

Glossary of a Simple Man

(P. to S)

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PEACE, NATURAL OR GENUINE: the outcome of fundamental justice in societies, requiring no change in the elements of human nature and no extension of vast supranational organisations, only a general understanding of those essential personal rights which, if duly respected, would enable every normal person to live and prosper without interfering with the right of others to do the same; a condition unattainable as long as public attention is never drawn to the nature of those essential rights, and as long as people are encouraged to believe

that they must depend on government help for their protection and on legal privileges for their prosperity.

POPULATION EXPLOSION: latest cliché for a science-fiction horror story popular ever since the first Malthus edition of 1797; useful to the welfarists in explaining away the causes of poverty, and to the land monopolists in diverting attention from the fact that as population grows denser owners of land get fatter.

PROGRESSIVES: Members of all parties, churches, etc., who assume that political and social ideas improve in the same way as scientific discoveries accumulate; so that any change in society, provided that it is in the same direction and not a real change, is for the better. So the Progressive believes that social ideas wear out like old machines and he exalts time-serving into a moral obligation. As the drift of change is towards totalitarian government, the Progressive assumes that personal freedom and self-reliance conflict with social improvement.

PROVIDENCE: By any logical interpretation, the natural order of things which human action cannot change. As every true scientist accepts natural law, science makes genuine progress; as current political practice and modern economic teaching ignore natural law, Homo

Sapiens is continually trying to alter things that cannot be changed, and suffers the consequences in frustration and strife.

QUALIFICATIONS: Pieces of paper given by persons already having such pieces of paper to others requiring them for purposes of employment or prestige; extending from trade union cards to diplomas in philosophy and economics. Thus all spheres of mental as well as physical activity are subjected to control, and individual experiment is suppressed. As no genius ever required a piece of paper to prove it, the tendency is to stamp out human improvement.

REVOLUTIONARIES: Young persons, frustrated by the unnatural restraints of modern society, including the conditions required by the public assistance they enjoy, who imagine that old fallacies dressed up in long hair and mini-skirts are original. Having discovered that riotous conduct can obtain *gratis* more publicity than the soundest

appeals to reason, if those appeals are dangerous to the forces of privilege, these young persons indirectly bolster privilege by presenting chaos as the only alternative.

STRIKES: Outcome of the attempt to overcome the consequences of land and trade monopoly by organizing monopoly in employ-

ment. Trade union leaders, by denouncing fellow workers, called black-legs, and employers, for low wages, divert attention from the fact that if employment at its source, the application of labour to natural materials, is checked, the landless

must necessarily compete against each other for the lowest wages. As wealthy unions can give good strike pay, and strikers' rents are paid and families provided for from public assistance, and as great corporations, shielded from competition, can immediately pass on increased labour-costs to consumers—thus fomenting new demands—strikes become a permanent feature of democracy. The whole burden is thrown upon that Forgotten Man, the ordinary member of the general public; but the land monopolist, left unaffected, can preach the virtues of our Free Society.