

Natural Law and Harmony

by JAMES HAIR

SOCIETY can be divided between the builders and destroyers, or the producers and plunderers, and much of our history is concerned with the conflict caused by the latter. Starting with simple thievery they have gradually refined and improved their methods through oppressive big government, as in ancient Egypt, first with chattel slavery and then with the feudal system which made slaves of the workers and producers by turning God's free gift into private property.

Chattel slavery has been pretty well eliminated, and while in more progressive nations the political side of feudalism is also a thing of the past, the poverty of the backward nations still retards all of us. Until they reform their land systems it is futile and wasteful for our government to pour wealth into such regressive societies, for it only assists the landowner plunderers to maintain their grip while paying minimum taxes which are only a small fraction of the taxes extorted from our citizens to keep the system going.

Perhaps we should stop interfering with the laws of justice. The disadvantaged nations need to know and obey the economic laws. They don't need money. But plunderers have never been willing to give up their special privileges until it is too late.

It is very late now—for the calamity which George predicted is upon us.

I am a convinced follower of Henry George, and I believe in God and in the immutable harmony of his law—natural law—and in the free enterprise system which functions harmoniously under natural law. But it must be released from the bondage of such injustices as the feudal concept of land and the ridiculous monetary system which has retarded enterprise since colonial days. We must look behind the shadows into the realities of law and causation. This is scientific and productive. Materialistic thought brings only confusion and strife. But free the producers and builders from the plunderers and their various legalized systems of oppression, and rapid progress would follow—it always has.

The result of man's unscientific materialistic attempts to improve conditions without concern for causes can be seen in the confusion of the welfare state, which multiplies problems instead of solving them. The complexities, so often unnoticed, result from error. Truth is simple, and science is simple. So I put my hope in justice first and charity last, for charity merely covers up injustice and makes it tolerable. And I believe Henry George was right in attacking first of all the injustice handed down from the era of plunder and feudalism.

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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 the community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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