

ground rent be paid to the Community instead of to the individuals who "own" the land? If this were done the selling value of land would disappear. For who could demand payment for land if ownership did not convey the privilege of receiving rent? Who would pay anything for it?

To convey this angle on Henry George's teaching Mr. Lincoln writes this 72-page economic study. His manner is deft and forceable. In short, spirited sentences he conveys a convincing economic and social argument and backs it with an impressive array of facts and figures which cannot be ignored.

We live in a world, he says, in which our natural actions and reactions are governed by natural law. True, we have man-made laws, and to the extent that they interpret natural law he accepts them as good laws. "Thou shalt not steal" is an example. But where man-made laws transgress natural law—there will be found the anomalies, the injustices and perhaps the tyrannies of life.

Our man-made system of land tenure, under which individuals are allowed to appropriate the ground rent due to the whole community is seen as the supreme example of the violation of natural law. He likens it to the situation in which the community builds roads and appoints toll-gate collectors. Fair enough? Yes, but in this analogy the toll-gate keepers keep the takings. He likens it too, to that era of American history ended by his great namesake when the power of white man to appropriate the wealth produced by the black gave the latter slave-value. Men in bondage were sold on the slave-market. In his toll-gate analogy "toll-gate collectorships" would be sold on the toll-gate market. Under our present system of land tenure land is sold on the "property" market. In each case what is being sold is not wealth itself but a power and a privilege. The price paid will reflect the income which ownership of that privilege will bring.

What would be the effect of a reform designed to right this great injustice? That land would have no selling value has been mentioned. It would be easy to acquire but costly to keep in idleness, for the economic ground rent would be payable—and it would be payable to the community. That the receipt of this ground rent into the national exchequer would enable government to reduce and ultimately eliminate the present pernicious taxes on the products of man's industry will be obvious to all. But what would be the ultimate effect? How would the lot of the common man be different from what it is today?

In a chapter headed "The Kind of Society in a Community Supported by Ground Rent," Mr. Lincoln shows where such a reform would yield its most striking dividends. If every landholder had to pay the economic ground rent for his holding, land would be forced into its best use. No longer would valuable land be held in idleness while speculation forced its price to skyrocket levels. No longer would the community be held to ransom until its need for land reached breaking point. Land would be freely available for productive enterprise. And

productive enterprise means jobs. There would be more jobs than men—and all without that kind of currency manipulation and control practised by governments under "full employment" today.

There would be no knot-holes in this New Deal. Instead of trade unions striving to wring increased wages from stubborn employers, competition between those employers for workers would raise wages all round. Here, then, is the ideal world of John C. Lincoln, of Phoenix, Arizona.

Readers of *LAND & LIBERTY*, and other fair-minded citizens of discernment will find this an interesting, informative and instructive book. If some should find it a little repetitive it is well to reflect that no nail worthy of the name was ever driven home with one blow of the hammer. King Arthur did not unsheath Excalibur for one solitary stroke. After a lifetime's crusade against the mulcting of the community Mr. Lincoln has a right to beat the gong. May he hammer it ever louder for many more years to come!



Pioneers of the Social Frontier

NORMAN CASSERLEY

reporting from Washington, D.C.

IRELAND, Spain, Greece, Afghanistan, India, Japan, Formosa, the Philippines, the Hawaiian Islands. These are but a few of the areas where isolated pioneers are dedicating a lifetime of strain and struggle to spreading the message of free enterprise and equal opportunity for all. Till now, most of these people have known little of each other or of us. Some are at the close of their lives, with ample fortune and facility for influencing their fellow countrymen. Others are in the prime of youth, working without leadership training and without knowledge of the mistakes and achievements of others in the same field elsewhere. Some go in danger of jail, exile or execution. For this reason much that could be told must be withheld.

That is the main finding of my first study tour of Europe, Asia and Australasia. From preliminary correspondence I expect to find that the same is true when I make my next tour—of Africa and South America.

There is much that we can do to help these friends of ours, and much that we can learn from them. They must be made known to each other and to us, and helped in their unequal battle. Wherever it is safe to do so, outline sketches of their heroic work will be given in this column. Your individual interest and support is needed, however, if effective assistance is to be given to them.

