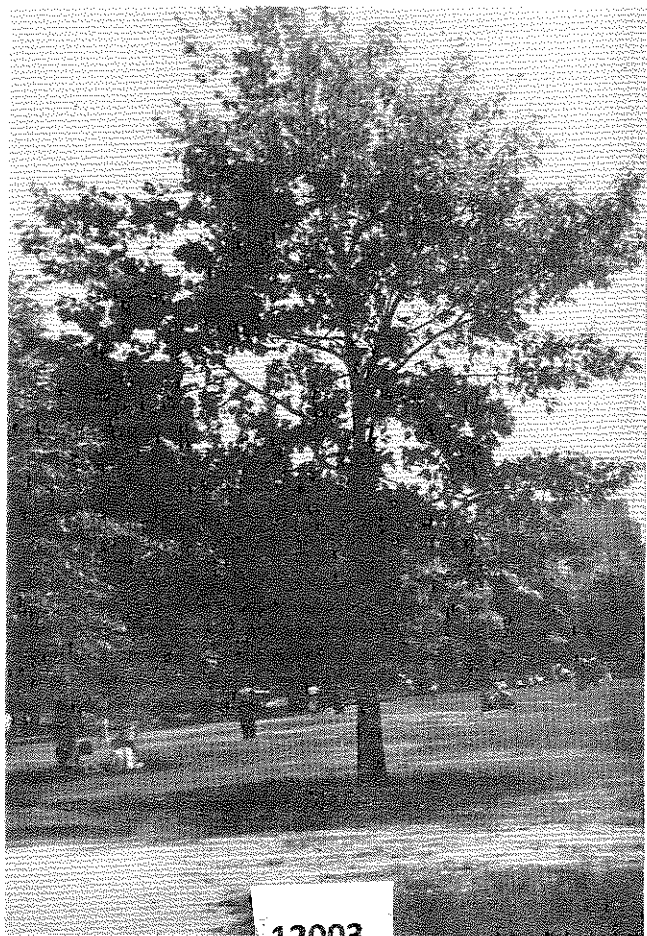


Alumni Bulletin

May 1957 June



12003

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Dear Reader:

I was glad to receive a letter from one of our good friends, Dave Lecker, who followed the advice I gave in the March-April Alumni Bulletin about writing letters to editors, etc. Dave saw an ad opposing free trade and the importation of "cheap foreign goods". He sat down then and there and wrote to the company placing the ad. His letter is reproduced elsewhere in this issue.

I would like to congratulate Dave Lecker and all the others who do this sort of promotion of our ideas. And I would like to reiterate my suggestion:- Whenever you see something in the press that strikes you as calling for a Georgist elucidation, why not sit down right then and there and write a letter to the editor (or any other party concerned)? It's something every one can do.

Just to illustrate:- Last year when we had our Annual Conference, a lady wrote us and remarked that it was a shame that no ladies' names appeared on the program. When you see the program for this year's Conference, you will see an adequate number of ladies' names on it. One letter to us made us resolve not to let that slight to the ladies happen again.

So --- who knows what influence your letter to an editor or other personage might have?

Sincerely,

Robert Clancy

P. S. You are coming to our Annual Conference this year, aren't you?

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JULY 6 - FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1957

AT WAGNER COLLEGE, STATEN ISLAND, AND IN NEW YORK CITY

37 West 88th St.
New York, N. Y.

22 May 1957

Mr. Rinaldo A. Lukens
President
Continental Mills, Inc.
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Mr. Lukens:

This is in reply to your ad headlined, "No Reciprocity in Ruin", which appeared in Women's Wear Daily, Wednesday May 22, 1957.

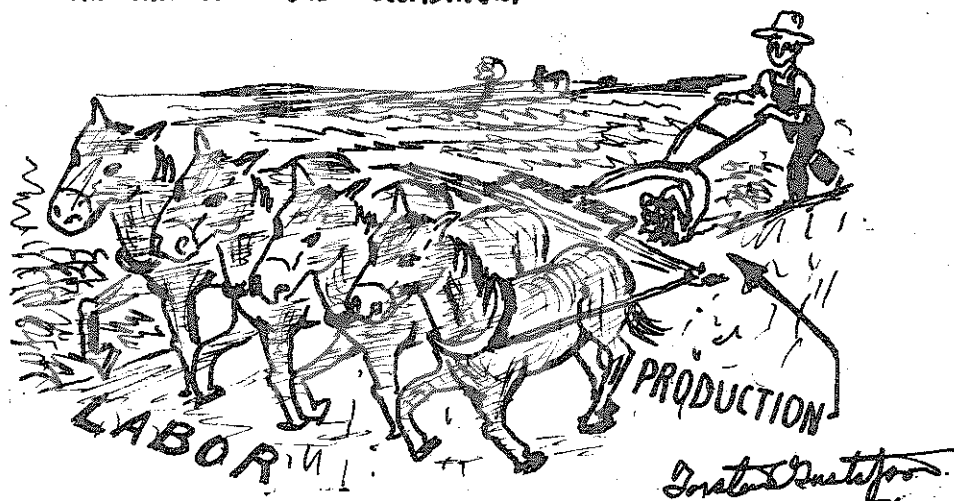
I want to tell you how delighted I am with your message, especially to learn that imports of woven cloth have increased 735% in the past decade. That certainly is a remarkable achievement for the low wage paying countries. And a blessing for Americans as well. It means that now U.S. labor and capital can devote their efforts to the production of other goods and services which these underdeveloped countries are incapable of doing; it means that standards of living for U.S. consumers - and consumers abroad - will increase. It means too, that although vested interests will suffer, the great mass of humanity will benefit.

