

In The Springtime

New babies need new homes  
to live,  
More space with sun and  
air;  
Like blossoms they need  
room to grow  
To make the world more  
fair.  
To fill these needs, try  
NATURE'S PLAN  
As spring the heart  
uplifts,  
Give access to both LAND  
and TRADE;  
To profit by her gifts.

**MAR**

**APR**

**1955**

Peace

Trade

Justice

Progress

Plenty

12004

# *sage*

## SAGES PAGES

Is it not in this power of "thinking things out," of "seeing the way through,"--the power of tracing casual relations--that we find the essence of what we call reason? Here is the true Promethean Spark---Here is the germ of Civilization. H.G.

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# BYLINE--U.K.

By Dale Broaden

(Dale Broaden, a SAGE member who took the basic courses by correspondence, is now attending the UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY)

## ANSWERING A QUESTION & ASKING ONE

I would leave the immediate surroundings of the college world for a moment to comment upon a question recently asked by a very close friend of mine, Mr. Ed. Wimmer, President of the Forward America Publishing-Guild and Vice-President of the National Federation of Independent Businesses. The question appeared in one of his recent columns carried in the Cincinnati Enquirer and other papers throughout the country.

Before going further, however, I must make it clear, that Mr. Wimmer has a duty to perform. He is paid by the Federation and because of this his vision is limited to the importance of the American small businessman, and does not take in the more important picture of international economics. He believes firmly in that for which he fights, his success, if it comes, will not be attended by monetary gain, yet his efforts are ceaseless and his "VIP" contacts many. It would be quite possible for us, as Georgists, to agree with most of his program, but the thorn in the side of his picture of prosperity is to be found at the borders of the United States. He supports and affirms the need for a protective tariff.

To quote the last sentences of the column previously mentioned, "Will low tariff advocates take heed? Do they really believe what we have asked in other columns --that 160,000,000 Americans can save the rest of the world by going broke?"

The answer is obvious! "Of course we don't believe 160,000,000 Americans must go broke to save the rest of the world." What we believe is that those Americans can, in cooperation with other peoples of the globe by sacrificing a few luxury benefits, aid in a strengthening of the rest of the world economically. This would allow not only American small businesses to exist but small businesses throughout the world.

There is more involved than mere Americanism. Certainly we should be concerned about our vital interests, but more important are the interests of all men whatever their nationality. Can Mr. Wimmer seriously and in good conscience oppose the betterment of the mass of mankind at the trivial expense of the minority. We shall not "go broke" as he seems to believe, but shall only slow down in our heartless dash to destruction and

thus gain time to look more accurately to the future. Better such were the case than it could be said of us, "They were more interested in immediate gain than in eventual but permanent prosperity.

In a vain but well meant attempt to convince us of his correctness he cites the decline of oil production, the probable destruction of the bicycle industry, the falling of the Meter Bar Industry as examples of what FREE TRADE will do to the nation.

Having answered Mr. Wimmer's question, we wish now to ask him a question. "Do you really hold that it would be an economic disaster for the world if a few American industries were forced to slow up their frenzied production in order that those Italians who now live in caves could have homes, that those persons now on the verge of accepting communism could gain new faith in Freedom and Democracy, and that those interested only in personal profit would once and for all be crashed?"

One last word to those who support the protective tariff -- you will learn a better lesson by counting the souls you drive to Marx than the pennies you bring to Sam.

# GEORGISTS & QUAKERS

## GET BETTER ACQUAINTED

The seventy or more Georgists and Quakers who were present in the Henry George School on the afternoon of January 23rd, had an unusual opportunity for analysing and comparing their beliefs and programs for social betterment. The subject, "What We Have In Common," was presented by a panel of speakers representing each side with Mr Lancaster Greene, a trustee of the Henry George School as well as a clerk of the Society of Friends, a happy choice for moderator, as he could speak with conviction for the ideas and ideals of both organizations.

