

A BETTER WORLD THROUGH THE SHINING OF  
NATURE'S "SECOND SUN"

by William E. Clement

Peace between nations now seems to be in sight because it will be enforced—not by one side or the other—but by the God-ordained power of the atom now revealed to us. That which scientists have used to develop the hydrogen bomb with its "balance of terror" potential. But in order that a quietus be put on the fear, war fever and unrest now so prevalent, there must be a wide business expansion to bring about a correspondingly *forward step in human relationship*.

All energy, all growth, and life itself comes from the sun. This is the materialistic point of view. But along with matter comes soul or spirit. Donald McLean says: "I tell thee Love is Nature's Second Sun: causing a spring of virtue where it shines."

We must then offer to mankind the opportunity to tap both the great reservoirs—that of material possessions and the wells of human kindness.

First, there must be space to grow. God's gifts to man are the lands and natural resources that each nation possesses. These in east and west countries are being administered very differently, but in all countries inefficiently and without developing the potential that will take care of human needs.

The greatest problem of the world is the problem of land. This problem is aggravated by the wrong system of taxation, which penalizes the farmer, the builder, and the producer. It results in keeping off the market for speculative purposes vast tracts of land that might have been brought into production, giving employment to millions, and increasing the wealth of the community many times.

The Russian revolution was brought on by the desire of the peasants for land. The great Russian thinker, Leo Tolstoy, tried to convince the Czar that recognition of the equal right of each human being to the natural elements from which life must be supported—that is the ownership of land—would bring about economic justice and strengthen his authority. The grand dukes and great land owners would have none of it—they thought they could remain supreme—so—the revolution followed. And it is for that reason we have the *curse* of Communism today. Those great owners lost *everything* and often their lives.

In Latin America and other parts of the world today there is still the cry for land. The great land holders hate to give up. Now, one way to force the owners of vast holdings of land—much of it unused—is to adopt the Land Value (Site) Taxation plan. Without bloodshed or revolution it would bring about peacefully the development of unused land or land held for speculation. Much of these millions of acres, under—used or held vacant, is often held speculatively or as a land gamble. The continual speculation in land has cast some doubt on the free enterprise system. These great accumulations of idle lands have had an adverse effect on our economy. It has forced the labor-union action (wage-price spiral) which, along with artificially high land prices, has greatly increased the cost of living for all our people. In connection with the forced loss of foreign markets it has brought millions of farmers into our cities to swell the ranks of the unemployed, an entirely artificial and unnatural situation.

In our socialistic advances—and the appropriation of private earnings—we are already moving toward the “bread and circus” debacle of Roman days.

OUR NATIONS NUMBER ONE PROBLEM — FIND 35  
MILLION NEW JOBS IN THE NEXT TEN YEARS

S. L. Wolfbein, director of U. S. Office of Manpower, Automa-

tion and Training says: "We are now witnessing a head-on collision between advancing automation and technology on the one hand, and a tidal wave of man power for whom opportunities must soon be available. For every 100 jobs created during the fifties the country will now need to create 158."

Our readers will be startled to learn that this increase in needed jobs predicted by Mr. Wolfbein covers *only* the losses from advancing automation plus population growth. The figures *do not* cover the great cutback in the \$54 billion arms program already started.

Don Oberdoffer in a recent *Saturday Eve Post* article tells of "at least 57,000 defense workers whose jobs vanished during the past year." Many more heavy cutbacks by the Pentagon are here picturized and covered in detail.

