

BLUEPRINT OF DEMOCRACY

"Economics of Democracy," by F. Mason Padelford, M.D.
Published by the author, Fall River, Mass. \$0.25.

The virtue of a blueprint is its compactness and comprehensiveness. To those who can read it, it is the essence of clarity. It is open only to the criticism that not everyone can read it. In many defense plants the ability to read a blueprint is the test of applicants for employment, and many fail to pass the test. Dr. Padelford's excellent pamphlet has the blueprint's strength. In twenty-eight pages he accomplishes the almost impossible task of presenting a complete summary of the Georgist philosophy so lucidly that to the student of fundamental economics it is inescapable in its logic. With only a few points, such as the "lump sum" payment to the state for land (p. 21) might there be difference of opinion.

Starting with the assertion that while the problem of wealth production has been sufficiently solved, that of wealth distribution has not, the author proceeds in a simple style and orderly sequence to build a structure of economic truth. The argument generates light, not heat. There is not a superfluous phrase, not a wasted word. All the stock questions and objections are taken into account, and there is complete sincerity in acknowledging ignorance, for example, in connection with the exact figure at which interest return is equitable.

Perhaps the best feature of an admirable job of exposition is the illustrative examples. There are not very many of these, most of the material is straight statement of fact. But what examples are used really illuminate the subject and carry conviction to the unbiased reader.

True, as I said before, a blueprint has its limitations, obvious and self-proving as it appears to one with even a little knowledge, it can appear dry, forbidding, or even baffling to the untaught. I think it might be this way with *Economics of Democracy*. I can fancy numerous types of readers who would be left cold by its persuasions. It will not of itself usher in the dawn of freedom.

Nevertheless I am taking a chance—ten chances to be exact, I am ordering ten extra copies to distribute among my unconvinced friends. And I rather think there may be a repeat order later on.

—JANET R. AIKEN