

Calls Picture Distorted

Lancaster M. Greene's article, "Land Value Taxation in New Zealand," in the March issue, lays happy stress on the existence of such taxation in that country. Unfortunately, however, it gives neither a true nor complete picture of actual conditions.

Since 1936, when the Labor Party put over its social reform program, the citizens receive these government "benefits": old-age pensions, hospitalization, life and fire insurance, maternity service, general medical and dental clinics, housing and loans. For all these "free" services, the New Zealander pays as much as 17½ shillings from every pound earned, which is equivalent to about 87 cents out of every American dollar. Taxation is mounting with great rapidity from month to month. Early in 1941 the sales tax was doubled from 5% to 10%; in May of the same year it was re-doubled, from 10% to 20%, which will remain in force for the duration of the war.

Here are further "benefits" received: wealth has been taxed almost out of existence; the 40-hour week had to be replaced with a 54-hour week; the right of a worker to strike has been outlawed; up to her entrance into the war New Zealand had exhausted her credit, could no longer obtain foreign loans, and was practically bankrupt because of the colossal government spending; unemployment was greater than in the preceding 20 years; the government debt amounted to \$1135 per capita for every man, woman and child.

This, in short, is the "democracy" of New Zealand.

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