

Who And What Is Behind BECKWITH?

And What It All Means to
YOU

SINCE 1921. L. D. Beckwith, editor of **The Forum** and **No Taxes**, in business here since 1921, has his own plant.



WITHDRAWS FROM POLITICS to TEACH ECONOMICS.

L. D. Beckwith has for several years devoted his attention exclusively to the study and the teaching of economics.

THE FORUM has changed greatly since 1921. Originally launched on the theory that what is needed is newspapers that can tell the news as it is, it limited commercial advertising to one column inch to free itself from commercial control. This gave the paper unequaled freedom. That freedom has made THE FORUM a political power capable of accomplishing the defeat of several well-entrenched politicians. This experience has, however, definitely convinced the editor that changing officials accomplishes nothing—that we must, instead, master the SCIENCE of ECONOMICS so that just as we make good radios, automobiles and airplanes without waiting for men to be good, so we can set up social machinery that will be not only as efficient and dependable as our shop machinery, but also as independent of human nature.

His study of economics has convinced him that this science is to civics, politics, industry and statecraft what chemistry and physics are to industry, and that the frailties of human nature have no more to do with the machinery of society than they have to do with the law of gravity.

This is why THE FORUM has lost interest in the exposure of machine politics and is interested, instead, in showing the cause and the cure of machine politics.

NO TAXES. Because this philosophy was attracting readers throughout the English-speaking world, it became necessa-

in 1931 to establish an international paper. This is issued every second week, under the expressive name of NO TAXES.

WHAT IS BEHIND ALL THIS. The Georgist movement dates from 1879, the year Henry George published "**Progress and Poverty**". In that work and in "**The Science of Political Economy**", George reduced economics to a science.

THE GEORGIST IDEA. The quickest way to explain the Georgist idea is to liken society, or the public, to a copartnership made up of two partners; namely, Labor and Capital.

Any one who understands the equities involved in a copartnership, of, say, Jones and Smith in the Jones-Smith Garage can understand the fundamental principles of economics. One partner, Labor, puts in the work; he should have the wages. His partner, Capital, furnishes the finances; he should have the interest. **The company (the public) creates the land value; it should have the rent—meaning real rent, sometimes called "ground" rent to distinguish it from house "rent," which is not rent at all but interest.**

THE GEORGIST MOVEMENT IS SPLIT. Unfortunately, Henry George allowed himself to be drawn into New York politics. This drew about him political opportunists more interested in using him as a candidate than interested in his teachings. Upon his death the leadership of the Movement fell into the hands of men unable to teach his philosophy for the reason that they themselves did not understand it.

FORTY YEARS LOST. The result if this most unfortunate situation was a period of "wandering in the wilderness" during which the Movement has got nowhere—or worse.

INCOMPETENT LEADERSHIP DEFAULTS TO MARX. The difference between the Georgist idea and the Socialist-Communist idea taught by Karl Marx is in their view of capital and interest. On this, Henry George and Karl Marx were as far apart as the poles. **The true Georgist is the direct opposite of the Socialist or the Communist.**

This incompetent leadership has either adopted the view of Socialists and Communists on capital and interest, or refused to combat it on the theory that they could "cross that bridge" when they came to it.

UNFORTUNATE RESULTS. Three unhappy results have followed this failure to teach economics as a science. First, these misleaders have surrendered the field, by their default, to the more noisy Socialist-Communist party. The second is that the business world, kept in ignorance of the facts, has not only not discovered that **the Georgist is the business man's best friend**, but has been led to class the Georgist with the Socialists and Communists, those misguided victims of Marx. Third, this has added fuel to the fires of the Labor-Capital controversy instead of showing that it is possible to give each side all it asks **without taking anything from the other.**

ECONOMICS NOT TAUGHT AS SCIENCE IN SCHOOLS. Just as the schools refused at first to recognize the rotundity

of the earth as a scientific fact, so our schools today still refuse to recognize economics as a science as exact as any.

THE MINORITY, OR SCIENTIFIC GROUP. There have always been in the Georgist Movement a minority that have seen clearly that **economics is a science as exact as any**; that the Georgist Movement is not a mere tax reform movement, nor a fiscal movement at all, but is, instead, a movement for the study and application of the natural principles on which the fate of civilization depends; and seen that opportunism and compromise are as impossible here as in mathematics.

