

LAND&LIBERTY

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letter from the publisher

On her appointment as Prime Minister, Mrs May recognised how the 'Brexit' referendum result highlighted the problem that confronts a very large number of working households throughout the UK who are only "Just About Managing" (the JAMs).

This concern was reflected in her Lancaster House speech in January and in the new Government's White Paper entitled "*The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union*". This document identifies key "principles which will guide the Government in fulfilling the democratic will of the people of the UK". They include providing certainty, establishing free trade, the protection of worker's rights, control of our own laws and strengthening the Union whilst seeking a "strong new partnership with the EU" and "a more open, outward looking, confident and fairer UK, which works for all". In her speech, and at the end of her Foreword to the White Paper the Prime Minister said of the Government's intent "So that when future generations look back at this time, they will judge us not only by the decision that we made, but by what we made of that decision".

Regular readers of Land&Liberty would endorse that intent but will know how successful implementation of the Government's declared aspirations will only be possible if they form part of a wider programme of economic reforms aimed at ensuring economic justice for all.

Logically "free trade" is not only about the abolition of tariffs and customs duties that constrain overseas trade but includes the abolition of taxes that inhibit the voluntary exchange of goods and services throughout the UK. Such taxes increase the costs of living, employing, trading and producing for all UK citizens and firms and likewise reduce the rewards they earn for working, producing and serving each other. In particular they hit the JAMs i.e. not only those individual households who are obliged to live and earn their living in locations and occupations that are 'economically marginal' but those communities who, because they are located some distance from the Union's capital and "Prime Locations" suffer more than those close by.

There is now a pressing need and opportunity to re-examine the contributions and roles that individuals, families, firms, communities and their governments at various levels need to play if the production and distribution of real wealth throughout the UK, Europe and the world is to be optimised. Likewise, the roles of land, land value, capital, trade, credit, money, banking and international finance need to be reconsidered in the context of prospects for world peace, environmental sustainability and sustainable economic development.

In this context the merits of economic policies that promote unilateral free trade and land value based fiscal reforms become more obvious. It becomes clear that such measures would increase the earnings of UK producers and reduce their costs and asking prices. These reductions would completely outweigh any increase in price an overseas customer might suffer at the hands of their own government wishing to impose a WTO type import tariff. The issues involved become even clearer when considered in light of the teachings of Henry George and in accordance with the 'Golden Rule' that he so extolled i.e. 'to do unto others as you would have them do to you'.

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