

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

MAR 1958



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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(Edited by a panel of Tutors)

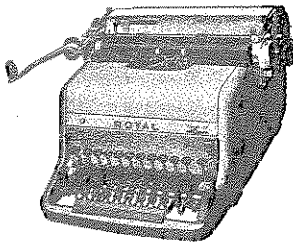
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Editorial



The purpose of the School Magazine is to provide articles, news and comments dealing with political, social and economic matters as an extension of the study classes of the School; to expound the first principles of economic science and social justice and show their validity, relevance and significance when related to current economic problems; to sustain interest among ex-students and to inspire participation in the School's work.

During the course of a comment on the Brighton conspiracy case, the Manchester Guardian drew attention to many absurd laws which the police have to maintain in the course of their duties. The writer said:

"While all police corruption should be condemned, it is society which is to blame if it expects normal men to apply ridiculous laws. The laws on betting and drinking are so incongruous in modern society that vigorous prosecution of the law would irreparably damage the reputation of the police. It is not an easy task to keep the right balance between paying token respect to obsolete laws and maintaining the sense of proportion the public expects from its policemen."

This is, of course, true, and such absurd laws should be repealed without delay. Henry George said in his *Protection or Free Trade* that to make that a crime by statute which is no crime in morals is inevitably to destroy respect for law. Fundamental truths always have a way of showing themselves.

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Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, made a speech in Washington on 1st March which received much publicity. What he said was not new, but the way he said it had a certain freshness. His language was uncannily like that of Henry George in the last Century. The Bishop said: "Never before in the history of the world

was there so much wealth, never before in the history of the world was there so much poverty; never before was there so much education, never before so little coming to the knowledge of the truth; never before so much power, never before was that power so prepared to be used for the destruction of human life.

"Our moral duty to aid the underprivileged arises from the fact that we have superfluities and the superfluities of the rich are the necessities of the poor.

"A second reason for our moral duty to aid others is because the earth and the fulness thereof were made by God for all the peoples of the earth, and not for the privileged advantage of few.

"The diversity of peoples and races is like to a minor degree the diversity of cells and organs within the human body. Such inter-dependence exists between them that the suffering of one is the suffering of all and the prosperity of one is the prosperity of all."

Henry George, addressing an audience in California, said:

"This is the dark side of our boasted progress, the Nemesis that seems to follow with untiring tread. Where wealth most abounds, there poverty is deepest; where luxury is most profuse, the gauntest want jostles it. In cities which are the storehouses of nations, starvation annually claims its victims. Where the costliest churches rear the tallest spires towards heaven, there is needed a standing army of policemen; as we build new schools, we build new prisons....

"And you will see the remedies. Not in wild dreams of red destruction nor weak projects for putting men in leading-strings to a brainless abstraction called the state, but in simple measures sanctioned by justice..... You will see that the true law of social life is the law of love, the law of liberty, the law of each for all and all for each; that the golden rule of morals is also the golden rule of the science of wealth; that the highest expressions of religious truth include the widest generalisations of political economy." And George went on to give the practical remedy!

* * * * *

In Progress and Poverty Henry George traced the growth of land values with the growth of material progress. He showed how improvements in the arts of production, increased population, the march of invention, resulted in increased prices asked for land. He is still up to date.

In The Times, 4th March, we see an endorsement of his argument. Commenting on the missile testing base at Cape Canaveral, 260 miles north of Miami, The Times special correspondent wrote:-

"As the base grew, so did the population of Cocoa Beach grow by some thousands, and thousands more work here and commute to Orlando or other neighbouring towns. Florida fortunes made in real estate speculation are part of the state's history, and there were many

far-sighted enough to buy, for a few dollars an acre, land that can now be sold for hundreds of dollars a foot of frontage. A plot of 80 acres was bought for \$4,000 in 1954, sold for \$18,000 a month later, for \$56,000 six months after that and is now on sale again for \$60,000. There seems no reason to doubt that it will find a buyer." (1500% increase in four years!)

