

But do not let it be forgotten that a comparatively high land-tax might easily be paid and the land still be put to very bad uses. The community cannot control the use of land without owning the land itself. Imagine the army of inspectors that would be required to go all over the country, survey every field and moor and bog, and make themselves responsible for the rotation of crops, refusing to let the landlord or the farmer put a field under grass, and refusing to allow the Duke of Sutherland to let a tract of land in Sutherlandshire for shooting. Does anybody suppose that the Duke would turn off good rent-paying farmers and let his ground for less money to an American millionaire for sport. Is it likely? Whoever heard of a man deliberately choosing to sell his goods in the cheapest market?

Land used for grouse, or thrown back from crop-raising to the feeding of sheep, is perhaps land improperly used; but to stop this would require a vast system of inspection and inquisition, involving an amount of labour which would be much better directed into useful channels. With our Customs, Excise, dog licences, gun licences, income tax assessors, factory and shop inspectors, mine inspectors, inspectors of ladders and scaffoldings, smoke inspectors, insurance inspectors, attendance officers, inspectors of explosives, of food and drugs, and of shipping, we spend too much on the policing of Individualism, and are yet all too improperly policed in the interests of efficiency or for that matter bare humanity.

If for the motive of personal gain were substituted the motive of public efficiency we could take all our inspectors off and trust to Collective control securing automatically in an ideal way and to an ideal extent the ends for which all our inspection and inquiry and registration are carried on in vain. All our policing does not prevent the message boy from staggering under a basket-load of provisions towards midnight on a Saturday, and does not