

HAROLD COX AND THE "DEADLY PARALLEL."

Leaving altogether aside the disputed question about the origin of private property in land, we have this broad fact to go upon, that economic rent is a special product created by the industry and energy of the whole community, and ought not therefore to be allowed to remain in private hands.—Harold Cox, in *The Standard*, Dec. 21st, 1889.

It is not indeed a tax at all, but merely a retention by the State of part of that rent which in justice belongs altogether to the whole community.—Harold Cox, in *The Standard*, Dec. 21st, 1889.

The essence of the whole scheme (the Budget provisions) lies in the proposal to separate land from the improvements made upon it, and to treat this abstraction as totally distinct from all other forms of property.—Harold Cox, M. P., *The Englishwoman*, for July, 1909.

The injustice of such special taxation of land can be shown in a few words.—Harold Cox, M. P., in *The Englishwoman*, for July, 1909.

The more these schemes of land-taxation are examined, whether in detail, or whether in regard to the principles on which they are based, the more clearly will their essential injustice be revealed. They violate the fundamental doctrine that people should be taxed because of their ability to pay, not because they happen to possess a particular kind of property.—Harold Cox, M. P., in *The Englishwoman*, for July, 1909.

Note that economic rent, once defined as "a special product created by the industry and energy of the whole community," dwindles twenty years later to an "abstraction," and that to take an infinitesimal part of what Mr. Cox once said belonged "altogether to the community," as a matter of Justice, becomes in two decades "an injustice that can be shown in a few words," and a violation of "the fundamental doctrine that people should be taxed because of their ability to pay"—which, by the way, is no more fundamental now than when Mr. Cox, with a clearer perception of truth, wrote twenty years ago.

It is something of a dubious honor perhaps, but Mr. Cox, M.P., is the ablest opponent of the true principles of taxation in the English speaking world. His name will be historically associated with the triumph of those principles. And it will be recalled that every contention that he endeavored to refute was held by him twenty years before as impossible of refutation.

ON Thursday Mr. Lloyd George introduced the first great democratic budget ever set before the House of Commons.—*London Nation*.