

Subscription 50¢ a year

Single copies 10¢

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Henry George was half a century ahead of Major Douglas on monetary reform, but he saw that there was something deeper and more fundamental still. He indeed predicted what the old Seddon Liberals found out by bitter experience, and whose lesson was epitomized in the saying of the time, "Cheap money means dear land." In other words, the receivers of the social rent (land value) scooped up all the gain from a lower rate of interest, from "easy money." -- "Tem", in The Commonwealth of New Zealand.

Georgism is not a panacea for all earthly ills, but it is the sole alternative to Socialism, Communism and Fascism, and it will furnish a foundation under civilization that will enable us to build an age of brotherly love. -- Dr. E. W. Culley, Melbourne.

THE SQUARE DEAL

Authorized as second class mail
Post Office Department, Ottawa.

Published bi-monthly by the Henry George Society
Ernest J. Farmer, Editor
48 Pulton Ave., Toronto 6 Ont.

GOOD NEWS FROM BELGIUM

M. Cortvriend of Antwerp, who attended the International Conference of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in England last year for the purpose of gaining information on how to start a Henry George School, has since been working steadily to establish a school in Antwerp. He has aroused considerable interest in the school's educational program within an organization to which he belongs -- GRADUA, a group of chartered accountants.

GRADUA has agreed to sponsor the Henry George School and the courses offered. Especially interested in this educational venture is Mr. Wyns, the secretary of the club; the president, Mr. Faubelets; and Messrs. Brenders, de Munck, Van Looveren and Verbecke.

Mr. Cortvriend intends to teach his first class this fall, using the Dutch translation of Progress and Poverty that was published in 1938. We extend to Mr. Cortvriend and to GRADUA our congratulations and our best wishes for the success of this enterprise. -- Henry George News.

(Our congratulations also to Mr. Oscar Boelens of Montreal, who was perhaps the first to call M. Cortvriend's attention to the Henry George School.)

"THE CONDITION OF LABOUR" REPUBLISHED IN DUTCH

The journal Ons Erfdeel (Our Heritage) organ of the Dutch Union for Justice and Freedom, address, "St. Anna Parochie," is publishing in serial form a new translation of Henry George's The Condition of Labour, the translation being made by Mr. P. Prins. It has an introduction and various notes and explanations and incorporates most useful sub-heads throughout the text. In the 1890's the book was translated by Mr. Jan Stoeffel and published by Van Loog in Amsterdam, who issued a reprint in 1906, but the edition is now unprocureable. We hope in due course to see Mr. Prins's translation out in book form that it may have a wide circulation both in Holland and Flanders, and surely also in South Africa. -- Land and Liberty.

HENRY GEORGE AS NOVELIST

Dorrance & Company have published "Blood and Coal", by Henry George III. (232 pp. \$2.50.)

The author shows himself craftsman enough to write a book of strong interest just as a story. More than that, however, it is a social document which shows that like another Henry George he is "for men", with an intense love for humanity and justice.

BOOM AND NO BUST

"There's a new frontier territory opening up in the world today", writes David Perlman in the April 15 Collier's, "a frontier at the bottom of the ocean." Mr. Perlman's feature article, "Boom on the Bottom of the Sea," tells the exciting story of how the Dutch have made dry land issue forth from the Zuider Zee. For centuries the inhabitants of the Lowlands have been fighting a battle with the sea, fencing off the menacing tides from their country with dikes. The famous legend of Peter plugging the dike with his finger symbolizes the struggle which the Dutch are now finally winning. Already 170,000 acres have been drained and reclaimed and the plan calls for a total of 915,000 acres.

It's all rich farm land and there's a big rush for it -- but instead of honky-tonk boom town stuff it's sober, serious settlement. The reason? "For one thing," says Mr. Perlman, "there's no speculation, no grabbing of land for quick resale at fat profits. ... The Government keeps title to the land, and rents it at a top price of \$28 per acre per year, on 12-year renewable leases."

You might think that somewhere along the line a Georgist had a hand in this reclamation scheme. And you would be right.

In 1929, at the Fourth International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade held in Edinburgh, Engineer D. de Clercq from Holland presented a paper, "The Reclamation of the Zuider Zee: Possibilities of Land Settlement in Holland on Georgist lines." After an interesting history of the project, Mr. de Clercq reported that in 1926 a Government Commission was established to study the management of the reclaimed land. Followers of Henry George and of Professor Franz Oppenheimer submitted proposals of which the present plan incorporates most of the principles with some modifications. -- R. C., in Henry George News, May, 1950.

