

Predicting the Future of the Climate and A New Tax

In 1908 everybody was riding horses or walking. Only a few of the ultra rich had horse-less carriages, As Michael Crichton wrote:

The big concern was getting enough horses, feeding them and disposing of their waste.

Within a few years, nobody rode horses except for sport. And any man could own a car. And before 2000, France was getting 80% of its electricity from nuclear power, an energy source that was unknown in 1900 and not thought possible until after WW2. Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Japan and others are getting more than 30% of their electricity from this source.

People in 1900 didn't know what an atom was. Even in the early 1940s, I was taught at high school that an atom was the smallest particle of indivisible matter. They also didn't know what a radio was, or an airport, or a movie, or a television, or a computer, or a cell phone, or a jet, an antibiotic, a rocket, a satellite, a computer, the internet, e-mail, tape recorder, CDs, airbags, plastic explosive, plastic, robots, cars, fiber optics, organ transplants etc.

None of this would have meant anything to a person in the year 1900. It would not have even made science fiction. Now PM Rudd and Nostradamus Garnaut can predict the world of 2100.

Their models just carry the present into the future. Obviously future human behaviour cannot be modelled. They're absolutely certain to be wrong. Yet they are planning an exotic new tax on a non-existent problem.

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