

ALUMNI BULLETIN

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1957



Agnes George De Mille

Chairman, Birthplace Committee

ALUMNI BULLETIN

Dear Reader:

Developments are taking place that show that Georgist ideas are making progress.

All around the United States in recent years there has been a move to assess land values, for tax purposes, at a more realistic figure, than formerly. For years, a typical practice has been to assess real estate — especially land — at a ridiculously low figure. The recent movement to increase assessments is due at least in part to the spread of Georgist ideas. And I know of some cases around the country where the improvement in assessment procedures has been due directly to the efforts of Georgists.

Abroad, too, there are favorable signs. Jamaica, (British West Indies) has recently adopted land value taxation. In Australia and New Zealand, the system is making progress. And in Denmark, The Parliament is seriously considering full application of land Value taxation.

All this and more is largely due to Georgist effort. The ideas of HENRY GEORGE are once again on the march. They will not be drowned no matter how silent the experts try to be on the subject. They must win out, because they are the truth.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Clancy

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Roma Bianco, Chairman:-----Larry Kobak, Neva Bianco, Vivian Kiliaen-Rodney.

The Birthplace of Henry George

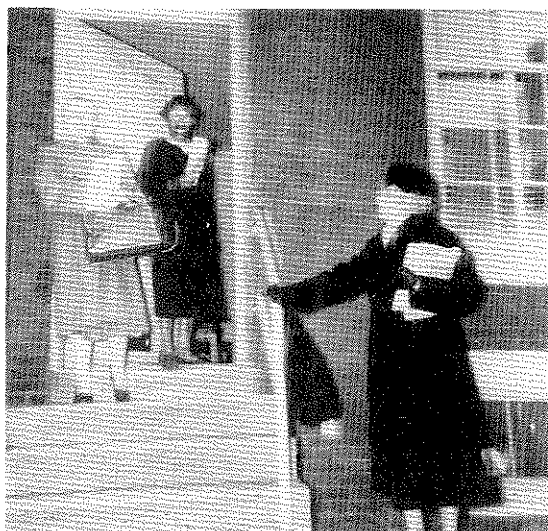
This little house where George was born
Has come unto its own;
As heart of his Philosophy
Henceforth it shall be known;
And treasured here, in memory dear,
Some keepsakes will be shown.

At home, when he was but a boy,
By parents, wise and kind,
Were formed those traits of character
His later life defined.
His love of truth and Justice,
With brilliancy of mind.

A second Independence Hall
This home may someday be,
With added fame for George's name
As more men come to see
He points the way for a better day
Through his Economy.

Mabel L. Rees.

(Read by Mr Joseph Stockman at the Dedication of
the Henry George Birthplace in Philadelphia-11-9-57.)

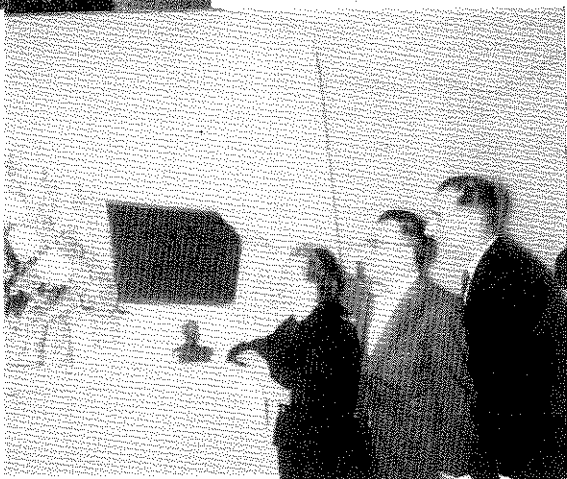


Nov. 10---Leaving the Henry George Birthplace.

The Birthplace of Henry George



Mrs Norma D'Elia proudly holds daughter, Andrea, youngest Georgist attending Dedication of The Henry George Birthplace.



Above:-Agnes De Mille, Robert Clancy & Joseph Stockman, admire bronze plaque containing names of donors who made purchase of the house possible.



