

ALUMNI BULLETIN

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"What shall I say, brave Adm'rl, say,
If we sight naught but seas at dawn? "
"Why you shall say, at break of day:
'Sail on! sail on! sail on! and on!'-I--

He gained a world; he gave that world
Its grandest lesson: "On! Sail on!"
Columbus-J. Miller.

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Dear Reader:

In these pages I've been harping on the desirability of Georgists "spreading the word" through individual effort as well as through the Henry George School. I was about to switch the subject this month, when I came across this beautiful quotation, which started me off again.

"Use the talents you possess,
for the woods would be very silent
if no birds sang except the best."

I suppose the moral is too obvious to need explanation, but I would like to add something anyway.

Every bird singing -- and every Georgist writing or speaking -- adds up to the total symphony, even if the efforts are uncoordinated. When the spirit moves you to open up on the subject, do so. This is the sort of "unconscious cooperation" Henry George speaks of in "The Science of Political Economy."

In the library of the Henry George School we are trying to assemble as complete a collection of Georgist literature as possible. Not only books and pamphlets, but even letters to editors and unpublished manuscripts are saved. Anytime a person writes on the Georgist philosophy and we get a copy, it is filed in our library. The books, of course, go on the shelves. Pamphlets, letters to editors, manuscripts etc., go in the filing cabinets. Every Georgist who has done something, even if its only one letter, to an editor, gets a folder made up with his name and his contributions are preserved for posterity.

So don't forget us when you've had something printed.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Clancy

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

SCENE AROUND

Larry Kobak

Henry George marched again....or at least his spirit didin the hearts of Georgists as they quick stepped down Fifth Avenue in New York's Annual Columbus Day Parade. The uniform of the five and thirty was a yellow pom-pom in the lapel. Much notice was attracted by the contingent. The publicity we received was well worth the thirty-five free Italian Dinners served to the marchers. The center of attention was Julian Barkley's full grown beard attached to a head six feet six inches off the ground, which drew many an eye.

Following the LaSagna Dinner, which will be remembered for a long time as Tony D'Elia's dinners usually are, the group met in the auditorium to discuss the future of Alumni activities. It was decided that the Alumni may best serve its function of aiding the Henry George School in spreading the Georgist Philosophy by forming four work committees:

1-Publicity Committee: to assist in writing press releases, letters to editors, in securing bookings on radio and TV shows, and other activities which will help to put the School before the public.

2-Headquarters Committee: to help in the manifold tasks necessary to keep the school running such as getting out mailings, showing new students around the School, collating, distributing, and sorting literature.

3-Activities Committee: to plan and help run Alumni Meetings, Dances, Outings, etc.

