

**THE PLAN OF
LAUGHING LAND: A
MONEY BACK BOOK**

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The Plan of Laughing Land: A Money Back Book by W. Costley

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W. COSTLEY

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*The Plan of
Laughing Land*

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

A
MONEY BACK
BOOK

BY W. COSTLEY



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PREFACE.

This is a money back book therefore I am saved the task of making any apologies for it even were I so inclined. I have written this book under protest, for I have waited in vain twenty years for some author to write it. So I concluded to write it myself, and here it is. Dr. Johnson said that it was possible to be a fool in several languages, and that encourages me to say to those critics that will spend their valuable time in searching out the literary defects in the book that they have my entire sympathy and I hope that their labors will be fittingly rewarded. I have not aimed so much to produce a book of literary perfection as I have to present an idea—in fact two ideas.

The first is to show on what an idiotic plan, or rather lack of plan, the present order of society is based. Its inevitable and impending downfall. The second is to convey to the mind of the reader an idea of the new order that will be established on the ruins of the old.

I maintain that it is unthinkable to imagine a new order based on right and justice, without it being based on scientific principles and if so it will have to conform generally to the Plan of Laughing Land.

Heart + fountain W. C.

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BY W. COSTLEY

THE PLAN OF LAUGHING LAND.

Dear Reader: I am a traveler and a stranger among you. I came from Laughing Land. Of course you don't know where Laughing Land is and just now I can't tell you, but later on after you have heard all that I have to tell you about it and you should like to live in a land like it I will tell you how to do so. I have tarried for some years among you because I am very much interested in your country. In Laughing Land the people don't believe in hell, but some years ago one of our people visited your country, when he returned he was asked where he had been; he replied that he had been to hell. Now our people understood his meaning and when he related what he had seen they concluded that he was nearly right in his statement. They were horrified to think that such a grand country as this should be cursed with a population of barbarians. Now you must know that in Laughing Land everybody is happy. That is why they laugh from the time they are born, laugh all through life and die with a smile on their lips. They are a kind hearted and loving people and when they heard the tales that the traveler told, they considered it to be their duty to try to lead you out of the dismal swamps and black fogs of ignorance and barbarism up to the bright hills of truth and knowledge. To show you how to banish the curse of poverty and toil from your beautiful land and lift the burden of care and fear from every heart, show you how to solve all of your social and political problems, banish crime, prostitution, labor wars, race wars, child labor, political corruption, business corruption, adulteration, bribery and the thousand and one evils with which you are cursed and thereby kept in a state of degradation. I have dwelt here long

NO MORE
ABOLITION

enough to know that you really believe that your civilization is of the highest and that there is little or no room for improvement. Believing this, you allow all kinds of crimes to be committed by wholesale, without a word of protest. You are so ignorant as not to know that when men raise the price of ice during the hottest weather, thereby preventing the poorer classes in your great cities from getting enough ice to keep the baby's milk from souring and the food from decaying, keeping cooling drinks from the fevered lips of the sick, they thereby commit murder by wholesale for gold. Nearly everybody in your country is engaged directly or indirectly in the business of murder, robbery, prostitution and crimes of all descriptions. Your newspapers and magazines reek with tales of corruption and crime that pervades every strata of your society. You like to read of these things. It is interesting to read about the rascality of your senators, congressmen, judges, business men and captains of industry, and state and city officials. In describing your political affairs the terms that are oftenest used are boodle, boodlers, graft, grafters, bribe, bribers, and you little realize that the record of the news and advertisements in your press furnish sufficient evidence to convict you of being an uncivilized and barbarous people. The cruel and heartless struggle for gold and bread is the result of your ignorance of the first principles of the science of political economy.

You have continually before your eyes a picture of work and want of the many, and idleness, luxury and waste for the few. You sometimes use the expression, "Wealth beyond the dreams of avarice." There is no such thing as satisfying the greed of the avaricious. The more they get the more they want and the more they get the more power they have to get more. If you were reasonable creatures you could easily see that a few rich men will soon own your country if the present struggle continues. I refer to the current news stating that Rockefeller's income for 1906 was \$60,000,000 or six per cent income on one billion dollars, or three per cent on two billion dollars. With a few associates he

controls the greater part of the industries of your country and soon will control all.