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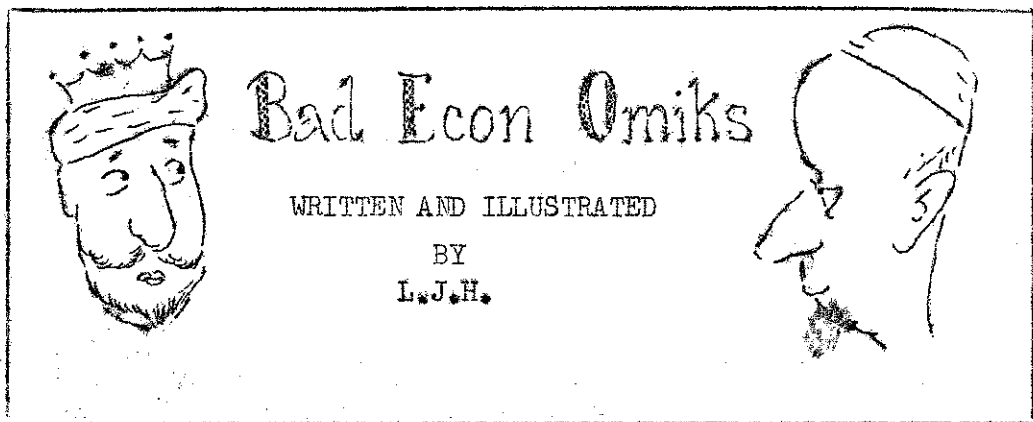
Henry George in Protection or Free Trade wrote: "The ability of any industry to establish and sustain itself in a free field is a measure of its public utility. Even promising industries are more apt to be demoralised and stunted than to be aided in healthy growth by encouragement that gives to them what they do not earn,.. The increased power which the removal of restrictions upon trade would give in the production of wealth would be felt in all directions. Rings would be broken up, and where profits are now excessive they would come down; but production would go on under healthier conditions and with greater energy."

In the Manchester Guardian, 27th February, the writer says that this year there is special evidence that a change has come over British Industrial Management. They are beginning to accept European Free Trade as a fact; after exhaustive study they still have no desire to alter from their first "cautious support" of the plan. The article says, "on the contrary the support has broadened and there is much more confidence that German and other continental competition can be met without tariff protection..." Manufacturers are talking of the coming arrangement with Europe as a challenge "that will force them to pull up their socks and look to their efficiency. Some of the changes which a loss of protection would enforce are probably being made already.... a great many bold and enterprising spirits have found their way into British industrial managements. It would not be wise to under-rate them."

* * * * *

MODERN ECONOMIC THEORY! A report in the New York Times, January 2nd said that the 80 year old President Ibanez of Chile intends to wipe out inflation before giving up office, although such a policy was not at all popular. The cost of living in Chile had, through inflation, moved up 84% in 1955, 38% in 1956 and 17% in 1957. Acknowledging possibilities of increased unemployment he said large sums would be spent in public works.

It seems generally acknowledged now that monetary inflation is the answer to unemployment, and of course conversely that a cessation of inflation as a policy causes unemployment. This is like saying that to stop wearing corn plasters would cause corns to appear.



The King of a far-off land, after subjecting his greatest enemy by force of arms was puzzled how best to keep the enemy prostrate without the expense of armed occupation.

Now there came to his court a learned greybeard, named Econ Omiks, who had long desired to try out a certain pet Theory, one which he had never dared to expound in his own country for fear that his head would be forfeit. But now the vanquished enemy provided a guinea-pig for experimental purposes so wheedling his way into the King's presence he unfolded his plan.

"The first essential," he said, "is to declare all their land private property."

"What?" exclaimed the King "Have them buying and selling land? But that's fantastic!"

"It will be a scientific experiment," argued the greybeard. So, in the interests of Science, the King encouraged him to continue.

"We must pass a law - that everyone now in possession of land is to keep it as his own private property. We will organize "land rushes" for the millions of acres remaining unused."

"But what will be the outcome?" queried the King.

"For one thing, once the rent of the land ceases to flow to the government's treasury, they will be forced to raise revenue in other ways, by taxes on buildings and manufactures, on profits and capital and trade, on incomes and purchases, etc. They will begin to issue licences for this, that and the other, and further confuse and debauch the system by a multitude of concessions and allowances until the ordinary citizen is bound hand and foot in red tape - and paying through the nose for the privilege. As living standards deteriorate the workers will clamour for more wages. The government will be helpless at first, but will quickly learn to pacify these hecklers by printing notes by the million. This will debase the currency so that the workers will be really no better off. Their

clamouring for more and more paper will therefore continue ad infinitum. The economists will have to coin a word for it. That word will be - Inflation."

"Inflation!" said the King "I don't understand it."



".. BOUND HAND AND FOOT.."

on all goods entering their island." "But won't that be hard on our trade?" said the King.

"A little. But it will hurt them far more than us. The trade unions will blame the employers and the employers will blame the workers. The government will, of course, blame Inflation and step up the printing output. It will be like a madhouse! New crimes will be created, such as poaching and smuggling, for which there will be ferocious penalties.

The Welfare State
will be born as
the State of
Welfare dies.