Right:- Agnes George De Mille looking over the George memorabilia on permanent exhibition at the Birthplace.



After Dinner
Speakers:--

Lancaster Greene,
(standing) Agnes
de Mille, (rt) &
Arnold Weinstein
and V.J. Peterson
(left)

Another View--
Guests listening
attentively to
speaker.



Henry George
Birthplace
Revisited:--
Nov 10th:

Mabel L. Rees
& Neva Bianco
hospitably
received by
Susan Howell,
seated at
desk.

LAND VALUATION

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

Foreword

In November, 1956, the Government passed the Land Valuation Law to provide for a new system for the valuation of land.

There is nothing new about the idea of land valuation. The old law, which dates from 1901, says that the owner of land must state its acreage and its value. This was called an in-giving.

Although the law provides for a re-valuation of property every seven years, some properties have remained on the Tax roll at the same figure for many, many years.

On the other hand, properties which have changed hands, are on the roll at a much higher figure. This is a highly unfair state of affairs.

The last general valuation of land in this Island took place as far back as 1928. A valuation of 1937 dealt only with properties worth more than £200.

The present proposal is that for the purpose of general parochial rates and for the purposes of ordinary land tax, land will be valued without any of the improvements which are on it.

Under the old system the improved value of land was taxed. Under the new law land will be valued as raw land. Its value will depend on its situation and what it is capable of producing. Situation is important, because land in a town or near a town is worth more than land in the bush; land with a frontage in the road is worth more than back lands. And, naturally, good land is worth more than bad land.

But anything else on the land — houses, trees, crops, soil conservation works, anything whatever that has been done by man for the purpose of improving land and increasing its value — *will not be valued as land. That is man's labour, and he will not be taxed on his labour.*

The simple purpose of the law is to encourage development of the land. Because if land is properly taxed as land, a man cannot afford to keep his land idle, which so many people do today.

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

The law seeks to encourage people to develop land. It wants them to feel that taxes on their land will not be increased in any shape or form because they have developed it.

It has been decided that rates will continue to be put upon the capital value of the land in certain cases. That is to say, if there is a water supply or street lighting or fire protection or a street-cleaning service in an area, the old system of valuation or the improved value of the holding will continue in force. This will be so because these services are of special benefit to the people living in the area. But this is nothing new. People enjoying these services have always paid rates to get them.

One last word. I must appeal to you to give your wholehearted co-operation to the team of valuers, who will be working among you for the next three years. This team of officers will begin work in the western division of St. Catherine, an area chosen because of the interesting variation of property types.

The valuer is a man doing a job of work. He will carry with him a letter of authority for purposes of identification. Meet him with a smile and give him all the assistance you can. God Bless You.

W. M. SEIVRIGHT,

Minister of Agriculture & Lands,

Hope,

Jamaica, B.W.I.

The reprint, Land Valuation, What It Means To You, was

sent to the school and Mr Robert Clancy, handed the book-

let to us for use in our Bulletin to acquaint our readers

with the Land Valuation Law, which was passed in November

1956, in Jamaica, B.W.I. The booklet consists of 16 pages,

-----we are reprinting four of these pages, which best explain the law.

--The Editors--

GIVE THE VALUATOR YOUR HELP AND CO-OPERATION

The Purpose of the Law

The purpose of the Law is to value land as fairly as possible. When all holdings are valued fairly, then whatever the rate of taxes imposed, everybody will be justly treated. It is even possible that many people who are now paying too much taxes under the old law will pay less under the new law. But there will be some who were paying too little under the old law and they will have to pay more.

In any event, the smallholder with a few acres of cultivated land need not worry. He has nothing to lose and everything to gain from re-valuation. The whole intention of the law is to bring into being a sensible system of land taxation and to put an end to the old, bad, confused system which has been condemned by everybody who has studied the matter.

When the Valuer Calls

It is very unfair to leave it to the land owner to value his own land. That is why the old law was so bad. Under the old law each man gave his own in-giving, and the result was that although YOUR land was the same size as your next-door neighbour's, had the same sort of house and the same crops, your neighbour paid less taxes than you because he told the Collector of Taxes that his holding was worth less than yours, which was simply not true.

