

up because many more will be demanding it. If 25 per cent is a reasonable estimate for the present amount of ground rent, it is reasonable to expect that ground rent will increase 10 to 20 per cent when ground rent is collected for community expenses. If seventy-five billion dollars is a fair estimate of ground rent at the present time, ninety billion dollars would be a fair estimate after the community collects the ground rent that belongs to it.

This sum is ample to support a reasonable government in all of its activities. Anyone who tries to find out how much is spent for ground rent will come to the conclusion that the amount is a vast sum, whether he agrees with the foregoing calculations or not. This writer believes that the Creator is intelligent as well as beneficent, that the ground rent provided by the Creator for the expenses of the government will be found to be ample for such purpose. Our land laws prevent the community from collecting this natural source of revenue, and they compel the government to collect from its citizens taxes on wealth to which the government has no natural or moral right. *Our land laws enable landowners to appropriate what belongs to the community, thereby compelling the government to appropriate what belongs to its individual citizens.* When this double misappropriation of wealth is corrected—as it would be if the community collected its natural source of revenue—the effect on distribution of wealth would be enormous.

Some readers may not agree with my calculations that ground rent in the United States today amounts to seventy-five billions of dollars a year. They may think it amounts to a little more than half of this sum. Those who do not believe that ground rent would pay all of the reasonable expense of economic government would have to admit that all ground rent should be collected, and only then should the government have any right to collect any part of the wealth of its citizens. If this were done, land values would disappear, and the worker would not have to pay someone else for getting at the land he has to use to produce his food and clothing.

Our man-made laws prevent the community from collecting