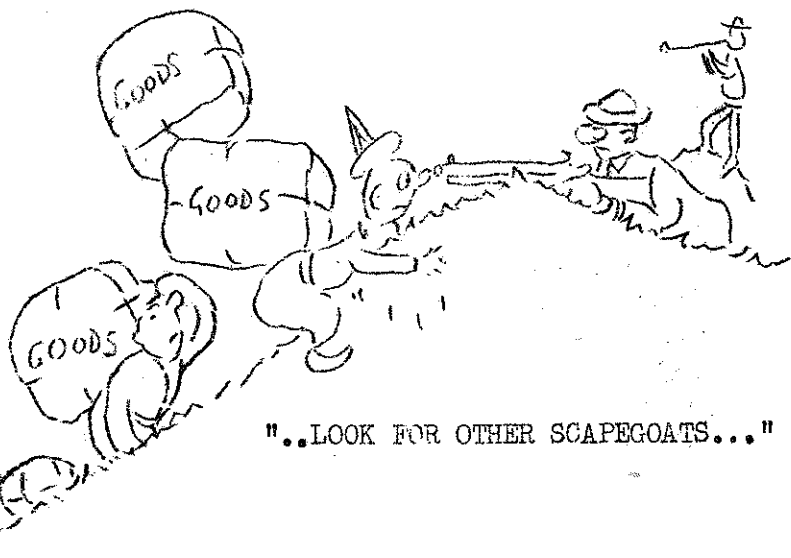
"And remember,
Sire, the found-
ation of the whole
devilish pantomime
will be the private
ownership of land
and the private
appropriation of
economic rent.
Without this it
would be impossible.
With it, the

"Neither will they, Sire" answered the professor, who was by now in a frenzy of excitement. "For it is just a word. Yet it will become a household word. The government will blame everything on Inflation! They will print millions of extra notes to help pay for vast anti-inflation campaigns. This, too, will go on ad infinitum, in a vicious spiral, in fact, until it will become more profitable to own a paper-mill than a gold-mine. Old-age pensioners, whose allowances will be tied to this paper "money", which is in no way related to real wealth, will be especially hard hit."

"A scurvy trick," murmured the King.

"What else?"

"When the people realize the government's failure to ease their want and poverty, they will look for other scape-goats. They will blame foreigners for the harm they suffer and will demand import duties



"..LOOK FOR OTHER SCAPEGOATS..."

people will have the newly-established landed classes against them, who will become overnight the most powerful champions of injustice, for their power and wealth will depend entirely upon keeping the status quo. It will teach the enemy a lesson he will never forget."

"This is indeed like some powerful new weapon," said the King, "that if used inter-nationally might prove to be the destruction of civilized man. But you forget something else.



"...SOME POWERFUL NEW WEAPON..."

Under such a system, few as they are, the landowning classes would become greedy for more and more power, which means more and more land. They would eventually arouse the people to make war on us again, hoping to overthrow this kingdom and take our lands, too."

"No," said the King, wisely. "I see your Theory is essentially one of destructions, nothing more. The destruction of wealth and enterprise, beauty and honour. Explosives have their peacetime uses; atomic power can be a boon as well as a curse; bombers can become passenger planes, and swords beaten back into ploughshares; But this weapon of yours has no peaceful uses whatsoever. I would not wish such a thing on my worst enemy!"

So the graybeard was dismissed, gnashing his teeth (for to tell the truth he'd been hoping to cash in on his Theory and appropriate large estates for himself). And in due course, under the King's wise and benevolent administration, the two countries learned to live in peace and brotherhood by trading peacefully and freely with each other to the lasting prosperity of all the inhabitants.

Bastiat and Algeria



Translated and condensed by
Dean Russell, from *Oeuvres Choiesies de*
Frederic Bastiat, Volume 2, pp.379-383.
(Paris: Guillaumin, 1863).

Go to the Assembly and listen to the debates on Algeria. You will hear the orators declaiming many fine things about the power and glory of France, about the brilliant future of our gigantic colony in Africa, and about the advantages of sending our surplus population abroad. These magnificent orations always conclude somewhat as follows: "We must vote the necessary 50 millions to construct ports and roads in Algeria, to build houses and to encourage agriculture, and to send emigrants from France to Algeria. These measures will aid the French workingman, encourage native African labour, and stimulate the commerce of Marseilles. It would be profitable in every way."

And, of course, that is true - if you look only at where the money goes and not where it comes from; if you look only at the improvements caused by the spending of tax money, and ignore the improvements that could not be made by the taxpayers because their money was taken from them.

True enough, one can see the new house that is built in Algeria with tax money. One can also see the new harbour in Barbary, and the increased commercial activity in Marseilles. And the number of French workers going to jobs in Algeria can actually be counted. But there is another side to the picture that is not seen.

The 50 millions gathered by the State cannot be spent by the Taxpayers. Thus an accurate accounting demands that the benefits claimed by the State should be balanced by the harm done to the citizens. The taxpayers would have used their money to repair their fences, fertilize their fields, buy needed tools, improve their homes, improve their diets, purchase more clothing, educate their children better, contribute more to charity, and so on. Those are the things that cannot be seen because the tax money sent to Algeria prevented their coming into existence.

