

The Square Deal

Subscription 50¢ a year

Single Copies 10¢

TORONTO, CANADA

January-February, 1941

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
"How Far That Little Candle Throws Its Beams" -- Margaret E. Bateman	1
Arthur W. Roebuck, K. C., M. P., on The Sirois Report	3
"If" -- Horatio	4
Editorials: Nature Lovers Should Study Henry George -- Dorothy E. Coate	5
The Sirois Report -- Ernest J. Farmer	6
New Zealand To-Day	7
Hamilton News -- Donald Hamon	9
Montreal News -- C. L. Huckabone	10
Toronto News	10
British Columbia News -- Alexander Hamilton	11
American News	12
Empire News	13
Foreign News	14
Owners and Fighters	14
Totalitarianism in America -- Frank Greensides	15
Charity	16
The Library of the Henry George Society	17
Taxation Rights in Canada -- Ernest J. Farmer	18

--ooOoo--

THE SQUARE DEAL

Room 13, 991 Bay Street, Toronto, Ontario, (RA. 5891)

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Dorothy E. Coate

Ernest J. Farmer

S. W. Hall

A. C. Ross

EDITORIAL BOARD

Margaret E. Bateman

A. C. Campbell

H. T. Owens

Alan C. Thompson

"HOW FAR THAT LITTLE CANDLE THROWS ITS BEAMS!"

Margaret E. Bateman

Teachers in the Henry George School of Social Science often speculate on "Just how far their little candle throws its beams." Let me assure them that those beams often reach farther than we realize.

Last term, a very good student in my class, after attending seven lessons, did not appear again. I was disappointed. I decided there must have been a lack of inspiration on my part, and a lack of conviction on his.

But in my Christmas mail was a letter from this student, graciously acknowledging the effort of his "teacher"; assuring us that the course had been intensely interesting and valuable to him, and asking since his work made it impossible to attend further classes, if he could take the last three lessons by correspondence.

It happens (we had not known previously) that this gentleman is Editor of three suburban newspapers. He offered to give us some free publicity. Here is the story which his three papers carried last week to some 50,000 readers:

CLASSES WILL RE-OPEN ON JANUARY 20TH

by Kenneth E. Chisholm

There's an old saying which goes something like "You get what you pay for."

At last however we are able to dispute that saying and tell that we have actually received "something for nothing." It came in the form of a course in the fundamentals of political economy.

At first curiosity that we could get something for nothing, backed by a desire to learn the root evils of present day social and economic life and the solutions thereof, led us to take a course sponsored by the School of Economic Science, 1502 St. Catherine West. But we were soon convinced that the course offered a comprehensive review of the economic picture.

The local school is an off-shoot of the Henry George School of Social Science, chartered by the University of the State of New York as an educational institution to teach Fundamental Economics and social philosophy. The school was incorporated in

ARTHUR W. ROEBUCK, K. C., M. P., ON THE SIROIS REPORT

(Extracts from a speech delivered to his constituency on January 3, 1941.)

In return for these very questionable concessions by the Dominion, the provinces and the municipalities are to hand over income taxes, succession duties and corporation taxes to the Dominion on the express understanding that the Dominion will renounce all right to the other fields of direct taxation now occupied by the provinces.

For general clarity of thought, let me observe at this point that there are no "fields of taxation"; that is a misnomer. Taxes do not grow in fields; they are paid by people, and these classifications are but methods of determining who shall pay, the amount and the basis. The British North America Act permits the Dominion Government to raise its revenue by "any mode or system of taxation," while the provinces are restricted to direct taxation within the province, that is to say to taxes which are expected to be paid by the very person upon whom they are levied.

Now since the decisions underlying the Sirois report were reached, Canada has entered upon a world war, and is now spending on war services at the rate of a billion dollars a year. Next year it may be two billions, who knows.

Does it seem wise at such a time to curtail the modes and systems of taxation which the Dominion may adopt in the raising of its revenue, and to restrict the war making authority to income taxes, succession duties, and that multitude of indirect taxes, such as customs, excise and sales taxes, which have the effect of raising prices, increasing the cost of production and business, and which check production and promote stagnation and unemployment?

I am told that other wars in which England was engaged, other than the Great War, were followed by imposts on land values. Under the feudal system, the owners of grants of land from the Crown were obligated to supply men at arms for the King's army.

