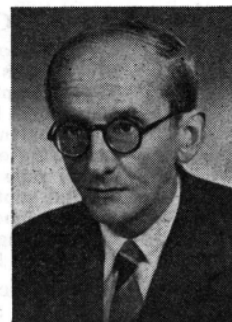


The Truth Knows No Frontiers

By J. PALUZIE-BORRELL

(Translated by F. Stuart Huss)

Pharmacist, chemist, electro-technician and linguist (six languages besides his native Spanish), Mr. Paluzie-Borrell is a member of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade, Henry George School tutor, and author of many articles on political economy. Aged 56.



DURING a period of free economic competition, having completed my university studies and practical training, and lacking greater financial resources, I acquired a small chemist's shop in a poor neighbourhood. However, the public preferred to buy from other chemists in the wealthier districts, who, thanks to their larger turnover, were able to sell more cheaply. Of course I soon saw that there was a difference between selling a packet of bicarbonate to a poor customer and serving the well-fed client who had stepped from his car to buy "the best patent-medicine for the digestion" which, in my opinion as a chemist, was usually the most expensive. Although I realised that my neighbours would probably never earn or spend more, I preferred to attribute my meagre earnings not to low wages but to the competition of my wealthier rivals. In this way, through not thinking correctly, I was for some time in danger of becoming a socialist. Fortunately my experience as a university student and as a taxpayer inspired me with very little faith in the miracle-working powers of the State, and consequently I have never swallowed the sermons of the State-god, whether he be called Marx or Keynes.

At this time, too, my attention was being aroused by the new science of nutrition (dietetics) which drew my interests, via the study of vitamins, hormones and human temperament, towards psychology.

My chemist's shop was making me wise rather than wealthy, and eventually I sold it. For a time I supplemented my income with translations and lessons. During this period, while I was outside the world of commerce, I began to form a false conception of society being compounded exclusively of physiological and psychological phenomena. In this way I began to believe that the progress of Health and Education would in the future form a race of perfect beings who would in turn establish a perfect society—free from all commercial competition, of course.

The belief in progress which I began to develop was similar to that described by Henry George in his immortal *Progress and Poverty*, except that, whereas the hopes of the nineteenth century producer were centred on progress in the field of production, I, as a chemist and bookworm, naturally found mine turning towards progress in chemistry and education. It was fortunate for me that people were not then talking of improving Man in the same way as

chickens are selected for breeding and dogs are trained, for, who knows? perhaps I was naive enough to think that Man is a mistake of Nature or the Creator, and that Man, himself, can improve Nature.

At about this time I read in the *Vanguardia* an article by Baldomero Argente (translator into Spanish of *Progress and Poverty*.) In the course of it he mentioned that *A Criticism of Socialism*, the work of the Australian Georgeist, Max Hirsch, had been adopted as a text-book by a Japanese university. The rapid progress of Japan had inspired me with such a high regard for her teachers, that I obtained the book without further recommendation. My rashness was handsomely rewarded. The journalist turned out to be a great economist and an enthusiastic Georgeist; the university had chosen most wisely, and Max Hirsch's book was for me a flood of light. I set about reading *The Crime of Poverty* which had previously been recommended to me in vain. Then I read *Progress and Poverty* again and again. After this came *Protection or Free Trade* which I also read several times, and one after the other I read all the works of Henry George.

Today I believe I understand Henry George's doctrine, if not in all its immense depth and fullness, then at least sufficiently to see its main structure and harmony, and to discover in it every now and then unexpected details, new references and deductions amazingly confirmed in everyday life.

Because I understand Henry George's teachings I am a convinced follower of him, and only in his doctrines do I see the path towards such personal and collective welfare, industrial and international peace, material and moral progress as it difficult to imagine.

Consequently, realising the cause of and cure for all the economic, social and political evils which afflict and threaten us all, I consider it to be the moral duty of every Georgeist, and therefore, my own, to collaborate in the propagation of this doctrine, even though in this undertaking we should meet with obstacles and stumbling-blocks, as indeed we do.