That is why the Government has decided to send trained valuers to call on you. The valuer will inspect your holding and ask you a few simple questions before valuing it. You can rely on him to be impartial and fair to everybody.

The Law says that if you refuse to allow the valuer to enter your premises you can be punished in Court. But the Government is confident that it will not be necessary to take a single person to Court because it feels sure you will co-operate with the valuer and give him all the assistance you can. It is in your own interests to do so. Only by co-operating with the valuer can he value all holdings fairly.

UNIMPROVED VALUE MEANS

You will pay taxes on the raw land alone

No taxes on your house

No taxes on your fruit trees

No taxes on your cultivation

You will not pay taxes on anything you put on your land with your labour

1

2

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4

5

November 9th, 1957 was a memorable day for Georgists all over the world---especially for the lucky ones who were able to attend the Dedication of the Birthplace of Henry George at 413 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. We were fortunate to have Agnes George de Mille, granddaughter of Henry George, with us --as well as other notable Georgists. The Dedication was followed by a dinner at the Hotel ST James.

Henry George Free Tract Society, Endwell, New York
C. LeBARON GOELLER, Editor-Manager

YOU PAY THE MONOPOLY RENT -- OR ELSE!



Grim and bearded, a lank man sat outside a mud hut, rifle across his knee, watching a distant twirl of dust that presaged the approach of men struggling across the desert. Above a well before him was a crude sign announcing his wares—"Water, 1 pound of gold dust per bucket"—\$250—and the bucket was not a large one. He could command the price, for his was the only water-hole in four days travel from the desert gold strike. He had absolute monopoly. It meant, Pay up or die!

See Progress and Poverty, Book VII, Chap. 2, for continuation of above.

For FREE Class and Correspondence Information, write The HENRY GEORGE School of Social Science, 50 East 69th St., New York 21, N. Y.

GIVING

Maimonides, great religious leader, born in Spain more than 800 years ago, outlined eight degrees or steps in the fulfillment of an ideal philosophy of giving:

The Eighth step should be of great interest to Georgists—

"——and the most meritorious of all, is to anticipate need by preventing it and to assist your fellow man in such a manner as to permit him to retain dignity and self-respect...
.....This is the highest step and the summit of philanthropy's golden ladder."

ARE COMMITTEE MEETINGS DULL?

The majority of people would, I think, answer "Yes" to the above question, unless it were a meeting regarding some project dear to their heart or interest at the present moment. However, there is a group of people who never find Committee Meetings dull, and they are the Georgists.

Naturally, persons who feel that they can "take their George or leave it" (and believe it or not, there are a few!) will seldom bother to attend a Committee Meeting, but to those who are "dedicated Georgists" such a meeting is just one more chance to get together and plan further activities, discuss the results of past ones and draw from each others experiences the wisdom necessary to "carry on" in a better and larger way than in the past.

Such thoughts went through my mind last night when I attended a General Committee Meeting of the Alumni. The pooling of our time and ideas, as well as the knowledge that there are others of like mind, working in different Committees, but all toward the same goal, that of promoting the Georgist Philosophy, is really an inspiration.

I don't want to sound "icky" or "stuffy", but in good plain English, the feeling that we are all pulling together, though each in our different niche, gives us courage and strength to keep on working to promote a Philosophy which, if generally adopted (and some day it will be!) could, economically and socially, "change the world"!

There are still more members needed on these various Committees, so your talents will be very welcome and you will find your "own place" in the Georgist scheme of things. If you have studied, or are studying, the Georgist Philosophy, won't you come in and join us?

COMMITTEES FORMED

Vivian Kiliaen-Rodney

Thursday November 21st at 7:30 P.M., Georgists met in room 31 and the following volunteered to head committees for an active program to aid the school in its work:--

Charles Homer---Headquarters Committee;
Roma Bianco-----Editorial Committee;
Sidney Kass-----Publicity Committee.