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Henry George School
Magazine



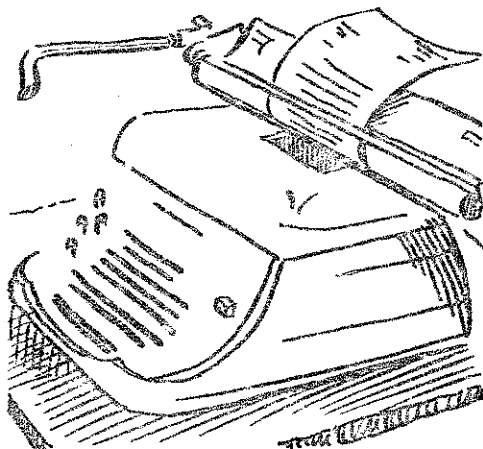
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Henry George School Magazine

(Edited by a panel of Tutors)

4 Great Smith Street Westminster S.W.1 Tel. ABBey 6655
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Editorial

A case was recently reported in the press of a man who, after suffering the taunts and abuse of his fellow work-mates for refusing to go on strike was driven to suicide. Similar cases, although without the same tragic results, are commonplace.

When the actions of Governments, individuals or trade unions offend the moral sense, refuge is often taken in the thought that these things must be accepted, because ultimately they are in the community's interest: in short, that the end justifies the means. Private confiscation of goods at the Customs, arbitrary taxation, means tests, flogging and "killing at 5s per head" are among the things daily carried out and accepted by most people. Yet if these things offend our moral sense we should at once be on our guard instead of seeking to justify them; we ignore the promptings of conscience at our peril. The very fact that we are perturbed should lead us to ask whether there are not other ways of solving our problems. It should lead us to enquire more deeply into causes of dilemmas which should never have arisen. The man serving a sentence for smuggling must often wonder just how wicked he is - does he ever wonder if there is not a better way of raising revenue!

Henry George rightly says that to make what is not a crime in morals a crime by statute is to destroy respect for law. If we are to have law respected, law must be made respectable, i.e. it should not be inconsistent with the moral law. Unfortunately the attitude of many today is "see an evil - pass a law", but the philosophy of freedom says "see an evil - find the cause and remove it". Is this not the right approach?

The Editors.

We print below, a lesson that is timeless. As eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, so eternal doubt is the price of progress. Eds.

STEPS IN SOCIAL PROGRESS

H.T. Buckle - (1821-1862)

Until doubt began progress was impossible; for the advance of civilization solely depends upon the acquisitions made by the human intellect, and on the extent of their diffusion. But people who are satisfied with their own knowledge will never

attempt to increase it. People who are convinced of the accuracy of their opinions will never take the pains of examining the basis on which they are built. They look with wonder, and often with horror, on views contrary to those they have inherited; and while they are in this state of mind it is impossible that they should receive any new truth which interferes with their foregone conclusions.

On this account it is that, although the acquisition of fresh knowledge is the necessary precursor of every step in social progress, such acquisition must be preceded by a love of enquiry, and therefore by a spirit of doubt; because without doubt there will be no inquiry, and without inquiry there will be no knowledge. For knowledge is not an inert and passive principle which comes to us whether we will or no; but it must be sought before it can be won; it is the product of great labour, and therefore of great sacrifice. And it is absurd to suppose people will incur the labour and make the sacrifice for subjects respecting which they are already perfectly content. They who do not feel the darkness will never look for the light. The doubt must intervene before the investigation can begin.

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Every science and every creed has had its martyrs - men exposed to obloquy, or even to death, because they knew more than their contemporaries, and because society was not sufficiently advanced to receive the truths which they communicated. According to the ordinary course of affairs, a few generations pass away, and then there comes a period when these very truths are looked upon as commonplace facts; and a little later there comes another period in which they are declared to be unnecessary, and even the dullest intellects wonder how they could ever have been denied.

WHY RENTS AND
RATES ARE HIGH

THE examples below are from "Why Rents and Rates are High" by A.W. MADSEN B.Sc. This book contains 600 examples of Land Monopoly and exploitation in Great Britain. The Publishers regret that the book is now out of print, but a new edition is contemplated.

Lambeth Bridge and the Grosvenor Estate. The total cost of Lambeth Bridge was £839,000, of which £102,500 had to be spent in compensation for land, easements, etc. In this and all like cases, the tribute that must go to the landed interests before the improvement can be undertaken is only one side of the picture. The other side is the gift of the increased value of land benefited by the improvement after it is made.

The effect of the Lambeth Bridge in endowing the land monopoly was apparent. The Daily News of 20th March 1930, reported that the Duke of Westminster had received approximately £1,000,000 for eight acres of the Grosvenor Estate, just sold on the main route between Victoria Station and the new Lambeth Bridge. The Times of 19th March 1930, pointed the moral. The whole of the neighbourhood had been undergoing great development, "but it is the building of Lambeth Bridge that has stimulated this land development and has so enormously increased neighbouring values."

