

IRELAND 2040.

The best-laid plans etc., gang oft to buggery, and so forth.....

This observation of Burns came to mind when I considered the invitation to join with others in making known our ideas as to what Ireland might be like come 2040. Whereas many submissions will likely feature this, that or the other fine and worthwhile concept, I have taken a somewhat different approach. If our "small open economy" be likened perhaps to a wind ship, a fine old sailing vessel, then we should be safe enough in saying that the success of a great sea voyage might critically depend upon the all-round, all-weather seaworthiness of the vessel. Obviously a skilled, able crew would be essential (they might even manage a derelict tolerably well) but the excellence of the vessel is of the essence. Accordingly it is our ship itself which is of concern and the material hereunder outlines how our "ship of state" might be optimally conditioned, by 2040, to best facilitate what plans may be implemented. The better the foundation the sounder the subsequent edifice, criminally mixed metaphors apart.

Hey!

I am talking about you and you and all the rest of you; you

The Sovereign People.

This is you.

It is from YOU that all power ultimately derives. So, whatever the make or shape of our governance, it is so and will remain so because at some effective level it is condoned by you, you sovereign person, you. So, do you want to build Innisfail or do you want to live forever in someone else's backyard, as clowns and buffoons in somebody's theme park?

Cop this;

Edmund Burke

1729-1797

"Believe me, it is a great truth, that there never was for any long time, a corrupt representative of a virtuous people; or a mean, sluggish, careless people that ever had good government of any form.

If it be true in any degree that the governors form the people, I am certain that it is as true that the people in turn impart their characters to their rulers.

Such as you are, sooner or later must parliament become”.

The underlining is mine, and note also that last sentence.

You, sitting there ruffled of brow as you puzzle out these lines, you are the sovereign people, you and your sort. What do you think the term means, this “sovereign people” schtick? It means that you and your mutton-headed peers are ultimately responsible, that's what it means. It means exactly what the boy Burke says it means, which please read again, mark, inwardly digest.

Citing an OECD finding, one Fintan O'Toole, a coming chap I hear in the journalism dodge, says “our parliament is the worst in the developed world. Nowhere is there a parliament weaker and more useless, more venal, more abjectly compliant, more spineless. It's irrelevance is taken entirely for granted.” Who can doubt this? Well, that parliament is YOU.

Citizen, your anger, chagrin, apathy, cynicism, resignation, whatever you feel, as you behold what your parliament does or doesn't do, will or won't do, can or can't do, is simply *the rage of Caliban **declining** to see himself in the looking glass*, just as the chap said. Again---that parliament is YOU.

What you see is what you, the sovereign people, condone, and remember this---sin can be every bit as easily perpetrated by omission as by commission. Everything you *neglect* to do is as relevant as anything you do. While people may not necessarily *cause* what happens to them, they all too often ask for it. Or, if you like, we Irish are not as we are because of our history---we have this shameful history of ours *because of what we are*.

(Our entire history for a millenium has been no more than Crips and Bloods regularly hacking into each other, with rain and bad tailoring, or spending the intervals peering out through the wet nettles watching for each other to die, or indulging in the other great historical recreation, this being the delivery of our best over to the hangman, as infamously in old Jerusalem that time.

The struggle to be free; yeah, right...).

But this too is true; it can be entirely otherwise, come 2040, if you so wish, notwithstanding the Irish genius for finding a problem, however contrived and improbable, for every solution.

What I would like to see between now and 2040, since I was asked along with the rest of you, is a seachange---this is the vital precursor from which all else will follow—in the mindset of our people; it is the

sine qua non. It may if it happens, this sea-change, enable the rolling out of these following seven steps, to all our benefit.

FIRST.

Let's take moment and look around; we should tune up, you see.

A document well worth perusing is the Constitution of the United States of America, a living functioning example of it's type and quite without equal in it's excellence. Seven Articles, twenty-six Amendments, containing everything needed and nothing not needed, the whole thing is concise enough to fit on the back of a menu.

