

Motto: Landownership is a bold, bare, enormous wrong. H.G.

To future generations, readers of the Commonweal.

After a century of dedicated action by so many the sad fact cannot be denied that of the principles to which Henry George addressed, seem to be away farther than ever.

What may be the cause? I give you my personal opinion.

I am born in 1906 and joined the movement in 1930, a branch of the Commonwealth Land Party, established in 1921, edited by R.L.Outhwaite, later edited by J.W.Graham Peace, transferred to Holland by Jan Willems. He was as capable as G.P. and a very brave man. In 1942 he was captured by the Nazi's and tortured to death without mentioning his comrades. I honor his memory. In 1945 I inherited from Jan 5 volumes of The Commonweal, before you is one of them. I have guard them as precious perls for future generations. Here follows my opinion.

+++

The times of Henry George extremely differ from ours. From a mainly agriculture society, the United States developed to a highly industrial and banking society. At present only a poor 10% of the populous is active in the agrarian sector. In the Netherlands, in older times 70% at present 7%. And these 7% provide for an enormous export of food and flowers.

At the beginning the followers of H.G. presented themselves as "Land Restorationists" (see nr 36, page 5). However, for reason of party interests, "the taxation of land values" was substituted.

City-dwellers don't realize that they are victims of ground-leasing and thought that George's principles were addressed to farmers and farmers turn away from the term "TLV" because they wish to hold their lands for perputal production. (Not for speculating)

However, as the urbanization everywhere in the world continues, the agrarian sector compared with city-grounds, is less important. And to the extent that farmers are compelled to mortgage their lands, the interests of farmers and city-dwellers will meet sooner or later. The centre of gravity lies in the cities.

The dogma: wages to labor, interest to capital, rent to land, needs an amplification for proper understanding, namely: for-ages wages go to laborers, interests to capitalists and land-rent to land-leasers.

This reveals a close connection between interest and rent, both items mean unearned increment.

In general this statement is not recognized by pro-LVT'rs, they claim that income from house-leasing and money-leasing is different from land-leasing. The latter would be incorrect, the firsts correct. For: the investor is titled to a return.

The lapse of the movement may be partly due to incorrect reasoning. Another reason may be the conception of "free trade".

In Holland tariffs amount to 20% of the merchandise, nevertheless people think: We live in a free country and enjoy free trade. May I advise readers to reread the preface of Protection and Free Trade by Henry George? That reasoning is almost forgotten.

What can I advise readers for improvement of propaganda?

firstly: George's principles must be enlarged by the phenomena of our time, banking-business, mortgaging and all the like
secondly: returned to the language Henry George and Graham Peace used.

Good Luck to you all.

Wim Born