True enough, there are more jobs in Africa because of the spending of the 50 millions. But what is not seen is that the absence of

the 50 millions from France caused at least an equal loss of work for the local gardeners, carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, and others. In addition to this decrease in domestic labour the taxpayers were also deprived of the pleasure that would have accrued to them from spending their own money as they wished. When we look at Algeria and the things that can easily be seen, we should also remember these things that cannot be seen.

Much is expected from the future prosperity of Algeria. Let us hope for the best. But when it is pointed out to me that each colonist sent to Algeria means an improvement in the conditions of the workers left in France, I must ask how that can possibly be true. The Minister of War informs us that it costs the State 8,000 francs for each person transported to Algeria. Now it is certain that these poor individuals could live very well in France on a capital of 4,000 francs. How is it an improvement to the French people to deprive them of the services of one man and the means of subsistence for two men?

Generally speaking, it is not a good idea to use tax funds to establish enterprises. Here is why: Justice always suffers in some degree. The taxpayer who has laboured to earn his hundred sous is at least disappointed that the tax collector takes them from him to give to another. The State must offer good reasons for this. But actually, the State gives a poor excuse when it says, "With these hundred sous, we shall employ workmen." The taxpayer can truthfully reply, "With the hundred sous, I would employ them myself." This claimed encouragement of labour is a delusion. Whatever the State does in this direction by public spending, the private spending of the money would also have done. Therefore, the interest of "labour" is not a valid issue in the case.

Now it is an entirely different matter when the State says to the taxpayer, "We take your hundred sous to pay the policeman who saves

you the trouble of providing for your own personal safety; to pave the streets that you use every day; to pay the judge who helps to protect your property and your liberty; to maintain the soldier who protects our frontiers." My guess is that the taxpayer will pay for all that without hesitation.

IMPORTANT MEETING

- a talk on -

"Valuation of Land and Buildings"

(with special reference to valuation for rating)

WEDNESDAY, 9th APRIL - 7 pm

Speaker: R.E. Lake, A.R.V.A.

sale and purchase; compulsory requisition; mortgage; capital valuations; annual valuations; valuations for rating; valuation for rent.

But it is another thing entirely when the State says to him, "We take these hundred sous so that we may give you a bonus if you cultivate your fields well; or to teach your son something that you have no wish that he should

learn; or to build a cottage in Algeria - in which case, we must tax you another hundred sous every year to support the worker who lives in it, and another hundred to maintain the soldier to protect the worker, and another hundred to pay the general to watch the soldier," and so on. In this case, I think I hear the poor taxpayer exclaiming, "This government seems to be a system of legalized robbery!"

Since these governmental expenditures merely change labour without increasing it, another serious objection can be raised against them: When workers are arbitrarily shifted about, the natural distribution of population in the nation is disturbed. If the 50 millions are left in possession of the taxpayers, labour would be encouraged throughout all the hamlets and towns of France. Since the taxpayers are everywhere, they spend their money among all kind of workers and industries. But when the State collects the 50 millions and spends it in one place, it attracts to that place much labour. This increases the number of homeless workers. It creates a floating population that is cut of place. I also suspect that this displaced population may become dangerous when the fund is used up.

This feverish activity in Algeria attracts the attention of all. The resulting construction and new jobs can be seen by anyone who looks. The people applaud the beauty and simplicity of the government's plan, and expect more and more. But they fail to realize that there is a reverse side to the picture, a side that is not good, a side that they do not see.

* * * * *

In publishing the above article, The Freeman, November 1957, comments on its relevance to a news despatch of 8th August 1957 from Algeria. The despatch says:

"The French Government is preparing a series of loan programmes to encourage the people of France to invest or settle in Algeria.

"The goal is not only to bring more Frenchmen to Algeria but also to create new jobs for unemployed Moslems and raise the living standards of the Moslem population.

"Loans ranging from \$8,700 to \$10,500 are being offered to young soldiers willing to remain in Algeria after their tour of duty... The ex-soldier is not required to provide any capital himself, but can borrow as much as 100 percent of the funds needed to start a modest venture (at an) interest rate of 1½% on loans for farm lands and equipment, 2% on industrial loans and 3½% for commercial enterprises."

Dangers of Controversy

(FROM MAMAS)

"The big corporations offer good pay, security, and good prospects for advancement. But what is more - and this is not clearly understood - they offer a way of life. In return for the relatively good pay, job security and job opportunity which the big corporations afford, the employee is expected to give not only his talents and devotion, but also his conformity.

"A typical training pamphlet of the General Electric Corporation, which came to my attention recently, advised all professional employees, as part of their basic code of conduct, to avoid taking an interest in 'controversial' questions.

