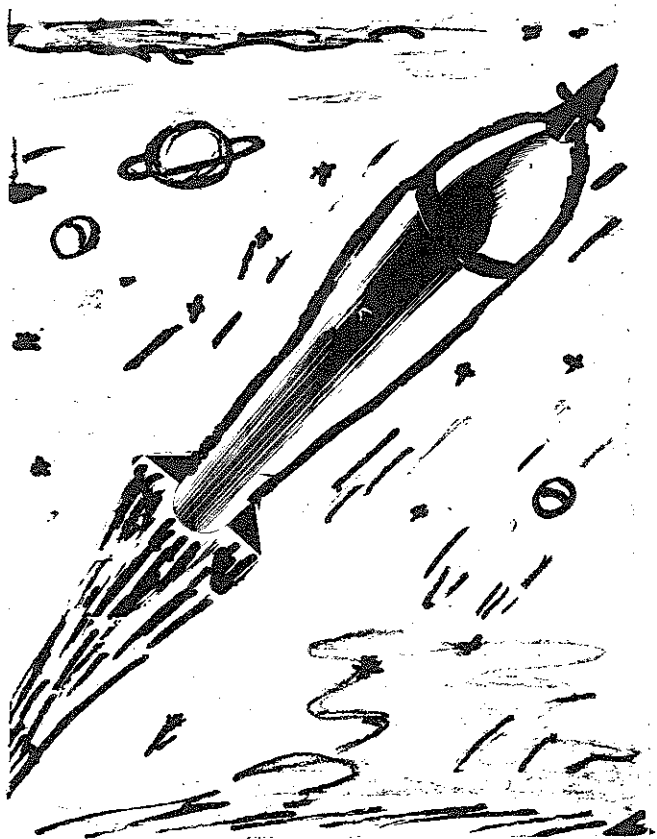


ALUMNI BULLETIN

JULY

AUG

1958



PROSPERITY OR POVERTY?

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Dear Reader:

The Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Henry George School is over, and we now face a new school year.

These conferences come in July (this year's, in San Diego, was from July 9th to 13th), just after we have wound up a school year, and just before we prepare to launch a new school year. The conference thus serves as a review and summation of what we have accomplished so far, and as a preview and prognosis of the year to come.

Perhaps the year-by-year reports do not seem spectacular. One extension will tell of a new kind of advertisement it has tried; another will report on supplementary mimeographed material it has prepared for classroom use; another extension tells of the fund-raising socials put on by its graduates.

Some people may say it sounds pretty much the same from year to year. But how we would miss it if we skipped a conference for even one year!

You will see marvelous progress if you look at the process over a period of years.

Looking at past history, there are periods when there seems to be sweeping, breath-taking, booming progress. Take the United States, say just after the Civil War. Yet if you were to attend an 1870 Senate session or a town meeting, or a convention, you might complain that is sounded just like 1869. But take a decade or two together and you can then see the scope of the progress.

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Chairman: Roma Bianco; Neva Bianco, Vivian Kiliaen-Rodney, S.T.Bohee.

So it is with our Henry George School. We are much further ahead than we were ten years ago. We have twice as many extensions, our correspondence course has expanded internationally, many new courses have been introduced ---and our Annual Conferences get better and better every year.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Clancy



GROUP OF GEORGISTS
ATTENDING HENRY GOERGE
SCHOOL CONFERENCE IN
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
POSE FOR CAMERA IN
FRONT OF HOTEL.

MR ROBERT CLANCY OF NEW YORK,
POSES IN FRONT OF CAPITOL BUILDING
IN DENVER.



MRS L. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF
DENVER HGS EXTENSION AND DAUGHTER.

WRITE ON THE LINE

By S. T. Bohse

Over in Russia, that Marxian paradise, or so styled by Kruscheff, some strange doings are coming to light, especially in a country untainted, supposedly, by capitalist practices. It seems that despite dogma, propaganda, and regimentation, that nasty selfish profit motivation is far from being eradicated;--on the contrary, it seems to flourish quite actively right under the shadow of the Kremlin and the commissars.

Consumer commodities are in short supply in Russia; this situation is well known. Consumers have more money to spend than there are goods available. Maldistribution of commodities that are to some extent available, accounts for some of the acute shortages. What is available in the commissaries in Moscow is by no means available in the provinces. Although buying to sell, at a profit is prohibited, there is, nevertheless a flow of consumer goods to these distant areas, where they are sold in a free market that has a very dark color, and at a profiteer's price. If anyone is puzzled as to how such operations can flourish in defiance of the law, the only possible answer is that these capitalistic, profit-minded middlemen are bureaucrat officials, who are strategically situated in key positions, and are able to wax prosperous in this illegal commerce. It would seem that the classless society is a long ways from being reached in a Marxian state.

