

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL MAGAZINE

SEP 1955



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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(Edited by a panel of Tutors)

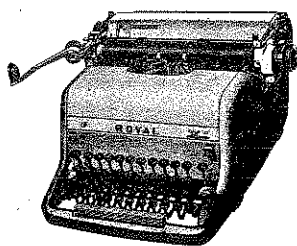
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Volume 4, No.9

September, 1955.

Editorial



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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.

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The Industrial Correspondent of the Manchester Guardian reports (September 14) the decision of the Cotton Board to launch a "Buy British" drive for the Textile Industry. The correspondent says, "The Cotton Board, which has made several unsuccessful attempts this year to persuade the Government to help it to meet foreign competition by limiting imports of cheap cloth, has now decided to try and enlist the public on its side. It is to launch a campaign asking the public to buy only cotton textiles produced in Britain and to reject these imported goods which come mainly from India and Hong Kong and which, the Lancashire industry maintains, are unfairly competitive."

"Buy Lancashire" campaigns have already been started in a number of cotton towns, and Rochdale cotton workers have been urged to boycott foreign textiles.

It is right that the government have refused to take action to limit the importation of cheap cloth. The British public should be able to buy their goods in any market they choose - and this is not confined to textiles! With the price of goods mounting steadily through inflation, the housewife would take a poor view of Government action which resulted in her having to pay more for her sheets, towels, clothing, etc., in order to maintain indefinitely industries which cannot survive without being propped up by tariffs, quotas and such special

privilege. Yet it is because the consumer should have a fair choice that the action of the Cotton Board in seeking to stimulate the buying of British goods is a legitimate one, although some may think it is unduly exploiting the sentiment of the British consumer; but that, we feel, is the consumer's affair.

One disturbing feature, however, appears in the correspondent's report. It is that the amalgamated Cotton Mills Trust Ltd. - one of the biggest groups in the industry - has decided that "no purchases of imported cloth will be made by them or any of their branches or subsidiaries." To what extent this Trust exercises a monopoly we do not know, but it is to be hoped that consumers will have alternative sources of supply should they decide to assert their right to buy in the cheapest market.

OUR DAILY BREAD — & JAM

Under the heading "Parson Sparling Buys a Village" in the Sunday Express, 4th September, a reporter writes as follows :

"The Rev. Herbert Sparling, property-buying parson, has just bought most of a Yorkshire village. How much did Mr. Sparling pay for Cold Kirby, near Thirsk (population 105)? 'I shouldn't ask that. I shan't give an answer,' he said. But what is known is that its eight farms, eleven smallholdings, shops, church and school, on 1,138 acres, will bring in for Mr. Sparling £1,550 a year in rents.

"Cold Kirby is not the first of Mr. Sparling's buys. He told me of five others..... ESTATE NO.1 - the 157-acre property at Bethersden, Kent, where he lives in retirement. (He was Vicar of Dent and Cowgill in Yorkshire, until 1947). The drive to the manor house at Bethersden is 250 yards long. Round the house are tree-studded lawns, beyond them a wood and a farm....

"Then Mr. Sparling spoke of ESTATE NO.2, at Eakring, Notts. That covers 1,500 acres, has nine farms....

"So to ESTATE NO.3 - at Launde Abbey, Leics.; 1,585 acres, seven farms. Said Mr. Sparling, 'I bought that in 1947 when I retired. I kept it for five years, but it needed a lot of work. One day a man came along and said, "If you ever want to sell I'd be interested." I told him: "You've got it now."'

"And ESTATE NO.4 - part of the Wycliffe Estate in Teesdale. There Mr. Sparling bought Hutton Hall Farm for £5,600. 'But I don't think there's much point in mentioning that. It did not turn out quite as I planned. I don't own it now.'

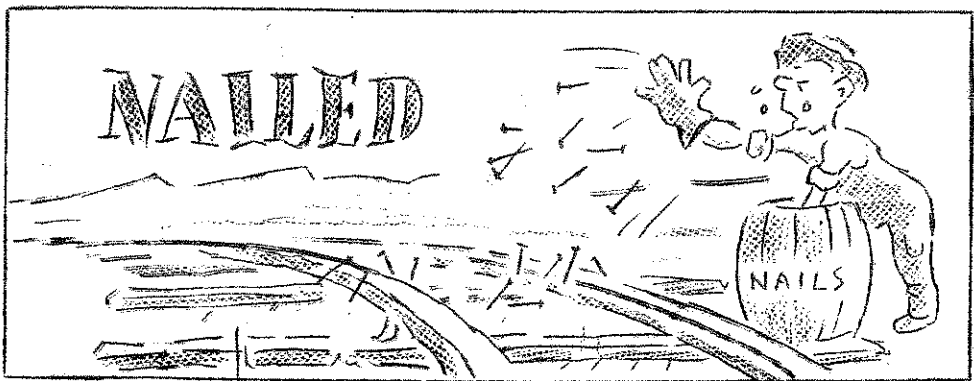
"ESTATE NO.5 was 200 acres of farmland in Scotland. 'I had that for years until just now. Of course, I wasn't able to farm it myself. I put a manager in. But I don't think that's important.'

