U.S.S.R. that he and his wife recently made, the object being to visit a last surviving relative near Rostov on Don, and to see what Heaven, from a socialist viewpoint is like.

Although Moses was born in Canada, his mother, of Russian origin had spoken to him in his childhood about the "old country" and relatives remaining there. She had also taught Moses the native tongue which he speaks fluently. Therefore, the Popoffs' visit was not like the usual one of the Westerner taking a guided tour with an interpreter. Russians were questioned in their own tongue, and when an individual could be caught alone, an interesting two-way exchange developed. When two or more inhabitants were encountered, only non-committal answers were given, each person fearing to be reported to the party bosses for saying things he ought not to say.

For a long time, Moses was surprised that all and sundry addressed him as "Your honour" (in Russian) but finally an individual told him that the newspapers stated that only the rich capitalists of America could afford to travel abroad, the working people suffer from the direst poverty. Consequently, it was clear that Moses must be one of the capitalist class and must be addressed as "Your honour".

It seemed that American tourists are received in Russia in order to acquire dollars. At one point the Popoffs wished to make a short journey to a collective farm by train, but the Intourist official insisted that if they went it would have to be by taxi at a cost of \$150. This counsel, of course, was rejected. Hotels demanded payment for more days than the tourists stayed. The hotel meals were expensive and an hour's wait for service was common.

The ordinary person has a very low standard of living. One family visited, considered it a privilege to share a log cabin with two other families. The floor was beaten earth, the furniture was of the crudest, and the house lacked even the amenity of water. This, people had to carry from a communal faucet in the street.

Armaments factories are working continuously, and at social gatherings, there is a marked absence of young men. Girls dance together and link arms together on the streets because the young men are all away on military service.

Officialdom is just as can be expected. Everyone with some small authority wields it with a heavy hand, and if some American tourist would have the effrontery to question the official's word, threats

SOVIET LAGS. Contd.

are used and soldiers called to intimidate the innocent tourist. Remarkably, in this "workers' haven", privilege exists. At Odessa, our travellers were pleased to see that a few young people at least were able to "live it up". They were having an exciting party in a reserved part of an hotel and were doing the kinds of dances American boys and girls are now doing, while an orchestra played suitable music. It transpired that these young people were children of party officials.

POLLUTION

Never before have people been so conscious of the environmental problems which face us today. Yet the pollution of the atmosphere, the rivers and sea is only one more symptom of a much larger problem, that of land use.

It should be clear that we cannot go on treating land as though it were property. We allow big combines to appropriate oil, coal, and all kinds of minerals, and use them or not use them as they think fit. At the present time Kayser is making a start on tearing the heart out of the Rockies with its strip-mining. Streams and rivers will be running with filth, salmon runs will disappear, and the balance of nature will be upset over a large area.

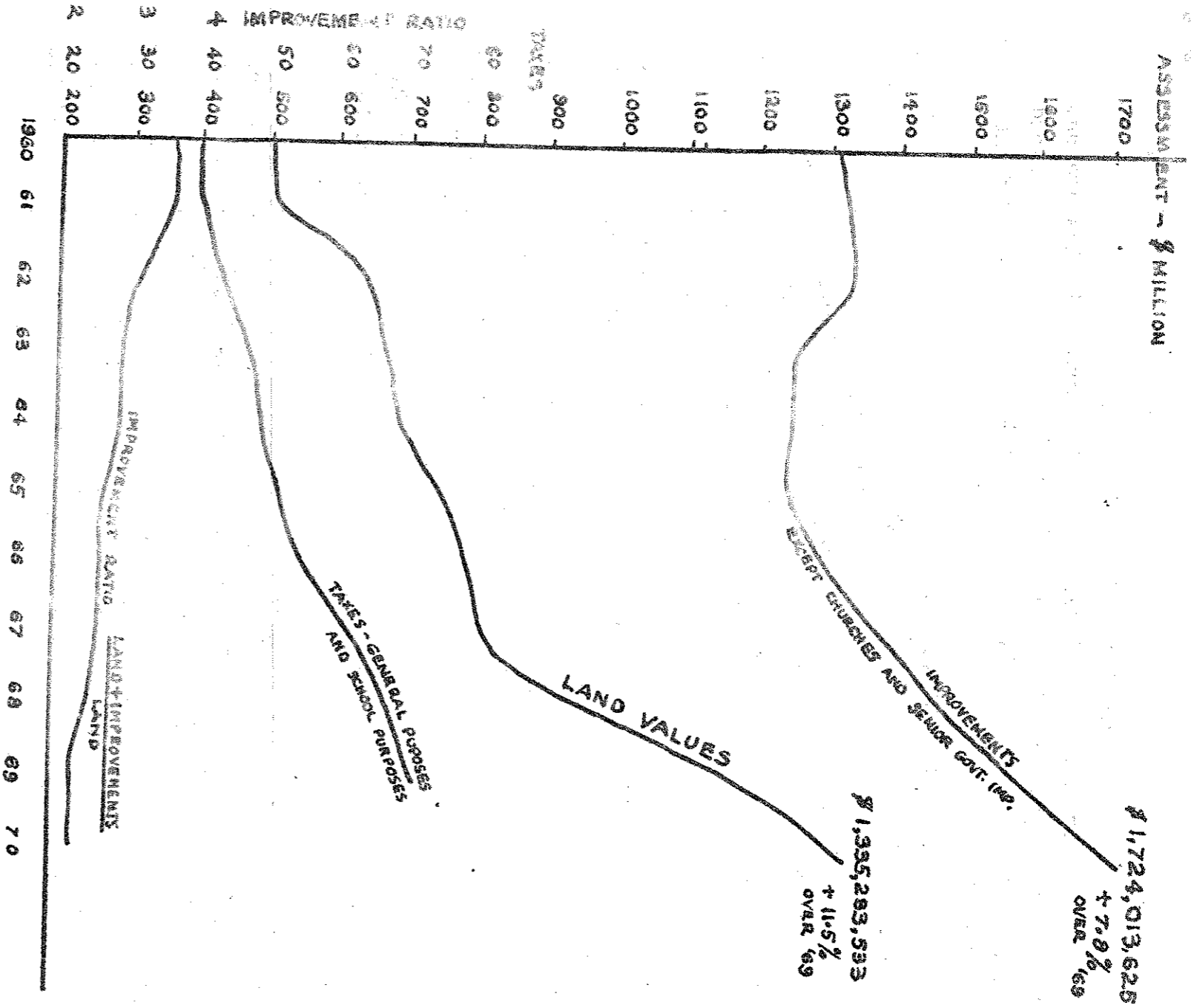
The protests of the public are of little avail. We are promised laws with teeth in against pollution. Should they be forthcoming, they are only one step towards stating that land is not property for individuals to do with as they please. All property rights in land must be extinguished for the earth is the free gift of the Creator.

