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Land&Libertyannual

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Land&Liberty**communiqué**

the quarterly newsletter of the Henry George Foundation



letters

Sir,

I worry that the most suggested alternatives to the name 'land value tax' apply only to perpetual resources. A mineral resource is not perpetual, but its extraction and sale by private interests should be taxed for exactly the same reason as a building site.

Minerals and intellectual property such as the genetics of natural species are all 'land' in that they were created by 'god', not by their 'owner'. It is obvious that a perpetual tax (a rent) is inappropriate for a mineral. It is the value of the mineral extracted that should be taxed.

We should give more attention to the taxation of intellectual property. Unlike a building site its use by one person does not exclude its use by another. Yet we sell the right to monopoly ownership. Is there a better answer?

If we can't keep the name 'land value tax', can we have something that includes 'land' in the broadest sense - say 'resource use charge'? This could apply to resources such as fish, which have the annoying habit of moving from location to location.

Bill Powell, North Warwickshire, UK

diary

4th August 2005, York University
Quaker Land Values Group meeting
Speaker: Peter Reilly

23rd to 24th August 2005, Czech Republic
Conference: **Property Tax in Transition**
go to www.ipti.org

29th Sept. to 2nd Oct. 2005, Chicago, USA
AMI Monetary Reform Conference
go to www.monetary.org/2005conference

Sir,

I find it deeply depressing that **L&L** lets an 'undergraduate' fantasise about free trade and fair trade (**L&L** 1212) without having a clue about the fact that western 'free trade policy' is all about enforcing free trade on commodities like industrial goods where the West is in a privileged position, along with services and patents, while the other hand enforces a barrier to market access for the US and EU to the third world. At the same time, 'fair trade' really means an unconditional surrender to the third world's trade policy, not only when it wants liberalising but in particular when it demands protection.

The georgist trade policy must support all forms of liberalisation no matter if they are proposed and marketed by the rich or the poor countries. Or to put it so even the most backward will understand: one must be a protectionist if one thinks that the answer to the rich countries' export subsidies is imposts. The answer is, of course, that the export subsidies must be abolished.

Ib Christensen, Randers, Denmark

Editor: our correspondent's understanding does not actually seem to be at odds with Wheeler's article. But I hope all readers will find helpful the further treatment of the question of trade within this issue.

November 2005, Colombo, Sri Lanka
Conference: **Putting Land First?**
Exploring the Links Between Land and Poverty go to www.cepa.lk

2nd to 8th July 2006, London
25th World Conference of the IU
go to www.interunion.org.uk

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