

I have read the "galley proof" of the Villalobos article on Canberra and I find it wanting in several respects. Fact is that *in addition* to the land rents which are payable for the revisable leases (at 20 years' intervals) the landholders have to contribute local taxation based on the land value of their properties. The "land value tax" is at the rate of some one shilling in the pound of the "capital value", *i. e.* 5 per cent of the capital value *in addition* to the leasehold rents. The Canberra story was told fairly completely in *Land & Liberty* Aug.-Sept, 1927. Now, however, the story much needs retelling.

We ought to know and be able to say what has happened with regard to the leasehold rents. They were supposed to be revised on the lapse of 20 years. The 20 years have more than elapsed. *Have* they been revised and with what result? I have shot off a number of air letters to Australia to get this ground covered. Meanwhile all that you and we have been able to say is what the *intentions* of the Canberra system were; but nothing at all about its actual practice—and that is what counts in the minds of those to whom we present our testimony!

The author is certainly mistaken about Welwyn and Letchworth which cannot in the slightest sense be pictured as criteria of "Georgist" practice. And then to say that it has been "wisely" resolved to create seven similar cities with "public funds"! How "wise" indeed to pour public money into the maw of landlordism!

The coming *Land & Liberty*, very late in production but printing at the moment, is a special 20-page double number. It has, I think, very much in it and a large extra supply is being run off. I will send you, for the school and for other distribution (with help of the Schalkenbach) 30 copies for your kind and helpful distribution and I would ask that you may send me a cable if you can take more.

[Ed. Note: Please write in if you wish one of the above mentioned special copies.]

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