What concerns us here immediately, however, is the *Preamble* to this same Constitution, as it neatly sums up the essential business of governance, at the very least well enough for our purposes here; "We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, ***establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and to our Posterity, do ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States of America***".

The emphasis is mine; ".....to ***establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and to our Posterity.....***" ; what else is needed?

The role and scope of good governance is here encapsulated as neatly as anyone might reasonably want.

SECOND

A good governance; whose? Well, **yours** if you want, but if not yours then whose is it to be, ask yourself? London? Brussels? That shower here...

What I hope to see by 2040 is you, you sovereign folk, taking responsibility for this *your* country, actually taking charge. Since you have never done this nor anything like it in all history I am moved to regard such as being as likely an event as manure from a nursery rocking horse. However, for what it's worth, this is how you do it. **Before all else** see to it that Article 48 of the second Constitution, the Free State document of 1924, be retrieved and installed in our present Constitution. This was the provision, made back then, for vesting in you *inter alia* the power of recall, invigilation and dismissal through citizen-initiated referenda, swiftly deleted at the time while the populace stood, in Jack Lynch's immortal phrase, "idly by". Thanks to such as Diarmuid Ferriter and in particular the pioneering work of one Raymond Whitehead, who founded Direct Democracy Ireland, this vital consideration is again gaining traction, as indeed is Georgian Economics, see Justice below. Through this you gain the constitutionally underwritten power to implement all that is outlined here following---*if you, upon consideration, actually want it...*

THIRD

I suggest, you sovereign person you, that you put a stop once and for all to the repellent tomfoolery surrounding the Presidency and start taking the role seriously. Electing an amiable garden gnome or an ongoing hustler who treats it like it was a summer job in McDonalds has to stop, as must the scandalous driving from office, in a fanfare of abuse and derision, of an incumbent precisely because he actually took the position seriously and acted upon the citizen's behalf. There should be substantial enhancement of presidential power, emphasising the role of First Citizen. He should stand for you and you and him and her and not be a minor flunkey of the state. As an example, all referenda as per the second item above, should be endorsed and supported by the President on the citizen's behalf, becoming thereby a Presidential Directive. On the other hand, if you want, or think it right, that Ireland's First Citizen, *primus inter pares*, the foremost representative of you the Sovereign People, should be constrained to being routinely treated as a supine, *stepnfetchit* messenger boy by our thuggish state, then go to it.

FOURTH

If the two preceding suggestions were accomplished perhaps this should now be considered, the matter of our elected tribunes. As you view with dismay the dismal melange of poltroons and pickpockets, bunglers and casino scum, bleak little flops and mountebanks allsorts we habitually inflict upon ourselves come election time, have you ever thought that there should be some way of getting better people into office? After all, look at all the money we pay them *yadda yadda*.....the right answer, the only sensible one, is of course this---WE DO NOT PAY THEM AT ALL. This could be brought about by you simply through exercising those powers vested in you, through your presidency preferably, as per the second item above.

The architecture of the state might well be exactly as one sees it today, there being nothing particularly deficient in any of it. One might well have the elective President; the Council of State; the Senate; the Lower House; the Cabinet, all just as one sees them. There is no reason why not, and very good reason why. The whole equipage, as described, would however differ from the status quo in this one key respect.

*There would be **NO** salaries; **NO** pensions; **NO** pecuniary advantage whatsoever, to anyone elected to these offices, either then or later, by virtue of their incumbency.*

It may be said that on this basis nobody would do the job which, if true, should give us all pause to think. What will *not* be thought, of course, is, well are they doing the job now, for all their shedloads of boodle, their commendably heartwarming generosity to themselves and each other?

The one question never asked, that one.

However the opposite case may arise, *will* arise, wherein a vastly better and more ethical class of person may come forward. Many large private entities around the world operate on this exact basis and very satisfactorily too. Governance of an *ethical* state should be by Honorarium; *ethically*.

