

EXTRACTS FROM THE DRAFT BILL "TO DECLARE THE
NATURAL LAW RELATING TO THE ACQUISITION AND OWNERSHIP OF
PRIVATE PROPERTY"

Preamble: WHEREAS it is essential to the good order of every state and the welfare of the people that all persons would have and enjoy the fruits of their own labour, and to this end it is expedient to declare the natural law governing the acquisition of private property BE IT DECLARED AND ENACTED as follows:

Definitions: **LAND:** The term 'land' means land in its natural condition resulting from the operation of natural forces unaided and undirected by man, and does not include any improvements upon it.

VALUE OF LAND: When the term 'value' is used with reference to land it signifies the extent of the difference between the advantage of having the use of the land in question and the advantage of having the use of the nearest other land the use of which can be obtained without making any payment to any person for such use.

RENT: The return or payment demanded by persons having by positive (enacted) law the right to the exclusive possession of lands, for the permission to use that land, is called rent. Rent is therefore the measure of the value of the land.

LABOUR: includes all modes of exercise of the human faculties, whether of mind or body. It therefore includes the function of supervision or organization of that labour.

WAGES: The immediate remuneration of labour.

PROPERTY includes all forms of material things in the possession of man which have a value for the purpose of exchange or use.

PRODUCTION includes any acts by which labour is applied, either directly or indirectly, to property, and the result of which is new property, or property in unaltered form, or in a different place.

CAPITAL: The term 'capital' means and includes all forms of property, not being land, which are in use for the purpose of production.

FIRST PRINCIPLES: All persons are, by natural law, equally entitled to the right of life, and to the right of freedom for the exercise of their faculties; and no person has, by natural law, the right superior to the right of any other person in this respect.

Land is by natural law the common property of the community.

PROPERTY THE RESULT OF LABOUR: All property, other than land, is the product or result of labour.

OWNERSHIP OF NET PRODUCTS: The net products of labour belong to the persons who are concerned in the production. If one person is concerned the whole net products belong to him. If more persons than one are concerned the net products belong to them and are divisible amongst them in proportion to the value of their respective contributions to the production.

APPLICATION OF LABOUR TO PROPERTY: When labour is not applied directly or indirectly to property the whole products belong to the labourer. When labour is applied direct or indirectly to property the person who is lawfully entitled to the use of that property is deemed to be concerned in the production as well as the labourer.

DUTY OF STATE: Positive law is the creation of the State, and may be altered or abrogated by the State from time to time. It is the duty of the State to make proper provision by positive law for securing the proper distribution of the net products of labour in accordance with the principles hereby declared.

SHORT TITLE: This Act may be cited as 'The Elementary Property Law of Queensland'.

NOTES: As to natural and positive law, see paragraph 3 of this book.

This Message must not be taken as the writing of a trained economist. Its shortcomings are not hard to detect. Its significance lies in the clarity and accuracy of its perceptions of natural capital. It does not deal with economic distribution in detail, but clearly states that all wealth belongs to the producers, i.e. the laborers

246. ABRAHAM LINCOLN: "Nothing is ever settled till it is settled right."

The quotations in Part X are presented for the greatness of their messages. They are not endorsed in every detail.