"How many more properties has Mr. Sparling bought and sold? 'Well,

there may have been one or two others here and there. But I think the only two that matter now are Eakring and Cold Kirby. You might say I have one to give me bread - and the other for the jam."

Mr. Sparling is probably no better and no worse than most men. Our intention is not to pillory him; land owners (so-called) are not deserving of special censure. We wonder, however, how a man of Mr. Sparling's vocation can see no harm in a system which permits the buying and selling of the earth. Has he missed the significance of the words:

"The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath he given to the children of men." (Psalm 115, V.16)



Take an instance here in the State of Ohio, where I was born. A farmer had a very large farm, and a railroad tried to cross it, and he fought the railroad to prevent it from taking his farm. He did not like to have the farm crossed by the road in that manner; he thought it would spoil his land. He fought it year after year in court, and at last the railroad won, condemned his land and built the road. The anger that he had nursed for years got the better of him - he took nails and threw them on the track. Along came a train, jumped the track and killed two persons. The man was arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned, and has been for thirty-seven years in the penitentiary in the State of Ohio! While he has been in the penitentiary all these years, the land has been improving and a city has grown up on the land, and the railroad which had run on his farm runs on - and the main is a millionaire. His family has made a million dollars by the city growing upon a place where it would not have grown but for the opening of the railroad, and he is walking up and down a narrow cell mourning his liberty - lost by hatred.

- TACT IN COURT (6th enlarged edition) by Judge
J.W. Donovan, published in London by Sweet & Maxwell.

WHAT IS SOCIAL SCIENCE ?

Political economy is insufficiently understood. Its central principles are not comprehended by the untutored masses, nor have they been grasped by many persons of high rank and education, and even, which seems incredible, by many economists! In fact, the majority of persons who speak, advise, dispute or write about wages, capital, production and similar departments of that science, do not understand clearly the meaning of those technical terms.

Regrettably, economics is often falsified, as is all human knowledge. In fact, some misguided economists have made and still make that science deceptive, over-complex and ignoble. The famous English writer Macaulay said that even the law of gravitation would be questioned if it menaced any powerful interest. It is not strange then that some deny the most evident truths of that science which deals with the interests of everyone.

The falsity of the classical economists is shown in its foundations. Thus (1) according to Adam Smith, wages are derived from capital; (2) according to Ricardo, the increase of population compels the cultivation of soils less and less fertile; (3) according to Malthus, population increases faster than its ability to provide food; and (4) according to Darwin, humanity progresses through the extermination of the weak and the hereditary transmission of the qualities of the selected remainder.

From those erroneous doctrines it is easily concluded that wages and food will always be insufficient, and that poverty is not only inevitable but in final analysis useful, because its man-destroying consequences prevent terrible world-famines on account of over-population, and it perfects the human race.

Those doctrines console the powerful, absolve injustice and excuse the impoverishment of the masses. Therefore, the privileged support those errors, and have succeeded in popularising them in the press, in literature and in the universities, gaining their acceptance by untutored people and even by eminent philosophers.

The false teaching of modern economics is found principally in the so-called inductive schools. According to these schools, human beings cannot know truth because of the natural limits of the intellect. On account of this, or because of the different circumstances in each

epoch and each country, it is said that general economic rules cannot be framed. It is concluded that economics is not a science, but only the art of collecting statistics as numerous and as complete as possible, on which basis special regulations are constructed which the directors of economic life think most fitting for each case in question. The inductive schools thus disregard the majority of individuals and support state tyranny. Denying that natural economic laws exist or can be known or applied, these schools remove all moral responsibility from the directors or their advisers, and leave them uncontrolled; they support false authority as against natural morals, and intensify the struggle to secure official posts and privileges.

Furthermore, through the over-use of formulae, graphs, statistics, historic analyses and systematisations, economics is made too complex and thus falsified. Over-burdened with details, it is presented in thick and costly volumes which make the subject incomprehensible, boring and repellent. The authors are thus able to appear scientific to those whom they frighten away from the science. But those complications, whatever may be their aims and results, are neither useful, nor true economics.

