

## THE PLANNER AND THE BUREAUCRAT

The Planner and the Bureaucrat  
Were walking through the land  
They wept like anything to see  
Such quantities unplanned;  
If this were only more controlled,  
They said, it would be grand.

O Taxpayers, come and talk with us,  
The Planner did entreat;  
A pleasant walk, a pleasant talk,  
To lead you up the street.  
To each they posed Forms galore  
And notice to repeat.

The time has come, the Planner said,  
To talk of many things;  
Of Trading, Licence, Bank Controls,  
Of Quotas, Forms and Rings,  
Why certain traders should be zoned,  
Why others can pull strings.

O Traders, said the Bureaucrat,  
We've had our bit of fun;  
Why don't you get to work again?  
But answer came there none.  
And this was scarcely odd because  
They'd beggared every one.

[This parody on "The Walrus and the Carpenter" appeared first in *Taxation in Australia*, then in *Good Government* published in Sydney, N.S.W.]



## ISLAND DEVELOPMENT

Lancaster M. Greene, on a recent visit to Barbados, was interviewed on the radio and in the press (*Advocate*), after presenting a copy of *Progress and Poverty* to the Prime Minister.

Mr. Greene is treasurer of the Henry George School, and has been in the investment business in Wall Street for 40 years. He invited listeners and readers to take advantage of the correspondence courses offered at New York headquarters of the HGS.

Barbados should lift taxation entirely off production and place it on the value of locations to attract investors, he said, since one of the greatest obstacles to investment on the island is the difficulty of obtaining locations. Such a tax would also have the advantage for natives, of discouraging the holding of these properties for speculation.

From Washington D.C., Levi E. Bottens, Vice President of the Life Underwriter Training Council, sent an observation from the *Sunday Star*. Mr. Bottens is a member of the board of trustees of the Henry George School in New York and a teacher of Fundamental Economics classes in Washington.

It was news of the wide real estate gap in the Virgin Islands that occasioned his comment, "still we wonder why there is poverty."

A prime half acre in the Virgin Islands sold for \$150 when they were bought by the U.S. from Denmark in 1917. In today's boom market the same half acre can bring as much as \$25,000. This year as the islands celebrate their 50th anniversary under the American flag, there is a lush air of prosperity. Large estates are valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. FHA developed homes have recently been built with three bedrooms and one bathroom to sell at \$15,000 exclusive of land.

"Still we wonder why there is poverty!"