"And there is some evidence that many college students who aspire to work for these corporations are taking this advice in advance. Some members of some faculties in some colleges and universities have suggested this attitude as the correct one for those who want to 'get on' in the great bureaucracies which have grown up in the corporate world.

"In these new bureaucracies, there have developed the same faults and failings which usually characterise collectivist bureaucracies - the modelling of thought as well as action on the attitude of the "Boss", the pressure for conformity, the red tape, the centralisation of authority, and the reluctance to go out on a limb or take a chance. The individual is induced to fuse his identity into that of the corporation. He becomes what William H. Whyte has called "The Organisation Man".

"I am worried about this. I am concerned that today 'Big Business' is doing just what it used to accuse the New Deal of doing - it is trying to destroy individualism in favour of regimentation and conformity." - Former Governor H. H. Lehman of New York.

In the "Saturday Review" for November 23rd, Jerome Beatty, Jr., a S.R. staff writer, tells the mournful story of the 'acceptable' cartoon - which is the cartoon which can't possibly offend anybody. Mr. Beatty reports on the stern attitude of the cartoon editors of the big magazines (The New Yorker excepted) toward almost anything but tired cliches of humour: "The Bend Over Backwards policy exercises

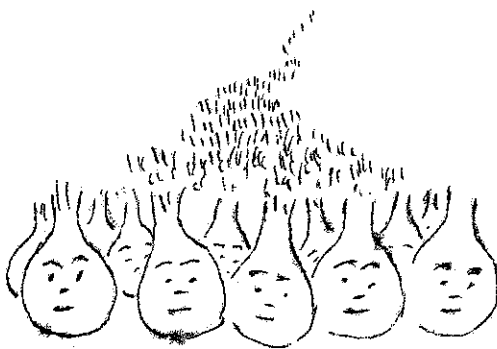
such influence that often the editor can find several reasons for his rejection. Take the case of the cartoon showing the driver approaching the entrance to the highspeed thruway. Just before the turn into the highway (why not hiway?) is a church; a sign outside announces in Gothic lettering, "Last Chance to Pray". This gag was turned down by at least one magazine because it ridiculed (1) automobile manufacturers, (2) religion, (3) turnpike interests. In that order of importance, too ...

"A cartoon in which a father is telling his son: "Of course I believe Washington threw a dollar across the Rappahannock; last year Washington threw 3 billion across the Atlantic", has no chance of appearing any place, despite the fact that it is nothing more than a mild political joke... Another cartoon shows a pathetic gentleman at the optometrist's. He came to be fitted for glasses. He says "I'd like to see things a little less clearly, please". This has been rejected at least twice, not because it isn't funny, but because it is pessimistic!"

Terrible isn't it? But how do you protest? How do you make General Electric feel your disapproval or persuade the "Satevepost" to let down the bars on some of these verboten cartoons? The trouble with the protests which are easy to decide to make - which ought to be made, nevertheless - is that they represent the end of the line, whereas work needs to be done at the beginning, before you get to the 'crisis' stage - preparation for atomic war and such.

The need seems to be to develop a fundamental and intuitive distaste for all things which bear the stamp of the 'mass man'. You need to be sensitive to the revolting aspects of the morning paper, everytime you look at it; you need to hate the sight of a supermarket just because nothing you find there is ever different from what every other supermarket offers; likewise with news-stands, and every point of nexus between mass producer and mass consumer. You need to not want to work for people who will ask you not to 'think controversially', or for any-

one or any bureau that is likely to think a loyalty oath is a good thing. You need to begin to give active support to the groups and individuals and enterprises that, consciously or even unconsciously, represent the preservation of individual thought, individual opinion, individual freedom.



aesthetic, if the virus is not to get past our guard. The challenge of conformity, in the nature of things, is a challenge to individuals.

Resistance to conformity must be non-specific, a state of mind, a matter of mood, both moral and

Contemporary Comments

OVER £10,000 FOR AN ACRE OF GRAZING LAND

Claims for compensation by crofters of South Uist, where the Government proposes to build a guided missile range, include £330,287 and £108,000 for 567 acres and 524 acres respectively of common grazing land. Another claim was for £5,400 for half an acre. The claims were disclosed at a sitting of the Scottish Land Court in Edinburgh yesterday.

The Chairman, Lord Gibson, granted requests from the landlords from South Uist and North Uist that the crofters must produce documents and vouchers showing the profits earned by them in the past three years as well as income tax receipts and other records.

Mr. R.S. Sutherland, representing the South Uist crofters, objected to the production of the documents, which, he submitted, might be of no assistance in the proper determination of the claims. He said that his clients were virtually losing possession of their land.

- Manchester Guardian, 18 Feb. 1958.

NOT CATASTROPHIC FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

The Prime Minister has been conspiring against the British housewife, according to a report in the Manchester Guardian, 18 February. The New Zealand Government has lodged with the Board of Trade in London an application to have 'anti-dumping' or other duties imposed on butter entering Britain from 'non-traditional' suppliers.