Dr. Edmund Hillpern, of the American Friends Service Committee began the afternoon's discussion by referring to his earlier visit to the school at a meeting of Sage when he discovered enough similarities in the aims and principles of his association and those held by Georgists to warrant such a symposium as was then taking place.

As the first speaker for the Georgists Mr. Edwin Friedman, an attorney and faculty member of the school began by emphasizing the fact that unanimity existed between the groups first in their desire to help overcome poverty, although by different approaches, second by their adoption of the Socratic method of spreading ideas, inasmuch as they believed viewpoints should be "caught" rather than "taught", and third by their endeavors to establish peace on earth.

Picking up the argument from there, in his introduction of the next speaker, Mr Robert Gilmore, Secretary of New York Society of Friends, Mr. Greene declared his conviction that all present agreed on the desirability of attaining association in equality and invited Mr Gilmore to show how "The Friends" attempted to reach this goal. Pursuing this thought, Mr Gilmore enlarged on the many ways in which a great truth might be sensed and that all methods for enlightenment must be non-coercive. The appeal, he said must be to the man's conscience, as in the times of slavery. Today, he continued, we are faced with different problems. With much higher standards in America than other parts of the world, he pointed out that we have been criticised as becoming a "nation of wealthy suburbanites surrounded more and more by slums."

To continue the case for the Georgists, Mr George Royal, dean of the school was then introduced. He explained his agreement with the concept that truth is many sided but asserted that concepts based on natural law are fixed and final. Only through a willingness to learn the natural laws governing man in his daily life, in the economic sphere, as well as in other fields of endeavor, can just legislative acts be formulated. Education does not consist in merely knowing something but in examining it and relating it to life. Man-made laws must be brought into accord with unchanging natural laws, he re-iterated, before social and political reforms could be made effective.

At the conclusion of the speeches a stimulating question period followed that was not halted even for the serving of refreshments which were deftly passed by Sage members among the guests as they remained seated around the tables in the coffee shop until a late hour.

**TO THE EDITOR:**

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**M.L.Rees**

Many thanks for "Sage's Pages". The articles are most interesting and of wide variety. The International Pages are very hopeful and gives one the idea of real brotherhood starting at the "grass roots".

Elizabeth Stirlith-Wilmington

# A FIRST PRINCIPLE

## FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

(From a speech delivered by Mrs. Kitty Ross, of Arden, Delaware, at the celebration of Henry George Day, at the Field Theatre in Arden--August 1954.)

This message comes from the hearts and minds of those who are filled with the light of a great TRUTH---a truth entirely consonant with the tenet enunciated in varied philosophies, including the Christian doctrine, that we should not do unto others that which we do not wish others to perpetrate upon us.

### GEORGE and Mc GLYNN

About sixty-five years ago Henry George addressed a large gathering in New York City. It was sponsored by Anti-Poverty Society established by the Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn. Father McGlynn was a beloved and loyal priest who had become so imbued with the Georgist philosophy that he regarded it as an integral part of Christian teaching. Under this influence his large congregation followed him in support of the Anti-Poverty Society. During his talk George made the statement that when this movement inaugurated by him would partake of the fervor of a great religion it would then gain momentum. But George did not believe that such fervor should partake of a blind faith, for he knew very well that faith alone had never yet been, or ever would be, able to remove the barriers built up throughout the long, long years of a dead past---barriers that to this day prevent true and enlightened progress for the majority of the people. George knew that for faith to prevail it must be established upon a base that can be kept inviolate.

### MOSES AND GEORGE

Henry George, like his predecessor Moses, recognized the great need for a true first principle---that of the essentially equitable use of the land upon the earth---the land being the source of existence. Moses understood this need, for even in his day he saw the evil results of the lack of it. And so, through edict and command, he tried to put it into effect. But because of his dependence upon "command" he did not discern, as George long later did, either the need for, or even the existence, of the natural-social law, that must collaborate with this true principle and become a necessary part of it, if it is to remain permanently effective.