(From a Conference Address by J. Paluzie-Borrell)

W E I G H T Y A R G U M E N T

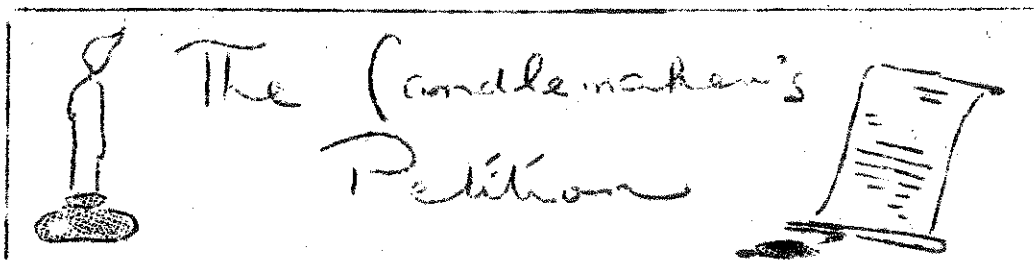
The following retort was prompted by an after church conversation between our contributor, "E.S." and the preacher - a University lecturer in economics. Our contributor urged the view that taxes were robbery and that rent for revenue was the only solution and the only basis for the greatest possible personal freedom. The other replied that he had, in his youth, been much attracted to philosophical anarchy, but had realised that we had a duty to other members of society. He was aware of Ricardo's Law of Rent, but economic rent was not the sole source of unearned wealth and other methods of acquiring it were mathematically the same process - interest on capital for instance. "E.S.", in the form of a "News Flash", retorted as follows:

NEWS FLASH. Accused of doing grievous bodily harm to one William Snoop (Customs Officer) by dropping a brick upon his head from an upper window, Eric Standring (34) was acquitted by a jury yesterday. The accused, who conducted his own defence, submitted that he did not impel or project the brick in the direction of the unfortunate man, but that he merely relinquished his hold upon the object, and that it was the downward force of gravity which was the cause of the calamity. Further, that it is a lawful act to give up possession of anything at any time, and that the brick had acted mathematically in exactly the same way as had the threepenny

bit which he had released over the collection plate on the previous Sunday. Since the releasing of the threepenny bit was a lawful, generous and worthy act and since the two processes were the same, he was therefore not guilty.

In acquitting the accused, the Judge complimented the jury on their intelligence and fully concurred with the accused's view, adding, however, that the practice of accused persons conducting their own defence should be stopped, as they should be made to realise their social duty towards Counsel, who had been trained by society at great expense. The discharge of such functions should therefore be left in their hands.

"E.S."



Gentlemen, you are right: you reject abstract theories. As practical men, you are anxious only to free the producer from foreign competition. You wish to secure the national market to national labour.

We now offer you an admirable opportunity to apply your practice. We are subjected to the intolerable competition of a foreign rival whose superior facilities for producing light enable him to flood the French market at so low a price that, the moment he appears, he takes away all our customers; and thus an important branch of French industry is suddenly reduced to stagnation. This rival is no other than the sun.

Our petition is that you pass a law to shut up all windows, dormers, skylights, openings, holes, chinks and fissures through which sunlight penetrates. Our industry provides such valuable manufactures that our country cannot, without ingratitude, leave us now to struggle unprotected through so unequal a contest.

Do not repulse our petition as a satire without hearing our reasons in its favour. Your protection of artificial lighting will benefit every industry in France. If you give us the monopoly of furnishing light, we will buy large supplies of tallow, coal, oil, resin, wax, alcohol, silver, iron, bronze and crystal. Greater tallow consumption will stimulate cattle and sheep raising; meat, wool, leather, and above all manure, that basis of agricultural riches, will become more abundant. Greater oil consumption will stimulate cultivation of the luxuriant olive trees. Resinous trees will cover our heaths. Swarms of bees will gather upon our

mountains the perfumed treasures that are now cast useless upon the winds. In short, the granting of our petition will greatly develop every branch of agriculture. Navigation will equally profit. Thousands of vessels will soon be employed in the whale fisheries, and thence will arise a navy capable of upholding the honour of France. Paris will become magnificent with the glittering splendour of gildings, bronzes, crystal chandeliers, lamps, reflectors and candelabras. We and our many contractors having become rich, our great consumption will contribute to the comfort and competency of the workers in every branch of national labour. No one, not even the poor resin manufacturer amidst his pine forest, nor the miserable miner in his dark dwelling, will fail to enjoy an increase of salary and of comforts. There is perhaps not one Frenchman, from the rich stockholder to the poorest match-seller, who is not interested in the success of our petition.

We foresee your objection, gentlemen; but there is not one which you will not have to take from the free traders and which is not opposed to your own practice. Do you object that the consumer must pay the price of protection to us? You have yourselves already answered the objection. When told that the consumer is interested in free importation of iron, coal, corn, wheat, cloth, etc., you have always acted to encourage labour, to increase the demand for labour.