The whole community will be affected by the pollution from the extraction of coal. The whole community should be consulted before coal is sent along new railway lines, creating more noise and new hazards, to a new superport, to Japan, where it will be used to make steel to put into Japanese cars, to export to B.C. with the resulting increased noise and pollution.

INFLATION FIGHTERS

We are told that in Canada at the present time, there is an unemployment rate of six and one half percent. How this figure is arrived at no-one says. It would appear that the rate of unemployment is at least ten percent. We must take into account all the jobless in high schools and universities. Very few are enrolled there for the purpose of developing the mind, of learning about and trying to emulate the cultural achievements of our past musicians, poets, philosophers and artists. There they go day after day to do the penance exacted from every aspirant to a mere job.

Why must so many be unemployed? We are told that this is the way to fight inflation - like King Henry VIII fighting V.D.!



REAL ESTATE VALUES IN VANCOUVER CITY

Taxes imposed on land and improvements have risen from around \$40,000,000 for General and School Revenue in 1960, to approx. \$72,000,000 " " " " " " 1969.

An increase of 80%. Eighty percent.

Assessments on which those taxes are calculated rose, for

Buildings in 1960 \$1300 000 000, increasing to

1969 \$1600 000 000, --

An increase of 24% Twenty four percent

Land in 1960 \$ 500 000 000, increasing to

1969 \$1 200 000 000

An increase of 135% One hundred thirty-six percent.

Real Estate Values -- Cont

While there have been, and there still are, outcries against the municipal property tax, claiming that it has increased beyond owners' ability to pay, it must be realised that the increase is "only" as below:

| | |
|---|----------|
| 1960 tax per \$1 000 Value, | \$22.00 |
| 1969 tax per \$1 000 Value, | \$25.50 |
| as compared with the increase in other taxes; | |
| 1960 Income tax per \$1 000 income average | \$80.00 |
| 1969 " " " \$1 000 " " | \$129.00 |

or suppose a taxpayer earning gross

| | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------|--------|
| in 1960 | \$7 000 - (Wife, no children) | Income Tax | \$1099 |
| in 1969 | \$9 000 same | Income Tax | \$1655 |

Note that the suggested increase in income is very conservative, but even if we increase the earnings the same as the consumer price index, approximately 24%;

in 1969, \$ 8680 (Wife, no children) Income tax \$1572

N.B. The taxable for 1969 taxes has been used to compute the above taxes. If the 1960 table had been used for the 1960 taxes, they would have been less.

It gives me the creeps to note that Mr. Benson in his White Paper is promoting the income tax as the basic taxform for the future in Canada.

C.K.I.

MORAL APPROACH

Marx, Capital "It would ruin them (employers) to ^{be} tender-hearted towards the gnawing of hunger in the workers' bellies.

SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

George, Progress and Poverty "Give labour a free field, and its full earnings; take for the benefit of the whole community that fund which the growth of the community creates, and want and the fear of want would be gone."

Moral reformers have never been able to do anything beyond stir up hate. Marx's ideas lead inevitably to revolution which results in an intensification of the wage slavery of the workers. The blood bath and concentration camp are inseparable from the exercise of power by haters. Henry George looked for a revolution in ideas so that people could liberate themselves from their ignorance. "Les revolutions violentes ne sont pas profondes; les révolutions profondes ne sont pas violentes."

THE EARTH SHOULD BE THE PATRIMONY OF THE COMMUNITY. -- SPINOZA.

Notice; April 21st., we hope to commence a series of sessions in the study of banking and international trade. We invite graduates of our preliminary course to turn out in full force and bring along a pal.