## NATURAL SOCIAL LAW OF RENT

I am referring to what the more enlightened economists designate as the natural-social-economic law of Rent. This natural-social law has been for ages diverted from its just use. To briefly explain how that has come to be, I will only say that through calculated and forceful design, aided by ever-more deeply established custom and tradition, resulting from the unsocial usage of this social law, and abetted by legal subterfuge, it has been made to serve the aggressive and the astute, as well as the crafty and the grasping; and all this has been at the expense of the weak and the meek. This natural social economic law of rent is ever operative, wherever members of society make a demand for the use of land, where varying values accrue to varied sites. These values represent the pressure of population against subsistence, belong by right to society and not to private individuals, who, as such, do absolutely nothing to produce them.

It is true there are many individuals, and groups of individuals who, through studied ways and means and all sorts of projects, do constantly seek the enhancement of value accruing to certain areas and sites of land. The expectation of future unearned gain is an ever-present lure as these values rise, sometimes enormously, in proximity to projects such as new railroads, highways, subways, bridges, harbors, all sorts of industrial centres, extending to agricultural and residential areas, installations for the exploitation of the rich natural resources..

But it is the needs and demands of society for these particular areas and sites of land that hang the price tag upon them. For these values also represent the advantages exclusive possession now extracts from some areas or sites of land over others of lesser advantage, to any or all of which advantages every member of society has an equal claim. This claim is justified by the natural born inheritance of every child in his right to the use and possession-not ownership of land, so long as he sojourns on the earth. This is limited by the same right for all others--those who here now, and those to come.

It should be borne in mind that land having no advantages to the degree that no one wants it, has no value; although land having no immediate value may in the future as civilizations advance and the press of population increases, become exceedingly valuable. There all sorts of factors developed under this pressure that add to the desirability of land and so commensurate value.

KITTY ROSS

# INTERNATIONAL PAGES

Norman S. Casserley

What do you do with your copies of Sage's Pages?

Readers in the U.S.A. can help to spread our cause as far afield as possible by mailing their copy to a friend abroad when they themselves have finished reading it. (postage to all countries 2¢), and by passing on a similar request to keep the copy circulating indefinitely. Although economies have been made in production costs, current issues are now going to more than 25 countries. As a result, increased interest has been aroused, and the editors are now receiving more requests for spare copies than Sage can afford to print.

An example of how much your copy would be appreciated abroad may be seen from a request just received from a publisher in an experimental model village in India who has offered to print 1,000 copies at a cost indicative of his interest in the ideas expressed in the magazine rather than any desire to make a great profit.

To remail copies, however, remember to completely cover up with a newly addressed label your own name and address on the last page together with as many old postal marks as possible, leaving "Return Postage Guaranteed" clearly visible. This advice has been given to us from the Postoffice.

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To readers abroad who have taken at least the basic Henry George course in Fundamental Economics, we extend the invitation to become members of Sage (the Society for the Advancement of the George Economy), Inc. The only obligation that we ask for is that you send us \$2 or its equivalent per year to cover cost of producing and mailing this magazine and other free literature, (as much as you can use.). Your membership can help to unite us all in one of the greatest causes of all time and your financial subscription is what makes the realization of such a cause possible.

Encouraging news has just arrived that in a part of the world where officialdom is not too tolerant of social education, our friends have succeeded in keeping active their beliefs and social studies in their various towns and cities. No doubt, many of us in freer countries wish we were there with these pioneers to help in their difficulties.



To readers abroad who have not taken a basic course in the philosophy of Henry George, we would like to say that we provide free correspondence courses ( and personal classes in many countries) in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy together with many other subjects. If you wish to avail yourself of this offer, print your name and address on a post card and mail it to us. If you are not in a position to take a course, please pass this offer on to a friend, with the request, to keep it circulating indefinitely.

Articles of interest on any phase of Social Science or Social Justice would be particularly appreciated from people abroad, especially on local social or economic conditions in faraway countries.

Remember when you are reading these pages you are sharing thought with people as widely apart as South Africa, Japan, the Netherlands, Formosa, New Zealand, Spain, India, Iraq, Ireland, Isreal, Jamoa, and even Moscow--although we cannot permanently guarantee the latter!!