Will you say that sunlight is a free gift, and that to repulse free gifts is to repulse riches under pretence of encouraging the means of obtaining them? Take care - you deal a death blow to your own policy. Remember: hitherto you have always repulsed foreign produce because it was an approach to a free gift; and the closer this approach, the more you have repulsed the goods. You have, in obeying the wishes of other monopolists, acted only from a half-motive; to grant our petition there is a much fuller inducement. To turn us down just because our case is much stronger than any previous one would be to accumulate absurdity upon absurdity.



When we buy a Portuguese orange at half the price of a French orange, we in effect get it half as a gift. If you protect national labour against the competition of a half-gift, what principle justifies allowing the importation of something just because it is entirely a gift? You are no logicians if, refusing the half-gift as hurtful to human labour, you do not with double zeal reject the full gift.

The difference in price between an imported article and the corresponding

French article is a free gift to us; and the bigger the difference, the bigger the gift. It is as complete as possible when the producer gives us, as the sun does with light, the whole in free gift. The question is whether you wish for France the benefit of free consumption or the supposed advantages of laborious production. Choose, but be consistent. And is it not the height of inconsistency to check as you do the importation of foreign goods merely because and even in proportion as their price approaches zero, while at the same time you freely admit the light of the sun, whose price is during the whole day at zero?

FREDERIC BASTIAT

PRESS PUBLICITY FOR THE SCHOOL

The economic study classes of the School, which begin during the week commencing 19th September, have received some publicity in the local papers. In a number of the areas concerned newspapers have given a fair amount of space to publicising the classes. The following is from The North London Observer, calling attention to two classes to be held in that area :

"If you want to know something of economics you now have the chance to get that knowledge completely free.

"The Henry George School of Social Science is beginning two free 10-week courses in basic economics at Palmers Green and Wood Green from September 21, and would-be students may enrol on the opening night.

"The Henry George School is not associated with any political party and it has for its objects the enlightenment of ordinary people on economics and social science so that they may be better equipped to assess and judge the various political and economic remedies advanced today.

"The classes are run on discussion lines and not confined exclusively to the ideas of Henry George, the American economist, from whom the school takes its name."

A NEW LINE ON FIGURES! Said Mr. Leslie Gamage, Vice-Chairman of the General Electrical Company Ltd., addressing the Electrical Industries Club in London on the 14th September, "Statistics can be compared to a 'bikini' on a bathing beauty. What they reveal is suggestive, and what they conceal is vital."

ECONOMIC STUDY CLASSES

P R O S P E C T U S - A U T U M N 1 9 5 5

<u>WESTMINSTER</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m.</u>
4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1.	Beginning September 20th and 22nd	Tutor: V.G. Saldji
		<u>Thursdays, 7-9 p.m.</u>
		Tutor: G.L. Birch

<u>S. NORWOOD</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Thursdays, 8-10 p.m.</u>
Stanley Halls, S. Norwood Hill, S.E.25.	Beginning September 29th	Tutor: P. O'Leary

<u>WOOD GREEN</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m.</u>
Trinity Grammar School, N.22.	Beginning September 21st	Tutor: J.M. Chester

<u>ILFORD</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m.</u>
Gantshill Library	Beginning September 28th	Tutor: R.R. Blundell
Dorin Court Restaurant	<u>Current Economic Theories</u> Beginning September 19th	<u>Mondays, 8-10 p.m.</u> Tutor: A.L. Roberts

<u>PALMERS GREEN</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m.</u>
36 The Grove, (off Lodge Drive)	Beginning September 21st	Tutor: O.P. French

<u>WELLING</u>	<u>Basic Course</u>	<u>Mondays, 7.45-9.45 p.m.</u>
Welling Library	Beginning September 19th	Tutor: Dr. R. Johns
Welling Library	<u>Current Economic Theories</u> Beginning September 21st	<u>Wednesdays, 7.45-9.45 p.m.</u> Tutor: C.A.E. Aitken