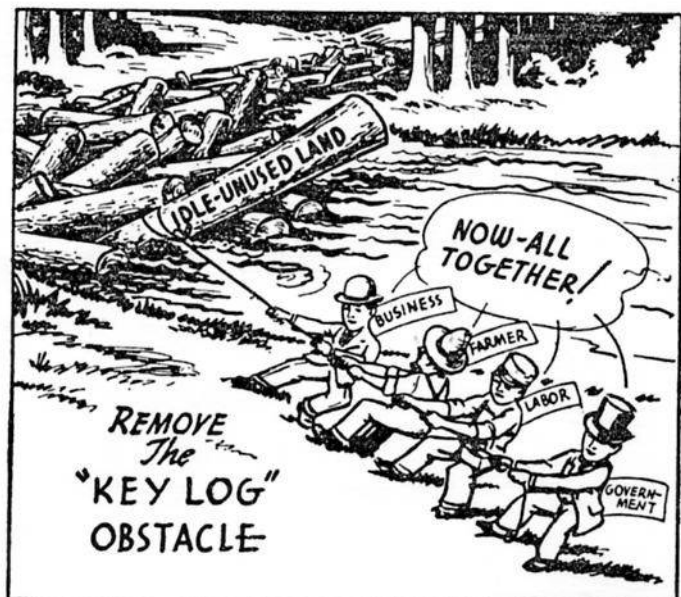
It was said that "leaders of great cities and states are shuddering at the prospects for their largest industries." On the other hand, presidential advisers believe that they see the first realistic chance to "shift the emphasis of government spending from the needs of war to the needs of man."

One has only to reflect on the estimate that about one out of every ten of our present working force has (of late years) been engaged in war production. In some sections already the "bottom has fallen out" of home building. Consequently quite a few utility districts have dropped plans to extend, water, sewer and street facilities to new subdivisions.

Even so, as the *Post* very sanely adds (in an accompanying editorial), the fact remains that "every dollar that can safely be removed from the nonproductive business of war is a dollar that can better be used for the productive good of society."

The list of needs the *Post* presents is so endless it, in a way, staggers the imagination. Unfortunately, the magazine, too, has failed to enlarge on that first essential—the absolute need to remove the "key log obstacle," tremendously

inflated land prices, now holding back what so well could be "a great river of abundance."



Certainly this increase cannot be achieved unless we get away from the strangulation of effort caused by the land-gamble, inflated land-price conditions now prevalent.

Only by full utilization of the tremendous creative power in Land (Site) Value taxation, can we cope with the problem now facing us. This requires the absolute need for approximately 40 million new jobs in the next ten years, or about 330,000 jobs per month. This means giving replacement for those leaving war work; those lost to automation; and provision for the workers coming into the labor market from the growing population. Our economy, under present restrictive, land-use conditions, cannot possibly do this. Many think a dictatorship is on the way, but there is an incomparably better way to prevent it.

The time has come when political quibbling and business-leader apathy must be replaced by a great resurgence of the old American spirit—let's go forward to *real* abundance. In a few words this means the gradual taking over of ground-rent for community purposes. Replace restrictive business—destroying impacts with that which is known as incentive taxation. At this point it might be helpful to quote Aldous Huxley.

#### TAKE THE PROFIT OUT OF INJUSTICE

Based on "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George

*(Foreword to Brave New World by Aldous Huxley: "If I were to re-write this book I would offer a third alternative—the possibility of sanity—Economics would be decentralist and Henry Georgian.")*

"Jobs and Freedom" we proclaim  
Is the substance of our aim,  
For all should have an equal right  
Whether they are black or white.  
To make this goal reality  
More jobs for all there soon must be.  
To spread this message o'er the earth  
Just tax the land for what it's worth:  
Reduce the tax on what man builds,  
And on his earnings through his skills.  
Fair chance for all then there would be  
As none would gain through monopoly:  
An equal chance to work and live  
This shift of taxes all would give.  
At present, land's held out of use,  
And, because of this abuse,  
As owners wait for greater gain,  
All land in use, it's very plain  
Commands more price that it is worth

Than if of land there was no dearth.  
 For what gives value to the land,  
 But, as communities expand,  
 The people's need for extra land?  
 Thus PEOPLE make land values grow,  
 To them this increment should go  
 For benefits both high and low.  
 Improvements then would give employment  
 And more people find enjoyment.  
 New hope through true free enterprise  
 Would give each one what land supplies:  
 Besides a place to work and live  
 Our food and clothes the land must give.  
 All minerals and oils beside  
 'Tis clear the land has to provide.  
 Apartment dwellers now pay more,  
 And so do they who run a store;  
 And in the slums, to great extent,  
 Because of SPECULATIVE RENT!  
 To end this evil here's the way:  
 See that INJUSTICE DOESN'T PAY!  
 No other means howe'er well meant  
 Will bring to men a just content.  
 Though some may think this incidental  
 This change is truly FUNDAMENTAL.

