

## OPEN FORUM 2

### Cape Metropolitan Council rating action

Malthusianism from principles. Today the same principles answer neo-Malthusianism. In particular, once we grasp the marvellous power of economic co-operation to generate wealth we see the solution to the fears of those who think population growth is an enemy.

According to George, the main cause for the triumph of Malthusian theory is that, "instead of menacing any vested right or antagonizing any powerful interest, it is eminently soothing and reassuring to the classes who, wielding the power of wealth, largely dominate thought."<sup>10</sup> This cause still operates. Injustice is the great cause of poverty, and those who benefit by injustice want to shift the blame for poverty onto others. Here they shift it on to the poor, who are charged with perpetuating poverty by having too many children. The population controllers would deprive them of their children as well as of material wealth.

#### REFERENCES

1. Malthus, *The Principle of Population*, book I, chapter 1, Everyman's Library edition, volume 1, p. 8.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 10.
3. Mill, *Principles of Political Economy*, book I, chapter XIII, section 2.
4. George, *Progress and Poverty*, book II, chapter 4, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 1958, p. 141.
5. *Ibid.*, chapter 3, p. 129.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 131.
7. *Ibid.*, chapter 4, p. 150.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 146-147.
9. Cited by Eamonn Keane, *Population and Development*, Sydney, 1994, p. 30.
10. George, *Progress and Poverty*, book II, chapter 1, p. 98.

THE resolution that was passed by the CMC to collect all rates from site values only has run into a few snags, reports *Godfrey Dunkley from Cape Town*. These difficulties will most likely cause a delay in some cases and a postponement in others.

It is sometimes difficult to obtain accurate statistics of what is likely to happen in the long term. Each set of statistics seems to vary slightly, depending on how they were built and their source.

A further factor which could have a significant effect is Cape Town's bid for the Olympic Games in 2004. This could affect all six sub-structures or Metropolitan Local Authorities.

The table gives a good overview of the CMC:

#### Population (Feb. 1997) and Rates Income 1996/97

	Population	%	R million	%
Cape Town...	1,076,000	38	436	50.1
Blaauwberg (North of CT)...	130,000	4	45	5.2
South Peninsula...	345,000	12	137	15.7
Tygerberg (East of CT)...	980,000	34	174	20.0
Oostenberg (East of Tygerberg)...	246,000	8	45	5.2
Helderberg (S/E of Oostenberg)...	128,000	4	34	3.9
Total CMC...	2,905,000	100	871	100

The first three Metropolitan Local Councils (MLCs) are working towards a new valuation roll based on site values. This will reduce the time needed to complete the rolls which are now urgently required. There has been a delay in clearing the legality in terms of both the new Constitution, which is not very clear, and the former Provincial

Ordinance, which has to be modified. After this it is necessary to fix the effective date of valuation. If a Local Authority starts to update the Valuation Roll and the effective date is then changed, all the work done to date could be ruled as ineffective.

The other three MLCs have fairly up-to-date valuation rolls, some of which have only just been completed, and they do not wish to finance another revaluation. There also seems to be some resistance from a few councillors who have vested interests in under-developed property. The power struggle is starting.

In March I had a small stand at the "Art of Living Exhibition" in Cape Town. A number of books were on sale and graphs showing the factors of production and effect of taxes at the margin of production. This presented the opportunity for a large amount of discussion with a wide cross-section of people. There was great interest from the public to these "new ideas". Don Northcott assisted. Some exhibitors from Port Elizabeth, the only other RSA city still on Flat Rating, were keen to take both literature and the ideas back to their City Councillors.

On March 26 I attended the Cape Metropolitan Council monthly meeting as a reporter for *Land and Liberty*. The rates issue was on the agenda but the proposed modification was not carried. However, as President of the International Union I was introduced to the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the CMC and received a very friendly response. The invitation was extended for further discussions. The Mayor, Rev. William Bantom, also expressed interest in sending a delegate to the IU Brighton Conference.

### BEQUESTS

If you have made a bequest to the Movement in your Will and have cited the beneficiary as "United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values Ltd", then you should take steps to alter this to "Henry George Foundation of Great Britain Ltd". The United Committee was wound up and the name no longer exists. Legacies in that name would revert to the estate and the Movement would not benefit.

If you have not thought of making the Foundation a legatee in your will, you may like to consider doing so.