Upon Reflection

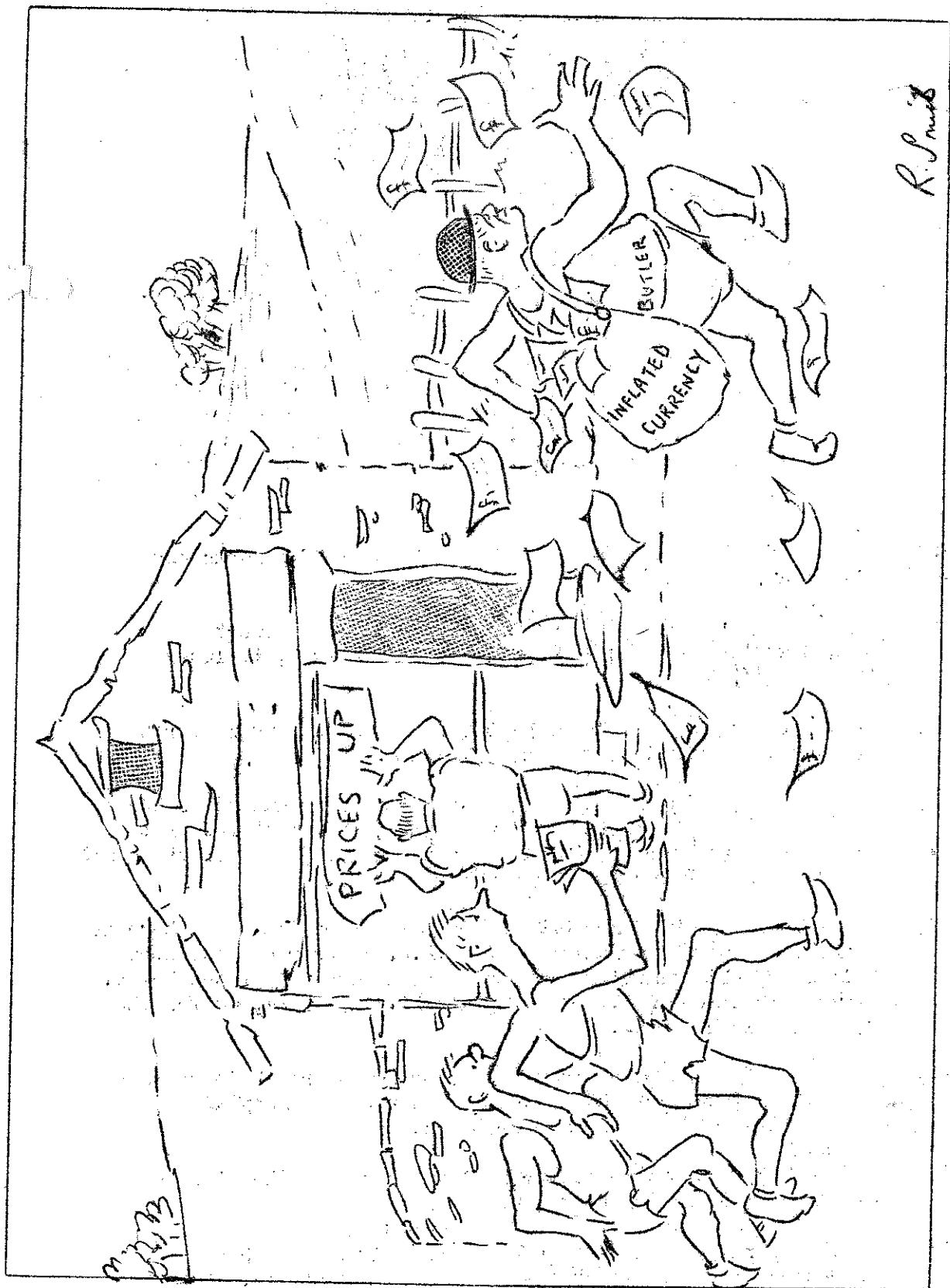
(AFTER THE ST. ANDREWS CONFERENCE)

To what extent can we expect, and to what extent should we solicit, the support of the churches in our endeavours to secure the equal rights of all to the land by the collection of the economic rent? This question was discussed during the International Conference at St. Andrews. The following summarises the conclusions of L.F. DESMOND, who was present at the Conference.

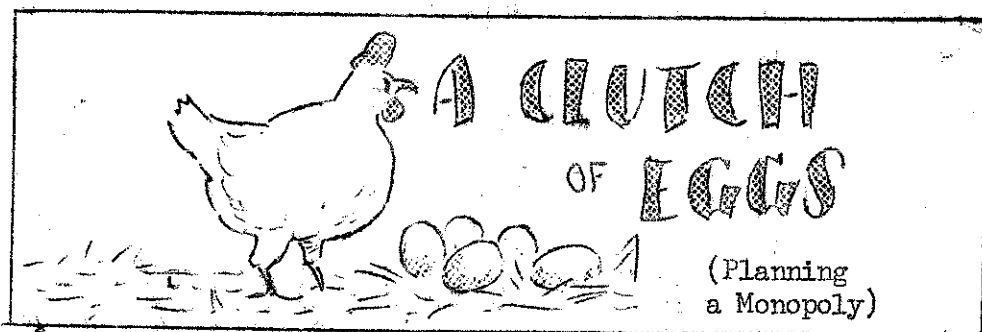
The case for Land Value Taxation can be justified by purely rational arguments, and once these are perceived, a unity of support from peoples of all creeds or disbeliefs can be secured. The special association of our appeal with the churches can only limit its effectiveness. All those who remember how little the churches in the past have stood for free discussion, how much they represent a dogmatic approach, will be deterred from appreciating the rationality of the case. By linking it with any revival, if the so-called revival peters out, what was gained on the crest of the wave sinks into the trough, and Georgeist ideas are relegated to the region of oblivion.