Stepney - A School's Land Revenue The annual revenue of the land at Stepney left in trust by Dean Colet to the Mercers' Company, in the latter half of the 15th century, for the maintenance of St. Paul's School, now celebrating the 50th anniversary of its removal from St. Paul's Churchyard, was just £112 0 11. Last year, the accounts just issued show, the rent roll was no less than £94,291 8s. 3d. Thus has London changed - The City Press, 13th July 1934.

Hornsey - Boom in Land Values The erection of flats has created a demand for suitable sites which in all parts of the district have consequently risen greatly in value. Land for this purpose in Muswell Hill, Crouch End, Hornsey, Finchley and other parts of North London has commanded as much as £7,000 to £8,000 per acre. - Annual Review of Messrs. Sturt and Tivendale, quoted in the Hornsey Journal, 17th January, 1936.

(To be continued)

"HERE AND THERE"

YOUR COLD
MEANS --
REVENUE!



In the bad old days when the motor car was preceded by a man carrying a red flag to warn pedestrians of the approaching threat to their safety, the cliché, "prevention is better than cure" was generally accepted. But in these days of supersonic jets, to

hold such views is comparable with believing the earth to be flat. The old order changeth, yielding place to new. So strongly does the Government reject this archaic philosophy that it punishes those who attempt to put their belief into practice. And the weapon used, you need hardly be told, is the old favourite - taxation! As an illustration take the case of "Buccaline Berna".

In Berne, where the bear pits are, at the Swiss Serum and Vaccine Institute, under the personal supervision of Dr. C. Hallauer, Professor of the University of Berne, a group of chemists are engaged upon what may be regarded as a most laudable occupation - fighting influenza and the common cold. The outcome of their long patient research is "Buccaline Berna", a preparation which it is claimed will procure immunity from these two scourges for a period of six months.

The Ministry of Health apparently has no serious objection to the preparation for it has granted a special import licence - No.069 - to enable it to be brought into Britain. It is on sale by retail chemists, price 6s.6d. for a six month supply. THAT PRICE INCLUDES PURCHASE TAX.

Government must have revenue, of course, but consider the implications of this particular example of its methods of raising it. One Government Department facilitates the import of the tablets: another taxes them beyond the reach of some people. Government speakers - and others - repeat the parrot cry ad nauseum that we must produce more goods more cheaply if we are to compete successfully in the world's markets. Absenteeism is condemned. Government money is spent each winter on advertising campaigns designed - benevolently but impertinently - to educate the British traveller and newspaper reader to sneeze into a handkerchief rather than over his neighbour. And yet the Government taxes the man who is prepared to spend his own money to immunise himself against the 'flu - to reduce his absenteeism - to enable him to produce more - and to prevent him from sneezing at all, let alone over his neighbour.

Crazy? Yes, but that isn't all. This is a Welfare State - a proud example to the whole world. Catch a cold and go down with

'flu and you can visit or send for your doctor - it won't cost you a penny piece - and he will prescribe drugs and medicines to cure it. National Insurance and, in certain cases, National Assistance will be paid. Admittedly, under the Tory Administration, a nominal charge of one shilling per prescription is exacted, but this the Labour Party promises to remove. A few thousand extra votes in a handful of marginal constituencies would soon abolish the hated "bob". (For the electoral "system" is no more just or sensible than the taxing "system").

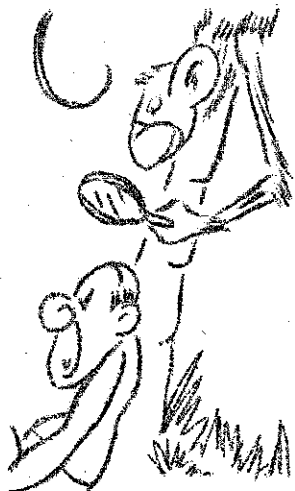
But whoever occupies No.10 and, more particularly, No.11 Downing Street, when next you catch cold and visit your panel doctor, think of me when you get your free or shilling bottle of medicine. Accept it with my compliments - the purchase tax I have paid on a bottle of Buccaline Berna tablets has helped to pay for it.

In return, when I see you sneeze - into your handkerchief, as taught by the Ministry of Health - I promise to raise my cap courteously. The purchase tax you have paid on your handkerchief helps to pay for the free cod liver oil supplied by the Ministry of Food to prevent my two children catching cold!

NOTE: A whole range of other medicines prophylactic and curative, imported and British manufactured, is subject to purchase tax. They were first imposed some years ago - the present administration is glad to maintain them. Anything rather than collect the revenue that lies at its feet - land value.

"ONLOOKER"

REPUDIATED!



Three monkeys sat in a coconut tree
Discussing things as they're said to be.
Said one to the others: "Now listen, you two,
There's a certain rumour that cannot be true;
That man descended from our noble race -
The very idea! It's a dire disgrace.
For one thing, you'll never see
A monk build a fence 'round a coconut,
And let the coconuts go to waste,
Forbidding all other monks a taste.
Why, if I put a fence around this tree,
Starvation would force you to steal from me.
Man may have descended, the ornery cuss,
But brother, he didn't descend from us!