This is why this too once had serious traction in our state's early days---and why it too was swiftly wastebasketed.

FIFTH; Justice

Financing the state. Though this is a matter of taxation, it is more accurately a matter of **Justice**. Be clear on this; there is no such thing as a “fair tax” because, quite simply, all taxation is grounded in an *injustice* and one cannot, by definition, have a “fair” share of injustice. If you are the sort who cannot bear to see a Maserati in someone's drive without wanting the state to confiscate it in---what else?---“the interests of justice”, if such is your idea of justice, why am I even talking to you; why are you even reading this? My only concern here is that your toxic inimical type is far too numerous.

All taxation is grounded in a systemic, structural injustice and this will always manifest itself, sooner or later---probably the former---in the same way. No matter what the purpose of any given tax, no matter who it is intended to punish, no matter how it is framed, it will always and ever come to bear down on the same group eventually, *those least able to pay*. That is where the inherent injustice shows up, that is how it unfailingly manifests. This is as iron, inescapable and unyielding a law as that pertaining to gravity.

That law betokens the underlying truth here. Either it, whatever it is, complies with the laws of nature (which are in essence the laws of God) in which case things are apt to work out ok, or it is at variance with those laws, in which case shallows and miseries a-plenty will be cominatcha in spades.

A narrative has been around this long time, something along the lines of “render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's”. The question is, well, what is it that is Caesar's, exactly?

Consider these axioms, classics all. We have three fundamentals in Economics, these being Labour, Capital, and Land. Arising from Labour there is a Fund which we call Wages; arising from Capital there cometh a Fund called Profits; and Land bringeth forth that Fund called the Economic Rent.

I suggest that all existing taxation, by whatever name it be known and no matter it's intent, should once and for all be stripped out of the economy, and that instead Caesar should collect *what is truly Caesar's*. In other words, the State should collect the Economic Rent, the whole Economic Rent, and NOTHING BUT the Economic Rent, and should leave alone the wages of mens labour and the profits of their enterprise.

If you understand this and you elect people honourable and intelligent enough to competently implement it the benefits will be enormous; a society based in justice will be by *definition* vastly better at all levels than one rooted in systemic *injustice*; QED.

The chronic injustices referred to above arise because all down the centuries Caesar, in whatever guise—the state, in whatever form--- has everywhere done precisely the reverse, giving rise to the hideous historical and contemporary deformities we see the world over, at home and abroad.

Do you think Ireland was depopulated simply because an unreliable crop failed, or that Amazonia is being burned merely for fun or vandalism, or that cities today are vast, bloated, *favela*-ringed carbuncles, all for no reason? Has there ever been a famine from which that psychotic double act, Crime and Stupidity, has been absent? These and other evils are everywhere driven, enabled and facilitated by Caesar's ancient undying sin of omission, the eternal refusal of governance everywhere to **capture that wealth which is the actual creation of the people and to administer it for their benefit.**

Of course every fruitcake in town reading this is bound to hoot out "Aw, jayzuz, it's a land tax.....!!". No; it isn't.

Firstly, it is **not** levied on land (such would be just as destructive as any other of the imposts we endure) but rather upon the VALUE of the land, which value is itself created by the people themselves.

Secondly---and mark this well---there could be a case for saying that it is *not actually a tax at all*. Allow me to demystify for you. All taxes have one shared characteristic, which is this. They punish; they penalise; they are a burden. The very verb to tax *means* to burden. They weaken and disincentivise (I am sure I've seen that word written somewhere). The *value* of the land is the creation of the people; sequestering it aside for the benefit of the people---the first duty of Caesar---has the opposite effect to all taxes as we know them. It rewards, does not punish; it incentivises, it does not penalise; it harmonises the social order, it is not fissiparous. It does the opposite of what actual taxes do. The very wealth captured increases as the whole country prospers and it thus rewards every increase in prosperity, and it does this while circumscribing the arbitrary aspects of governance.

What on earth else do you want?

SIXTH; the General Welfare.