Land & Liberty

These isolated, often solitary, campaigners are remarkably efficient and well informed. Among people living in dictatorships I found men who (in private) spoke freely and learnedly on various aspects of liberty from free trade to scientific taxation. Each is a social reform movement in himself, unorganised and self-reliant, a shining example to their more fortunate, though not always as enterprising, colleagues in other lands, some of whom tend to wait for a lead from above. Do not misunderstand. I do not decry organisation. Instead I make the two-fold plea that our organised supporters should cultivate a similar self-reliant initiative, and that some minimum form of organisation should be established for the benefit of the lone campaigner. This would help to eliminate the waste inevitably involved where each person starts from scratch, perhaps needlessly repeating mistakes made elsewhere.

Many of our isolated colleagues not only possess executive leadership ability and initiative but they are actively in touch with the masses as well as with those of top influence. In many instances their commendable ambitions are accompanied by lack of experience, training, funds and facilities. Elsewhere there are tangible assets in the form of funds, buildings, libraries and published periodicals which could be enlisted to spread knowledge of our common cause. That is why co-ordination of their efforts, and our co-operation is so essential and holds promise of such valuable results.

These hardened fighters for freedom have shown that our "product" can be packaged attractively for world markets in such a way as to add to its intrinsic value. They have shown us how to add local culture, as in Formosa; contemporary political strategy, as in Denmark, Australia and New Zealand; newspaper publicity, as in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Manila, Honolulu, Dublin. From us they expect neither subsidy nor loan—just the human contact. They want news of fellow workers and to be able to exchange ideas about lessons learned from experience, and to receive the occasional letter or postcard from some of us—from you.

My travels have provided me with some gripping stories which ought to make good reading. Some are encouraging, some are grim. I hope to be able to tell them in this column, and to report on new progress as it happens, as well as on coming projects. Meanwhile, tell your friends, and sell them in advance a subscription to *LAND & LIBERTY*! Only \$1 or 8s. 0d. for twelve monthly issues! Try it! And . . .

Do write to me, c/o this column.

Subject to space limitations, we hope to be able to increase the scope of this journal so that it may render the best possible service to the world-wide movement. Accordingly, branch secretaries, school directors, editors of newsletters and others are invited to arrange that we receive copies of their publications and brief reports of their activities. Copies of published letters and articles, and transcripts of radio broadcasts will be appreciated. Brief letters intended for publication are also invited.

December, 1957

Danish Notes

Since May, 1957, Denmark has had a Coalition Government led by Mr. H. C. Hansen (S.D.) comprised of 9 Social Democrats, 4 Radical Liberals and 3 Justice Party (Retsforbund) members. All three parties stand for the taxation of land values. Retsforbund is a "Single Tax" or Henry George party, led by Dr. Viggo Starcke, Minister without Portfolio. The other two members in the Government are Mr. Oluf Pedersen, Minister of Fisheries, and Mr. Soren Olesen, Home Secretary. These notes are compiled from reports (translated by Mr. K. J. Philipsen, a Danish Georgeist in London) from Vejen Frem—the Way Forward—weekly newspaper of the Justice Party.

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OLUF PEDERSEN, addressing a students' meeting in Copenhagen, commented on the high cost of collecting present taxation which in some instances amounted to about half the total yield. Customs duties in Denmark (a low tariff country) actually cost more to collect than they yielded—they were an expense to the state. But a tax on land values could be cheaply collected. If people paid a "ground due" (*grundskyld* or land-value tax) to the state instead of to private interests, this would make possible a reduction in existing taxation far greater than the amount yielded. For example, a land-value tax which yielded 100 million kroner would make possible remission of Kr.100 m. of other taxes *plus* the high cost of its collection which might be anything up to nearly another Kr.100 m. Mr. Pedersen said that he was in favour of using all revenue from land-value taxation for this purpose of reducing existing taxation.

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SCANDINAVIAN COMMON MARKET. For some time there have been discussions between Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland about the possibility of forming a customs union with free trade between the four countries affecting some 80 per cent of their trade with each other. Now that Norway has withdrawn its earlier objections to free trade in fish, Iceland is interested in joining the proposed free trade area which would cover all products. The subject is still under negotiation, and next meeting has been postponed until next October. The Justice Party regards membership of a Nordic Common Market as being more in Denmark's interest than membership of the European Common Market, fearing that the latter would sever ties with her northern neighbours.

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EXCISE TAXES on wines, beer, etc., served in restaurants are levied at a higher rate than when sold elsewhere. Seeking to meet the complaints of restaurateurs without depleting the revenue, Mr. Kampmann (S.D.), the Finance Minister, recently slightly reduced these taxes. Not only did this not mollify restaurateurs, but it annoyed Customs Officers who have accused him of having "make a muck" of the whole matter.