To the new study circle just starting in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, we say Good Luck in your intellectual endeavors. We know you will enjoy this scientific approach to social problems and we hope we will all soon be closer friends.

From Germany comes news that things are under way again with our friends there. In the days before the War, the League of German Land Reformers was said to have 100,000 members. Although its leader, Adolf Damaschke, may not have been a pure Georgist, this organization has been referred to as one of the few large groups that survived right through the Hitler regime free from Nazi influence, to provide us with some positive remnants on which to build our social economic hopes for Germany today.



YOUR COPY OF SAGE'S PAGES IN  
D E M A N D

Dr. Edmund P. Hillpern, 10 East 78th Street, New York 21, New York, consulting psychologist and lecturer, has offered to purchase 25 copies of the January - February edition of SAGE'S PAGES. However, the entire issue has already been consumed by people from more than 20 countries, immediately after publication.

So, if 25 readers would relabel their January - February copy with Dr. Hillpern's name and address, covering all postage marks (the Post Office has asked us to do the latter when re-forwarding), and put a new 2¢ postage stamp on it, Dr. Hillpern's request can still be fulfilled. Please help in this cooperative effort.

## WHAT IS SAGE DOING ?

LARRY KOBAK

S.A.G.E. is the Society for the Advancement of the George Economy. What is S.A.G.E. doing to advance the George Economy?

Well, to start with, about a month in advance of the beginning of each term Sagers distribute invitations asking people to enroll in the basic course. This is an extremely effective way of getting enrollees for the Henry George School as statistics will testify. About twenty percent of all enrollments come as a direct result of S.A.G.E. distribution. Distribution is really an interesting and rewarding experience. Don't be left out of S.A.G.E.'s Passing Out Parties next term.

Another important function of S.A.G.E. is that it gives Georgists an opportunity to meet and talk with other Georgists. It reminds them that they are not alone in the fight for justice. It encourages them to renewed effort. It gives them a chance to raise their voices, in chorus, against the evils of private property in land. To win we must organize. We must make our opinions known.

Surely all Sagers have at one time or another seen ridiculous and unfounded statements in the press such as quoting the Malthusian Theory as if it was an indisputable fact. Amazed at such ignorance they set pen to paper and wrote to the editor pointing out obvious truths. Does this lonely letter do any good? Perhaps it does but the chances against its having any effect are around a thousand to one.

Would not an organized effort to enlighten the press have an infinitely greater effect than a solitary letter now and then? Would not ten letters have at least ten times greater a chance of getting a busy editor to read Progress and Poverty than would one?

Irving Faust, an active Sager, is starting a campaign to enlighten the press; and convert clergymen, teachers and other influential people to Georgism. The campaign will be conducted mainly through the mail. What better way is there of advancing the George Economy? Sagers should take an interest in work of this kind. If you are interested in participating in this work don't hesitate to drop a line to: Irving Faust, c/o S.A.G.E., 50 East 69th St., New York 21, N.Y.



(Larry Kobak is one of our active new Sage members. At present he is busy distributing Spring Term Announcements for Fundamental Economics--Progress and Poverty.)

# IT WAS THE CAT

Before the marble fire place in her palace sat Cinderella with her three quests whom she had invited to talk over a situation of great gravity. It seemed as if the era of fabulous fortunes without work was coming to an end. There was Jack, the famous Beanstalk-Climber, whose prize hen was ill and now refused to lay anymore golden eggs; Aladdin, whose magic lamp failed to reveal any more hidden treasure; King Midas, who had discovered that his golden touch could be more of a curse than a blessing and had been compelled to relinquish it, and Cinderella herself whose state coffers were nearly empty.

"Plead as I may," she cried, "neither my fairy god-mother, nor any of my other relatives have appeared to help me. As far as I can see we are all facing ruin."

It was just at this moment that there was a loud scratching at the door and before anyone could speak in bounded none other than the wonderful Pass-In\*Boots himself, in all his fine array.