Are we to assure the landed gentry of Canada, the owners of town sites, mining and timber lands, the nation's natural resources, against the invasion of which our armies are fighting -- by solemn league and covenant between governments -- that they shall in future be taxed by those jurisdictions only which are not responsible for war expenditures?

If future war taxes are to be raised only on the basis of men's enterprise and consumption, and ownership is to escape scot-free, I foresee a long period of hard times for the people of Canada.

E D I T O R I A L SNATURE LOVERS SHOULD STUDY HENRY GEORGE

Dorothy E. Coate

The average nature lover fails to realize the connection between his problem, of conserving for future generations our vanishing natural beauties, and the way in which our country raises money for its public spending.

Until we put an end to profiteering in land values, by adopting scientific methods of collecting our national revenues, we shall continue to witness the destruction of valuable forests, the loss of rare plant and animal life.

In 1939, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists found, in the Bruce Peninsula, an ideal spot for a sanctuary to conserve "rare plants now threatened with extinction," but the owner of that remote, and probably lightly taxed, area demanded a larger sum than the naturalists could then raise.

The December issue of the "Square Deal" contained the strong protest of the Victoria Henry George Club against the increasing loss to British Columbia from wasteful logging of her forests, for the benefit of profiteers and with little recompense to the Province.

Similarly, in the United States, various organizations are constantly struggling to raise funds or promote legislation to protect natural resources. The recent fight, against the billboards disfiguring so many highways, has brought a writer in "Nature Magazine" close to the main issue. He remarks that "no revenue would be derived by anybody from billboards were it not for the public's investment in roads."

The Campaign against billboards is strongly supported by the Fairhope, Alabama, Chamber of Commerce. "Nature Magazine" rejoiced at finding a businessmen's organization "not under the thumb of the busy bill-board industry."

There is a vital connection between this Henry George enclave's method of raising its municipal funds and the unusual independence enjoyed by Fairhope business men. So long as private individuals are permitted to profit by collecting publicly created values, our countryside will, inevitably, be despoiled of nature's rarest gifts; made hideous with posters. So long as the fear of poverty lurks in the background for most of us, our protests against vandalism will be feeble and unavailing.

We trust that nature lovers everywhere will soon find out the only sure way to preserve both our liberty and our natural resources.

NEW ZEALAND TO-DAY

We have recently received a letter from G. M. Fowlds of Auckland, commenting upon the article, "New Zealand To-day," which appeared in our March-April issue.

The paper in question was an amalgamation of four reports sent us by Henry George workers in New Zealand. Owing to the difficulty of describing with entire accuracy a country never seen by the writer, some mistakes crept in, despite the utmost endeavors to adhere to the facts as given in the original report. Will our New Zealand readers please accept our most sincere apologies for these unintentional errors?

Mr. Fowlds, for ten years editor of the New Zealand "Liberator" and son of the Hon. George Fowlds, former cabinet minister of New Zealand, is an authority on social conditions in his native land. We offer our readers the following condensation of some corrections and will gladly furnish the full text of his letter to any one desirous of making a deeper study of the foreign exchange situation, farming conditions, state housing and similar subjects difficult to abridge.

Mr. Fowlds feels that our article "is not a complete picture of New Zealand today ... though in the main most of what is said is correct." "From it, one might get the impression that conditions are in a pretty bad way and there is considerable hardship being endured." "With the possible exception of Sweden, we still have the highest standard of living of any people." "Next to the United States, New Zealand has more cars and telephones than any other country, though when cars get here they cost twice what they do in the country of manufacture." "Thousands of people have seaside cottages and there are no greater travellers in the world than New Zealanders."

The statement that New Zealand is the most highly taxed country in the world must be balanced against "many advantages not provided in any other country," such as "sustenance pay for unemployed; help for those crippled and unable to work; general hospital treatment for those ill, free maternity benefits; pension of ten shillings per week for those over sixty (except the wealthy); universal pension of £10 per year - rising £5 each year - now being commenced."

It is incorrect to speak of Federal taxes as New Zealand - unlike Canada - is a single state Dominion.

The imperfections in the land values tax - consisting of graduations and exemptions for mortgages -- are not due to the present labour party, but had been in the act for

HAMILTON NEWS

Donald Hamon

OUR LIBRARY: The Georgeist Club of Hamilton, in undertaking the formation of a library, has been guided by two main principles. First, the supply of information necessary for furthering the thought of Henry George. Secondly, a record of the Club's activities, especially in the literary manner.

