

receive a low price costs the user a high price, because of the imposition of the wage taxes such as Pay As You Earn (PAYE), and the further erosion of depleted wage packets by VAT and by the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which doubles in many cases the cost of the foods on which Ireland's poor spend nearly half their incomes.

The casualties of this arrangement are not the workers who, by union action, can have their wages and salaries adjusted to allow for the taxes and the CAP.

The real casualties are, directly, that half of the nation which cannot sell its labour for a pittance, but for which users have to pay a high price.

The indirect casualties of this social order are the Catholics of Northern Ireland whom a Protestant statelet tries to batter into submission, to prevent the North being absorbed into such a patently inequitable and inefficient South.

The beneficiaries are, in the first place, the milk and beef barons - the 1% of the nation who own half the nation's land and almost all its milk quotas.

Next are the commercial and industrial operators who have used the capital made available to them for free, first to replace labour which has been made dear by PAYE, VAT and the CAP; and more recently to invest it abroad.

Then there are the bankers who have grown grotesquely rich and powerful by expanding the nation's money from £150m 30 years ago to £17,000m now.

And on top of the obscene pile are the Cosgraves, the deValeras, FitzGerald, Lemasses, Springs, O'Malleys and all the breed of Irish politicians who, through 70 years of dastardly native government, have ravaged the nation to create their dynasties and to

EUROPE CASH PLEA

RAYMOND CROTTY has, for almost 40 years, campaigned to have Irish land taxed, as Henry George advocated nearly 110 years ago.

His work has been mainly in research and publication, beginning with *Irish Agricultural Production: Its Volume and Structure*, published in 1966 by Cork University Press.

That argued that the best way to secure efficient farming in Ireland was to tax land so that only efficient farmers would remain in possession of land.

Other works of Crotty's are: *Cattle, Economics and Development* (Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, 1980) which, based on several years' experience in the Third World, showed how the land tenure system imposed on those countries by colonialism resulted in their pastoral resources being wretchedly misused.

The Irish Land Question and Sectarian Violence, was a Henry George Centenary Essay, published by the Economic and Social Science Research Association.

Ireland in Crisis: a Study in Capitalist Colonial Underdevelopment (Brandon, 1986), and A

Radical's Response (Poolbeg, 1988), followed.

All of these are principally concerned with the harmful effects of the system of private ownership of land, which was everywhere in the colonies imposed by the metropolitan powers and which has everywhere been retained by the colonies following independence.

Crotty has consistently opposed Irish involvement in the European Economic Community, principally because closer integration would lessen the chances of a land tax being introduced in Ireland.

He has successfully challenged in the Irish courts the Single European Act, which is designed to expedite the integration of the EEC. In a succeeding referendum, 30% of the electorate sided with Crotty against the combined political parties.

Raymond Crotty is now contesting the elections for the European Assembly, or Parliament, in June.

• Donations to Crotty's campaign should be sent to: The Crotty European Parliament Election Campaign Fund, c/o Trustee Savings Bank, 70 Grafton Street, Dublin 2, Ireland.

Given the widespread opposition in Ireland to closer EEC integration, and Ireland's proportionate representation system of voting, he feels he has a good chance of winning one of the 15 seats allocated to Ireland in the European Parliament.

Should he do so, he would be the first advocate of a land tax to win a prominent position in Irish public life since Henry George's supporter, Michael Davitt.

This could be a first major step, 110 years on, towards implementing the taxation of Irish land which was originally urged by Henry George and which an increasing number of Irish people are now beginning to favour.

Crotty urgently needs financial support for his election campaign. He will be opposed in that campaign by the established political parties, all of which favour zero taxation on land but heavy taxation on labour and enterprise. The campaigns of those parties, but not Crotty's will be heavily subsidised by the EEC.

make of Leinster House, with its sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, brothers, widows, cousins, nephews and in-laws a den of nepotism to which, by contrast, the English House of Lords must seem a place of Jacobean rectitude.

HOW HAVE these abominations survived? Two things have made it possible. First, the half of the nation who have consistently

been denied a livelihood here have emigrated, to change their place of residence rather than the diabolical social order that denied them a livelihood.

Second, the State, which is merely the projection of the colonial administration decked out in tricolours and harps, has commanded the resources of the modern nation State of the West;

Continued on Page 31 ➔