

### *Paying Our Public Servants*

The basic principle in both private enterprise and public service is that the laborer is worthy of his hire. In general, the principle of "payment by results" is what fixes the size of the reward. Difficulties only arise when we let these principles be violated.

The market evaluates all goods and services — including governmental services. Their value appears as site rentals, or as payment for the use of electronic spectra. So, to pay the public servants, government obviously should collect the site rentals.

Good views and good soils are simply 'there' as part of nature, but it is labor that produces everything. Security of possession is a major item, along with everything else in the basket-of-services, in bringing the site its rentability. Removing any one of the services, or charging separately for it, will instantly lessen the figure.

To ensure that everyone gets paid properly, we should have our governments collect the site rents. This would prevent the **owe-n-ers** from keeping land either idle or poorly used until the resultant unemployment gives them the monopolistic rents to which they have no moral entitlement. It ~~thus~~ would bring justice.

Lack of clarity about this is largely what has brought the decline in Georgism.

— William Pitt, Victoria, Australia