(The Netherlands have an answer for the unintelligent people who imagine that considerable density of population must cause a high death rate. The Netherlands, with a greater density of population than that of any other European country, except Belgium, has not only the lowest death rate in Europe, but a death rate lower than that of the United States, Canada, Australia or South Africa. Maladministration is a more important cause of high death rates than all other causes together. -- Ed.)

The most important sanitary measure I know of is a tax on land values. -- Surgeon-General William C. Gorgas.

THERE'S LITTLE WRONG WITH HUMAN NATURE

I am repeatedly told that before there can be a change for the better in social conditions there must be a change in human nature; but I am never told how that change should be brought about, or in what way we can improve on the work of the Creator.

We, as humans, are social animals, but we are also individuals with free wills and can choose between right and wrong, good and evil.

In times of peace, when a ship at sea gets into difficulties and sends out an SOS signal, the nearest ships, of whatever nationality, race full steam ahead to the rescue. When three trains crashed into each other near the Orlando Native Township last April and 74 were killed and 92 injured, although nearly all the killed and injured were Natives, about a hundred new donors of blood, with many other old donors, rushed to the Blood Transfusion Station to give of their blood to the injured. Again, in the other big railway smash at Waterval in the Eastern Transvaal last November, when a train with more than 500 Native passengers, most of them on their way home to Portuguese East Africa from the mines on the Rand, got off the rails and seven coaches overturned and fell 70 feet into the bed of the Elands River, one European engine driver and 59 natives were killed and over 100 injured. As soon as they heard of the disaster, Europeans forgot all about the "colour bar" and thought only of our common humanity. They rushed to the scene from all directions, many coming from as far as 80 and 100 miles away. The smash occurred at 1.30 a. m. and the ladies of Waterval Boven, most of them Afrikaners, worked all night making tea and sandwiches for the injured. An SOS was sent out by wireless for donors of "O" blood only, and about 200 of these in Johannesburg alone left their work in office, shop and workshop, many at financial loss, and rushed to the Blood Transfusion Station to help save the lives of the black-skinned Natives.

The appeal was to Man, the social animal. Now we appeal to Man, the individual, with his free will, to use his own head to right the wrongs of the world. These railway disasters had a cause which has been enquired into. So has every evil a cause, a removable cause, and we can remove these causes when we really want to, all of us. --An editorial in The Free People, Johannesburg.

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The world is the complete economic unit. The Creator in His wisdom did not make it in complete water-tight compartments. That folly was undertaken by protectionists. -- The Standard (Sydney) April 1949.

A LIVELY PARALLEL

Ernest J. Farmer

Johann Sebastian Bach died on July 28th, 1950. Comparatively few of his compositions were in print; many had been performed but once in public. Fifty years later the general musical public considered his works old-fashioned and dull; they esteemed much more highly those of two of his sons, Wilhelm Friedrich and Philip Emmanuel. Academic musicians condemned many of his progressions; an eminent theorist has stated that Bach could never have passed the examination for the degree of Doctor of Music at any British University.

There were always a few, however, who proclaimed his greatness. In particular, during the years 1835-45 the gifted and popular conductor and composer Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy overcame immense obstacles in presenting some of Bach's major works before the public. From decade to decade the number of enthusiasts and the public appreciation grew. Now it is the sons whose works seem old-fashioned -- the great Bach is hailed as the most modern of the moderns. During the last thirty years there have appeared countless new editions and arrangements of his works. During the past season there have been many more public performances than in any previous season; quite young music-lovers announce that they get more "kick" from Bach's works than from those of any other composer.

Henry George died on October 29th, 1897. Unlike Bach, he saw his major works (except the unfinished Science of Political Economy) in print well before his death; his name was known throughout the British Dominions, and farther. Yet he was as definitely ahead of his time as was Bach. The magic of his oratory died with him; the excitement of the mayoralty campaign which hastened his end died away; all too few had actually grasped his principles. Thirty years later -- although millions of people in Canada, Australia and New Zealand were already living healthier and more prosperous lives on account of a partial application of his teachings -- his name seemed to be on the way to oblivion. Most of his works were out of print. Professors of Political Economy dismissed him briefly as being out-of-date, perhaps saying: "Henry George would think differently if he were living today." Occasionally one would devote a lecture, bristling with the crudest fallacies, to "exposing the fallacies of Henry George."