They reject the name "single taxer"; they are **no-taxers**.

By showing that capital is saved wages and can't exist till wages are paid **and saved**, the Georgist corrects the mistaken notion that wages depend on Capital. Georgists show that Labor and Capital are fellow victims of the rent racket.

BECKWITH COACHED BY ROSS. Henry George reduced economics to a science; but economics was reduced to formula by the late G. McM. Ross, of Stockton, an economist second only to Henry George, himself. For ten years, L. D. Beckwith had the advantage of close association with Ross.

BECKWITH'S POSITION IN THE MOVEMENT. Beckwith is a No-taxer. Because of the reach and the militancy of his two papers and because of the clarity of his text-books, "**The Catechism in Fundamental Economics**" and "**The Physiology of the Body Politic**" and because of the completeness and logic of his "**Economic Code**", he is listed in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Great Britain, Denmark and in Australia and New Zealand as a leader in the Minority.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPERS IN THE WORLD. The only newspapers in the world devoted to the teaching of economics as a science, are THE FORUM and NO TAXES, both of which are published in Stockton, California—which thus becomes the center of a new school of thought.

The position that Stockton is coming to hold in this matter is shown by the frequency with which the expressions, "the Stockton idea", "the Beckwith school of economics" and "the Beckwith philosophy" are appearing in the public prints in various places at great distances from Stockton.

THE STATE QUOTA PLAN FOR "NO TAXES" The support of NO TAXES is being organized in this country upon the basis of a quota of 37½¢ per week for each congressman a state has in the National House at Washington...

Cash for gift subscriptions comes from all sections of this country, from Mexico, Canada, Cuba, Great Britain and even from far New Zealand. It is wonderful; but there is not yet possible to finance the work as its importance requires.

If the George-Ross-Beckwith interpretation of economic law is correct, it is possible for mankind (without waiting for a moral reformation or an evolutionary unfolding), to pull itself, almost over night, out of this slough of depression and despair and establish itself upon the firm ground of in-

dustrial justice, civic wholesomeness, international peace and racial amity. All this can be brought about by resort to the science of economics—leaving the matter of personal virtue to the individual and the moral law.

According to the teaching of this school, the moral law applies only to the inner life of the individual and to his immediate contacts with his fellow man and civic, industrial, and political problems and the problems of statecraft are taken care of by the natural laws of economics.

CROOKED POLITICS AND WAR. Beckwith teaches that, except it be momentarily (pending the inevitable readjustment of the market), land is the only thing that is raised in price as the result of political policies or of war; so the collection of the rent instead of taxes would take the financial lure out of politics and war—purifying one, ending the other.

RACE HATREDS. Beckwith teaches that our instinctive racial prejudices always cause the races to voluntarily segregate themselves where they are free to do so; that the only barrier to this voluntary segregation is the fact that men are allowed to fence up unused land and to hold it till they are paid to get out of the way of progress; that, the collection of the rent instead of taxes would remove this barrier by making men selfishly eager to release all the land they do not actually use. Then those who want land could get it without having to buy it and it would be possible for us all to live where we please.

This would use race prejudice to settle the race issue; but that is no more unnatural than using gas heat in a combined gas range and refrigerator to cook and refrigerate food.

MAKING SELFISHNESS THE GUARANTOR OF PEACE! Beckwith teaches that as no man can get wages, except on his own labor nor get interest except upon capital that is his own (either by fee or by contract), the collection of the rent instead of taxes would limit men to wages and (or) interest and so make it impossible for any man to get wealth at the expense of another, thus automatically ending industrial injustice, crooked politics, unwholesome civic conditions and ending war!

YOUR SUPPORT SOLICITED. All the priceless things suggested by the words, liberty, home, patriotism and humanity are involved in this effort of this Stockton man to show the scientific (and therefore easy) way out of the depression and back to conditions that make for progress.

Your assistance is needed and is urgently solicited.

Even if you fear this is too good to be true, do it for Stockton, on the theory that if this program can be carried out you want Stockton to be the city to do it.

The Forum (wkly., \$2.50 per yr.), No Taxes (bi-wkly., \$1.50 for 52 issues, but \$2 in Stockton). Free samples. These circulars 15c per 100.

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