WRITE ON THE LINE

Theatre speculation, thought by most people to be a capitalistic profiteering device practiced mainly on Broadway in New York City, apparently flourishes just as much in Moscow as it does in this Philistine City. Popular books, such as the one that aroused international attention, called, "Not By Bread Alone,;- and other spicy journalistic endeavors can only be acquired thru the undercover speculator.

The Detroit automobile capitalists, right now, are no doubt enviously contemplating the active commerce in motor cars which is flourishing in various Russian cities. Not on the black market, but on open lots, used cars which were priced new, at 14,000 rubles, are being snapped up second hand at the modest increase of 25,000 rubles.

The Soviet Government could of course put an end to all these nefarious, capitalistic practices, simply by raising the prices on all the commodities in question. Such a move would eliminate the profiteering speculator, but it would also be an admission that Russian bureaucrats cannot, or choose not, to increase real wages, and raise the standard of living for their people. An increase in the production of consumer goods would bring the prices down, but this policy would conflict with the top priority given to heavy industry and armaments.

It is clear then, that the Russians cannot legalize free trade without opening the door to capitalistic enterprise, and the

HISTORY REP

As Mother Goose sat by her humble door
She wondered again, as she had before
Why her native land had never progressed,
And if things as they were, were really best.

By

Mabel L

Her thoughts reverted to Mother Hubbard
With her starving dog and empty cupboard;
And Simple Simon with only a pail
To hold enough water to catch a whale.
But worst of all was the woman she knew
Who had long been forced to live in a shoe.
Her many children kept sobbing at night
Because they were hungry and packed in tight;
All crowded together from heel to toe
With no housing project where they could go.
"If I were King Cole," mused old Mother Goose,
I'd give them some land that's not now in use
But he never does, as a monarch ought,-
Except for his fiddlers, he cares for naught.
So I'll not ask for any concession,
But just depend on my own discretion."

EATS ITSELF

Right then the wise owl, her faithful sentry,

Flew down from a tree, beside the entry.

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A moment the two consulted together,

Then finding there was fav'able weather,

The old lady mounted her trusty Goose,

And flew to the moon for land not in use.

"I know," she kept thinking, "It's chalky, up there,

But my motto is 'You must never despair.'

Soon science can furnish both water and soil,

And thus all the woes of poverty foil."

But alas and alack, when she got to the moon,

She gave up all hope of conferring this boon.

For each of Earth's Nations had staked out a claim,

And put up a flag displaying its name,

With all titles filed by right of discovery

Precluding all chance of any recovery.

As government rockets to outer space

Had penetrated each possible place

And thus for the people of land bereft

NOT A SINGLE SPOT ON THE MOON WAS LEFT.

PEACE STUDY

SEMINAR

EDMUND P. HILLPERN

Some experts in adult education labeled my idea about the PEACE STUDY SEMINAR as "just impossible". Starting a group in adult education with the goal to work towards independent research and finally towards a scientific publication, seemed to my friends "idealistic and utopian". But how dull would life be if you would not try the impossible? And so a few people, most of them friends for many years, met at the Henry George School in March, for the first time, and decided to go on a voyage into the uncharted ocean called "PEACE STUDY". Nobody has travelled in this area before. The road is unknown. But the goal is clear.

What is the goal? In one word - PEACE. We want to make some humble contribution to the great contradiction of our time - all mankind wants peace, but all men prepare for war. There has never been, in the history of the entire human race such a complete agreement as right now, namely that universal peace is necessary, possible, and desirable. But at the same time everywhere preparations for total war are going on, day and night.

In all nations millions of peoples are devoting their time to promote peace. They think in many different terms: humanitarian, religious, economical, ethical, political. These peace workers are acting on the basis of their day by day experience. This is not very effective, as the results are proving.

The PEACE STUDY SEMINAR will try a new approach. There is general agreement that science is the greatest force in our modern life. We know that we could not go on living for a single day without modern science and its innumerable applications. Consequently, is it not obvious that we should turn to science to find the best method to establish World Peace:

But who should do the job? The sociologist, economist, psychologist? Science of today is so highly specialized that one specialist has lost the ability to communicate with the specialist of another discipline.

Each has developed his own language, his own slang to such a degree, that exchange of ideas is often impossible. And so an adult education organization, where mature people meet and discuss, without the blinders of specialization, offers the best opportunity for experimentation with new methods. In addition something else is needed - people with a strong conviction that reforms, changes, are overdue. Therefore, the Henry George School is the ideal basis for our adventure.

Our seminar has seven members. We had four sessions so far. Our discussions were very unusual, vivid, and stimulating. The topics of our discussions were: methods of research; the cause of war; what is the perfect society; a science of peace.

In these four sessions we learned, that we have certain qualities in common. We are all dissatisfied with the world, as it is today, and we are convinced that universal peace is necessary for the survival of our civilization. We all are reformers, but we have a great variety of opinions about the best way to achieve these reforms. Some are radical Georgists, some are socialists, some are mildly middle-of-the-road reformers, one is strongly for a united world federation. All are openminded and willing to listen to different points of view.