"ANON" (condensed)

THE LAW OF THE LAND (2)

"WHAT of the Statute of Limitations?" is a question sometimes asked. The answer is found in the legal axiom: "Time doth not run against the King". If his ministers were to advise the King to resume possession of the land by collection of its rent in lieu of taxes, the holder of that office, as a constitutional Monarch, would have to obey, or abdicate.

It is said by some that the people have consented to the present system. This most decidedly is not true! The people were never consulted, for there is not a single "law" on the Statute Book affecting the tenure of holding of land which was first submitted to them for approval or otherwise. They who would assume this consent must be prepared to allow that the people also have the power to refuse consent or even to withdraw it. So far from consenting, history is full of records of peasant revolts and similar uprisings of the people, and always against the enclosing of their common lands.

When the young King, Richard II, rode out to speak with Wat Tyler and his mean at Mile End in 1381, he asked of them: "Good people, what will ye that I should do?" Their answer is upon record: "We will that ye free us, us and our lands; and that we no more be held any man's slaves."

When the Norfolk peasants rose for the second time, in 1549, their complaint was: "The common pastures left by our predecessors for our relief and our children are taken away. The lands which, in the memory of our fathers, were common, those are ditched and hedged in and made several, the pastures are enclosed, and we are shut out. We desire liberty and an indifferent (equal) use of all things. This we will have. Otherwise these tumults and our lives shall only be ended together." No. The people have not consented!

Those who claim to "own" land should have regard to the significance of an important judgment of Lord Darling's in the case of Sir Hari Singh, the Indian Prince, who, as "Mr. A", was the central figure in a scandal in 1924. The issue was as to the ownership of a cheque for £150,000 drawn by Singh.

"Whose money is it?" said Justice Darling. "If it is stolen from him, in my judgment it remains his still. Nobody can give anybody else a title to it, no matter what transactions are gone through with regard to it."

That also is the case with regard to the Land.

THE following questions were among those asked at a recent "Tutors' Quiz". How many can YOU get right? Answers on next page.

TUTORS' QUIZ

1. Who said, "A Socialist Government might use a tariff if it pleased, to protect a nationalised industry"?
2. Who said, "A keen business man can make more money in one evening manipulating a tariff than in 12 months honest work"?
3. Who said, "Men of Rome, you are called the Lords of the World yet you have no right to a square foot of its soil! The wild beasts have their dens, but the soldiers of Italy have only water and air" ?
4. What famous historian and economist said, "I can show, if the nature of my work required the proof, that land for two miles around St. Paul's has increased during the last 150 years a thousandfold in value"?
5. By whom was the following written, by whom quoted, in what book, and in what connection? "If one should wish to make a bright young man so stupid as to become incapable of all real thinking, the best way would be to commend him a diligent study of these works (Hegel). For these monstrous piecings together of words which really destroy and contradict one another so causes the mind to vainly torment itself in the effort to discover their meaning that at last it collapses exhausted, with its capacity for thinking so completely destroyed that from that time on, meaningless phrases count with it for thoughts" ?
6. What famous playwright gave an expert exposition of the Law of Rent ?
7. In what part of London stands a statue to the man who said "I will have a League for Free Trade in Land just as we had a League for Free Trade in Corn ... If you can apply Free Trade to Land and to Labour too ... then, I say, the men who do that will have done for England probably more than we have been able to do by making free trade in Corn" ?
8. What recent publication by the Land & Liberty Press Ltd. gives a model Bill for Parliament for the introduction of Land Value Taxation ?

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. C.R. Attlee. Feb.15. 1932..
2. The late Arthur Chamberlain
3. Tiberius Gracchus. (P. & P. Page 271)
4. Prof. Thorold Rogers in "Six Centuries of Work and Wages"
5. Schopenhauer, Henry George in "The Science of Political Economy" where he says of Schopenhauer's statement "It is to this state that political economy in the teachings of the Schools, which profess to know all about it, has now come".
6. George Bernard Shaw
7. Mornington Crescent, Camden Town. Richard Cobden
8. "Land Value Reform" by James Dundas White

PSALM FOR THE TIMES. The Government is my shepherd, I need not work. It allows me to lie down on good jobs, it leadeth me beside the still factories, it destroyeth my initiative, it leadeth me in the paths of a parasite for politics' sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of laziness and deficient spending, I will fear no evil, for the Government is with me. Its doles and vote getters they comfort me, it prepareth an economic paradise for me, appropriating the earnings of my own grandchildren. It filleth my head with false security, my inefficiency runneth over. Surely the Government shall care for me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in a fool's paradise for ever.

BACK WHERE HE STARTED. An American on tour noticed a lazy Indian Chief lolling at the door of his wigwam.

"Chief," he said, "why don't you get a job in a factory?"

"Why?" grunted the Chief.

"You could earn a lot of money. Maybe 30 or 40 dollars a week".

