

aid. We observe that the rent of land inevitably goes on rising—an ever increasing charge upon production and living space. With the growth of welfare aids for the poor there has grown also welfare aid for the privileged—subsidies, government grants, quotas, tariff protection, licences and subventions of all kinds, which have created a huge burden to be borne by the consumer in taxation and high prices.

In the history of practical politics we can observe how the significance of land has been but partially comprehended by reformers—and too well comprehended by those who would preserve their privilege.

Economists preoccupied with palliatives, and politicians preoccupied with expediency, have produced a tangle of ill-conceived and half thought-out legislation which does no more than pay lip service to honest principles.

The price of artificially-maintained full employment has been the debasement of the currency, exchange control, increased tariffs and naive attempts to control prices and incomes. Thus we are confronted with armies of civil servants, battalions of economists and office blocks full of bureaucrats, who run our lives. There is no easy way out. Voting at general elections will solve little. We cannot expect quick change. We cannot expect comprehensive changes. The fight for real justice among men and the right method of achieving it must be made an issue at all points and at all levels.

Road to Serfdom

SPEAKING at a meeting in Bolton, Lancashire, Mr. Enoch Powell, drew attention to the direction in which the Government's endeavours were leading:

"Only recently a Bill was introduced into Parliament which will make it a criminal offence to increase a price, or charge, or a wage-rate, without giving advance notice of it to the Government.

"Can anyone seriously suppose that the matter will rest there? The Government is not going just to send an acknowledgment slip and file the information away for the interest of future economic historians. The very basis of the socialist prices and incomes policy is that the Government, or some official body under the Government, is able to say what each individual price and income ought to be. If so, then they cannot rest content with just noting what happens. The logic of their own position must drive them on from the informal pressures they are exerting now into formal compulsion and statutory regulation.

"But the control of wages and prices by authority is possible only on one condition, that, namely, of state socialism; that the economy itself, people's actions and intentions, the production of goods and services, is all controlled by authority."

CHARLES H. BATTY

ON THE 17th February Charles Batty died at the age of 81 in Antigua, and his body has been interred on that West Indian island. The Rotary Club of Hendon is arranging to hold a short memorial meeting in the chapel of Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, N.W.11. at 4 p.m. on Tuesday 5th April.

Charles Batty was born in Fulham in 1884. By the turn of the century he and his elder brothers Frederick and Alfred were supporters of land-value taxation, as their father, Frederick Batty, already had been for several years. They came to this enthusiasm from an attachment to Gladstonian policies, from reading economic and political books, and from anger at "the condition of labour." Their father saw the forces that underlay the market in land and houses in which he was engaged as a builder and estate agent, and had heard Henry George address a London meeting.

In about 1905 Charles went into business with his father as an estate agent at Highgate. In 1911 he married Maud Norris. He had been at school with her at Chelsea Polytechnic and he had sung in the choir of Fulham Parish Church to her playing of the organ. Between 1945 and Maud's death in 1956, Mr. and Mrs. Batty attended several conferences of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade and on visits to Australia, America and Denmark, they renewed many friendships.

In the first world war Charles Batty was in the Records Department of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force. After that war he went into the furniture removal business at Brighton and in 1926 he started his own in Hendon. By capacity and hard work he built up a successful removal business and built two large warehouses. He became liked and respected at his trade association, the National Association of Furniture Warehousemen and Removers, and in 1941-2 he was their President. He was a founder member of the Rotary Club of Hendon and its President in 1932.

Charles Batty was a steadfast supporter of land-value taxation and free trade. He was for many years an Executive Member of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and he was a Secretary of the Liberal Liberty League and the English League for the Taxation of Land Values. At the last conference of the International Union held in New York in 1964, he was re-elected a vice-president.

Charles Batty was a fine man who well deserved the great affection and respect in which he was held by his family and by his many friends.

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O.M.