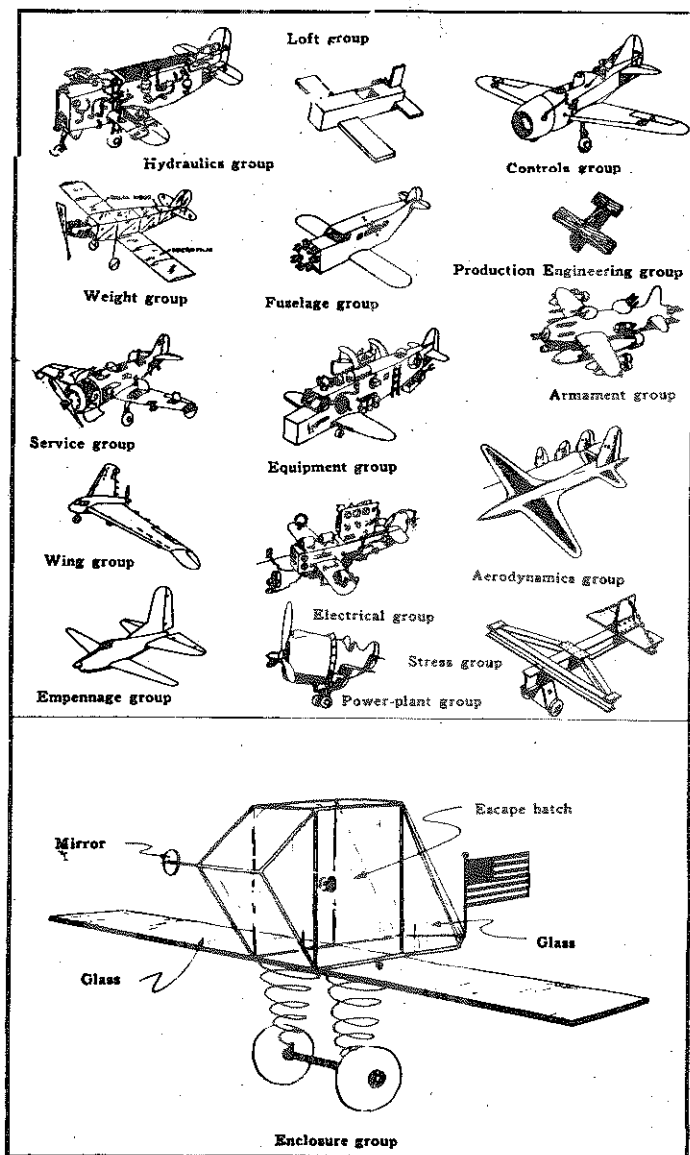
4-Editorial Committee: to assist in the editorial and production work connected with Alumni Bulletin.

All those interested in participating actively on any of the aforementioned committees may secure further information by calling me at RH 4-8700.

Jerry Maltz did it again--this time it was an extremely professional silk screen poster which was used to publicize the Flushing Fundamental Economics Class.

Dream Airplanes

Sometime ago Engineer C. W. Miller, Vega Aircraft, decided to make some sketches in his spare time showing how his fellow engineers in various groups of the aircraft business would design a plane if only their own particular ideas were utilized.



COLUMBUS DAY

Joe Stockman gets flower for his lapel from Ed Hall (right).



Parade over, a hearty La Sagna Dinner enjoyed by all, the alumni settle down in auditorium to discuss coming alumni activities with Larry Kobak and Robert Clancy as moderators. (left to right) Lu Cippoloni, Joe Stockman, Robert Clancy and Neva Bianco in background.

WRITE:

The reprint, "Dream Airplanes," was sent to the school by Leone Anderson, Director of the Denver Extension of the Henry George School in Denver Colorado, and handed to us by Mr Robert Clancy for use in our publication to stimulate readers to write a paper for our subsequent issues relating the idea to economics. The moral of this reprint seems to be that we have to consider the whole of society not just its parts in looking for a solution for our social ills such as:----- Progress & Poverty, Juvenile Delinquency, Intergration VS Segregation in the south as well as in our own New York schools, etc. So, Readers don your thinking caps and take pen in hand and start right now.

The Editors.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE?

Considering the fact that the national preoccupation with such intellectual pursuits as television, movies, sports and exposes dominate the leisure of the citizenry, it is evident that the time once allotted to reading has been reduced to casual glances at the tabloid headlines. Even here the lead stories fall short of complete interest unless there is something new and sensational in sex, scandal, or violence. In view of this situation, it is reasonable to assume that an article, appearing recently in the New York Times, on inflation in Chile, might easily escape the attention of our civic minded and culture-hungry reading public.

Chile has an economic problem of inflation which has been intensified in its twenty-five year duration. The basic causes and underlying this situation are ones with which Georgists are familiar:---low industrial productivity and insufficient agricultural output. Copper, the nation's main source of revenue is in a slump, as the prices are in a downward trend, for the present at least.

Another contributing cause exists, and one that rings a bell to which even a television viewer might respond (perhaps during the interval of a commercial.) The Times article does not state whether the Chilean government or its economic advisors were personally acquainted with Lord Keynes and his doctrines, but, to them, the remedy to such economic ills appeared to be a program of social legislation and social welfare and added to that an increased military budget in excess of the nation's defense needs---(Those sinister Russians, you know.)

