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GUEST EDITORIAL

The last good movement forward in the world was the abolition of slavery. Even democracy was not as great an advance, for the simple reason that, too often, it overrides the rights of minorities.

But the axiom that the world should belong to all the people of the world is as great an ideal as the abolition of slavery. We should not, consequently, expect our task to be any less difficult than that encountered by Wilberforce, Lincoln, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Brown, etc.

Nowadays every country in the world condemns slavery (even if they don't practice what they preach). Bearing this in mind, we should recall the amazing extent of the pro-slave arguments. Economic disaster, unemployment and worse conditions were prophesied. But the abolitionists stood firm; they did not have to answer all the absurdities, but just resolutely asserted that no man should own another.

Perhaps we should learn from the abolitionists. Perhaps we have been trying to dot too many i's and cross too many t's. Instead, like the abolitionists, let us seek a good selling line to crack people out of apathy and ignorance.

Once upon a time a good selling line for land reformers was "God gave the land to the people." If this now sounds a little dated, then how about finding another? What about "Whose world is it?"

There are now three main evils in the political world, and these (for want of better labels) can be classified under socialism, capitalism and social democracy. Socialism (rightly) claims that "capitalism" means poverty and low wages. "Capitalism" (rightly) claims that socialism means totalitarianism and a lowering of standards. And "social democracy" (wrongly) believes that compromise is good. Many people are now beginning to lose faith in any of the three ideas - and so it is these people we should bombard with our selling line.

Put the notion to the test. When leafleting or standing in elections, let us not (immediately) put forward land value taxation, but let us sow the plainer seed, "Whose world is it?"

Before talking to the donkey, perhaps we should first make the donkey turn its head - and logical arguments are not as attractive for this purpose as well-scrubbed carrots.

- Leonard A. Tooke
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