TO OUR READERS

The editorial staff of Alumni Pages endeavors to present material in the nature of articles, news items, and georgist viewpoints, that is of particular interest to its readers.

The staff is well aware that, irrespective of its own appraisal of the available material, the various contributions may be received by our readers with varying reactions. Without doubt there are many who may be disposed to concur or dissent, or even to amplify on some of the viewpoints that are presented.

The editorial staff believes it is possible and desirable to promote a sort of readers forum --ornif you will, establish a panel discussion relationship. Therefore the staff herewith coridally urges you, dear readers, to take a collective pen(or typewriter) in hand, and to bombard the editors with comments on what you have read. You may ask questions too, even though 'questions are many , and answers are few.'

Whether you wish to agree or disagree, feel free to write us and express your opinions. We hope, thereby, that we here in Alumni Pages will not merely be writing to you, but will be discussing Georgist viewpoints with you all in the interest of a spirited, liberal, journalistic endeavor.

We hope very soon to have a new column which will be headed ---
"THE READERS ALWAYS WRITE."

COMPLETION EXERCISES

Please accept my thanks for giving me the opportunity of taking a course in Fundamental Economics.

Both Mr. Dunsing and Mrs. Lippus proved to be excellent teachers and they knew their subject well. Their method of teaching was enlightening and educational.

George explains that wealth is the product of Labor. Its distribution should be to Land, Labor and Capital, and its return to each of these factors is Rent, Wages and Interest. To our surprise the course pointed out that money, bonds, stocks and mortgages are not really wealth as the average man would believe, but only a means of exchangeability to satisfy man's desire. Another topic which changed my ideas was Labor can produce without Capital, but, Capital is helpless without Labor. Also that wages come from the production of Labor and not from a capital Fund.

In the course, we discovered we could improve our method of taxation by the community taking most of the land rentals in taxes and eliminating the nuisance taxes. This would greatly simplify our tax structure.

In place of compensating the landowners for the land, George decided on account of the complications that may arise, to allow the owners to keep the property, but tax the earning capacity of land high enough so that the community would be greatly benefited.

George's philosophy should be taught in all the schools throughout the country thereby giving the students a chance to discover the many faults in our present government economic set-up. A proper evaluation of all the facts can then be made by the student.

If the George philosophy was put into practice it would certainly improve the social status of each individual and solve many of our complex problems. The course has been so interesting that we would like to continue on advanced lessons. All of us have gained much by reading and studying this subject and we wish to continue to improve and broaden our education for the betterment of ourselves as good citizens.

SUBJECT WRITTEN BY LOUIS LUSCHER & HERBERT KONIG-

-ADDRESS BY HERBERT KONIG

Tax Laws Baffle Taxmakers

Here is a 212-word sentence found on page 8 of the booklet entitled: "How to Prepare Your Income Tax on Form 1040:"

"The charge with respect to any underpayment of any instalment is mandatory and will be made unless the total amount of all payments of estimated tax made on or before the last date prescribed for the payment of such instalment equals or exceeds whichever of the following is the lesser —

"(A) The amount which would have been required to be paid on or before such date if the estimated tax were whichever of the following is the least —

"(1) The tax shown on your return for the previous year (if your return for such year showed a liability for tax and covered a taxable year of 12 months), or

"(2) A tax computed by using the previous year's income with the current year's rates and exemptions, or

"(3) 70 percent (66 2/3 percent in the case of farmers) or a tax computed by projecting to the end of the year the income received from the beginning of the year up to the beginning of the month of the instalment payment; or

"(B) An amount equal to 90 per

cent of the tax computed, at the rate applicable to the taxable year, on the basis of the actual taxable income for the months in the taxable year ending before the month in which the instalment is required to be paid."

A taxpayer in Utah called the attention of Senator Watkins, to the sentence; and he, in turn, called it to the attention of some of his colleagues in the Senate. They, too, were "stumped," he said.

Senator Watkins is offering a copy of the book entitled: "Simplified English" to the person who will correctly translate the sentence.

What specially interested us in this item was a suggestion made by Senator Watkins. He suggested that a copy of "Simplified English" be sent to the Internal Revenue Commissioner, along with a Bible, "an all-time best seller known for the simplicity and lucidity of its prose."

OUR SUGGESTION:

Collect the Economic Rent and there will be no need for complicated tax laws or taxmakers.

WRITE ON THE LINE--(continued from page # 5.)

profit system. But private enterprise and collectivist operations cannot very well co-exist. If capitalism creeps in, however stealthily, collectivism must go out, however reluctantly. Oil and water do not mix well, nor do freedom and authoritarianism lie down together.

THANK YOU Rose Celi, for helping with the typing of Alumni Bulletin for the last two issues. Ed.