Promoting the general welfare; ah yes. By the Fabians out of Bevan and Great Turnstile, old Bertrand on the touchline crooning about freedom and, again, Justice, behold now our present *stupor mundi*. They breezed right past that Economic Rent concept, the fund provided by the Creation itself for the benefit of humankind, as though it didn't exist, deciding instead to “make the well-off pay for the support of those less fortunate”. And everybody thinks this is fair (*sic*). In fact they **know** it is fair, it is justice itself. Don't they? Isn't it?

I remember being horrified as a small boy to discover that there were 60,000 people signing on here as unemployed, and that a like number were emigrating annually. Utterly incapable of positing any worthwhile ends or goals for ourselves, of acting or thinking anywhere outside the paralysing straitjacket of Poyning's Law (the one that self-compels Ireland to redden and excuse herself anytime England farts; Ireland cannot think, speak, postulate, conceptualise, even so much as go to the pottie, outside of this mindset) we scampered off down that yellow brick road, the one paved all the way with good intentions---completely uncritically too; this is psychotic, autistic behaviour, deeply damaging to a people's integrity---to establish the entire British welfare system here in Ireland once we saw it take root over beyond, and thus we had **progress**, and the solution to all our problems was at hand. (The Hierarchy did raise some doubts at the time but we were so “progressively” full of ourselves that we could safely scoff them aside).

After half a century of this bright new dawn our unemployment figure was nudging 400,000 and a senior government minister---and “Soldier of Destiny” no less---was telling a whole generation of expensively educated young Irish people to “do your fuckin' patriotic duty and clear off outta the fuckin' place, dare's nuttin' for yez here”. Thus spake the heirs to 1916, keepers of the republican flame, stewards of that Nation Once Again, eh. Once more and for the umpteenth time a whole generation of the nations best were morphed into wetbacks---and people merely shrugged. And nobody wonders or ever has wondered, even for a moment, if there might not be something seriously, pathologically dysfunctional here.

Quite the contrary; everyone, governors and governed alike, go blithely, blindly and unquestioningly along in defiance of, and oblivious to, the glaringly obvious, among which are these;

- 1]. ONE CANNOT LEGISLATE THE POOR INTO WEALTH BY LEGISLATING THE WEALTHY OUT OF IT.
- 2]. THAT WHICH ONE PERSON RECEIVES WITHOUT WORKING FOR IT, ANOTHER PERSON HAS WORKED FOR WITHOUT RECEIVING IT.
- 3] THE STATE CANNOT GIVE TO ANYBODY THAT WHICH IT HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN FROM SOMEBODY ELSE.

4] WEALTH CANNOT BE MULTIPLIED BY DIVIDING IT.

5] WHEN HALF THE PEOPLE COME TO SENSE THAT THEY DO NOT NEED TO WORK BECAUSE THE OTHER HALF WILL SUPPORT THEM, AND THE OTHER HALF COMES TO SENSE THAT THERE IS NO PURPOSE IN WORKING BECAUSE WHAT THEY WORK FOR WILL BE GIFTED *GRATIS* TO SOMEONE ELSE, THERE LIES THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR ANY STATE.

Every one of these pathological aberrations is actual government policy or practice or malfeasance today. This is the Ponzi scheme to which infamy--the vast and institutionalised robbing of Peter to pay Paul--we all consent nowadays. This, sadly, is what has become of Bismarck's well-intentioned *praktisches Christentums*, the forerunner of all welfare systems.