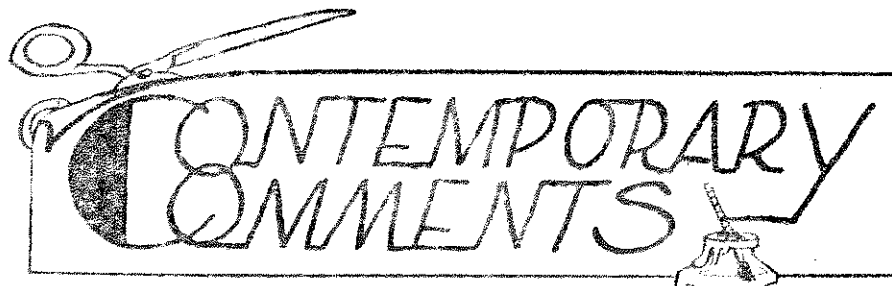
"Why?" insisted the Chief.

"If you worked hard enough and saved your money you'd soon have a big bank account. Wouldn't you like that?"

"Why?" asked the Chief again.

"For Pete's sake! With a bank account you could retire, then you wouldn't have to work any more."

"N ot working now", pointed out the Chief.



CONTEMPORARY COMMENTS

IT MIGHT YET BE TRUE

In a recent speech Mr. Alfred Roberts, a trade union secretary, told a Manchester meeting that a team of efficiency had visited the Royal Festival Hall. This is their report on the orchestra:

"For considerable periods the four oboe players had nothing to do. The numbers should be reduced and the work spread more evenly over the whole of the concert, thus eliminating peaks of activity. All the twelve first violins were playing identical notes; this seems unnecessary duplication. The staff of this section should be drastically cut. If a large volume of sound is required it could be obtained by means of electronic amplifier apparatus.

"Much effort was absorbed in the playing of demi-semi-quavers. This seems an excessive refinement. It is recommended that all notes should be rounded up to the nearest semi-quaver. If this were done it would be possible to use trainees and lower-grade operatives more extensively. There seems to be too much repetition of some musical passages. Scores should be drastically pruned. No useful purpose is served by repeating on the horns a passage which has already been handled by the strings. It is estimated that if all redundant passages were eliminated the whole concert time of two hours could be reduced to 20 minutes and there would be no need for an interval." (Municipal Journal Dec. 18th, 1953)

IT IS TRUE

Delay in the rehousing of families living in four old damp and condemned houses at Maldon, Essex has been caused by a Ministry objection to the plan for a clearance order. The plan was not coloured pink in the appropriate places! The Ministry of Housing and Local Government would not return it so that it could be coloured - they wanted a new one. The Town Council does not act before the Ministry's permission for clearance is received and this means drawing a new plan, colouring it, getting it approved by the Health Committee and then by the full Council.

(from a "Daily Telegraph" report Jan 4th, 1954)

THE LAW DESTROYS.

Mr. Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, when asked about the action of the Customs authorities in Limasol, Cyprus, in pouring into the sea 7,044 bottles of whisky because they had been lying unclaimed for 12 months, replied: "I understand that the importer, after inspecting this whisky, refused to pay the import duty. As he was also unwilling to incur the expense of re-exporting the consignment, he authorised the Customs to destroy it in his presence." (Hansard, Nov 25th, 1953).

THE MODERN ECONOMIST.

Mrs Mann asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Question Time whether he would end the anomaly whereby the ends on all men's umbrellas are tax free, whilst 95% of the ends on ladies' umbrellas carry tax at 75%. Mr Butler said he would bear this in mind! (Hansard, Dec 8th, 1953).

A PART OF GT. BRITAIN SOLD.

The 60,000 acre estate of Knoydart, Inverness-shire, has been sold by Lord Brocket to the Eyre Trustees, a private trust, of which Col. Crosthwaite-Eyre, Conservative M.P. for the New Forest, and Viscount Bracken are members. The price was not disclosed. Knoydart is in a peninsula opposite the Isle of Skye, formed by Loch Nevis and Loch Hourne. The only practical access is by sea from Malaig. The mountainous estate includes a deer forest and there is sea trout fishing in the lochs. The population has fallen in 50 years from 2,000 to 85. (Daily Telegraph, Nov 21st, 1953).