In accordance with the first principle, we have not only the standard works of Henry George and of some of his later followers, but also we have a representation of one of his predecessors, "The Theory of Human Progression" by Dove. Representative of the Georgeist toleration and welcome of would-be opposition, is the inclusion in the library of "Why You Should be a Socialist" by the Marxist, John Strackey.

More apropos of Georgeism generally is the historical interest of certain pamphlets, handbills and papers so kindly donated by the late Mr. E. S. Gilbert.

A recent motion of the Club resulted in a subscription to "Land and Freedom" on behalf of the Club. It is suggested that subscriptions to other magazines also be provided for as opportunity offers.

Yet another phase of this part of the library's activities is the formation of a scrap-book of newspaper clippings dealing with subjects on which Georgeists might care to express opinions.

It is hoped that by these methods, we can provide sufficient information to Club members for them to add continually to that part of the library which consists of their own contributions to the cause we all have at heart.

--ooOoo--

CLASSES: The Hamilton Group are forging on with classes, keeping graduates together, reaching out for new prospects. The New Year has started off well with two classes under way -- one in the Science of Political Economy and another in Progress and Poverty. The former is being conducted by Mr. Wynne at his home. Some of the older graduates in Progress and Poverty are taking this course, as well as most of those who completed that class just before Christmas. The enthusiasm they are showing in this extension course is most gratifying. The class in Progress and Poverty is being led by Mr. Wilson at his home. The opening sessions have not been exactly overcrowded, but from the interest shown, it is felt that some real disciples will be developed.

On January 3rd Mr. Arthur Roebuck, M. P., addressed his constituency on the Sirois Commission's Recommendations. Several of our members were present.

A representation asking Premier Hepburn to amend the Ontario Assessment Act is being sent him by the Henry George Society. Mr. Hepburn recently promised to consider specific representations asking for the revision of the Act.

We are glad to enrol two Manitoba men in our correspondence course in "Progress and Poverty." These are Mr. A. J. M. Poole of Kelwood and Mr. T. Eldon McIntyre, Clearwater.

Word has come that Miss Margaret Bateman of Montreal is going to New York as Assistant Director of the Henry George School of Social Science. We all wish her every success in her new position.

--ooOoo--

BRITISH COLUMBIA NEWS

Alexander Hamilton

Three of our members had an appointment with the Ministerial Association last month. There were about 27 preachers present, most of them having charges. Noticed among them were Anglicans, Presbyterians, Baptists and United Church of Canada Ministers. Mr. Fred W. Davey spoke first, Alexander Hamilton followed and our Secretary, Mr. H. H. Hollins gave each of them a copy of the pamphlet "Thy Kingdom Come" by Henry George.

They allowed us only a short time but we made the most of it. Some of them, including the Dean of Columbia, took notes, but we don't know what effect we had on them. However, if they read the pamphlet they are sure to be impressed.

The Victoria Times printed our circular "British Columbia Timber" in full. (This appeared in the last issue of The Square Deal.)

I have had a tilt with a timber speculator's advocate in the papers since, which I think is all to the good.

I think the public are pretty favorable to our point of view. At least one Municipal Council endorsed us outright.

The Provincial Government took over part of the school burden. So they disregarded our bulletins. They don't like us but usually they are very cautious about going against us. They realise that we have considerable public opinion behind us.

books. It is worthy of note that dealers in small towns are now welcoming "Progress and Poverty."

Last year the Foundation developed a lively interest in the Georgeist philosophy by circularizing the high school teachers of economics. This work had such splendid results that we extended our campaign this autumn to include normal schools throughout the country. Not only are we selling books to the teachers themselves, but we are receiving requests for study material to be used in class. Also worthy of mention is the fact that several new colleges have introduced "Progress and Poverty" in their economics courses.

At Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Columbia an examination was given this fall to all new graduate students. One of the tests consisted of a series of quotations, in each of which one word had been changed to another which spoiled the meaning. One of the quotations was from Progress and Poverty.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. -- Five new classes are being held in International Trade.

--ooOoo--

EMPIRE NEWS

ENGLAND -- On 6th November, by a large majority, a resolution was adopted by the Aireborough (Yorks) Urban District Council which embodied a demand for legislation for rating land values instead of houses, shops and improvements.

MIDLAND LEAGUE, England -- The members of the Birmingham War Agricultural Committee have resigned en bloc because of the difficulties they are meeting with in securing the ploughing up of uncultivated land in this area. There are thousands of idle acres in Birmingham which should be under cultivation and the chief obstacle seems to be that they are withheld for profit, after the war, for building developments.