Neither industry or agriculture could expand and provide the goods needed for a growing population. To produce these goods required capital. Why was there lack of capital where it was so desperately needed? You know the answer Georgists: the land was in the hands of a relatively few rich families. Well what to do? The easy solution was at hand, let the government take over. So, the Chilean government embarked on a number of uneconomical programs in the fields of steel, petroleum, and electric power.

Poverty, the actual state of physical poverty (rather than insufficient means to keep up a chosen standard of living) exists in Chile. It is evidenced by ghettos of unsanitary shacks, constructed from packing cases, --by barefooted raggedy and anemic children.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE?

Chile, however, has a middle class. Not exactly a prosperous one, but they can and do live on a more comfortable scale than the dwellers in the packing case ghettos. Are they living better because they are engaged in production? Not at all. These people are government workers and functionaries on federal, provincial and municipal payrolls.

Our own ever striving, competitive, ---consuming middle class here at home (that's you, John Television Viewer, tuning in a new program) will recognize some of the problems that beset his Chilean, prototype. The middle-class worker---as if you didn't know---is a highly eligible candidate for credit. Enjoy comforts now and pay later, even if it is ninety-nine years later for a mortgage. Installment goods in Chile carry a 20% mark^up and must be paid for in six months. This may or not be poverty according to your own definition, but it surely is economic insecurity.

We have left the wealthy class---the land holders--- who else? The spurious incomes which the landowners extract from the ownership of the countries natural natural resources are not put back into Chile's capital starved industrial enterprises. Foreign Trade and foreign investment are much more profitable and carry much less risk. There is no analogy between the untouchables in the caste system in India, and the private collectors of economic rent, but the label of untouchable somehow seems appropriate.

In all problems of national inflation, a ready made solution is offered immediately: balance the budget. In the case of Chile, the cradle to the grave welfare program accounts for 28% of the budget. Military expenditures eat up another 30%. This would be a heavy load on the countries production, but the fact is, the production on which to levy is not enough.

The solution to these problems can be indicated, but they will take more intestinal fortitude and moral courage than is prevalent today, not only in Chile but any where else. Can Chilean capitalists be persuaded to invest in their home-land economy? Will the politicians face the vested interests with the economic facts of life? Any politician with such moral fiber is not a politician but a statesman. Some capital is available from American sources, or elsewhere, but a renovation of economic policy is essential to qualify for such assistance.

If it was one of those duller evenings on T V (duller?) a viewer might catch the import of a few familiar terms: ---Taxation, Inflation, Welfare, etc.---His reaction might probably be: "Well those foreigners, what can you expect? We've got production in the United States, and "It Can't Happen Here".

TRUTH NEVER DIES

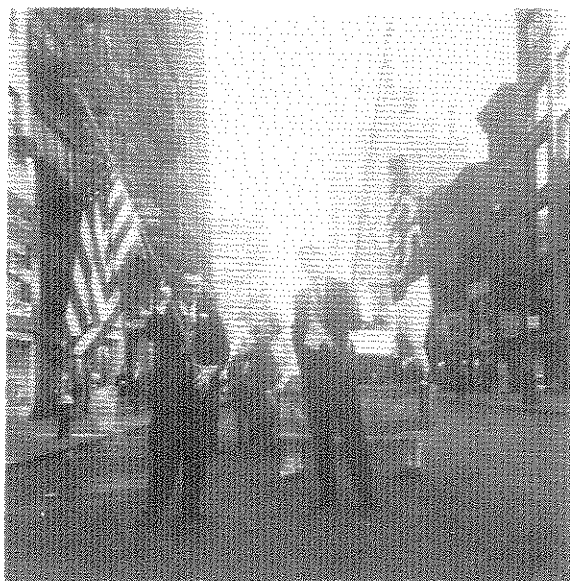
In universal law, friends,
George put his trust of right;
The science once called "dismal"
He changed to one of light.
The radiance of truth, friends,
Lives on though he is dead,
And through the Henry George School
Its wid'ning rays are spread.