Says the Guardian: "The application, announced by the N.Z. Minister of Agriculture follows advice given a month ago by the British Prime Minister while he was in New Zealand. He said New Zealand could probably make out a good case for anti-dumping laws which would enable the U.K. Government to deal with the question. The N.Z. Minister said that the influx of foreign butter into Britain was one of the main causes of New Zealand's serious balance of payments situation. There had been a catastrophic fall in butter & cheese prices in the last six to nine months.

He gave Finland, Sweden, Ireland and Argentina as examples of countries which had considerably increased their butter exports to Britain last year. They had sent only comparatively small shipments before 1957, but now had stepped up supplies to the extent where the traditional suppliers had been forced to accept lower and lower prices, with no means of competing.

HOW TO LIVE WITHOUT WORKING

More than 20,000 farmers in the U.S.A. have already applied for compensation

in return for letting all their land stand idle for at least five years. The claims are under a new Government scheme for reducing farm surpluses. All the farmers will have to do is to keep the land in good order, and the Government will pay 80 percent of the cost. For many it will mean an end to the worry of lean years and perhaps a chance to retire.

Many of those who stand to benefit most are marginal farmers who cultivate 200 or 300 acres of difficult land. Some already have a second job and others are expected to seek town work if their applications succeed.

It is possible that if one of these is laid off from his second job because of the recession he will find himself doing practically no work and receiving one Government cheque regularly for not farming his land and another for unemployment compensation.

- Daily Telegraph, 3 Feb. 1958.

HE KNOWS HIS LAW OF RENT

Since the post-war boom in the tourist industry, at least half a dozen new hotels have spring up in Nassau, Bahamas (which is considerable for an island less than twenty miles in length and seven in width).

Recent events, however, have discouraged colony promoters. Building operations in many cases have been abandoned or postponed. Many investors would be glad to pull out.

But one man is going ahead. Mr. E.P. Taylor of Toronto bought a vast acreage in Lyford Cay, 15 miles south west of Nassau. Strikes and bad weather have deterred his neighbour (Mr. Lindsay Hopkins (Coco-Cola King of Georgia) from going on with development of Coral Harbour, the neighbouring project. But Taylor will not abandon his plans. He will invest 7,000,000 dollars in Lyford Cay. Already swamp-land has been transformed into building lots. By next season several homes will be ready for occupation.

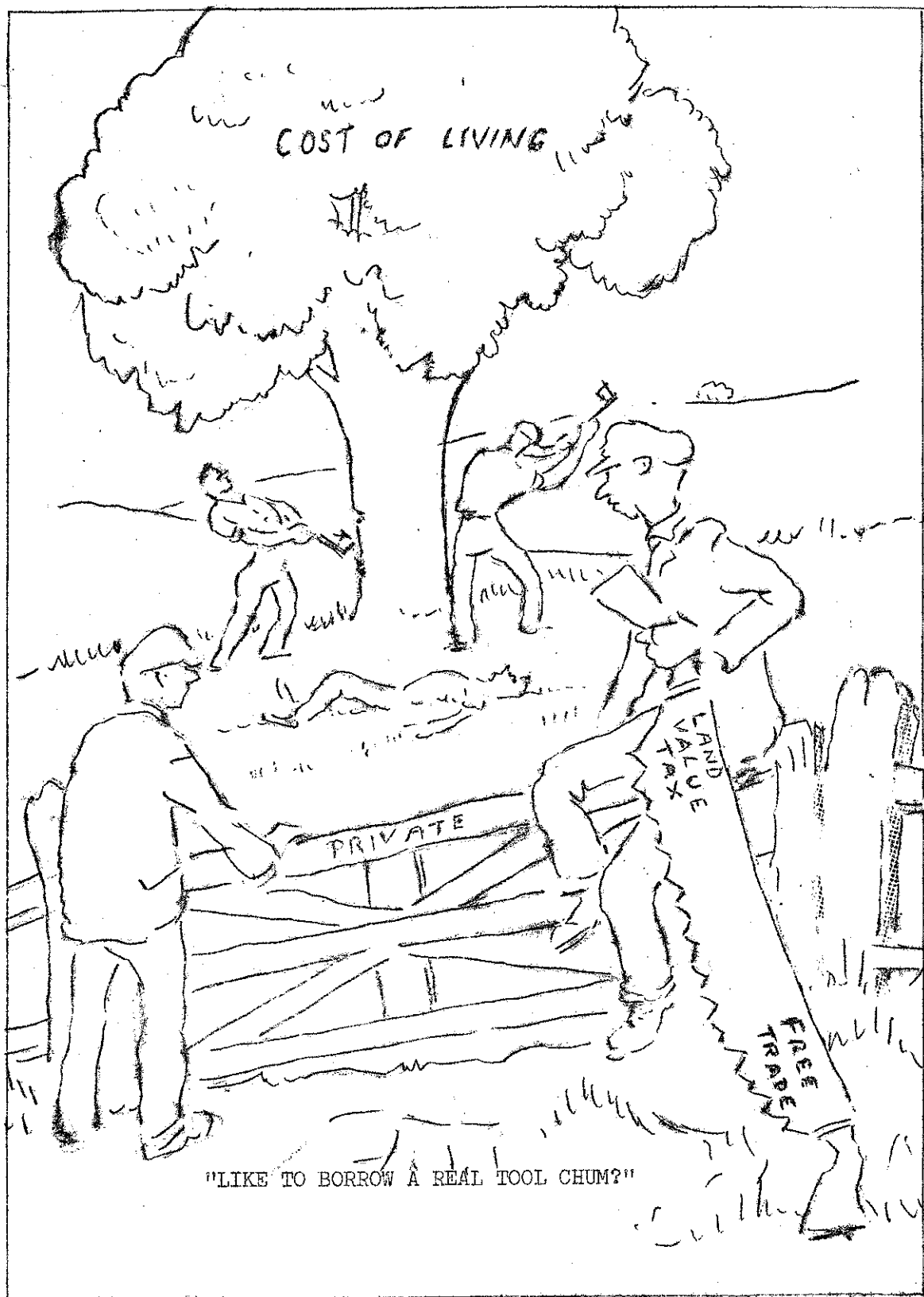
- Evening Standard, 6 Feb. 1958.