Even if the churches had not already strongly defended their vested interests in land monopoly by their opposition to such schemes as ours, it would still be foolish to look to them primarily. For if, as the late Dr. Barnes alleged, statistics of church attendance indicate at best 20% churchgoers (all denominations), then a specific appeal from the churches might well create as much opposition as support, even from those apathetic rather than hostile towards the churches.

As it is, the churches are not succeeding in reaching the public. Why, then, suppose that the public will take any more notice of them if Georgeist ideas are preached from those same pulpits? Particularly will this objection apply if the rational basis is not propounded! Will the churches themselves ever regard this proposal as enhancing their chances of revival? Some speakers implied the contrary when they excused many clergy on the grounds that they are afraid to preach what they feel they ought to preach. But surely this is all the more reason for not entrusting our ideas to such people!



THE CHANCELLOR'S PAPER CHASE.



The National Farmers' Union is seeking to regulate Egg Marketing.

- (1) It is proposed to set up an Egg Marketing Board which is to have statutory powers to enforce its decrees. It may order registered producers to sell their eggs at a fixed price only to the Board or to its agents: unregistered producers with more than 25 head of poultry will not be able to sell their eggs at all.
- (2) The Board can say how eggs are to be stored on farms and elsewhere.
- (3) The Board's inspectors will have a right to inspect producers' records and premises, which of course, includes their homes.
- (4) No direct sales to Hospitals, Schools, Shops and so forth are to be permitted except under licence.
- (5) Producers with 25 head of poultry (including ducks) or less need not register at present (but it will be remembered that the Milk Marketing Board began with a similar exemption for the small man, but that he was soon caught in the net).
- (6) Election to the Board will be by poll of producers. There is no limit to election expenses but N.F.U. sponsored candidates will have their campaign conducted at the expense of the Union. Other candidates may have to pay anything up to £1,000 for the most limited campaign.
- (7) The Board is to have power to order Producers to insure with the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Company and to retain the commission on the premiums.
- (8) The Board is to have power to levy up to something like a million pounds a year on egg producers.
- (9) The Board is to have power by secret Courts to fine producers up to £200 for breaches of their dictates.

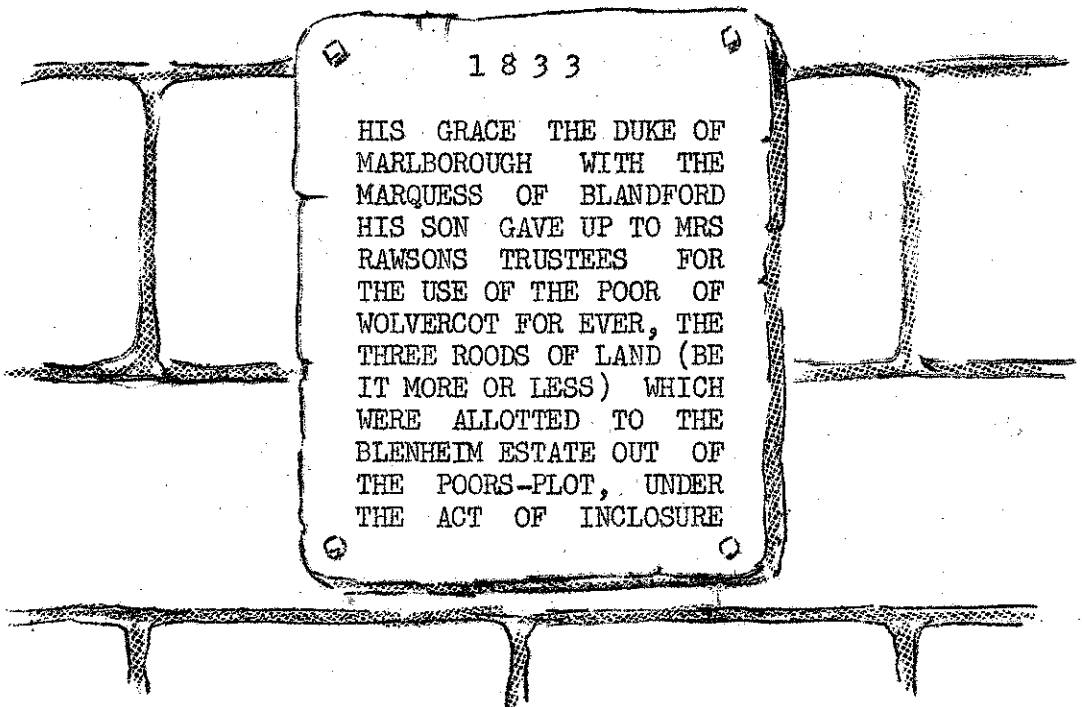
- (10) There is nothing in the scheme designed to ensure more efficient egg production.

