

wish to be bothered again until next polling day. So the government ought to get on with its job even if a few hard measures are necessary. That includes just about anything which doesn't hurt our feelings, but when that happens we are compelled to raise our voices.

From these observations it is not a huge leap to imagine a switch from income tax to site-rent-for-revenue being calmly accepted by the people. Look at what the Fraser government did to Hayden's Medibank. How many complained about that? It doesn't stretch the imagination too far except that we haven't been in there feeding our ideas to the politicians. This is a job which has to be done face-to-face with treasurer Howard and all the others in turn down the line to the newest opposition back bencher. There needs to be a good and ready supply of printed material for follow up work.

Full-time professional rent-for-revenue lobbyists are needed in every State as well as the federal arena, with New South Wales, Victoria and Australian Capital Territory leading the way. I would be interested to learn of such lobbying in other states and the degree of achievement. It has not been done to any great extent in NSW except possibly by the Proportional Representation Society. They have recently achieved a great success in the Legislative Council, thanks to the efforts of enthusiastic people working in their spare time and the cooperation of one independent Member of the Legislative Assembly who held the balance of power. A classic piece of strategy pulled off to near perfection. Imagine what might be achieved by a full-time enthusiast!!

Finally, something which could be of great interest and potential for the Georgist movement came to my attention recently. I had occasion to contact a friend who is a member of a newly formed community up north near Bellingen. The land is held in trust for the members by a cooperative set up as an umbrella cooperative, the function of which is to shelter and help such new communities to get established. The umbrella cooperative is properly registered and legally able to hold land for any number of other groups. The groups have all the advantages of the cooperative itself including safeguards, without having had to go through the hoops of official registration.

The Registrar of Cooperations has given it his blessing probably because a lot of cooperatives fail. This way the groups have a chance to try their ideas without upsetting the statistics too much. If it works that's fine but if it doesn't it is only one more failed cooperative instead of 8 or 10. Groups under the umbrella may come and go without too much trauma. So far it is working very well.

Well it might be a bright idea for a Georgist group through the umbrella cooperative (or under it) to establish a subdivision on leased crown land. All the lots in the subdivision would be

leased to the holders who would build their own homes on land which hadn't cost a huge sum of money to purchase. Run along the lines of Fairhope, Alabama, it could be a wonderful piece of Georgist propaganda. A three-dimensional full size model for all to observe and emulate.

We all have our obligations and commitments and we all do our little bit for Georgism in the direction we feel best able to make a contribution within our capabilities. And that is as it should be. We cannot count on the arrival of a new front-runner to lead us through the stormy times ahead and so we must endeavour to carry the banner ourselves. Our striving must lead to eventual success.

We will long remember Henry George for he has shown us the way.

Three cheers for Henry George!!!

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SIR SAMUEL GRIFFITH AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

Sir Samuel Griffith retired as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia in 1919. Prior to that appointment he had been Chief Justice of Queensland and, earlier in his career, Premier of Queensland. In 1939 Mr A Douglas Graham delivered the John Murtagh Macrossan Lecture to the University of Queensland on the life of Sir Samuel Griffith. The following extracts are of particular interest in illustrating the affinity of the political and legal philosophies of Sir Samuel and Henry George:-

One Bill, which he brought forward in 1890, but did not attempt to pass, calls for a special mention. This was a remarkable measure, which he termed The Elementary Law of Property, and in which were laid down certain principles of Natural Law, which declared that all persons should have equal rights to life and freedom of opportunity, that the right to take advantage of natural forces belonged equally to all members of the community, and that all land is by Natural Law the common property of the community and that every man is entitled to the full value of his labour, which value could never be less than sufficient to keep him and his family in health and reasonable comfort, and which further provided that Positive, or man-made law should not be permitted to restrict any of these natural rights except so far as such restriction would be to the common advantage of the community.

