

the law of supply and demand—by letting the soil go to waste.

To-day the subdivision of labour is generally accompanied not by the collocation but by the disjunction of the various branches of industry, and consequently by the isolation of each of them and the complete isolation of the workers, subjected to such a régime. It is for this reason that in certain countries one sees whole populations condemned from their birth to the one and only occupation of work in the mines, without the least possibility of choosing another calling. This system of dispersion is absolutely injurious to production, for it does not allow anyone to follow his aptitudes. The worker is induced by the pressure of his environment to adopt a given trade because there is no other within his reach.

From the purely intellectual point of view, this system is disastrous. It exaggerates the analytic spirit at the expense of the synthetic, as our great philosophers have clearly pointed out. This baneful tendency towards the dispersion of industry is, no doubt, the result of the appropriation of the soil by a minority and the enslavement of the working masses.

By levying tribute upon labour, the masters have divorced production from consumption, the markets from the sources of supply. Under these conditions society is divided into two classes, on the one hand the workers, on the other those who enjoy life without working. Harrowing toil is the lot of one portion of mankind, pleasant occupations the lot of another. The one consumes without producing, the other produces without consuming more than is strictly necessary for the working of the human machine. Such is the division of labour accompanied by the dispersion of industry. It is simply monstrous.

The law of the division of labour has then different applications according as the worker is independent or is not. When the tax on the unimproved value of the land has destroyed the omnipotence of the landowner, the workers will be masters of production and free to profit by the advantages of the division of labour, as well as from the not less important advantages of the grouping of industry. And thus life will be complete in every part of the planet. The more one studies the effects of land reform through land value taxation, the more one realizes that this reform is complete and satisfies all the interests as well as all the needs of the mind, all the rights of the individual as well as those of society. By this reform we shall be able to enjoy a real Free Trade, instead of the lie which is held out to us by the orthodox economists.

(From the Address by Henry George at the Land Reform Congress, Paris, 1889.)

There has been correspondence in the *Literary Guide* upon Herbert Spencer's views on the land question, in which Social Statics has been quoted and Spencer's "recantation" brought under review. In this Mr B. Butterworth of Watford has been able to make good use of Henry George's book, *A Perplexed Philosopher*, and we would like to compliment Mr Butterworth on the convincing arguments he has put to his opponents in upholding the equal right to the use of land and revealing how Spencer went wrong in the matter of compensation.

LAND AND FREEDOM. A new, comprehensive and up-to-date Work on Land-Value Taxation. By FREDK. VERINDER. Cloth, 2s. 6d.

LAND-VALUE RATING. Theory and Practice. By F. C. R. Douglas, L.C.C. Cloth, 2s. 6d.

THE COAL INDUSTRY Who Gets These Benefits?

I REMEMBER in 1872 working down the Astley Deep Pit, Dukinfield, Cheshire. The main shaft was 723 yards deep. Flat tapered winding ropes had to be used to raise the coal to the surface, as it was then impossible to make a non-tapering rope capable of lifting its own weight and even a small working load from a depth of 700 yards. The mine water had to be pumped by means of massive engines on the surface working heavy "pump rods" which forced it through cast-iron pipes in four separate stages to the surface. The crude tools and other equipment would to-day only have value as museum exhibits. Internal combustion engines, electric motors and high pressure steam were not available. Yet the coal was sold at less than 7s. per ton at the pit-head and still yielded substantial profits.

At the present time, the discovery of many new and more easily mined seams of good coal; the reduction of mining royalties to an average of under 6d. per ton; the invention of coal-cutting machinery, which has revolutionized production in many districts; and the use of pressed steel tools made to gauges operating to the thousandth part of an inch, save time and labour in a way that would have been thought miraculous in 1872. Moreover, conveyors at the "faces" and mechanical haulage along the "drives" very greatly reduce the cost of conveying the coal from the "working faces" to the shafts; and, thanks to improvements in wire-drawing, relatively cheap parallel ropes are available capable of lifting a working load of over 25 tons from a vertical depth of over 2,000 yards, and they do this with a far longer working life than the expensive tapered ropes in use 60 years ago; electrically driven pumps at the shaft bottom are now forcing water in one lift, through steel pipes, from depths of over 1,000 yards vertical.

Why, in face of all these improvements, cheaper capital and miners no less capable at their jobs, does it cost so very much more to sink shafts, to develop mines and raise coal to the surface than it did in 1872? In considering this problem I cannot forget that in 1872 it was one of my ambitions to own a watch which would keep reliable time. But alas, such a watch cost 60s. To-day I can buy a good-looking reliable watch for 6s.; and the price of many other things has been reduced proportionately.

Coal is an essential element in the life-blood of our nation. The supply is of individual and national importance, the safety and wages of its miners one of our common responsibilities. The retail selling price of coal vitally affects our home and industrial life. And yet, in the many books, pamphlets, speeches and Parliamentary debates giving the views of royalty owners, colliery proprietors, middlemen, miners and consumers on the raising and selling of coal there is to be found no understandable explanation why the selling price of coal has risen during the time the price of watches and such things have been so greatly reduced.

(From *Why Civilizations Rise and Fall* (Chap. VIII) by G. A. Goodwin, C.M.G., price 6d. post free—see advt.)

The Press Bureau of the Land Values Group of the Parliamentary Labour Party continues to send its regular articles and items to the newspapers. A letter by Mr Leon MacLaren on the injustice of the present rating system has had wide notice.