He who crawls to power by the cynical manipulation of mob resentment, as did the Labour Party in postwar Britain for example, and thus undertakes to rob "privileged" Peter on behalf of "deprived" Paul will assuredly have Paul's unswerving support, *so long as he keeps doing it. It's that simple.* When Peter has finally been beggared, though, all the world's Pauls will one day hove again into view with rope and pitchforks and, this time around, with AK-47's. *But that's ok you see; Keynes has said so.* Boyle Roche's "What has posterity ever done for us?" doesn't seem so funny if juxtaposed with Keynes' infamous one-liner, "In the long run we'll all be dead". The great man, all unbeknownst and unnoticed, had thus shifted all of political-economic thinking—to its utter ruin---away from realism and into an ethos of morbid and corrupt hedonism, away from far-sighted Statesmanship and into opportunist and unprincipled Party politics, all gingered up with "scientific" virtuoso mathematical formulising, as exotic as it is meaningless; gone any thought now of what we will bequeath to the next generation (bugger them, that will be their problem), now we need just think election to election. The disedifying periodic vote-ranching in sink estate and suburbia come election time, the next episode of conning the suckers, herding the electorate, this is to be all that ever matters henceforward.

Our whole cult of welfare---and it *is* now a cult---thus furnishes us this astounding paradox; it is both extremely moral and yet lethally unethical. Topside, it is truly a wonder, an unprecedented marvel; beneath the surface it is the abiding abomination of our era. Ponder that, would you.

It derives its great and enduring strength from the characteristic attitude of the people; EVERYONE WISHES TO LIVE OFF THE STATE, FAILING ENTIRELY TO PERCEIVE THAT THE STATE LIVES OFF EVERYONE.

Your sluggishly indifferant conniving in this is what facilitates it all.

SEVENTH; CURRENCY

Regarding the unfunny pantomime of global finance, it seems that nobody is at the wheel where currency is concerned. Everywhere currencies seem to be inherently unstable and unreliable, much of this being because of the tendency of states to have resort to the presses. Called forgery in plain English, they 'd rather you didn't run up a private supply in your woodshed.

It would be prudent for any state at all serious about it's business to give thought to this currency thing, as otherwise it and it's people are as The Raft of the Medusa, likely to be blown from hither to yon with every squall. There may be one imminent now, what with Brexit and Frexit and such stirrings.

A reliable trustworthy inflation-proof currency would seem as desirable a boon as is the keel in a fine sailing vessel, providing stability in all conditions, a currency against which all outside currencies might, like the oggen itself, harmlessly fluctuate. We might arbitrarily think, as a suggestion, of Ireland as being valued at ten billion units, these being thought of as "shares" and being the basis of the currency. Pleasingly enough each such could officially be called a "Quid", this being a longstanding anglicisation of the Irish word "Cuid"---which means precisely that; a share.

Two areas where research---there are others---might be usefully done would be, firstly, the evolution of the Rentenmark under the direction of Hjalmar Schacht in prewar Germany and secondly the use of the WIRfranc in present-day Switzerland. (Those cuckoo-clock makers know a thing or two).

Oh---and of course.....

EIGHTH; THE COMMON DEFENCE.

This need not detain us; the concept doesn't exist in Ireland, never has..... Recently the Minister for Defence allowed as how he, and we all, should regard Irish soldiers who *deserted* from their country's defence forces *in time of war*. They should be honoured as *heroes*, quoth he, with the implication that those who served honourably were fools, dupes, cowards. One may safely infer that the Irish people themselves concur. Among a people who cannot distinguish between a neutral country and a defenceless one this, unsurprisingly, caused barely a ripple in the public weal, and nothing whatsoever in our military. For a thousand years Ireland has never been other than a battleground, trampled underfoot in other people's quarrels, simply because it was and is a liability to those belligerents around it.

The concept of common defence does not exist for us because we have never thought that there is anything we should or ought to defend. For all our talk we nonetheless have the mentality of squatters.

It is self-evident that we in Ireland consequently simply do not “do” army; (no navy; no airforce); there is no notion here of what an army---least of all a citizen army---actually is, nor of it's purpose, nor of it's role in, or interaction with, the broader society may be.

We do like to strike attitudes as regards our “neutrality”, rather in the manner of the abject coward proclaiming his pacifism, the impotent wishing to be honoured for their chastity. This has never been a neutral country---it is simply a defenceless one, a radically different thing, Switzerland being the only real neutral country anywhere around. (It is worthy of mention that there have emerged in recent times certain drives abroad to vitiate and undermine Switzerland and to caponise that country down to the level of Ireland).

