

LAND AND THE NATURAL ORDER

The Land Question, by Shirley-Anne Hardy. 40-page pamphlet plus covers. Price UK 95p.; US \$2. Available from the author at The Rocks, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland.

This pamphlet was published as a discussion paper for the Ecology Party, which voted in favor of the basic reform outlined therein. The Land Question contains good material for Georgists who wish to address the issues of ecology, multi-national corporations and decentralism. Ms. Hardy not only gives a good outline of the theory of rent, she also discusses the truly radical implications of community collection of economic rent and contrasts it to other methods of land reform. Here are some quotes:

"What we need to grasp is that we live, not in a capitalist society, but in a monopoly capitalist society. We would then see that our answer is not to move into Socialism - the biggest monopoly capitalism of all! - but to remove monopoly from our present situation. At root, by removing it from land."

"The dispersal of power, through the dispersal of capital, among ordinary people - which would follow as the natural corollary of this fundamentally anti-monopolistic land reform - is the one threat that the multi-nationals could not meet."

"Collecting rent at the local level is the soundest way of ensuring that central government only got what the people at the grass-roots level decided was needed - and would surely make it impossible for government to cut essential social services retained, and opt for guns instead."

As can be seen, Ms. Hardy continues the Jeffersonian democratic tradition that George emphasized in his Social Problems.

The Land Question includes charts on the Law of Rent, and reproduces the poem "Uncivilized" by Edmund Vance Cooke.

M.A.S.