"Good evening, friends," he cried, sweeping off his plummed cap and advancing, without further ceremony to the center of the circle. "I heard of this meeting and I believe you need the advice I have come to give."

"If you've come to tell us to go to work," retorted Aladdin, "We won't do it. There must be some way we can remain rich without so deaming ourselves."

"There is indeed," replied puss. "It is the same formula by which I made my master so well off he is now, willing to share it with other distinguished personages like yourselves. Once applied it goes on automatically increasing prosperity for the few, while the many have no choice but to cooperate although it makes them poorer to do so."

"Tell us at once, please," urged Jack, "I used my last golden egg this morning."

"All you need to do," Puss assured them, "is to acquire LAND-- no matter how, and then collect the RENT. Use this income for yourselves, not for the people whose need of Land on which to live and work, creates its value. Get the Land by royal decree, a few baubles, or pretend to find some flaw in the present owner's title. There are no better golden eggs to be had, Jack, than a few investments in LAND!

"I'll call out the army and ride through my kingdom tomorrow," exclaimed King Midas. "Of course all the land belongs to me any way but I never realized, as times goes by how its worth constantly increases. I'll raise rents everywhere."

"That's the big point," exclaimed Puss, "and if any of you have any difficulty, just read the record of force and fraud in the Biography of the Marquis of Carabas, my royal master, and of the way I made the disinherited millers son many times a millionaire."

"These remarks brought forth a cheer from all present, and next Cinderella ordered a toast in pure cream, to be drunk to Puss. Later, as that sly animal emerged from the castle, he couldn't help thinking that when the people in all countries came to realize how they had been cheated out of their birthright, they might recall that old truism for the reason things go wrong and exclaim, "IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE CAT!!

□□□□

M.L. REES

**TENTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE    SAN FRANCISCO**  
**AND**  
**S. A. G. E.**

A seven-page circular of notes has been issued in connection with the Tenth Annual Conference of the Henry George School of Social Science, held in San Francisco in 1954. Some of these notes may be of particular interest to Georgists in general and to SAGERS in particular.

On the theme "After Graduation -- What?", Noah Alper, group chairman and St. Louis director, made a blackboard tabulation of graduate activities in the various extensions. It is interesting to note the high position of SAGE and periodical publications in the report's listing, which is as follows:

- Advanced classes and discussion groups
- Alumni associations (SAGE, etc.)
- Periodical bulletins
- Social gatherings
- Lecture and film programs
- Speakers' bureaus
- Women's clubs
- Volunteer work for the school
- Letter writing and other special projects.

Under the heading "What further programs are needed?", discussion brought out a list of desired general aims of School-sponsored alumni programs. The report heads the list with this aim: "To maintain the morale of the graduates". The SAGE directors are following this principle as one of SAGE's specific policies.

Other ideas put forward for additional programs for graduates include: "Find out what are the felt wants of graduates and try to supply them", "Offer programs that will help graduates link the philosophy to the world around them and in this way keep alive their interest". Along the same lines, Capt. Jesse B. Gay, of San Diego, suggested that graduates be kept up to date on "economics in the news". This suggestion is being put into effect in SAGE's 1955 program by publication in SAGE of articles on current social economic news items from time to time.

In reply to a question as to what the School policy ought to be on alumni organizations, Mr. Clancy, director of the New York school, stated that once graduates have formed a group "they should not be discouraged, but should be helped and guided toward a sound program".

## ♦ S. A. G. E. ♦

*Society for the Advancement of the George Economy, Inc.*

takes this opportunity to welcome seventeen new members who have joined the organization during the months of January and February 1955.

### WELCOME

Francis L. Anderson

Samuel P. Newton

Lester Gitter

Virginia J. Sweet

Anne McCandish

A. Ricciardi

Gladys Stewart

E.L. Walker

Mitchell Bevan

Kay Vindemore

S.W. Prentis

Rose C. Haertel

Wm. B. Frankel

Dr. Chas. Simpson

Mr and Mrs Walter Sarff

O.E. Alcivar

## THE ECONOCLAST

by James Murphy

Many professors and students of Economics have confused Money Interest with Economic Interest. This is understandable when the medium of Exchange, Money is confounded with Capital, as it can be in its present form. Masquerading as Capital, Money can only be separated from it by a mental exercise. However, Money need not be included under Capital when we understand the true function and character of money.