I suppose that is what you yourself refer to in your statement, "the displacement of American manufacturers by imports ... is a serious blow to the national economy". But, really now, I doubt whether this is as catastrophic as you say. Just take a look around in any department store. I am sure you will find a sufficient stock of woolen coats, suits, blankets, socks, etc. Regardless of the manufacturers identifying label, I seriously doubt whether the national economy will suffer from a shortage of merchandise. And you know, come to think of it, that's what really counts. Not your profit and loss statement, not your balance sheet, not your dividend payment to stockholders, but merchandise available to consumers at a price we can afford to pay, in designs and patterns that we consumers prefer, in stores where we consumers like to spend our money.

This is not to say that we have singled out Continental Mills for prospective bankruptcy. No, not at all. It's just that we want you to play the game according to the rules of economics. Make a whopping big profit in 1957, 1958 and so on, but not at the expense of consumers; not at the expense of taxpayers who must subsidize you through tariffs for your inability to compete successfully with foreign manufacturers.

(Continued on page 8.)

PRODUCTION RUNS SMOOTHLY AS LONG AS ALL CONTRIBUTE TO
IT AND ARE REWARDED ACCORDINGLY —



The machines that are first invented to perform any particular movements are always the most complex, and succeeding artists generally discover that with fewer wheels, with fewer principles of motion than had originally been employed, the same effects may be easily produced. The first philosophical systems, in the same manner, are always the most complex, and a particular connecting chain or principle, is generally thought necessary to unite every two seemingly disjointed appearances, but it often happens that one great connecting principle is afterward found to bind together all the discordant phenomena that occur in a whole species of things.

Adam Smith,

SCENE AROUND

Larry Kobak

Well at last we've solved that "honest-to-goodness" mystery which has baffled the staff and faculty of the Henry George School for a number of years.

It seems that Miss Lydia Kurchin, a Correspondence Department Instructor, has been receiving, periodically, a varied (both in size and cost) assortment of presents, e.g., floral arrangements, fruit baskets, candy, cookies, etc., from an anonymous source.

More mystified than anyone, Lydia, the recipient of these attentive gestures, had no inkling of who could be her secret admirer, having attempted, unsuccessfully, to discover the identity of anonymous by phoning the florist who in most cases made the deliveries.

Finally, when another of these gifts arrived, more imposing than all the previous ones, and at the suggestion of a staff member, yours truly, got the florist on the telephone, inquiring, "Hello, did you just deliver an order to Miss Lydia Kurchin at the Henry George School" - to which the reply was affirmative. "Well, she's not Miss Kurchin any longer ... she's my wife and I don't like the idea of some guy sending her flowers, etc. Who's sending them?" In reply, "I couldn't tell you sir, they were ordered from out of town".

"Then, can you tell me the name of the out of town florist from whom you received the order?"

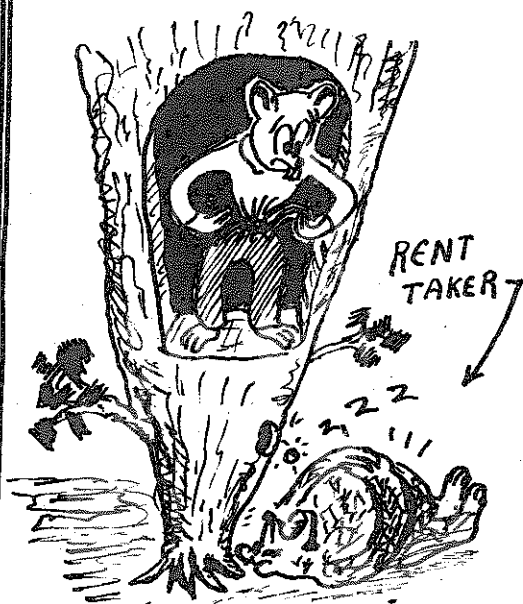
"Yes, ---- Flower Shop in ----."