Land-price inflation with artificial scarcity of land not only restricts land utilization, healthful, and natural living, but, when coupled with consequent labor-union demands, *endlessly* raises the prices of everything people need. Land Value Taxation would bring about land utilization, lower costs and cause the greatest improvement in *human betterment* the world has ever seen.

No longer would it be economical for hundreds of thousands of land owners to sit on their hands, holding good, well-

located, land out of use, speculatively "awaiting a good sale." Few, if any, realize the damage they are doing to their community and, indeed, to *their own best interests*.

This refers not only to unused land but under-used land as well. In countries like Australia and New Zealand, where land-value taxation is partly in effect, and spreading joyously each year, slum conditions have almost completely vanished. It just "does not pay" to let blighted sections (like those in all our big cities) appear in the "down under," countries. Government "Urban Renewal" expenditure is not *their* answer—the people do this *naturally*, without compulsion.

Today everywhere you look the man, as also the public body, that wishes to put land to its highest use is forced to pay a *preliminary fine* in inflated land values to the holder who is putting it to an *inferior* use, and in some cases to *no use at all*. "All goes back to the land"; and its owner (for the time being) is able to levy a business-killing toll upon every form of industry.

#### IMMENSE GOVERNMENT LAND PURCHASES TAKING AWAY LAND

When the government buys land it goes off the local tax rolls. When this happens it means that not only do taxes go up on private lands remaining but people cannot use government land for productive purposes.

News stories carry the surprising information that the government already owns one out of every three acres of land in the 50 states, and is continuing to acquire land at the rate of half a million acres a year. This has helped cause a still further rise in the—already—terribly inflated, prices, of our usable land.

The development of "recreational opportunities" for future use is of course important, but far more so is the need for opening our—unused—lands to the millions of "dispossessed" farmers (and others) who crowd our city slums. These men and women are commencing to show their resentment through rioting and "looting" of neighborhood stores.

The social and moral deterioration in our country, and the change in attitude once held by people for the revered "founding fathers" has come with the disappearance of easily obtainable land. This too has caused much crowding into cities, the fast rising crime and juvenile delinquency of today. It has also resulted in confiscatory taxation and governmental waste. The average person has not the faintest idea as to the deep-down why of all this evil doing, even though it has long been known by some of the students of economics, notably the followers and "proselyters" for the doctrines of the late Henry George. Unfortunately they have not been successful in alerting the public.

The above paragraphs bring into sad focus the failure of our "founding fathers" to have made provision for continuing "human rights" as related to the deeply important matter of land—God's gift to all men—future ready access to, ownership and, utilization under an orderly, fair-to-all, taxation system. Here, however, we have the basic reason for today's unrest and resentment among the "masses" now coming to a head. While not knowing why, there is a feeling of having—in some way—been "dispossessed" of their "human rights"—and this, unfortunately, is true.

Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown, professor emeritus of economics, University of Missouri, calls this disastrous land-use error the "Skeleton in the closet of Capitalism". He says here we have the reason why Communism is steadily growing and has had so much support among the poor and "exploited" in many parts of the world.

On the one hand there are millions of people who are idle—on the "dole"—looking for work—who would like to possess many more things than they have. On the other hand we see millions and millions of acres of idle lands where these things can be produced, but are not used. This condition is so contradictory as to be offensive to common sense and reason.



Here we have the true solution of our—mass crowding together—racial and “hate” troubles. Give Nature’s Second Sun (Love)—and true brotherhood of man—a chance to do its God-ordained work.