So--nothing to see here; move on--we rest our case.

NINTH

Some grace notes, desirable and affordable if the preceding items are implemented, and very beneficial to the common weal.

DESTITUTION -

Historically this has been a plague in many societies, in Ireland particularly. An easy mistake to make here is to equate poverty and destitution together, but they are not the same at all, being as chalk and cheese. Poverty is a Relative term, and means that in the context of the given society the individuals means of getting a living are sparse and meagre. Destitution is an Absolute; it means that the individuals means of getting a living DO NOT EXIST. As such, it is the same in all ages and societies regardless of context.

Eliminating destitution completely from Irish life once and for all is absolutely easy peasy, needing only an absolute solution. Let the State first acquire land in quantity sufficient to effect the thing. This land reserve would consist of many little plots, all the same size, scattered hither and yon all over the place. As each Irish citizen came of age he/she would be deeded one such plot. Their title would run for life and be extinguished with their death. It would be entirely without prejudice, this title, taking no account whatever of the citizens other circumstances. Each would be free to do whatever seemed best to them with their plot EXCEPT alienate it. They would not be allowed to sell it, to give it away, or to bequeath it. Upon their demise, any improvements would be removed and the title would revert to the state for reassignment, by ballot, to the next person coming of age and thus qualifying.

Whereas a plutocrat might put a weekend hideaway on his plot, or grow exotic plants, or whatever, nevertheless as the knowledge that he is a landowner gradually seeps into his mind or into the raddled brain of the addict or alcoholic asleep in a skip or sprawled comatose in a doorway somewhere, what possible or conceivable effect can this have other than a tonic one, the first and foremost being that he/she now has a lifetime stake in the country, and some good *boden* under their feet--from whence all health derives--and a differant better and *healthier* point of view? (It is of interest to note that for every two Americans who die of narcotics abuse seven Irish people die).No matter who they are, no matter what their circumstances, each will have a shareholding in the country, something on capital account..

How can a person be at one and the same time a landowner and yet be destitute? It's not possible.

Destitution can thus be eliminated once and for all; there it is if you want it.
QED

POVERTY

Look, pay every citizen who comes of age a social stipend, entirely without prejudice and taking no account whatever of the citizens other circumstances, and have done with it once and for all.....ample funding is there if you want it. Money is an energy flow, a circulatory phenomenon; as with oil in a machine it is essential that the flow be constantly maintained, even if only at tick-over level, lest the machine seize up. He who is skint and he with warehouses full of specie, it makes no difference; this should be the constitutional birthright of all and all should receive the same stipend. Thus every citizen will be in receipt of a dividend; he will have a current account.

LASTLY

You lot, yes you crowd the sovereign people, by 2040 you might have assembled that quasi-hellenic polis here in Ireland whose beginnings and sinews are outlined in these deathless monographs. If indeed you get that far you will likely have prepared the soil for the next step, the point to all this. Here you have a choice, a stark enough one too.

*Ever since that fateful conference in Moscow a century ago, described by de Toledano as being more inimical to civilisation even than bolshevism itself, there have been seriously malign forces at play in our world. These forces tend towards a quality satanic in character, those forces opposing partaking of a luciferian aspect, this being the distinction which so perplexed old Marcion way back in Sinope. This is the choice ever present for all of us, and which road we take here will be determined by whether or not there is to be birthed among us as a people---if we truly are a people---that vision, that light in a darkening world we might call Innisfail, as once it was fifteen centuries ago. The antecedent question here is---and think about this---what are you; **are** you a true people.....?*

The pastors son from Röcken, in that eponymous canto penned over a century ago at Silvaplana, forewarned of “the coldest of all cold monsters”---the state---“upon each of whose myriad scales is etched the same lie, and that lie is, I AM THE PEOPLE”. (See “Also sprach Zarathustra”).

END

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