The San Francisco Call of December 16, 1906, editorially deploras the fact that Harriman, your railroad king, had control of 27,000 miles of railroads and had or could get money enough to buy all the roads for sale, mentioning his late purchase of the great Baltimore and Ohio system, the Salt Lake and Los Angeles electric roads; buying control of the Chicago subways, a \$30,000,000 venture; building great car shops etc., and concludes by stating his method is to bond every new enterprise and thus get money to buy others. It says: "There is no reason why this process of absorption should not go on indefinitely, and in fact, it is certain to go on until the whole railroad system of the country is concentrated in two or three hands or ultimately perhaps in one ownership. It is obvious, moreover, that the process will not stop with railroads." The Call is owned by a millionaire, so you see that they know the way things are tending.

You poor people are so stupid as not to see that your captains of industry are rapidly reducing all of you to a condition of industrial vassalage. In a few years longer you will awaken to find yourselves slaves of a great corporation that will own all of your country with its industries; make all the laws and keep you in subjection with an army of hired thugs and murderers.

When you arrive at that condition the women and children slaves of the land can lay the blame where it belongs, that is, at the door of the fool workingmen that vote for the system of private ownership of land and tools. You often use the expression that wealth is power. In Laughing Land we say knowledge is power.

Wealth is not powerful among a people that are possessed of the right kind of knowledge. With their knowledge they command wealth. For instance, in Laughing Land every child about the age of fifteen knows nearly all that there is to know about the science of political economy. This is the mother of the

sciences and even in your dictionaries it is defined as the science of human affairs. It is such a simple science that if a boy or girl in Laughing Land at the age of twenty don't know all that there is to know about it we know that they are mentally weak.

After I explain this science and you can see how easily you can learn all there is to learn about it and what wonders this knowledge can do for you, you will marvel at your own stupidity and marvel still more at the stupidity of those among you that undertake to teach this science. The very name of the science furnishes the key to the storehouse of knowledge and wealth that the science contains. Economy, what does it mean? It means the avoidance of waste. Waste in all its forms, waste wealth, waste labor, waste thought. Thus, in Laughing Land nothing is wasted, not an hour of work nor a vegetable, nor a fruit; not a piece of coal or wood or a crumb of bread. This will appear more marvelous to you when I tell you that we number over 80,000,000 people, and none of them labor. They live in palaces equipped with every modern improvement. They eat the best of food, they wear the best of clothes. When they travel they travel in the most luxurious way, over the best of roads. The cities they live in have no stores and consequently horses and wagons are not needed, therefore they can keep the streets in perfect order, smooth, clean and quiet. In fact the cities are built in parks, where beautiful lawns, shade, nut and fruit trees abound on every hand.

It may be a slight hint to you when I tell you that our system of living will not permit of wasting an acre of ground that will grow anything useful. Thus millions upon millions of acres that are not needed for other purposes are planted to walnut, chestnut, almond and pecan trees. If we were content to live on food of this kind the supply would more than suffice for our needs. But as it is it serves as a food supply for millions of animals that we use for food. Thus we prevent waste.

The trees that are planted in our cities and suburbs are not planted alone for the purpose of utilizing the land solely for economic reasons, but it is an institution of Laughing Land based on sentiment and reason. We plant a tree for every child born in Laughing Land. That tree is known as the child's birth tree. When it is old enough to understand it is taught to know that it's birth tree is it's very own. It is taught how to nurture and care for it, to shelter and protect the birds that make their home in its branches. But the fruit of the child's own birth tree is the forbidden fruit for that child. It may eat freely of all the other trees of the land and no one will say it nay, but the fruit of its own tree it must not eat.

The economic and moral reasons upon which this institution of birth trees is grounded is to teach the children the value and virtue of working for the benefit of others. The children see the evidence constantly before their eyes that they thereby provide themselves bountifully with fruit. They see with their own eyes the beautiful results of **combined** efforts for the **common good**. In this way they are taught the simple truths upon which the grand science of political economy is based.

Thus in Laughing Land we find it economical to see that every babe and child has the best of care, the best of surroundings and the best of education. And to provide bountifully for the needs of the old people, surround them with every evidence of love and reverence.

Our care of all the children is an investment that pays magnificent dividends. They are the only ones that are allowed to operate an insurance company in the land. There is not an orphan in the land. The parents of the child may be dead but the child never for an instant lacks the best of loving care that the people can provide. Each and every one of them is reared and cared for as if they were of the blood royal. We grown people do not conduct life and accident or fire insurance companies, or sick and death benefit associations, or fraternal orders of any kind that simply waste the