

the progressive forces in the country will unite on the real Free Trade policy, the freedom to produce as well as the freedom to exchange. What is the alternative source of revenue is a question that must be answered if the Free Trade principle is to live. It is to be found in the unimproved value of land due to the presence, activities and needs of the community. The Taxation and Rating of Land Values is the real de-rating policy which will at the same time remove the burdens on industry and make access to land available to all on equal terms.

A. W. M.

Here is a caravan going along over the desert. Here are a gang of robbers. They say, "Look! There is a rich caravan; let us go and rob it, kill the men if necessary, take their goods from them, their camels and horses, and walk off." But one of the robbers says: "Oh, no; that is dangerous; besides, that would be stealing! Let us, instead of doing that, go ahead to where there is a spring, the only spring at which this caravan can get water. Let us put a wall around it and call it ours, and when they come up we won't let them have any water until they have given us all the goods they have." That would be more gentlemanly, more polite and more respectable; but it would be theft all the same.—Henry George in *Thou Shalt Not Steal*.

* * *

Commodore H. Douglas King (Secretary for Mines) informed Mr Dennison (King's Norton—Soc.) that the average amount of royalty and wayleave rent per ton of coal disposable commercially for the four years 1924, 1925, 1927 and 1928 in Scotland was 7.02d. and the estimated total amount during the period was £3,590,000.

In reply to another question, Commodore King states that the average amount of royalty and wayleave rent per ton of coal disposable commercially for the last four years in Scotland, England, and Wales was 6.23d. The estimated total amount for the period was £23,795,000.—*House of Commons, 1st February*.

* * *

Lord Delamere's Vale Royal estate was offered for sale at Crewe on 20th December by Messrs Knight, Frank and Rutley. The farms disposed of realized an average price of £44 per acre, and in some cases small-holdings were sold at £90 an acre and arable land at £65 an acre.

* * *

The increase in land values which has taken place in London since the war shows no signs of a decline. Fashionable suburbs like Hampstead have sites that realize £10,000 an acre. A few years ago these sites were agricultural land commanding £50 per acre! It's a golden age—for landowners!—*John Bull, 19th January*.

Addresses by Henry George: "The Crime of Poverty," "Thou Shalt not Steal," "Scotland and Scotsmen," "Thy Kingdom Come," "Moses." *Id.* each.

The Story of My Dictatorship. By LEWIS H. BERENS and IGNATIUS SINGER. *3d.*

Rt. Hon. Philip Snowden, M.P., on Land Value Taxation. Speeches delivered. *1d.*

The Economic Causes of War and of Industrial Depression. Open Address to the Geneva World Economic Conference. *1d.*

A Danish View of British Farming. By JAKOB E. LANGE. *1s.*

THE IDEAL CITY

By Councillor Arthur H. Weller, J.P.

The ideal city has no geographical position or boundaries; it exists only in the imagination. We have all seen it in our day-dreams, with its wide, clean streets, its noble buildings and beautiful homes, and with no slums in the background. It is situated in a smiling countryside where industry is efficiently and pleasantly conducted without Nature's lovely face being smeared with ugliness and grime. There is no unemployment nor poverty in the ideal city; no workhouses and no public charity for the able-bodied in the form of "social services."

Such conditions are very different from those we are accustomed to in Manchester and other modern cities where unemployment and poverty are taken for granted—like sunshine and shower. But unless poverty and its consequences are due to defects in human nature, it must be possible to raise the level of comfort and happiness in modern communities to that of the ideal city, because all the materials are here at our command. There is no reason to suppose that human beings are so constituted that association in equality is impossible. The inhabitants of our ideal city are people like ourselves—mainly good, but capable of demoralization and wickedness. What then is the secret of their prosperity and happiness? It is in their enjoyment of COMPLETE EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY and the absence of special privileges. Property rights there are fully respected, which means that no one can share the fruits of another's labour and skill without giving equivalent service in return; no one there is getting something for nothing, and all are free to produce and to enjoy the product.

Equality of opportunity can only come by way of equal access to the natural resources, and that can be secured by altering our system of taxation. At present industry is carrying a heavy burden of national and local taxation which aggravates the difficulties resulting from the land system. The burden can be removed if a new source of revenue is used. The Taxation of Land Values would tap a hitherto unused source of public revenue—the communally created values of all the land. That measure would make land withholding impossible and also reduce, progressively, the landlord's toll on industry. Even a small measure of the Taxation of Land Values would force more land into productive uses and increase the opportunities for employment. When, finally, all the land values are taken for public expenditure and the taxes on homes and industry are abolished, we shall enjoy in full measure such prosperity and happiness as can now be found only in the ideal city of our dreams. To conform human laws to the moral law will bring its due reward. Henry George pointed to this ideal in *Progress and Poverty* when he said:—

"The poverty which in the midst of abundance pinches and embrates men, and all the evils which flow from it, spring from a denial of justice. In permitting the monopolisation of the opportunities which nature freely offers to all, we have ignored the fundamental law of justice, for . . . justice seems to be the supreme law of the universe. But by sweeping away this injustice and asserting the rights of all men to natural opportunities, we shall conform ourselves to the law—we shall remove the great cause of unnatural inequality in the distribution of wealth and power; we shall abolish poverty."

[From an article appearing in the "*Stockport Express*," "*Middleton Guardian*," "*Oldham Evening Chronicle*," and "*Cotton Factory Times*."]]