



The Henry George News just came today. Urquhart Adams writes remarkably well. I do not underestimate the value of university training, but Adams really writes better than a great many university graduates, especially on economic subjects. In fact, not one in ten graduates in Political Economy writes nearly so well on the subject as he does. Of course such a study of Henry George as Adams has accomplished constitutes quite a liberal education in itself.

ERNEST FARMER  
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The interest here in land value taxation seems to hit snags when it is thought of in terms of the Colloquium of Important Books. If I may explain—

The first year readings of the Great Books discussion groups give *The Wealth of Nations* as the No. 11 reading. If additional reference or readings are wanted in the Syntopicon, it is with the idea that *Progress and Poverty* is a work by an author not represented in the collection of Great Books. I was rather puzzled about this until the thought occurred to me that each time reference is made to the No. 11 reading, that reference should simultaneously be made to the No. 1 reading—The Declaration of Independence.

This suggests to me that the land value taxers can declare themselves independent, and it is quite a bit more comfortable to think gaily instead of grimly about land taxes and "Great Ideas Today." Freedom to me means that we taxers can be independent citizens of our U.S. and can think freely about taxing that land. In addition,

we can feel free and independent of the influence of book companies.

This then is a 1963 independence idea. Regardless of the value attached to other works, the freedom should be preserved that land value taxation has value and is a great idea too. Practical English and practical taxation stand on sound foundations. We can still promote land value taxation as a great idea even though it is not included among the "great books." Let us exercise our independence of such official downgrading and continue promoting our ideas.

May our Declaration for Land Value Taxation in the United States be as encouraging as the first Declaration of our country.

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In a book entitled *Cuba* by Teresa Caruso, ex-Castroite and delegate to the United Nations\* it was stated that in 1920 two-thirds of Cuban Land was owned by U. S. companies. Under Batista the "Right of Permanence" favored workers who produced 375 tons of sugar cane annually on 33 acres. The peasants paid a rent of 5 per cent of the annual product of the land they cultivated and could not be removed from it.

The author relates that an engineer and Minister of Agriculture, Armadeo Lopez Castro extended titles to the peasants occupying lands known as *Realengos*. In Colonial times these belonged to the King of Spain, but many of them had come under American ownership, and therefore they had become a deeply embedded sore spot among the citizenry.

VICTOR S. WASICKI  
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\* Random House, 1961