In 1932 Dr. Oscar Geiger founded the Henry George School of Social Science. For Bach's works to win public acceptance, they had to be publicly performed. For George's works to win

acceptance, they had to be studied. Once people were induced to study George's works, they found in them the cure for the most menacing social evils of the time, or of any time. They could see that he is the most modern of modern economists, the one who saw most clearly through the tangle of economic and social relationships.

In the last twenty years, edition after edition of George's has appeared. Condensations and simplifications have been published -- Louis Post, Harry Gunnison Brown, Joseph S. Thompson have made Progress and Poverty come within the scope of many who would never have grasped the teaching of the book in its original form. Dr. Bowen and Mr. Rusby, in "Economics Simplified", have provided the best textbook of elementary economics yet printed, founded upon George's works. While Progress and Poverty is not yet the best-seller it was a few years after its first appearance, there are more people studying it than ever before. George's works are much nearer general acceptance than Bach's were fifty three years after his death. It should not take two hundred years or anything like it for George to be recognized as the master economist, as Bach is recognized as the master musician.

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When the children of Israel were finally reduced to making bricks without straw, Moses arose and led them to the promised land. But modern serfs have ignored the new prophet, Henry George, and the way of escape to which he pointed. -- The Porcupine, (Manchester), Nov.- Dec. 1948.

There is not a boggled sentence in the 570 pages of Progress and Poverty. Even in the difficult passages of redefining economic terms, there is no confusion, and for the first time plain men with no great advantages of education understood the meaning of the factors in production and such terms as rent, property and wealth. -- Francis Neilson

The Georgian plan is simply to set men free, in a way and to a degree we have not known.

Free men and women are the best kind of men and women.

The more people are free the more they can do for themselves.

The more they can do for themselves the less the State has to do for them.

The less the State has to do the cheaper it can be run; it will need less taxes.

The Georgian plan is to remove taxes from labour and put them on land value. The simplest tax to collect, impossible to evade. -- W. E. Standring, in The Standard (Sydney).

PARAGRAPHS ON TAXATION

Citizen's Research Institute of Canada in an open letter on July 4 makes it plain that in any case Canadians now pay \$259 annually for each man, woman and child of the 13 million population. If any adult thinks that the matter does not concern him, he should at least note that in 1938 total of income taxes paid by individuals was \$62 million and in 1948, \$762.8 million; corporate taxation in the same period rose from \$97.8 million to \$623 million. Liquor and tobacco revenues went up from \$82.3 million in 1938 to \$422.1 million, and gasoline taxes from \$66.1 million to \$173.8 million. Amusement taxes climbed from \$2.1 million to \$33.3 million. General sales taxes tax was \$128.8 million in 1938 and \$440.2 million in 1948. Import duties gave \$94.4 million in 1938 and \$223.3 million in 1948. Real property taxes rose from \$250.5 million to \$363.2 million. Total taxation and revenues in short went up from \$893.8 million in 1938 to \$3.4 billion in 1948. -- Toronto Globe and Mail.

TAXES ON LAND IN TORONTO DECREASED FROM \$16.99 million in 1938 to \$11.133 million in 1949. And the landlord class are resorting to all kinds of unscrupulous tricks to get them further reduced.

Our tax empiricism is a spoliative regime of bleeding whi the most vigorous nation in the world could not resist. Fiscal slavery, developed with a butchery ever more voracious by the union, by the states and by the municipalities, does as much towards the atrophy of our national organism as did Negro slavery, except that it is more obstinate and more stupid. The fury of protectionism, the taxing of exports, and the chronic unconstitutionality of interstate taxes, are three systematized suicides to which Brazil delivers itself impenitently but consoled, like the maniacs of alcohol, opium or cocaine.

Good then in the movement that is developing among us for the adoption of the land-value tax. In it will lie salvation. It will be the calmest and most beneficent of all revolutions. -- Rui Barbosa. Translation by C. Matthew Ossias.

Driven frantic with record crops, the best for years, but such is the shocking state of affairs that the more I produce the more I am embarrassed and like King Midas my latent wealth is sending me bankrupt. If I sit down and loaf I am a hero and kept by a paternal Government, but as soon as I get out of the gutter I am set upon by a mob of legal savages and taxation highwaymen. -- S. Lowenthal, in The Standard (Sydney) May, 1949.

A GREAT MAN PASSES

Few men have ever displayed greater mental and nervous endurance, combined with a single-minded devotion to the upbuilding of a country and the welfare of its citizens, than did the Right Honourable Mackenzie King, for over twenty years Premier of Canada, who died on July 22nd. Of cautious, far-seeing temperament, averse to dictatorial measures, clearly realizing that in practical matters he could advance no faster than his party would support him, he was often accused of indecision and even spinelessness; but now it is seen that while he was content to move slowly if necessary, he kept moving in the right direction. His total achievement was great and enduring.