THE DIRTY WORD!

Some people have become preservation mad. Hence the lamentable condition of some of our architecture today. The fright we have taken at the idea of high buildings has ended in a dreadful compromise. Why can't we turn our architects loose? I have myself little faith in control of design. I think we should draw a protective ring round a few special places: elsewhere we should let the architects experiment, subject of course to the total amount of building to be allowed in relation to the site. Of course we shall get some horrors, but we shall also get some excellent building and nothing like so much mediocrity. If we don't have a bit less planning, planning may become a dirty word. What happens is we are all in favour of less planning until we find something we personally dislike. Then we all demand more planning and the result is the glutinous mass we see rising around us today.

- Extract from a speech by Lord Mancroft 17th Feb.

Excellent sentiments, but why confine them to architecture: we can think of many aspects of social and economic life that could do with an injection of this philosophy.



"LIKE TO BORROW A REAL TOOL CHUM?"

The Reason!

"A tax," said the professor, "is a shiftable device. Of anything and everything you buy, it's in the price; The man who pays the Government for taxes, don't you see, Just adds them to the price of what he sells to you and me. Consumers then the burdens bear of all our revenue; 'Tis this important fact, of course, that brings it home to you."

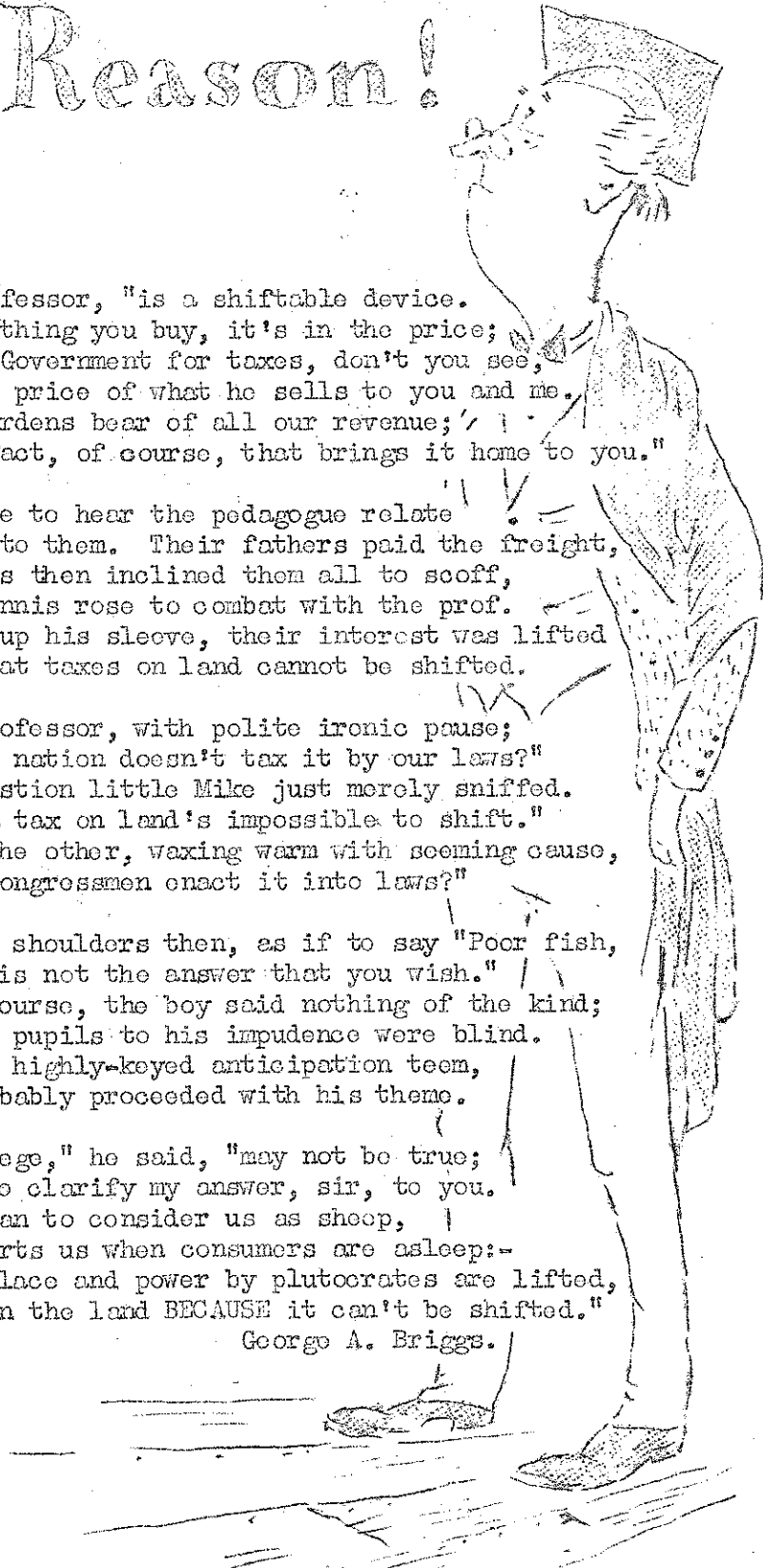
The pupils didn't care to hear the pedagogue relate These economic facts to them. Their fathers paid the freight, Both revenue and taxes then inclined them all to scoff, Till little Mike McGinnis rose to combat with the prof. Suspecting something up his sleeve, their interest was lifted When Mike remarked that taxes on land cannot be shifted.

"Indeed," said the professor, with polite ironic pause; "Then tell me why our nation doesn't tax it by our laws?" At this sarcastic question little Mike just merely sniffed. "I said," he said, "a tax on land's impossible to shift." "I heard you," said the other, waxing warm with seeming cause, "But why do not our Congressmen enact it into laws?"

