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IGNORANCE, THE INTERESTS AND INERTIA

Comment

Discussing with some friends about why the Georgist philosophy is not more widely accepted after all these years, I suggested three "I's": Ignorance, the Interests and Inertia.

Re the first: Ignorance is above all the major obstacle. This is not simply a matter of people not knowing of the existence of our philosophy but of the difficulty of following its reasoning. The vested Interest in the private collection of the rent of land exerts a tremendous Influence on politics, education, etc. It is not to be underestimated. Inertia is the tendency to go on doing things in the same way, even after a better way is demonstrated - a quite universal trait.

In our discussion, other "I's" were suggested: The Income tax was one - this tax is so entrenched that people - those who pay as well as those who collect - have difficulty in imagining any other mode of taxation. Indifference was also cited; only a small minority are concerned with questions of fundamental reform and equal justice and liberty. There is also an "If" factor: "If only the Single Tax were adopted at the very beginning" or "If only some important leader would get behind it," etc. And we may cite the Indisposition of non-converts to think, and even the Indisposition to talk about it or do anything about it for fear of being ridiculed. Finally, there is simply "I" as in "I'm all right, Jack." Seeking, or having found, a little comfortable niche somewhere, let the rest of the world go to hell! We could go on with Iconoclasm and Idiocy, to say nothing of world Insanity.

Getting carried away with this Imagery, we also have to cope with our own Inadequacies: Impatience with our glacially slow progress whilst Illogical Ideologies are steaming ahead; our Irritation at the difficulty of getting a hearing; our Insistence which sometimes turns people away; occasionally our bizarre Inventions of methods to attract attention; and other Idiosyncracies.

And that's only one letter of the alphabet! so we have 25 other multiple obstacles to overcome. But at least there are some more positive words throughout the alphabet. Staying with "I", we have a powerful "Idea" that has in it the "germanitive power of truth." So let us continue to spread Information about it and keep up the Inclination to illuminate the world with it. Let us maintain our Independence, be Immune from the world's discouragements, and have the Idealism to believe It will eventually triumph. We may well reckon with an Invisible Influence which will take time to become manifest.

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