

OUR AIMS

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What do we really want to achieve? Land Value Taxation? Site Rent Collection? Rental Value? Free Trade? Democracy? Justice? Most likely all of these things but to my mind none can be a primary goal. Over those issues war was waged in our ranks for 100 years and if those issues remain our goal this war will go on for another 100 years. But times, circumstances and attitudes change. On that basis I suggest, and I take this from my understanding of the spirit of Henry George and not of the theory.

First he wanted "betterment for life on earth". Add to this "all life on earth" regardless whether this is Homo sapiens or whether it is a whale, an earthworm or a microbe. We have to share our earth with all creatures and we all need land to live.

The next question is, "how do we want to achieve this"? The answer is by new, different tax paradigms.

The third is, "how do we go about doing this?", and the answer, "by removing from human exertion the imposts of taxation and to collect instead the communally created values of land for government revenue".

With that, we have moved from the abstract reality of life (betterment) to the concrete realities of life (taxation), thereby uniting in our new attitude what all religions and philosophies teach us, the harmony of the universe. Once we acknowledge and respect this universal harmony and move from a Darwinian analytical concept of taxation to an all embracing wholistic outlook on taxation we shall be able to

move forward and be free from the limitations of two-dimensional thinking.

I am sure this will not only raise the eyebrows of many but some will close their eyes in humble recognition of the damage our concept of dominating the earth by science and technology has brought to all life on earth. To rectify those errors is our task for which we believe we hold a solution through our taxation system. To meet the challenges of the 21st century we have to make our message heard and understood. We have to unify. This may be the task of this gathering; I do not expect a clear-cut program to come from it at once, but a glimpse, a better understanding of this shift of emphasis from the two-dimensional to the three-dimensional I do expect.

I do not believe that any theory on its own can change old-established traditions. It needs the empirical demonstration of its validity. Therefore, let us concentrate on establishing anywhere in the world an economic unit where pure LVT can be practised, and make this a priority so that people all over the world can see that "betterment for life on earth" is possible.