The greatest single quality which gives money the appearance of being Capital is its value. While exchangeability, acceptance and perhaps legality are necessary to a currency, value is not. Capital, to be such must have value however, otherwise it is not wealth. Since money can be exchanged for all kinds of wealth, it has been considered as Capital or wealth in the course of exchange. Or, money is a generally accepted valuable thing which is given up to acquire some other valuable thing. Thus arises the idea of looking upon money as the measure of worth and income, but this can only continue as long as we have a credit currency.

How Capital deservedly receives an income most people can see, but common opinion tends to put making money by lending money on a par, rightly or wrongly with theft. Maybe they sense that money is

a sort of wolf in sheep's clothing brand of Capital. Not without considerable historical justification too, because the monetary history of the world is replete with its wild inflation, repudiation and outright spoilation, not only on the part of rouges and charlatans, but by the so-called pillars of society and captains of industry. The wildcat banking era of Jackson's term is passed over rather lightly in the history books, but it was anything but light on the lives and savings of the people of the time.

Economic progress lies in the direction of making things easier to obtain, i.e. to decrease the amount of exertion needed to produce an article. This then results in a reduction in value until all desires for this product are filled. Progress is great as prices or values are low, and slow as prices or values of goods are high. Anything which tends to hold up prices, such as taxes, land speculation, low interest return on productive capital, tariff barriers, monopolies, and inflation of the currency are obstacles to progress. What ever would tend to depress prices (except of labor) such as inventions, low taxes or none, elimination of trade barriers, high production rates brought on by high interest rates, easy access to natural resources and sites

and a stable money system to encourage debtor and creditor alike would act to accelerate progress, surely to undreamed of heights.

Money is the common denominator in all of the above props to values. Taxes are collected on the amount of money profit or wages made, while barter and nonprofit exchanges are usually exempt. Only the hope of being able to sell his land for more money spurs the landowner to hold his sites out of use. Productive capital's only hope for high production and interest rates if not already dampened by high taxes on money profits on one hand and the high cost of sites and raw materials on the other can be completely hamstrung by lack of money or credit. The evils of inflation are too notorious to need repetition here, yet there are economists who claim that "controlled inflation" is good for an economy. We could as well prescribe liberal

doses of "controlled robbery or "managed confidence games". That inflation is robbery is clear, as is taxes, the private collection of rent and the forcible prevention of trade or employment. None of these evils can be eradicated piecemeal, the attack on them has to be concerted and intelligent.

When viewed in the light of a debit currency the mode of attack on all fronts against the four horsemen of poverty: taxes, money, landlordism, and protectionism is simplified into one single all-out offensive. If their common denominator is credit money (valuable currency) anything which would undermine the foundations of valuable money will collapse the superstructure, no matter how vast or strong it may be. The weapon that can be used successfully in this operation is Venom or the debit medium of exchange. How this can be brought about will be the theme of forthcoming articles.

## **SAGE PRESIDENT TO VISIT FOREIGN GEORGISTS**

With the cooperation of the International Headquarters of the Henry George School of Social Science, it may be possible for the President of SAGE, Norman S. Casserley, to visit personally many Georgists in faraway countries this coming Summer. If you live outside the North American continent and would like to avail yourself of this personal contact, watch this publication and the Henry George News for further details.... or write direct to Norman Casserley at the Henry George School, 50 East 69th

Street, New York 21, New York, U.S.A.

You may have some questions, comments or suggestions about this publication, about SAGE, or Georgism itself. Or your original Georgist enthusiasm may have weakened because of loss of personal contact with Headquarters. Here is your opportunity to catch up on these situations, and to become a stronger link in the chain of world Georgism....a lifetime chance that may not come your way for a long time.