

VIEWPOINT

production to a minority that renders no service in return. They cannot increase their own rewards in the face of the demands of these privileged non-producers.

The secondary, devastating effect of the legislative conivance, which converts a rational, harmonious public fund into a private perquisite, is resort to taxation that strikes most heavily at producers according to their degree of industry. Taxation is the notorious cause of rising costs and reducer of incomes; it now takes at least half of the average person's income, much of it to be expended on welfare, the necessity for which would largely vanish if land were freed by the restoration of rent to the public.

When the law of rent is really understood, not only will the superstition that arbitration courts can raise wages in general be exposed, but the downward pressure on wages by speculative land-values and taxation will become an historical notoriety like the inquisition or any other such repellent aberration.

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Obituary

THEODORE MAXWELL EDWARDS

It is sad to record that another scholarly and dedicated Georgist, Max Edwards, passed away on January 8th, 1978. Although a few years ago a stroke caused paralysis of limbs on one side and also deprived him of speech, mentally he was bright as ever and his capacious memory never failed. Using an alphabet chart, he conversed with considerable animation and so quickly that one had to be very wide awake to keep up with him. Seemingly he regarded disaster as a challenge. His cheerfulness was inspiring and beautiful. His courage was superb.

Throughout his years of activity he wrote many letters and contributed to Georgist journals. His efforts promoted a wide distribution of George's books and relevant literature. When residing near Gosford he presented books by Henry George to the town library and bestowed a similar benefit on the library of his last place of residence, Hornsby.

As a teacher he observed the disadvantages of the children of the very poor, particularly the aboriginal children with whom he felt great compassion. Having long experience in high school teaching he was not only efficient but also patient as an exponent of Georgist philosophy and practicable proposals.

Taking note of social conditions he travelled in many lands including Russia. Having learned to speak the language he had hoped to converse with people in various occupations, but as he was not permitted to go or stay anywhere without

his official guide, there was no freedom of speech.

In disposition he was gentle and unobtrusive. The philosophy of Henry George was vitally a part of himself. Despite the difficulties and frustrations which beset the Georgist cause, he was on all occasions, courteous. Though sadly missed by his associates he is most affectionately remembered.

Max had two sons and two married daughters, Mrs Kirkwood and Mrs Frazer. Sadly, one of his sons who became a barrister, died in London in consequence of an accident. Our deep sympathy is extended to Max's widow Mrs Maud Edwards of Hornsby, the children and relatives.

IVY AKEROYD

As a tribute to Max's memory the committee has resolved to make gifts of copies of George's principal works to several district libraries, including Hornsby. These will be designated as Max Edwards Memorial Gifts. EDITOR.

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JUSTICE AND LAND TENURE

By S S GILCHRIST

Who should own land?
How should land be distributed between individuals?

Should individuals and some families have the legal right to hold sites and resources forever, and others to be deprived of access to sites forever, except by paying tribute to the land owners?

With our present land tenure system, past governments have issued permanent titles to sites and these titles are maintained by present governments. These titles give the holders the perpetual opportunity to get all the benefits they can from the site, but in doing this the government continually deprives the remainder of the community of such opportunity. Laws such as trespass, backed by police action ensure this situation. This is most unjust as it creates permanent privilege AND permanent disadvantage, particularly as title holders can lease sites, and the landless must pay another individual for permission to use part of Australia.

The fact that titles to land privilege can be bought and sold, does not alter the fact that the titles are government maintained privilege. The distribution of site value privilege is of course unjustly disproportionate. It is this maldistribution which is the main cause of unearned riches on one hand, and of undeserved poverty on the other.

The basic privilege of land owning is increased many fold by the benefits and services which are provided at the community's expense such as roads and highways, bridges, police