Yet, not only from a moral standpoint do I feel concern about the adoption of the Tax on the Value of Land and the guarantee of economic freedom. My own interest, too, as part-owner of a piece of urban property, *i.e.* an apartment house, makes me realise that I would benefit

if I had to pay only the rent of the land on which it stands instead of the innumerable taxes which fall upon my building and on every article I purchase. By paying a site-value tax, I should be able to dwell in an atmosphere of friendly human co-operation, and should have no reason to fear the future. My property would offer me greater means of comfort and well-being and I should earn a much higher salary. Moreover, I would no longer see all round me the pitiful consequences of land monopoly.

In me, human reason combines with the altruism of a Don Quixote and the self-interest of a Sancho Panza in support of the tax on land values. It has often been said that in Man Heart and Head wage continuous warfare. Henry George's teachings have brought me peace of mind. For these reasons I consider singularly apt the words used

by Tolstoy when commenting on this doctrine: "To understand it is to accept it."

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**INTERNATIONAL
NOTES & NEWS**

FREE LAND—FREE TRADE—SOUND MONEY

How to Cure Canada's Ills

A RADICAL SPEECH IN THE SENATE

A PRESCRIPTION for his country's economic recovery and future health was offered in the Canadian Senate last month by the Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck. What Canada needs—and, of course, the same is true of every country for economic laws know no frontiers—is land-value taxation, free trade, and a sound, honest currency.

Senator Roebuck explained the necessity for this triple policy in an extensive, closely reasoned speech during the June 10 debate on the Speech from the Throne.

Senator Roebuck said he heartily agreed with a proposal made earlier in the debate that Canada should join the Common Market of the European free trade area, that she should progressively remove the tariff barriers that obstruct her trade, and that while doing so, she should agree not to increase her tariffs. "But I should like to add some qualifications. While free trade, in my judgment, would undoubtedly increase our productive power—I am all for it—and would, I believe, have a tendency to cheapen goods, still I would submit that the effect of an abolition of protective tariffs would be quite similar, in principle at least, to the introduction of labour-saving devices and organisation. The introduction of labour-saving devices of various kinds has not, however, solved the unemployment problem, nor has it met the difficulty of the rising cost of living. I admit that the problem is baffling, and one is rather saddened by the hazy half-truths in this connection one constantly encounters from both platform and press."

The greatest part of his speech Senator Roebuck devoted to considering the effects of inflation and the need for a sound, honest currency. Concluding his remarks on those matters he commented, "It is most important to bear in mind continually that rising prices are a corollary of falling money, and that money is the responsibility of govern-

ment. It is of no use for the Government to bluff that it cannot handle this question; the value of money is entirely within its control."

Then he turned to the land question. "It is equally important, if we rule out a shot in the arm in our economy as the method of getting out of a depression—and I think, and hope, that we all do so—to bear in mind that the basic cause of our present depression—or recession, if you want me to be polite—is the skyrocketing of land values and cruelly exorbitant rents. This is a general condition prevailing from coast to coast, and which is figured in tremendous sums of money. This land value movement has taken a long time to develop, but it has steadily and relentlessly progressed until to-day a slight check in our economy makes it almost impossible for business to bear the burden. We are experiencing that stalemate in Canada at the present time. Further, we should bear in mind that the true remedy for such a condition is a generous measure of land-value taxation, rather than monkeying with this buzz-saw of inflation.

"There is something rather remarkable about the present depression in that falling money—and we have had that, as honourable senators know—has not yet enabled business to absorb unemployment. The honourable senator from Shelburne told us that prices have advanced to 3.4 points in the year ended March 31 last; and the honourable the junior senator from Winnipeg (Hon. Mr. Wall) gave us some startling percentages of the increase in prices, which, of course, means a decrease in money values. But evidently money has not yet fallen sufficiently to offset the stalling effect upon business of inflated land values and excessive rents. The individual suffering of the unemployed has been softened in this particular depression by the social legislation of the former Government, and the