

# A Word With You

"MAN is the unsatisfied animal," said Henry George, and he gave many instances thereof. But there is another aspect to many-sided human nature, and that is man as the too-easily-satisfied animal.

George conceded that man is often satisfied with too little. He criticized Irish peasants for being so patient while they were being robbed by landlordism. He noted that tyrants are able to put across their tyranny by using familiar forms. He spoke ironically of aristocratic idlers who did useless things. And he mentioned several times an incident which must have moved him deeply: a hungry Scottish orphan girl was taken in by a charity and given a wretched meal, before eating which, she thanked God for His bounty. "Is this," cried George with anguish, "all the bounty God intended for that little girl?"

To this day we have become accustomed to crumbs, only nowadays we give thanks to the government. All we ask of a political candidate is that he make rousing campaign promises of social betterment. We readily forget and forgive him for not carrying them out, as long as he is on hand for special favors.

The main task demanded of a President is that he take the blame for all the woes that befall us, and be the target for small-time gossip. The same song is sung, administration after ad-

ministration, the only thing that changes is the President's name. When he retires, if he lives, he is glorified as a great statesman and saint.

The less the initiative to participate in public life, the louder are the complaints. The one right we are jealous of is our right to complain. As long as we can set up a continual caterwauling, we will allow ourselves to be regulated, regimented and restricted, taxed, tricked and toasted.

Our unjust tax system is blandly tolerated. What makes people happy? Wangling the government out of one per cent when they are taxed 25 per cent of their income. What keeps people quiet about a social wrong? A little salve in their corner. A riot every ten years lets off enough steam to induce the poor to put up with oppressive conditions for another decade.

We also settle for too little knowledge about ourselves and the world. Confronted with new challenges and new worlds to conquer, the common cry is "that's not in my line." Presented with new subjects and discoveries, people boast, "I don't know anything about that," as though it's indecent to learn something new.

Let's not sell ourselves so short. We ought to do a better job of asserting our rights and potentials as human beings and earn more fully the title of "man, the unsatisfied animal."

—Robert Clancy

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The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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