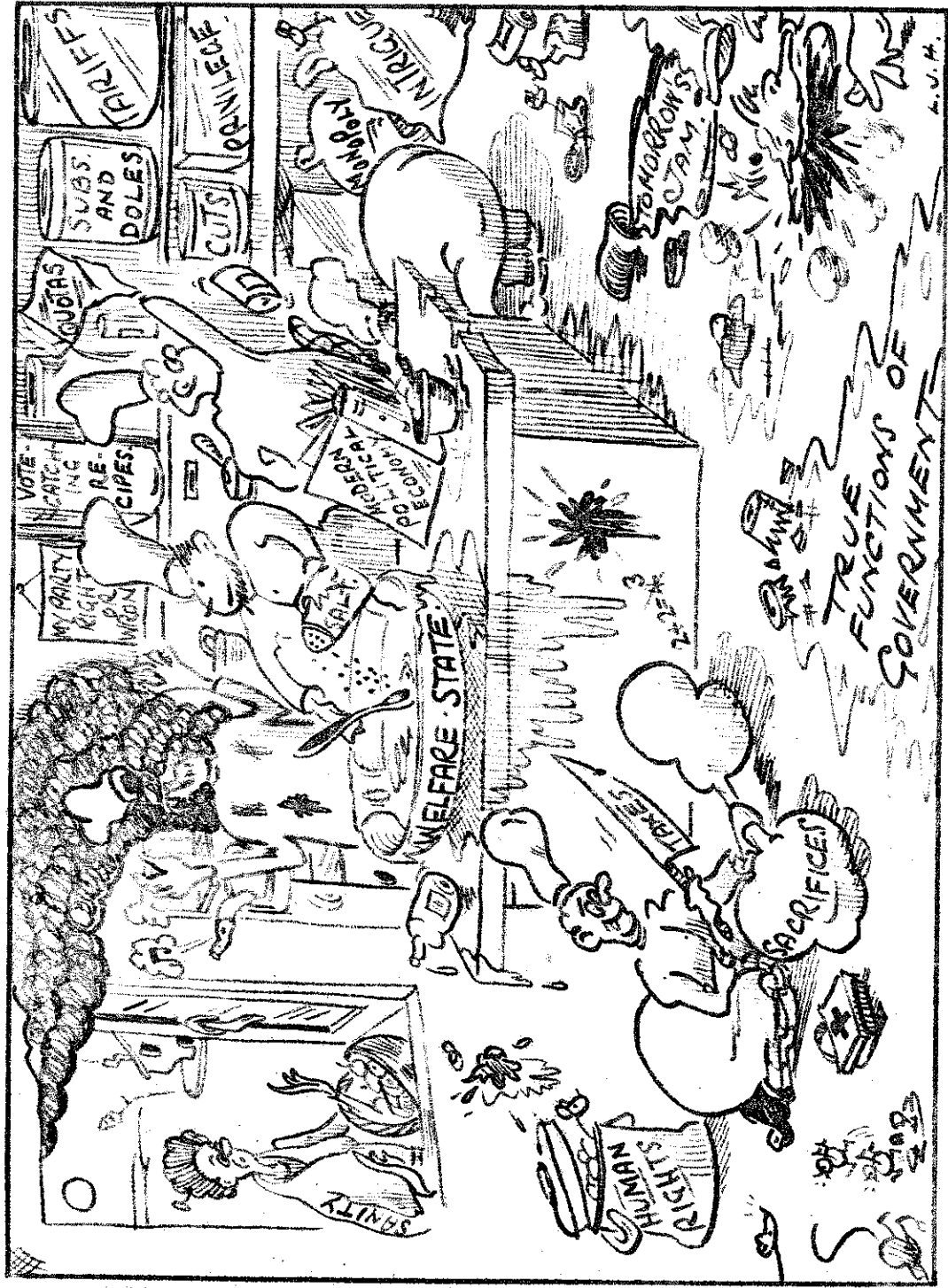
FOR GOOD OR EVIL.

Felix Arnold, "Attention and Interest" p.242, when speaking of the result of the teaching at any class lesson in the ordinary school course, says: "Remember that about half of the new matter presented is forgotten after the first half-hour, two-thirds in nine hours, three-quarters after six days, and four-fifths after a month."

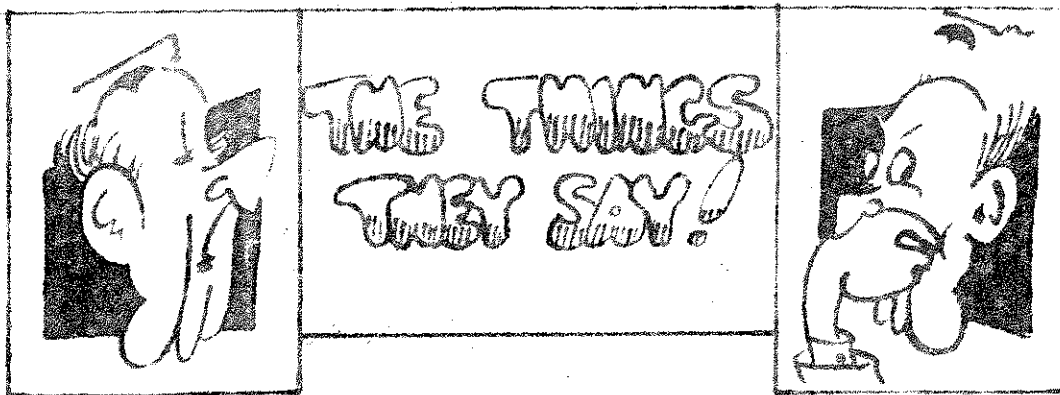
MUSICAL CHAIRS.

It was reported recently that the President of the American Federation of Musicians has asked President Eisenhower to recommend to the U.S. Congress the repeal of the 20 percent federal amusement tax. It was said that repeal of the tax would create sufficient new employment of musicians whose income taxes would make up for the loss in revenue from the tax on amusements.

"LAND AND LIBERTY" - send for a free specimen copy. This Journal is devoted to the exposition of the land question in its relationship to social and economic conditions and the respective rights of the individual and the community. Indispensable for the keen student of political affairs. Copies supplied through the School.



SPOILING THE ECONOMIC BROTH.



K.F. CRITCHLOW (Carshalton) He who upsets my equilibrium is the one who will accept, albeit reluctantly, all that is said on grounds of logic, morals, ethics and the "whole bag of tricks" then unconpromisingly deals out what he regards as his fatal blow to the body - "But you're a perfectionist!"