As I have said, Sir Samuel did not proceed with this Bill, which was in fact merely a declaration of beliefs rather than a positive enactment. But some thirty years later he again brought the principles declared in the Bill before the public. Shortly after his retirement from the Bench, he published an article upon what he termed 'The Fundamental Error' of all social life, which he declared was a 'Mastery Rule' whereby the great majority of people had to obey the command of a small minority. And he urged that this Mastery Rule should be done away

with and a Fraternity Rule be established in it stead. And he suggested that if the community at large could be taught to regard the principles of Natural Law as set out in his Elementary Law of Property as axiomatic, in the same way as they regarded many other rules of right and wrong, the world might at length attain to a Fraternity Rule, which, he said in conclusion, would be "No more than Christ's command to love thy neighbour as thyself" than which, he added, "there is no truer democracy".

THE DRAFT BILL

TO DECLARE THE NATURAL LAW RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE PROPERTY

(Sir Samuel Griffith: 22nd July 1890.)

PREAMBLE.

Whereas it is essential to the good order of every State and the welfare of the People, that all persons should have and enjoy the fruits of their own labour, and to this end it is expedient to declare the natural laws governing the acquisition of private property: Be it declared and enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Queensland in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

DEFINITIONS

LAND: The term 'land' means land in its natural condition resulting from the operation of natural forces unaided and undirected by man, and does not include any improvements made upon it.

VALUE OF LAND: When the term 'value' is used with reference to land, it signifies the extent of the difference between the advantage of having the use of the land in question and the advantage of having the use of the nearest other land the use of which can be obtained by mere occupation without making payment to any person for such use.

RENT: The return or payment demanded by persons having, by positive law, the right to the exclusive possession of lands, for the permission to use that land, is called 'rent'. Rent is therefore a measure of the value of land.

LABOUR: The term 'labour' includes all modes of exercise of the human faculties, whether of mind or body. It therefore includes the function of supervision or organisation of other labour.

WAGES: The immediate remuneration of labour is called 'wages'.

PROPERTY: The term 'property' includes all forms of material things in the possession of man which have a value for the purpose of exchange or use. It also includes inventions and other immaterial results of the exercise of the faculties of the mind.

PRODUCTION: The term 'production' includes any act or series of acts by which labour is applied, either directly or indirectly, to property, and the result of which is new property, or property in an altered form, or in a different place. It also includes the exercise of the faculties of the mind or body, the result of which is property, although the exercise of those faculties was not applied to property.

CAPITAL: The term 'capital' means and includes all forms of property not being land which are in use for the purpose of production. It therefore includes as well property which is consumed or destroyed as property which is not consumed or destroyed in the process of production.

INTEREST: The term 'interest' is used to denote either the immediate return derived from the use of capital for the purpose of production, or the payment received by the owner of capital from another person by way of return for the use of that capital. Interest is therefore a measure of the value of the use of capital.

PRODUCTIVE LABOUR: The term 'Productive labour' means labour applied for the purpose of producing some property which is, or is intended to be, of greater value than the value of the property (if any) to which the labour is applied.

NET PRODUCTS: The terms 'net products of labour' and 'net products' mean the net increase in property resulting from productive labour, after allowing for the cost of production.

COST OF PRODUCTION: The cost of production may include all or any of the following elements:-

1. The replacement of the property which is consumed, or destroyed, or altered in form, or changed in place, in the course of the process of production;
2. The wages of the labour engaged in the production;
3. Interest on the capital used in the production;
4. Rent of the land used for the purposes of the production;
5. Incidental expenses not falling under any of the foregoing heads.

POSITIVE LAW: The term 'positive law' includes all written laws enacted by a competent legislative authority. It also includes all unwritten rules declared by any competent and judicial authority to be in the law of the State.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Equal Right of All Persons to Life And Freedom of Opportunity.

All persons are, by natural law, equally entitled to the right of life, and to the right of freedom for the exercise of their faculties; and not person has, by natural law, any right superior to the right of any other person in this respect.