The consumer and the retailer are left to take care of themselves.

In due course this scheme will be advertised and the last opportunity for the ordinary man and woman to have their say will have come. What can be done?

- (1) Write to the National Farmers' Union, Bedford Square, London, W.C.1., and ask for a copy of the scheme.
- (2) As soon as the thing is advertised, write to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Whitehall Place, S.W.1., with your detailed and general objections.
- (3) Write now to your member of Parliament for his views.
- (4) If you have chickens or ducks write to the Ministry of Agriculture for registration as a producer, so that you may in due course vote on the scheme.
- (5) Write for further information to the Cheap Food League, 24, Austin Friars, London, E.C.2.

The account below - of a supreme act of generosity - appears on a wooden tablet high on the wall in the tower of the Parish Church of St. Peter, in the village of Wolvercot, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles north of Oxford :



In order to give readers an idea of their contents, we hope to publish each month extracts from the papers presented at the Ninth International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. We recommend readers to obtain copies of these papers at the special price of 6d. each.

NEW LIGHT ON RICHARD COBDEN AND THE
LAND QUESTION

By Victor G. Saldji

Richard Cobden, in his last speech (Rochdale, 23rd November 1864) left a great challenge to all Free Traders ... "If you can apply free trade to land and to labour too - then, I say, the men who do that will have done for England probably more than we have been able to do by making free trade in Corn."

... There can be no slavish acceptance of Cobden's words because he said them... Richard Cobden saw the vital importance of a question that, politically speaking was just heaving into sight. Although clear-minded enough to realise the vital importance of the land question, and the manifest wrongs arising out of it, Cobden lacked a synthesis - a putting together into a harmonious unit of the different aspects he saw. The only conclusion to which one can come is that he did not know how to free the land, else he could not have left to those who followed him the exhortation to "free the land" without also giving them a lead as to how they should do it. Cobden realised that Free Trade in itself was not enough and that production must also be free ...

... If we are faithful to the Free Trade principle and apply it to land and labour, then we can fully share the faith that moved Cobden when he spoke in Manchester on 15th January 1846, and said: "I see in the Free Trade principle that which shall act on the moral world as the principle of gravitation in the universe - drawing men together, thrusting aside the antagonism of race, and creed and language..." Either this is possible or all man's aspirations are a mockery...

* * * * *

FANTASTIC INDEED! The Federal Minister of Economics, Professor Erhard, has produced a plan to combat rising prices, and any inflationary trend which may exist in the German economy, which at first sight looks fantastic. The essence of the plan is to reduce tariffs and remove other restrictions on imports and encourage industrial competition within the Federal Republic. - Manchester Guardian, 3rd September 1955.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENTS

WALLED UP! The appellant owner/occupier said that the garage at the side of his house (carrying £3.10.0d. gross value in the analysis of the present assessment) was now incapable of housing a car. It was merely a store, measuring 17 feet by 8 feet. The present use of the building was to store garden tools, a cycle, children's toys, fire logs and household odds and ends. The building could not be used as a garage, because he had purposely built a dwarf wall in brick across the entrance, 2½ feet high, making it impossible for the building to be used as a garage. He had no car. He thought £1 gross value to be adequate.

The court decided that by permanently obstructing the access to the "garage" the occupier had deliberately changed the nature of the building, and in doing so had limited its usefulness to any hypothetical tenant. The description was amended from "garage" to "store shed" and the gross value attributable to that part of the hereditament reduced by 30s.

- Rating & Valuation Journal

DEAR EGG AND CHIPS. The new sugar legislation is all of one piece with the other monopoly schemes for the enrichment of producers and merchants to the undoing of the consumer. The new Egg Scheme, for example, proposes that any egg producer who sells eggs below the minimum price fixed by the Board (which is the National Farmers' Union in disguise) may be fined £100 and half the price of the eggs. What hope is there for the consumer to get his food at the right price? We already have the same nonsense in operation in regard to potatoes - as you know, the price of potatoes put up the cost of living by 3 points to 150, the highest score in June. Until we return to free trade and sound money, the consumer will continue to be left in the cold.

- James Walters (in a speech, 3rd August, 1955)

GIVING THE GAME AWAY. A £48,500,000 fall in the gold and dollar reserves which Britain shares with the Empire was announced by the Treasury this afternoon. This is the biggest set-back in the reserves for more than three years. The fall is twice as big as in the whole of the previous six months. It brings the total of the reserves down to £908 million. So this year they have now tumbled by £78 million. This is the

sombre background to the further tightening on bank overdrafts, hire purchase and credit generally, which Mr. Butler announced last week. During most of July overseas holders were selling pounds heavily. For there were rumours on the Continent that sterling was to be allowed to fall below its "floor rate" of 2.78 dollars.

