

## ABOUT THIS BOOK

The author of this book left school at the age of fourteen to become a turner and fitter. As an apprentice, he joined the Amalgamated Engineering Union. He later studied medicine and has been in general practice in Warrnambool since 1958.

Dr. Hemingway views unions as a major force for social justice. He gives them credit for many of the benefits Australians now enjoy. However he notes that, nowadays, hard-won gains are often swallowed up by rising prices and especially by rising interest rates.

This occurs, in Dr. Hemingway's opinion, because land tax is neglected by both unions and governments.

Land taxes have fallen in Australia in recent years.

Low levels of land tax allow people to hold land for which they have little or no immediate use. That causes the price of land to rise - thereby adding to the size of mortgages, increasing the demand for loan funds, and allowing interest rates to rise.

Therefore, low levels of land tax actually **add to costs** for all who wish to establish farms or market gardens, or to build homes, shops, factories, etc. They create unemployment, impede the production of goods and services, keep the national standard of living below the optimum, and make work more stressful than satisfying for many members of the labour force.

Dr. Hemingway offers a remedy for these socio-economic ills. He prescribes a steadily increasing dose of land tax, coupled with a reduction in the various other taxes now preferred by governments. He commends this measure to governments and to unions, and to all who seek justice for Australia's citizens.