The ruse of impersonating an irate husband supplied the clues in tracking down the identity of Lydia's secret admirer. Since there were indications that Anonymous was a former student of Lydia's, we checked through the file, graduates of the mid-western city from which the flowers had been sent and it was revealed that Lydia had only one student from that area ... a fruitful culmination of our quest!

So, secret admirer, although we shall not reveal your name, there is no longer any need for you to remain anonymous.

* * * * *

Armchair Georgists can now take advantage of an effortless means of aiding the cause. Just by clipping out newspaper and magazine references to Henry George, the School, etc., they will be performing a valuable function. Bringing such items to our attention enables us to determine which methods of publicity are the most productive. It is surprising how many of them we miss.



Ante Christop 1.15.57

What constitutes the rightful basis of property? What is it that enables a man justly to say of a thing, "It is mine?" From what springs the sentiment which acknowledges his exclusive right as against all the world? Is it not, primarily, the right of a man to himself, to the use of his own powers, to the enjoyment of the fruits of his own exertions? Is it not this individual right, which springs from and is testified to by the natural facts of individual organization--the fact that each particular pair of hands obey a particular brain and are related to a particular stomach; the fact that each man is a definite, coherent, independent whole--which alone justifies individual ownership? As a man belongs to himself, so his labor when put into concrete form belongs to him.

Henry George--Progress and Poverty

This little whimsy "Mediocracy in Democracy," makes a prayer for your attention and reflection. You may call it critical, pessimistic and depressing, and if you ask, "Why should I read it?" - that would be a perfectly legitimate question.

'Mediocracy seems to be a predominant characteristic of our democratic institutions, particularly the media of communication. No laboratory is needed for research; just take a glance at the various objects of public interest.

The circulation figures of the daily papers are an example of the public taste in news reporting. The papers that emphasize crime, scandal and divorce, with all the lurid details; are the popular papers on the stands. The picture papers avoid the necessity to read, much less to think. Of course, there are newspapers with the highest journalistic standards, but their circulation is puny compared to the ones that cater to the lower levels of popular preference.

The newest outlet for escape is that gargantuan infant--T V ; a medium that emeshes its viewers by the millions. Television production expenses are astronomical, but good taste and substance in programing is minute. The demand for escape programs is insatiable; witness the soap operas, the variety hills, the mutual admiration interviews and of course , the give-a-ways. What format has the most formidable rating? "I Love Lucy" for one, and the coveted \$64,000 Question. How about "Meet The Press"? - well a good program no doubt, but it is televised at dinner time: so who can watch at the same time?

Then, there are magazines. There are worth while periodicals in many different catagories that should rate high in the public interest. But did you ever linger at a newstand display? (Of course you have). The battalions of scantily draped voluptuous sirens that project their charms from the cover pages--if they were lined up in formation, would make a Fifth Avenue parade look like a prayer meeting group on a rainy night.

Here we have sex, scandal, gossip and even libel, manufactured and purveyed to a certain type of reader- and the frothy pulp sells! --either that or the news dealers are fanatical worshippers of the form devine.

The cinema was once the favorite avenue of escape, but now the movie palaces are as empty as haunted houses. Hollywood is still in business, however, partly by conniving with T-V to dump pre-war movies into living rooms as midnight T-V fare.

(Continued on page 8.)

(Continued from page 3.)

Write a letter to my Congressman? Yes, thank you for the suggestion, I have already done so. In that letter I explained that consumers benefit from lower tariffs; that we work for our wages and dislike giving them away in the form of high prices to incompetent domestic producers; that an increase of imported woollens is a means to higher standards of living; that free international trade will promote peace and goodwill among countries and will open wide the flood gates for a torrent of culture and a higher form of civilization for the entire world.

Very truly yours,

David E. Lecker

(Continued from page 7.)

Mediocracy in Democracy--S.T.Bhhee

Millions are spent by the movie magnates on spectacular productions, but an inexpensive story with dramatic substance is for them a B grade picture, and lacking in box appeal. Of course, some good pictures are produced now and then, but where are the erstwhile customers? They're at home, of course, comfortable in robe and slippers, viewing the enemy projections flooding the T-V air waves.

Why belabor the point to exhaustion? Should one speak of the ballet in the same breath with the Mamba or the Cha-Cha-Cha? - or of the symphony drowned out by the tom-tom of Jazz and the current Rock and Roll? The national crisis that grips us at the moment is - Will the Dodgers and the Giants forsake the cultural centers of New York City for the hinterlands of California?

Yet, after all, what can be done? People must choose their own forms of happiness, if they would be free. Happiness cannot be prescribed or authoritarianized in a Democracy. Cultural standards may be improved some day, but we should live so long.

* Mediocracy - A coined word form.

"Great as the Universe is, man is yet not always satisfied with it. For there is nothing so great but the mind of moral man can conceive of something still greater which nothing in the world can hold."