Yes, our vested land-owners have, mistakenly and selfishly, been responsible for the continuation of this, trouble-brewing and poverty-producing error. Winston Churchill, a strong believer and proselyter for land reform many years ago, in trying to win over to Land Value Taxation the great English land owners, said of the evil which arises from our present out-moded land system:

“All goes back to the land; and so the land-owner, who is in most cases a worthy person utterly unconscious of the character of the methods by which he is enriched, is enabled with resistless strength to absorb to himself a share of almost every public and every private benefit, however important or however pitiful these benefits may be.”

Unfortunately Churchill’s plea to the leadership in England has gone unanswered, and, as we know, that once great country is now deteriorating, seriously affected by internal and external trouble.

As to the absolute need for easy, natural, access making it again possible for dispossessed farmers, and those wishing to establish homesteads, to get back on the land the New York Times, in a recent editorial, quotes Mayor Wagner concerning the “vicious effects of poverty on the richest city in the world.” In a recent address to the City Council he said that: “A quarter of the families in the city live in grinding, abject, hopeless circumstances.” He pointed out that they fill the juvenile courts, the jails, the relief rolls; provide an element of “social dynamite in the existing order.”

Wagner's answer to the problem, sad to say, was the familiar old Roosevelt, W. P., A., expediency. He hopes to get help from poor old, busted Uncle Sam. The "Times" closed by saying: "Only the nation as a whole can hope to deal with the tragic waste of human resources, that is poverty." Our answer is why not link—through incentive taxation—our idle human resources to that tremendous store of unused land and natural resources?

#### HOW IS LAND VALUE TAXATION TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT?

First we must awaken new hope. Develop this thesis and the simple mechanics of its operation so that it will captivate every one — from the president down to the office boy. Lift the inner man into a world of expectancy and desire to get somewhere and be a somebody.

It is an emotional appeal which can be a sure cure for the indifferent performance of many of us. Most folks are not self-starters — they need the influence of a great all-enveloping, basic idea to galvanize them into action. Added to this is the fact that every person has a deep-down urge to succeed. Individuals must be impressed with the fact that now, as a land owner of importance, he or she has a great new purpose in life. A study of this great idea reveals its limitless new possibilities for betterment for all — not just a few. Ownership, however, involves responsibilities as well as benefits.

Whether self-employed or an employee, here is an idea which can give new inspiration. Communism with its promise to take over the lands for the people, as in Russia, China, and Cuba, has proved only a lure and a cheat. Not only does the general public lose its lands and its liberty of action; but, soon people are in dire straits for food. There are no exceptions—the thing simply does not work.

Under Land Value Taxation and real free enterprise every one is given a chance to help himself. This is the broad out-

line. Literature on the subject should be made available to everyone. In addition, it is proposed that wide and daily use be made of lectures, radio, T.V., and news publicity of all kinds. It makes a wonderful story and seems to be the common sense answer to the dangerous movements of violence that are rampant today.

#### SUMMATION

With peace between nations we must face the tremendous problem of finding productive work for the millions now unemployed and others now engaged in building war machinery and related industries who will be out of jobs. This can only be done by opening to use the hundreds of millions of acres of land now only partially used or held out of use for speculative, inflationary, and, as some call it, "land gamble" purposes.

With the resolution of the land problem bringing justice for all, we must combine the effort to solve the human relations problem. The one will bring about economic expansion and economic plenty; the other, the peace and general happiness of mankind. The full shining of the brotherhood of man, love, "Nature's Second Sun," will be brought about by the overcoming of economic troubles. Land for all; opportunities for all; and for all the privilege of pursuing happiness. We know of course that millions of our people will have no need or desire to own or control land directly. Even so, they will in this way be assured that their interest in the ownership of the land of their country is, for the first time, being protected.

In some future day if the problem of unnatural divorce from the land and unemployment of labor is left unsolved, or mere palliatives used, a perverted demagogue, possibly a Hitler or Castro, using tremendous radio amplification and preaching plausible but uneconomic — "down with the rich" — theories, might very well stampede millions of people into madness — rioting — and desperation.