H. NEWBORN (Lambeth) I object to the "realist" who considers all policies with which he does not agree as unreal. Here is an example of this attitude which I saw the other day in the correspondence column of a political journal: "The realities of present-day politics do not permit ideals to prevail over practical considerations." Presumably ideals and practical considerations are inconsistent!

JESSICA BAKER (Barnes) My pet hate is the pompous gentleman who says, "You don't want to worry your pretty little head about serious subjects like economics."!

S. BARKER (Hackney) It is impossible now-a-days to express an opinion on current affairs without being pushed into a pigeon hole. When a man says, "Oh, you're just a Tory (Socialist, Liberal or Communist)" he seems to think that when God created man he created then Labour, Liberal, Tory or Communist! Only one other category will this individual permit outside his smug brackets and that is a Crank! Political labels serve an obvious purpose but the guiding lines of our philosophy should be principles not parties.

C. BOLTON (Cornwall) "Man's all for himself - hang all the rest,"
Is what they say of all mankind;
They sooner would debase the mind
Than put it to the personal test."

L. WILKINS (Watford) I get annoyed with those who identify the whole of the community with sectional interests who receive "Protection", privileges or subsidies from the Government. It is always "our" agriculture, "our" film industry, "our" fishing trade etc. I wonder what the ordinary taxpayer would say if he were asked for money in the street by a collector with a box marked "Help the Film trade."!

FREEDOM OR CONTROL?

IMMEDIATELY below we give the opening passages of G.D.H. Cole's "Practical Economics" (Pelican Books). His conception of how the ills of society arise and how they are to be remedied, he makes perfectly clear. To him, laissez-faire means "Every man for himself and the Devil take the hindmost". He sees the evils of privileges, exploitation and licence, identifies them with the freedom of the individual and condemns freedom! His solution for the social evils in society is the management of society by Government.

This is rather like putting water into a petrol engine and, because the engine will not go, to resort to pushing the car!

Following the extract from Cole's book, are some passages from Walter Lippmann's "The Good Society". Here, Lippmann vigorously defends freedom, though he does not show its full implications, particularly with regard to equal rights to land. While Cole turns his back, Lippmann does take a step in the right direction.

G.D.H. COLE: Our grandfathers believed, with the unquestioning certainty of a religious faith, in laissez-faire. They held that, in economic matters, the State had only to keep out of the ring in order to ensure the best results. "Private enterprise" would do all that was needed. Competition would ensure that consumers would be able to buy goods and services at the cheapest possible rates, and that full advantage would be taken of improving technical methods of production. The employer who charged more than the minimum price, or tried to carry on with obsolete methods, would go speedily to the wall. Only the fittest would survive. Moreover, competition would set the inventors and scientists busily to work devising new methods, so that science would flourish most greatly under the stimulus of the profit motive. Each person, in seeking his own economic interest, would be providentially furthering the interest of all. The search for profit would result in maximum production, because competition would keep profit down to the minimum needed to encourage enterprise, and would compel every profit-seeker to make himself as efficient a servant of the consumers as he possibly could.

In these days, that simple faith has been eclipsed. Our fathers were much less certain of it than our grandfathers; and in our own day it is held at all only by way of obstinate reaction against the prevailing conditions.

("Mr. Cole", says the preface, "surveys the essential conditions

for social economic planning, pointing out that any comprehensive plan must control and co-ordinate at least three things - what is to be produced, what prices are to be put on the products, and how incomes are to be distributed between different sections of the people.")

WALTER LIPPMANN: It makes no difference whether the rulers of a state inherit authority or were elected to it, whether they received it by appointment or have captured it by force; it makes no difference to what grandeur and glory they aspire. They are men, and so their powers are limited. And the limits of their powers lie a long way this side of omniscience and omnipotence. It follows that though the ruler may think he has his patents from God, he does not have the wisdom or the power of God. Though he has his authority from the people, the potentialities of the human race are not realised in him, and the elected ruler of a nation is not the mystical possessor of all his people's genius....

The eye must capture its innocence if it is to see things as they are: not fascism or communism as ideas, but fascists and communists as they govern great nations; to remember that while ideals are illimitable, men are only men

In the prevailing view they are the agents of destiny. It is they, or others panting to take their places, who are to contrive the shape of things to come. They are to breed a better race of men. They are to arrange abundance for all. They are to abolish classes. They are to take charge of the present. They are to conceive the future. They are to plan the activities of mankind. They are to manage its labours. They are to understand, to forecast, and to administer human purposes and to provide a design for living for the unborn. Surely, greater love could no man have for the wisdom of his rulers than this, that he should put his life entirely in their hands

The thinker, as he sits in his study drawing his plans for the direction of Society, will do no thinking if his breakfast has not been produced for him by a social process which is beyond his detailed comprehension. The intricacy of one breakfast, if every process that brought it to the table had deliberately to be planned, would be beyond the understanding of any mind. Only because he can count upon an infinitely complex system of working routines can a man eat his breakfast and then think about a new social order

The things he can think about are few compared with those which

he must presuppose... The essential limitation, therefore, of all policy, of all government, is that the human mind must take a partial and simplified view of existence...

