

COMMENT

Let's look at it this way. While we Georgists are lamenting the slow progress we are making, does it all depend on us?

The discoveries made by Henry George are true, we believe. Most remedies being applied today are quack remedies. In that case they won't work. Either society will be wrecked or the human desire for a decent and workable society will make people discard false remedies and seek better ones.

Looking at the long sweep we may well wonder in which direction we have moved. But bad as things are, there are indications that society has moved in our direction since George's day - partly as a result of his work, partly due to the efforts of his followers and partly because of the logic of the situation.

I refer not only to advances in land value taxation but to changes in outlook. Today there is at least a reaching for the higher social conscience that George earnestly pleaded for. There is less toleration of poverty and wretched conditions that in George's day were accepted as in the nature of things, much to his dismay.

A greater sense prevails today that the earth is mankind's common heritage. This is evidenced by the ecology movement and efforts to improve the environment; by the widespread concern over energy resources; by proposals for the proper use of land; by international conferences on rights to the ocean.

All of which is far removed from the goals we seek. Taxes are steep, inflation ravages the world, land monopoly and speculation linger tenaciously, governments commit dreadful deeds in the name of economic amelioration. But attitudes formed in the past have led to this. Perhaps the challenge of today's crises, the soul-searching, the earnest efforts may lead to better things.

It is much that we are asking. We want to reverse a deeply-rooted institution going back thousands of years. It is not easy for people to make such a drastic change. But, very slowly, it looks as though the logic of events is driving mankind in this direction.

Thus it does not depend entirely on us. But our work is still needed. We must keep pointing out the full philosophy and remedy and be ready to help in whatever way we can toward the evolution that is taking place.

We need not take an "all or nothing" stance and either demand the single tax overnight or drop out completely (like my friend mentioned in the last issue. Each time we speak up we are helping to prod the conscience of mankind and we are supported by the way things are working out. It's a long pull, but to use a Biblical phrase favored by George - "The stars in their courses fight against Sisera."

Robert Clancy, Editor

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Robert Clancy, Editor. Readers are invited to submit suitable articles, letters, etc., for publication.