

## HENRY FORD ON PROSPERITY

In Henry Ford's latest book, *The Great To-day—The Greater Future*, is the following striking passage which should give people something seriously to ponder. He writes:—

“ Consider a few fundamental principles :—

“ First, why should we ever have prosperity at all ? Prosperity being the easy and uninterrupted supply of needs,—and the needs of our people being normal and varied,—and the means to supply these needs being ample,—with a surplus left over for those afar whose sources of supply have not been developed, the more logical question is :

Why should we ever be without prosperity ?

“ Even in ‘ hard times ’ we have every element of prosperity, so that the puzzle is that we ever should have to endure ‘ hard times ’ except through bad management of our affairs.

“ The economic basis of prosperity is always present.”

That is well put. On the one hand, we have the active factor in wealth production, that is, Man with all his ingenuity, training, and experience, plus the accumulated knowledge and experience of the past available to him ; and, on the other hand, the passive factor, this Planet, the source from which all wealth in the past has come, and from which all wealth in the future will come.

The needs of man in the future can only be supplied, as they have been in the past, by the active partnership of these two factors.

Henry George drew a graphic little picture of the position thus :—

“ It is a well-provisioned ship, this on which we sail through space. If the bread and beef above decks seem to grow scarce, we but open a hatch and there is a new supply, of which before we never dreamed. And very great command over the services of others comes to those who as the hatches are opened are permitted to say, ‘ This is mine ’.”

In “ hard times ” we have the spectacle of armies of men unemployed, and yet staring them in the face is the partially-used source from which all the requirements for the satisfaction of their physical needs may be obtained !

If men are idle it is due primarily to the fact that land is idle. And why is land kept idle, or only allowed to be partially used ? Because of bad management of our national affairs in permitting the private monopoly of the source of all wealth.

Land Values Taxation is the key which will unlock the hatches under which are stowed the inexhaustible riches of the earth, and which the so-called owners are now able to withhold from their fellows except on their terms and conditions.—*The Standard*, Sydney, August, 1927.