It is, therefore, illusion to imagine that there is a credible meaning in the idea that human evolution can be brought under conscious control...it is no accident that the division of labour, common laws, the ideals of equal justice, the restraint of prerogative and privilege, the conception of international law and of peace as the paramount policy of states, should have evolved together in the same regions of the earth...

"Ever since the earliest beginnings of the industrial revolution men have been advancing the frontiers of the region in which dependable law exists, making the world habitable for men who live by the division of labour. This movement, known to doctrine as liberalism, has behind it the irresistible energy developed by an immeasurably superior mode of obtaining a living from the earth, and no human power can long withstand it. Though men fall back into reaction, and have to fight their way out of it through bitter and bloody strife, yet at long last they will be free under equal laws because in no other way can they prosper, or even survive in the economy by which they are destined to live.

SOME APPRECIATIONS

"Heartiest congratulations on the continued progress in the production of the H.G.S. magazine. I look forward keenly to each new number."

J.D. SLATER - Rossendale.

"Congratulations on your publication, especially the correspondence!"

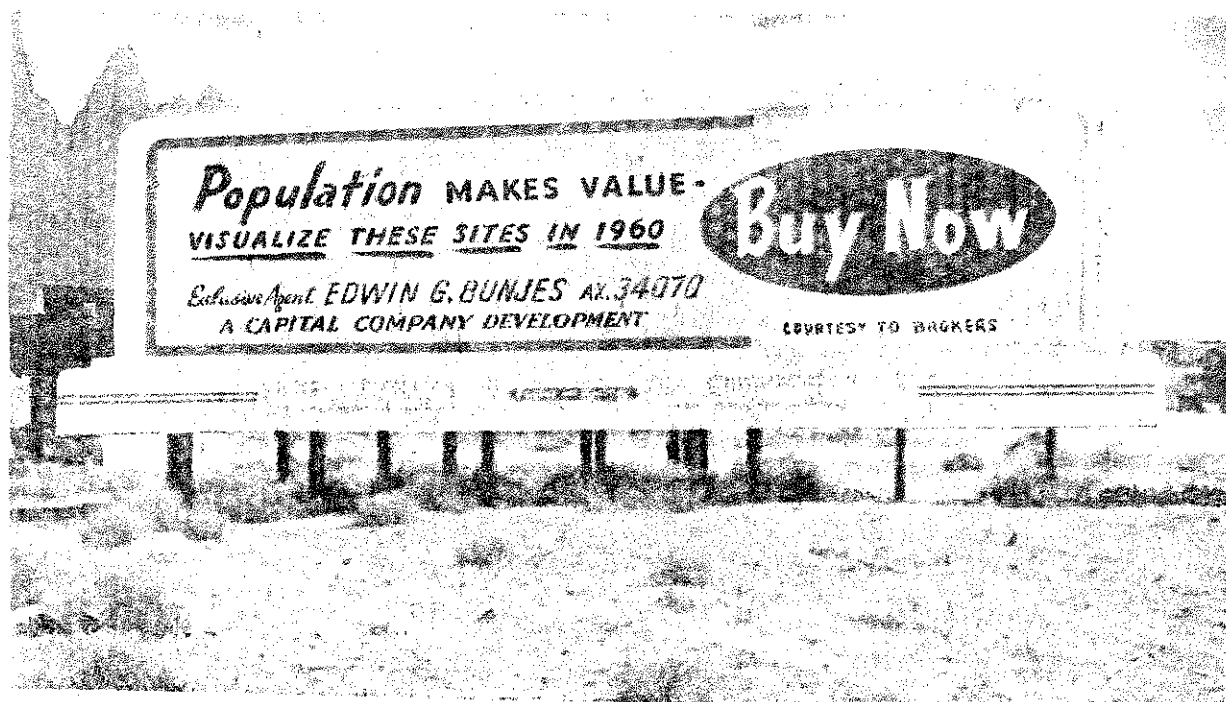
F. WELCH - Pinner

"May I congratulate the people responsible for the great improvement in the layout of the School magazine. I - and my friends - are very impressed by it."

R.J. - Kent.

We should like to make formal acknowledgment of an interesting letter from a reader who has sent us some most helpful suggestions regarding the layout of the magazine. The reader in question is a colleague of one of the students of the Henry George School whose knowledge of typography and layout is professional. His interest is appreciated and we hope to be able to adopt a number of his ideas. He says, "a magazine having such good contents deserves a good standard of presentation."

The editors will be pleased to receive further letters of commendation (naturally!) but brickbats, if deserved, will be duly noted.

