

## Inflation Coming?

By Richard Moos

In the book **INFLATION IS COMING** [by Ralph Borsodi; Bayard Lane, Inc., \$1, Suffern, N. Y.] the author foresees bitter times ahead for the people of this country. This he bases on three premises:

1) The fiscal collapse of the government is held inevitable after the war.

2) Nation-wide unemployment must follow the war.

3) There will be a world-wide business depression.

To prove the first point, Borsodi goes to extreme lengths to show that we have an inflated currency. It seems to me that instead of merely comparing the national debt of 1812 with the present, it might have been illuminating to show, at the same time, a comparison between production then and now, in units if you must distrust the dollar.

The second premise has not been proven so far, and it is too early to judge the validity of the third as yet. In all fairness, be it noted that Borsodi warns that these things may not happen "immediately after the war." How valid a prediction of a depression sometime in the future is, no student of economics would hesitate to answer. That the depression is due necessarily to a money inflation as pictured in the book, most if not all Georgist students would probably deny.

Having presented, then, a most gloomy picture of the future, Mr. Borsodi proceeds to offer a solution for some few. Get rid of savings and bank deposits, says he. Sell stocks, bonds, and life insurance. And then, bless you, become a subsistence farmer.

Form a co-operative, preferably, but by all means get yourself a little land and become not only independent but also self-sufficient. This advice is replete with a good deal of naivete, such as the thought that "men in our armed services

would be able to obtain land by gifts from generous people who are not using land which they may own."

His proposal of keeping these communities free from taxes, save only the collection of ground rent for the community, shows he has read George. Anyone familiar with the experience of so-called Single-Tax "Enclaves" will have his ideas of the results to be expected.

Personally, I can see nothing but harm coming from the author's analysis, premise and deductions. The future of American industry and economy lies in production and production depends upon interdependence, specialization, exchange. All these benefits of the market an autonomous economy denies its members. Inflation is a serious problem, but surely nothing could bring it on sooner or more certainly than a sudden withdrawing from the market of all available cash and negotiable securities as Borsodi advocates. The danger of a depression looms when the speculative rent of land overtakes the economic rent. Borsodi's advice—let's all jump in and start bidding for a piece of land.  
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