Confucius.

—Raids on Your Wallet—

Hidden Taxes Grab \$1 Of Each \$5 You Spend

Do you realize that the "ambush" tax collector is taking a bigger bite out of your wallet each year? This is the first of a series presenting authoritative figures on the mounting burden imposed on the consumer by hidden levies.

By **DICKSON J. PRESTON**,
Scripps-Howard Staff Writer.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Your "hidden taxes" are higher these days.

They are the unseen nibbles at your pay check after you've paid your income tax. Most of them are levies you never know you're paying because they appear as part of the purchase price of items you buy.

But they add up to a lot of money.

For instance:

Twenty percent of the cost of your food.

More than \$800 on a \$3000 car.

Half the cost of a pack of cigarettes.

Nearly nine-tenths of the price of a bottle of whisky.

On the average, about \$1 in every \$5 you spend.

Hidden taxes include at least part of every tax paid by the producers of what you buy daily. As a cost of doing business, they eventually must come out of your pocket even if they're paid by the manufacturer.

Egg Hides 100 Taxes.

Eight years ago the Scripps-Howard Newspapers took a look at these levies. We found there were as many as 100 different taxes in the price of an egg, 150 on an Easter hat, 260 on an automobile.

Since then, the Tax Foundation, Inc., reports, the number of sneak raids on your wallet has increased—the amount all the tax collectors in ambush grab from you has zoomed upward at the rate of \$5 billion a year. This year, federal, state and local taxes will hit an all-time record of \$106 billion.



Here's how the average family budget is affected:

Suppose you earn \$85 a week, with deductions of \$15 for income tax and other items. That should leave you with \$70 to spend.

But, says the Tax Foundation, the secret hands in your pocket will extract another \$12 before they're through. So

your real take-home pay—the amount which goes to feed and clothe and house your family—is only \$58.

Clips a Third of Pay.

On a yearly basis, the foundation estimates a man who earns \$4500 pays \$1393 in federal, state and local taxes—nearly a third of his pay.

The "visible" part of this toll

is \$387 in federal and state income levies. Then there are \$194 in federal excises, \$148 as your share of corporate income taxes, \$244 for social insurance (yours and others'), \$220 in state sales and use taxes and \$200 in property taxes.

You're hooked for these amounts whether or not you pay them directly. For instance, you may own no property. But your rent pays the

landlord's real estate taxes; your grocery bill contributes to property taxes on the store, and so on.

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COVER *****

On the cover is a portrait. It is a recent photograph, taken by Roma Bianco, May 30 of this year, of the beautiful memorial oak planted in Central Park 10 years ago in honor of Henry George. When the tree was planted the selection and dedication and general plans were under the auspices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. Funds, however, actually were made up from contributions from Georgists all over the country. Even though it is growing in New York it is representative of all Georgists.

The following poem by M.L.R. written for "Sages Pages" in fall of 1955 paraphrases the closing portion of a lecture delivered by Henry George at the Metropolitan Temple in San Francisco, March 1878. We feel that it is appropriate for this oak tree.

TRUTH And A TREE

The right divine that kings once claimed
To trade in nations and bequeath by will,
Where is it now? And where the chattel slave
Whose flesh and blood were legal property?
Injustice, causing both these wrongs must end,
As must, at last, the scourge of poverty!

I see the glow of dawn within the sky.
And trust the order of the universe
To keep the standard I have raised unfurled.
Within the seed where Truth doth germinate
No power can prevent its growth for long;
If flint oppose it, then the flint must yield;
If war drums roll, the Truth their challenge meets
And bids men hear the carol of the lark,
Triumphant, deathless, far above all fears.

The ground wherein the Tree will grow is ploughed,-
So little now, so tender and so weak;
But sometime in its branches birds will sing,
And in its shade the weary shall find rest.

M.L.R.



There is in nature no such thing as a fee simple in land. There is on earth no power which can rightfully make a grant of exclusive ownership in land. Let the parchments be ever so many, or possession ever so long, natural justice can recognize no right in one man to the possession and enjoy-

ment of land that is not equally the right of all his fellows.---Though the sovereign people of the state of New York consent to the landed possessions of the Astors, the puniest infant that comes wailing into the world in the squalidest room of the most miserable tenement house becomes at that moment seized of an equal right with the millionaires. And it is robbed if the right is denied.

Henry George, Progress & Poverty

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I believe that the idea of duty is more potent for social improvement than the idea of interest; that in sympathy is a stronger social force than in selfishness.

Henry George

ALUMNI PAGES---Published by the Alumni of the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 East 69 St., N.Y.

EDITORIAL BOARD--Roma Bianco, Chairman; Sumner Bohee, Neva Bianco, Vivian Kiliaen-Rodney, Larry Kobak,