McGinnis shrugged his shoulders then, as if to say "Poor fish, Apparently the truth is not the answer that you wish." In actual words, of course, the boy said nothing of the kind; But neither prof. nor pupils to his impudence were blind. Thus did the air with highly-keyed anticipation teem, As Mike most imperturbably proceeded with his theme.

"The theory of Privilege," he said, "may not be true; It's needed thought to clarify my answer, sir, to you. It leads the politician to consider us as sheep, And here is how it hurts us when consumers are asleep:- When Congressmen to place and power by plutocrats are lifted, They place no tax upon the land BECAUSE it can't be shifted."

George A. Briggs.



Notes

&

News

WESTMINSTER LECTURE: A meeting of exceptional interest will be held at Gt. Smith Street, S.W.1. at 7 p.m. on WEDNESDAY 12th MARCH 1958. Mr. Trevor Donaldson will speak on: "Individual Freedom - and What it Means". His talk will cover individual freedom as it applies, 'politically' 'economically' 'socially' and to 'religion'. By profession he is an auctioneer and surveyor and it will be interesting to get his views on individualism as it applies to economics. He has prepared a report on "The Prospects of Real Estate Investment in Canada" (!). In recent years he has sold many estates for the Church Commissioners in England. We anticipate a lively meeting. Questions and discussion.

DON'T TAX ME: Under the heading "Tax cut plea" it was reported (News Chronicle 14th February 1958) that the Federation of British Industries recommended "cuts in income, petrol and profits tax", to the Chancellor, Mr. Heathcoat Amory. But no recommendation as to how the cuts in revenue are to be made good is reported.

In a nearby column of the same issue, under heading "eight more cinemas killed by tax" it is stated that the Associated British circuit is to close eight more cinemas because of entertainments tax, thus bringing the number shut since 1953 to 633.

Tax date trees and they get cut down, tax windows and they get bricked up, tax cinemas and there are fewer cinemas, but tax land values and more land becomes available because it ceases to pay to hold land unused or under-used.

For want of a just and practicable alternative, different sectors of the community are reduced to a game of beggar-my-neighbour, as illustrated above. V.G.S.

IF THERE IS AN 'X' IN THIS BOX, THEN YOUR

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