

Remedy for That Tired Feeling

by MABEL L. REES

AS Mother Nature surveyed the world with increasing anxiety she indulged in a soliloquy.

In spite of all my bounties, she mused, and the new methods of production and distribution, there are still millions of men who are hungry, homeless and jobless. In order to exist they depend on public or private charity. Thus many are driven to desparation and crime. Their hopeless poverty and futile efforts to make a decent living produce an abnormal "tired feeling."

Many who *are* employed are often worried and weary, believing their work may not last. Hence they spend much time and effort devising plans for extending their employment and increasing their remuneration. There is another class who do *no* work, but are rich and living in luxury. They too fear poverty, through an adverse turn of the wheel of fortune.

Many human beings devote so much consideration to ways of keeping alive that they are often unable to give much thought to what they might hope to do with the life they save.

Now in my realm none of my power is ever wasted. The principles on which I work are based on two axioms: motion always seeks the line of least resistance, and every expression of energy always produces a corresponding effect. I always give something for something, *not* nothing for something, or something for nothing.

Man-made laws opposing my natural laws are responsible for the spread of more evils than ever flew out of Pandora's box. These evils — monopoly of land, taxation of production, and tariffs — may be inscribed over the burial place of man's hopes and many a proud civilization. To name them is to point out the barriers that have im-

peded man's economic progress through the ages.

Man is part of nature — he possesses not only material desires but mental and moral aspirations as well. With many desires to satisfy and only limited energy, he tries to make his actions conform to my rules for conserving energy. The overwhelming evidence from antiquity to the present — from the savage and the cave man to the scholar and the space-man, shows there has been a constant search, against all odds, for the best and easiest way of doing things. Men are guided in this by their common-sense and observation.

In their daily lives most people realize the necessity of cooperating with my laws of combustion and gravity if they are to avoid injury, but many of them still fail to understand that ignorance of natural laws for making a living also exacts its retribution. Because the ill effects are not so immediate they are not so apparent. However, legislation that benefits some while harming others ends by hurting all.

Legal barriers that restrict the areas within which men must compete for even the hardest and meanest work will lower wages, disrupt the operation of the laws of supply and demand, and sometimes cause depressions and panics. Such calamities have the effect of giving some more and others less than equal opportunity to sustain life.

At this point Mother Nature's reflections were interrupted by incessant cries of anguish and shouts of violence coming from the world's downtrodden and forlorn. Hoping to hear proposals for lessening their misery, she listened attentively to economic discussions going on in various ivory towers, but was disappointed in what she heard.

Just as she was about to give up she

caught the sound of many voices calmly but insistently penetrating the general confusion. In schools and shops, at home and in the streets, she rejoiced to hear that they were saying: for continuous unobstructed prosperity there must be the collection of the community-produced value of land for the benefit of the community. Rather than private gain, there must be the elimination of taxation on the fruits of man's labor which now penalizes his incen-

tive to produce wealth; and last, but equally important, there must be repeal of all tariffs which hamper the free exchange of goods and services the world around.

Why, they believe in my proposals for justice, exclaimed Mother Nature happily. I see hope that more people will come to understand that the only true remedy for "that tired feeling" is a liberal application of my natural laws for equality of economic opportunity.



Land Value — A Bonus

by WALTER W. GERVER

ONE of the most common retorts made to any mention of the taxation of land values is "that's socialism." Recently when an academically educated person said this to me I asked, "what about the income tax? Is that socialism, or isn't it?" I haven't received any answer.

What is Land Value Taxation and what is socialism?

LVT is simply a means of returning to the community a "bonus" or surplus value which it has created. This bonus results from the combined efforts of all who are engaged in productive activity. Combined effort, involving specialization and trade, results in greater production than could be achieved by individuals working alone. More is produced on the same land, by the same labor. This "more" is a bonus which settles in the value of land. People will be willing to pay more for land on which more can be produced.

Socialism involves government control of production. It implies that legislators, who may know nothing about

sound business principles, can manage production better than those who are experienced. Government officials often feel themselves eminently qualified to meddle with matters which should be left strictly to the individual concerned.

There is not the remotest connection between LVT and socialism, and how any student of economics can equate them is beyond me. Far from bringing production under state control, LVT is a means of setting it free from state control. Instead of creating a welfare state, LVT would be a most effective, if not the *only* effective, means of getting rid of the welfare state. Such programs as urban renewal, slum clearance, and farm relief could all take care of themselves, under the initiative of free private enterprise.

Why? Because with LVT no one would want to hold needed land out of use, and we would be increasingly relieved of the shackles on initiative which are imposed by taxes on production.

Dr. Rolland O'Regan, chairman of the New Zealand Unimproved Value Rating Association, was elected to the Wellington City Council with a large majority, in his first try for a public office.