

AN I-YOU CHAT

The problem of the difficulties in the way of the progress of the Georgist philosophy is worth pursuing and not just to be regarded as "last year's topic." Here are some further thoughts on the subject:

Has there ever really been a study of our dilemma? There have been many essays on the fact that our cause has not advanced as it should and proposals as to what should be done. But these proposals are often "pet projects." However meritorious in their own right, they are usually not based on a sufficient analysis of the situation - e.g., what particular method was used, how far it went, how far it did not go, and what conclusions may be drawn. Simply because one method or approach did not work well is no guarantee that another will, without some factual and logical backing.

In short, what we need is an analysis of our own problem in the same spirit in which Henry George tackled the problem of poverty. He did solve it - to the satisfaction of those who have reasoned it out along with him - but he did not solve the problem of getting his solution accepted by the world. Nearly 100 years later we are still thwarted on the same count.

The truths seem so self-evident, it is difficult to understand why they are not immediately accepted and adopted. All men have a right to the use of the earth and to the fruits of their labor; the rent of land provides a fund for public revenue without taxing the products of labor. Should not even so brief a statement cause everyone to say "right" and hurry to put it into effect? Would it not be to everybody's benefit? Yet here we are a century later - and tons of literature and miles of speeches and thousands of heroic efforts later - and still not much further advanced than when we started.

Actually, things may not be as bad as all that. There is a lively - even a rising interest - in land value taxation. But it is pushing against enormous odds and it is a moot question as to whether the current flurry of interest can survive the dead weight of opposition and inertia pitted against it. After all, it has happened before.

If we were better prepared with viable answers as to just what makes a philosophy and reform acceptable - any philosophy or reform, but in particular ours - we would be better prepared to find our way through the fog.

Answers are needed - not just off the top of the head - but after study, observation and analysis.

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