

IN MY VIEW

'Europe blocks the road to justice'



Peter Stubbings, a former editor of *Land & Liberty*, calls for a withdrawal from the EU

HOW poverty may be eliminated has been known for 120 years. For more than 50 of them I have been convinced of the primacy of Henry George's "First Great Reform". Until the life-enhancing "People's Revenue" begins to flow into the public treasury for the equal good of all, every kind of social, economic and political maladjustment will continue.

In Britain only an Act of Parliament can activate the benign process. Encouraging moves in the first half of the 20th century were frustrated. Reformers know that their cause is just and are persuaded that ultimately it must prevail.

But now a further obstacle blocks the path. Not only must ignorance, indifference and powerful vested interests be overcome, the sovereignty and independence of Parliament itself must first be restored. It has been emasculated by membership of the European Union. Increasingly laws are made in Brussels and rubber stamped in Westminster. The way that Chancellor Brown was able only

to reduce but not repeal VAT on fuel illustrates who has the whip hand in taxation matters. In opposition the Labour Party had represented the tax as the greatest iniquity; in office no one on the Labour benches pointed out that the iniquitous VAT is a BAT (Brussels Added Tax).

Moves to "harmonise" taxes across the EU's fiefdom are the writing on the wall. Step by step a federal "country called Europe" is being built with all the appurtenances of a sovereign state. As it grows, the powers of its member nations are reduced. Tens of millions of continentals oppose these developments but

are powerless to halt or reverse the onward rush of this corrupt and corrupting, undemocratic, bureaucratic protectionist tyranny.

It is still possible, however, for the UK to cancel its membership. Diverse benefits would ensue. Perhaps the greatest gain would be the restoration of the sovereign independence of Parliament. That would leave the field open to pursue the goal of placing land value taxation legislation on the Statute Books. It is either that or Georgists might as well pack their tents.

Only the UK Independence Party (UKIP) stands for British

withdrawal from the EU. Although new and still small, it is growing rapidly and, in last June's elections for the pathetic European Parliament, so-called, it attracted 700,000 votes. UKIP is a moderate, non-racist, non-sectarian party: patriotic but not nationalistic. Many members previously belonged to or supported one or other of the main parties; others have eschewed political affiliation. State welfare and liberal free economists are comrades in this second Battle of (for) Britain. The party has a broadly libertarian ethos and is committed to what it calls "global free trade". (Personally I am always a little suspicious of the adjectival qualification of "free trade" but believe "global" may be innocuous.)

An influx of Georgists could influence the policy and future direction of the party much as our forebears influenced the then Liberal Party in the early 1900s. Membership details can be had from party HQ at PO Box 1714, Salisbury, SP1 2UQ.