STOKE-ON-TRENT, England -- On October 9th an enrolment meeting was held for students in the Town Hall, Burslem, and 15 new students enrolled and at the succeeding weekly meeting five more came.

We have a successful class in Hanley which meets each Sunday night at 5 p.m. in the Town Hall. 22 young men and women are in attendance, 2 of whom are city councillors.

AUSTRALIA: SYDNEY, N.S.W. -- The New South Wales School of Social Science announces plans for an Australian conference of students and instructors. The date set is February 7th.

Classes are being held in Progress and Poverty and the Science of Political Economy and a new class in P & P and one in the Introductory Course commenced on November 12th.

TOTALITARIANISM IN AMERICA

Frank Greensides

A clear-cut and warningful message is contained in Lawrence Sullivan's book "The Dead Hand of Bureaucracy." In it he shows the astounding recent growth of bureaucracy, and its debilitating effect upon the American way of life. Government, he says, has become top-heavy and running amuck with arbitrary powers, is suffocating the whole national economy!

In the last 140 years the national population has multiplied by 25. But the federal government's administrative personnel has multiplied by 17,950 -- more than 700 times faster than the population. It consists of 10 departments, 134 subsidiary Bureaux Divisions, Authorities, and Agencies, employing over a million persons. (And the American wonders why he is over-taxed. Remember the Boston tea-party?)

These bureaux and what-nots are not appointed by the people. They rise up over-night like mushrooms, and are equipped with all sorts of arbitrary powers. They make and unmake laws, fix penalties, etc., ad infinitum. They delve into and interfere with every nook and cranny of the national life. An instance is the case of Miller, a grocer in Cheltenham, Maryland. An agent of the Bureau of Internal Revenue entered his store one day in 1939 and summonsed him to court to answer a charge of selling over 100 pounds of sugar to some of his customers without reporting the buyers' names and auto license numbers to the Collector of Internal Revenue. Though he had never heard of this law, Miller found himself accused of 20 violations of the Bureau's decree, and 21 government witnesses arrayed against him. The jury sentenced him to 60 days.

Another case is that of an individual in the State of Texas. An agent of the Petroleum Administration Board knocked at his door, pulled some executive orders from his pocket, and lo! a new law appeared as by magic. But the Supreme Court reversed this with the stinging rebuke that nobody ever had heard of the decree, for the orders had never been published. But it took two years to vindicate the man.

These cases -- and many others -- "illustrate how bureaucracy, on occasion, will resort to every form of legal violence to enforce its capricious will." And for every person who has the money to fight this "legal terrorism," there are thousands who must give in without a struggle.

Bureaucracy even enters the house wife's domain -- the home, with such wonders as "The Homemaker's Bulletin," "First Aid in Window Curtaining," "Why Moths Leave Home," etc., etc.

THE LIBRARY OF THE HENRY GEORGE SOCIETY

The Library of the Henry George Society, Toronto, contains many very valuable books by such authors as Henry George, Louis F. Post, Max Hirsch, Gustavus Myers, Adam Smith, Prof. Robert Murray Haig, George R. Geiger, Patrick Edward Dove and the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill. Much excellent reference material is to be found in these books.

The Library is for the use of students and members of the Society who are desirous of furthering their education in economics by reading what others have to say on the subject.

However, books have been borrowed and in many cases loaned to others and have not been returned. The following books are out and we would appreciate it if the people having these would return them.

Stagnation of Industry -- Emil Jorgenson
Prosperity -- Henry Ware Allen
Significant Paragraphs -- Harry G. Brown
100 Years Hence
Burning Question -- Willcox
Safeguarding Productive Capital -- Louis Wallis
\$20,000,000 Every Day -- Otto Cullman
The Science and Practice of Urban Land Valuation
(Somers System) -- Walter W. Pollock, Karl W.
W. Scholz
Land Value Taxation -- Max Hirsch
History of Canadian Wealth -- Gustavus Myers
History of the Great American Fortunes -- Gustavus
Myers
Socialism the Slave State -- Max Hirsch

If you have one of our books why not return it? If you haven't one of our books why not borrow one?

--ooOoo--

(continued from page 16)

donations?

"Are you showing good judgment?

"Wouldn't it be better to give what you can give to help correct the conditions that nullify such charity as that of this baker?"

--ooOoo--

"A tax on buildings or goods is a tax upon labour; a tax on land values is a tax on monopoly." -- Edward McHugh.