Strongly influenced at an early age by Henry George's writings, he devoted a great part of his energies to promoting freer trade between Canada and other nations. His work has not only been of great material benefit, but the logic with which he supported his position has evidently had a far-reaching effect in developing general understanding of the need of freer trade.

ANOTHER OF THE OLD GUARD GONE

One of the few remaining of "the Old Guard", those who were convinced Georgists during Henry George's lifetime, George L. Rusby died on May 23rd, at the age of eighty-three.

For well over half a century Mr. Rusby was active in making Georgist theories known. He was a charter member of the Schalkenbach Foundation, and founder of the Henry George School of Social Science and the Economics Education Institute, both of New Jersey. He was the author of a 64-page pamphlet, "Smaller Profits, Reduced Salaries and Lower Wages," in which the main Georgist principles are presented in lucid, readable and practical fashion. This pamphlet, after having a considerable circulation, was incorporated in "Economics Simplified," of which he was co-author with his brilliant wife, Dr. Elizabeth Bowen. Only a month before his death he completed his note for the re-editing of a third edition, shortly to be published, of that book.

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The problem of civilization is the elimination of the parasite. The idle man is of no more use than the dead man, but takes up more room. The man who lives upon the labor of others is a menace to society. Freedom, like happiness, is a condition of mind. When men get the crook out of their backs and the bend out of their knees, they will be free. A simple, strong, honest people are free. -- Elbert Hubbard.

SCHALKENBACH REPUBLISHES "THE SHOVELGRATS"

Many who some years ago read in serial form that delicious and meaningful satire, "The Shovelgrats", by Craig Ralston, will welcome its publication by the Schalkenbach Foundation as a small, well-bound book (50 pp., 50¢).

The story deals with a certain Dry Lake City, which depends upon the payroll of a company which is excavating a great irrigation canal and lakebed. The company will employ only laborers who possess shovels, which are therefore of vital importance. One Martin induces the City Council to forbid the importation or manufacture of any more shovels, at the same time buying up a considerable part of those on hand. Thus it comes about that shovels rent for \$1 and more per day, and the price rises to fantastic heights. According to standard protectionist theory, the city is greatly enriched. The way the situation develops is highly amusing.

MORE OR LESS SERIOUS VERSE

Little bits of paper
Sealed with ruthless hands
Give to haughty idlers
Might by owning lands
Make the foolish people
Sweat, produce and do
All the useful labor,
Making rich the few. -- Jos. A. Labadie, quoted
in the Farmer-Labor News, Modesto, Mar. 26, 1948.

Little beds of iron ore
Little lakes of oil
Make a mighty hunger
For the heathens' soil. -- Anon.

The bees and ants about their business go --
Vague, as it seems; effective, as we know.
Each bee, alone, from Rose to Lily flies,
A wretched piece of private enterprise. -- A. P.
Herbert, in London Punch.

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In 1767 the English Parliament imposed a tax on watches. Then people stopped buying watches. So Parliament passed an Act compelling inns to install clocks so that people could find the time of day. -- The Standard.

SALES TAX SHOULD BE ENTIRELY ABOLISHED

The vicious effects of the sales tax are, like the inventory of a general auction sale, too numerous to mention, but here are a few of the worst of them. Local bodies pay taxes on the purchase of machinery, buses and materials, and as most of the capital works are financed by loan moneys, it means that the ratepayers have to pay both sales taxes of 20 per cent and interest on 20 per cent more loan money to that extent. They pay twice over, and all this is a burden upon progress and the provision of essential facilities. Moreover, farmers employing outside labour on extensive improvements must meet the travelling expenses of such labour, which are increased by the sales tax on buses and other vehicles. This, in turn, is a tax on primary production, the base of the Dominion's economy!

The sales tax, in keeping with its general iniquity, masquerades under a false title, for it ought to be known as the Purchase Tax, since it is the buyer, and not the seller, who is the ultimate payer. Further, the variations in its incidence are like something out of Alice in Wonderland. Aluminium sheets used for some purposes carry sales tax, for others not, and one firm that had some sheets flat and corrugated them for roofing had then to apply for a refund of the sales tax!

Hated in ancient Rome, the sales tax is obnoxious now. -- Liberal Leader (Matamata, N. Z.) January 1950.