For five and twenty years, friends,
Through his philosophy,
Many men have hoped again,
As harbor lights they see;
The voice of Nature spoke, friends,
Within the moral realm;
George trusted to its guidance,
As pilots trust the helm.

Though distant are the lights, friends,
They serve to mark the course
That leads to peace and plenty,
Away from want and force.
These signals show the place, friends,
Where men may satisfy,
Through equal opportunity,
The hopes they now deny.

Mabel L. Rees.

Mrs. Mabel L. Rees, a teacher in our correspondence department, read the above poem Thursday July 11, 1957 at the Henry George Monument in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn. A visit to the grave of Henry George was one of the features of the 13th Annual Conference.



Robert Clancy,
holding American
Flag, and Larry
Kobak holding
Henry George
School Flag,
on 46 Street
and Avenue of
the Americas,
get ready to
March in Columbus
Day Parade.

COLUMBUS DAY

A group
of Georgists
stepping in
parade along
Fifth Avenue.



DISCOVERY!

Do you know that "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George, is available in a Modern Library Book edition? I discovered it by chance. I purchased a copy of the "Politics of Aristotle", for use in my Great Books Course held every second Tuesday evening in room 31. Our own Dean Royal and Mr Simpson of Great Books are our moderators. You will notice from the reprint of the back part of the book's jacket that Henry George is class-
ed among the world's great political thinkers.

Neva Bianco

READERS of Aristotle's Politics will find
political enlightenment in the following
Modern Library books:

Introduction to Aristotle

Edited by RICHARD McKEON

MODERN LIBRARY NO. 248

The Republic

by PLATO

The BENJAMIN JOWETT Translation

MODERN LIBRARY NO. 153

The Federalist

ALEXANDER HAMILTON · JOHN JAY

JAMES MADISON

MODERN LIBRARY NO. 139

Progress and Poverty

by HENRY GEORGE

MODERN LIBRARY NO. 36

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 1957

While this was the first Henry George Conference I attended, and although I was able to spend but a short period of time at Wagner College, I was struck by the feeling that can best be expressed by the Biblical quotation - "It is Good For Us To Be Here" - and in many ways.

Yes, it was "good for us to be here" gathered together from all parts of the U.S. and several other points of the globe, in a pleasant milieu of comradeship (one hesitates to use that word lest it be misinterpreted!), forming new friendships and renewing old, 'tried and true' ones ... "good for us to be here" in earnest discussion of past performance and plans for the future, of how best to spread the Georgist philosophy ... "good for us to be here", sincerely endeavoring to define just what is a Georgist, and in one way this was hard to do, because as Georgists we are first of all individualists and our reactions to the Georgist Philosophy takes a variety of forms, while on the other hand it was easy, for basically the Philosophy of Henry George is timeless and various facets of it are certainly universally acceptable.

Then, too, it was "good for us to be here", reviewing the triumphs and failures of the past year, talking of the hopes and plans of the next, with those of like mind, both giving and receiving the wisdom gained from experience.

I don't think any pseudo-Georgist would bother to attend a Conference such as this one, for anyone "having the form but not the substance" of Georgism, would not understand such earnest devotion to a Philosophy whose main bulwark is its determination to extend to all those desiring it, an invitation to learn a practical Philosophy that is basically timeless. Yes ... It was indeed "good for us to be here" ... and I would sincerely urge all those interested in the Georgist Philosophy to plan to attend the next Conference, if at all possible, for what is gained far surpasses any loss of time or pleasure foregone for these few days - I know I am planning to go to the next one!

COVER

Vivian Kilian-Rodney

Henry George School marches in Columbus Day Parade.
Photo by Roma Bianco.