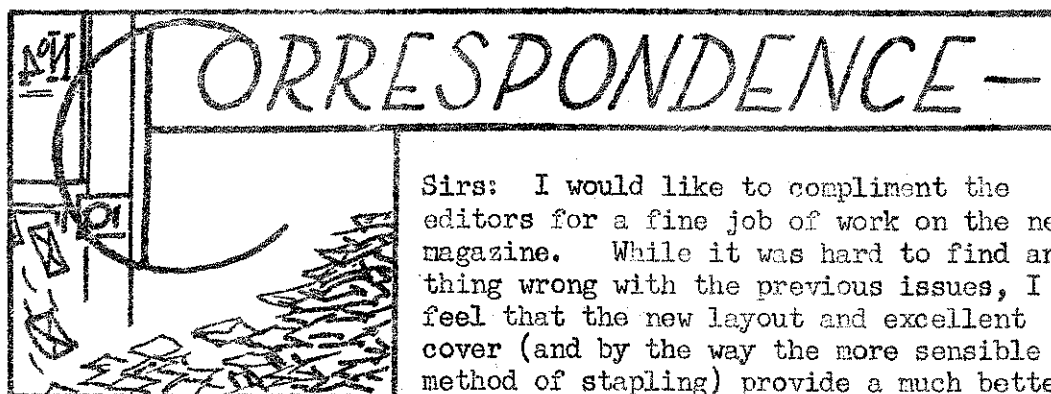


This real estate sign is on vacant land four blocks from the Crenshaw-Santa Barbara shopping centre, one of the finest in Los Angeles. Until about seven years ago the shopping centre was a golf course, probably assessed on an acreage basis. Lots which a few years ago sold for \$500 recently brought \$10,000. (Photo submitted by Herman Ellenoff of Los Angeles.)

"THIS is the law of rent: as individuals come together in communities, and society grows, integrating more and more its individual members, and making general interests and general conditions of more and more relative importance, there arises, over and above the value which individuals can create for themselves, a value which is created by the community as a whole, and which, attaching to land, becomes tangible, definite and capable of computation and appropriation.

"As society grows, so grows this value, which springs from and represents in tangible form what society as a whole contributes to production, as distinguished from what is contributed by individual exertion. By virtue of natural law in those aspects which it is the purpose of the science we call political economy to discover - as it is the purpose of the sciences we call chemistry and astronomy to discover other aspects of natural law - all social advance necessarily contributes to the increase of this common value; to the growth of this common fund".

Henry George in "Social Problems".



Sirs: I would like to compliment the editors for a fine job of work on the new magazine. While it was hard to find anything wrong with the previous issues, I feel that the new layout and excellent cover (and by the way the more sensible method of stapling) provide a much better setting for the contents.

Especially, I wish to commend "Onlooker" for his presentation of the parking meter idea. It is perhaps more topical than the writer realised, and he may be interested in a newspaper advertisement proclaiming "The 1st British Parking Meter", cash price £30. ("Hire Purchase Terms - Pay Out Of Revenue").

I learn from this that they are manufactured for private use. If they are legally recognised it means another method for individuals to cash in on publicly created site values.

Yours etc. M. Austin
London, N.10

Sirs: The School's Research Dept., after much spade-work, is now gathering momentum and is breaking new ground with research projects of great importance. This will require a larger volunteer staff than is at present engaged on the job. A survey is being made with the history of land tenure in every country. This can be a very interesting occupation affording the opportunity to delve back into history on such subjects as the fall of Rome or of more recent times the Korean War. Readers interested in research work are cordially invited to apply to me at No.4 Great Smith Street. Especially required are typists and people with ability to draw charts.

Yours etc. John Bathe
London S.W.10

Sirs: Those who know their "Treasure Island" will remember old Blind Pugh, the harbinger of death, tapping his way along to serve the dreaded 'Black Spot' on those singled out for 'liquidation'. Every time I cycle through South West London I am reminded of him: at one point where the road narrows dangerously a Black Spot sign urges road users to proceed carefully, warning them that it marks the site of previous fatal accidents. To remove the danger all that is necessary is to widen the road by a few yards. No buildings would have to be demolished; idle land abuts the pavement. What stands in the way? Presumably land monopoly, 'blindness'

and fatalism. As one whose life may be summarily cut short at that place, I register this my protest.

Peter Richards, SW3

Sirs: Congratulations to you on the new-style magazine. Its topicality and lively interests are refreshing. On the day I read and enjoyed the verses you had quoted from "The Reformers" I later read a version in another publication which contained two further verses Nos.3 & 6. Verse No.6 can particularly be commended but no doubt you might like to have them both.

"For the cliff is all right if you're careful", they said;
"And if folks even slip or are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below when they're stopping."
So day after day when these mishaps occurred.
Quick forth would the rescuers sally
To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
With their ambulance down in the valley.

But a sensible few, who are practical, too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them, then, with your purse, voice and pen,
And (while other philanthropists dally)
They will scorn all pretence, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Incidentally, the publication containing the longer poem could, I think, be found vitally interesting to many of our readers. It is "Mother Earth" the journal of the Soil Association, a new energetic organisation working for a fundamental approach to the all important matters of the vital relationships between soil, plant, animal and man.

K.Critchlow (Carshalton)

THE REALIST. A man who had never quite gotten used to the industrial age was watching an excavation being dug out by a massive steam shovel. He remarked to the foreman:

"That machine has robbed scores of men of their jobs. Don't you think it would be better to junk it and put a hundred men with shovels to work instead?"

"Shure," said the foreman, "and better still if we put a thousand men in there with teaspoons!"