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At a Manchester inquest on May 20, on the deaths of a married couple who had come to England before the war to escape Hitler's Germany and who were found gassed in a room on their dressmaking premises, the Coroner read two letters signed by the dead couple.

The first, addressed to the police, said: "Herewith we certify that, with full agreement we commit suicide and that the balance of our mind was not distracted.

"The only reason for doing so is that Stafford Cripps has ruined our business and our life through his stubborn attitude not to make any changes in the purchase tax. We hope that, through our death other traders will be saved."-- Progress, March 1950.

Whereas the imposition of the sales tax directly reduces the buying power of the workers and their families it should be abolished immediately -- Resolution of the Dominion Convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, 1933.

THE MARCH OF BUREAUCRACY

Mr. T. E. B. Young, production member of the (Coal) Board, drew some conclusions from a visit to America to study the mining industry there. He emphasized that there was no prospect of raising our output standard to the average of the American mines or anything approaching it, because the scales were too heavily loaded against us by adverse natural conditions. But there was much we could do.

The real problem in Britain was to find means of raising substantially the proportion of productive to non-productive labour. In many of our mines -- equipped with the most modern machinery, suitable for our conditions and our method of working -- the output per man-shift worked at the face compared not unfavorably with American performance. But whereas only about 25 per cent of those employed in British mines actually produced coal, the comparable figure in the United States was about 70 per cent. Our problem is to narrow that gap. -- The Times (London) Dec. 23, 1947.

During the war, Government arranged for a campaign on two fronts. Manpower arranged a Land Army of city girls to work on farms and also brought country girls to work in factories and so had to build hostels for them. -- Progress (Melbourne) July 1949.

Our national economy is so wound up in special privilege and hobbled with red tape of government that we, the people, cannot finance and build adequate homes for the people. -- Robert Berryman, in The Interpreter, Sept. 15, 1949.

In Peebles a former research worker planned to go into the hotel business by reconverting an old mansion which he bought for £5,000.

At the last moment he was asked to pay a development charge of £4,000. The only substantial alteration would have been the installation of wash-hand basins in each room. The hotel remains closed.

"The whole position is fantastic," an official of the Scottish Office told me. "We have not had the full blast of it yet. The stoppage of land development will, in turn, slow down employment. -- Sunday Chronicle reporter, May 15, 1949.

The number of people employed in the civil service in the Union of South Africa, excluding the railways, has almost doubled since 1939. In July 1939 the total was 57,000 and we now have nearly 105,000, so that the wage bill to be met this year is nearly £40,000,000. These civil servants produce no wealth but have to be kept by those who do. -- The Free People.

SAID ABOUT TARIFFS

The fundamental difference between Free Trade and Protection is that the first is morally right and the second is morally wrong. The one is the embodiment of good, while the other is the embodiment of evil. -- H. G. Brett at the Henry George Memorial Dinner, Sept. 2, 1947.

There is a bottomless market in America for English pottery and Irish linens. We are wild to buy them, and when we find we can't buy them because some silly old men have passed some silly tariffs, which at the same time cause wars, we are ready to tear these walls down with our fingernails. -- Letter written by a woman in Washington to the President of the American Chamber of Commerce, read by him at a London luncheon. -- The Evening News.

"For a hundred years Britain followed a fiscal policy of free trade and British agriculture was at the mercy of competition from the cheap labour countries of the world. -- The New Era, Feb. 2, 1948.

There are two glaring errors in these few words. 1. British agriculture was at the mercy of British landlords and a rotten rating system. 2. The food to feed Britain came mainly from U. S. A., Canada, and Australia -- high wage countries. -- The Standard (Sydney) March 1948.

According to the French Government: "The barriers which now exist in the way of a freer exchange of goods and capital and a freer movement of persons between the various European countries constitute one of the most important obstacles to the economic recovery of these countries. -- The Standard.

As we entered Canada on our recent vacation, Canadian customs men made certain we brought nothing with us to sell or give away. Sighed our seat-mate sadly: "Ain't it funny? They didn't care what you take away, but when you want to bring good things into the country they won't let you!" -- and we bet he never read Protection or Free Trade. -- Henry George News.

The world is the complete economic unit. The Creator in His wisdom did not make it in complete water-tight compartments. That folly was undertaken by protectionists. -- The Standard, April 1949.

During the period after 1930 we had the highest tariffs in our history, and we experienced the highest unemployment of capital and labor, and our longest period of depression. -- Oswald Garrison Villard, in Free Trade -- Free World.