Last week Mr. Butler stoutly denied any intention to cheapen the pound. And he took his new measures to defend it.

- Evening Standard, 4th August 1955.

The underlining is ours. The natural correction for the "adverse" balance of trade is an adjustment of exchange rates. The "floor" is an unnatural rate. Therefore, if this rate is maintained through Government control, then the Government alone is responsible for the fall in gold and dollar reserves. The Government's only answer to this self-created dilemma is more controls, hire purchase restrictions, etc.

ASTOUNDING LAND VALUES IN LONDON SUBURB

The frontage of Wood Green Empire has been sold by Stoll Theatres for £150,000, the "Observer" understands. The buyer's name has not been disclosed. Included in the frontage site is the area of the former foyer, pay-box and advance booking office. Shops or showrooms are expected to be put up there.

The Associated Broadcasting Company, the commercial television undertaking which will use the rest of the Empire building for its shows, is not likely to require a front entrance.

- Wood Green Observer, 26th August 1955.

We have had a look at this site and were amazed to find the frontage so small. At a rough guess the frontage is 40 feet; the theatre itself runs behind a number of adjoining shops. For those who like statistics, the rent of this site, based on the purchase value, is equal to £115 a week.

High Road, Wood Green, in which this site is situated, has a stretch of shops a half-mile long which is so busy that shoppers have often to walk in the roadway, the pavements being so crowded. Taking the shops on both sides of the road, one can give a shrewd estimate of the land value of this locality alone. Here is the fund for local revenue!

ONE ARGUMENT GONE. Because business has been affected by cheap cotton imports, the Tower Mill, owned by the River & Tower Mill Co. Ltd., Tame Valley, Dukinfield, Cheshire, is to close permanently on Friday, the start of the local Wakes holiday. Most of the 150 employees, who were given notice several weeks ago, have found other jobs.

- Manchester Guardian, 9th August 1955.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR. There is a fantastic band of prophets who must often wish they could bury the past - the Mr. Miseries who for years cried: "Woe! Woe! The world is racing to starvation." Do you remember their chant?

The Archbishop of York : "World hunger is likely to be a greater danger to human life than the atomic bomb."

Lord Boyd-Orr : "The whole human race is rumbling on to destruction. There is only a 50/50 chance of getting over this food problem."

Harold Wilson, M.P.: "The increase in world population means possible world famine. ...Britain will be the first to feel the food shortage."

Well, what in fact has happened? The world is producing so much food that the problem now is how to get it consumed. Grain production in the last five years is now disclosed to have been about 20 per cent above the pre-war average. In Canada crops have been almost twice as large in the last five years as in the five years preceding the war.

The misery men overlooked the vital fact that man when faced with a problem sets to work to solve it. And succeeds.

- John Gordon, The Sunday Express, 14 August 1955.

- BUT THE PROPHETS PERSIST! The Daily Telegraph's Science Correspondent, writing from Geneva, on 14th August, and reporting on the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, said :

"A daring and unorthodox suggestion by Sir Ernest Rock Carling, radiation adviser to the British Home Office, that atomic radiations of the kind let loose by H-bombs, atomic energy processes and X-ray machines may in the end do more good than harm, has caused some adverse comment here.

"He recalled that all atomic radiation had been found to be potentially injurious to living organisms and that the vast majority of permanent genetic changes caused by such rays were harmful. He also spoke of premature death and diseases like cancer that could be caused by them.

"He suggested however that 'in a world contemplating a future in which the expansion of its population may outrange its food supplies, it is conceivable that diminished fertility and shortening of the life span may not be altogether to be deplored.'"

SAID AT LAST! Responsibility for inflation rests squarely on Governments, and not only on the present Government. There are, of course, many definitions of inflation, but no one can honestly deny that since the second world war inflation has been part of all Government policies. No really serious and large-scale attempt has been made to stop this creeping inflation, mainly through fear of its proving electorally disastrous.

Liverpool Daily Post, 24th August, 1955.

Beware the Use of Force

by Henry Thomas Buckle in "History of Civilisation"

To seek to change opinions by laws, is worse than futile. It not only fails, but it causes a reaction, which leaves the opinions stronger than ever. First alter the opinion, and then you may alter the law. As soon as you have convinced men that superstition is mischievous, you may with advantage take active steps against those classes who promote superstition and live by it. But, however pernicious any interest or any great body may be, beware of using force against it, unless the progress of knowledge has preciously sapped at its base, and loosened its hold over the national mind. This has always been the error of the most ardent reformers, who in their eagerness to effect their purpose, let the political movement outstrip the intellectual one, and, thus inversing the natural order, secure misery either to themselves or to their descendents. They touch the altar, and fire springs forth to consume them. Then comes another period of superstition and of despotism; another dark epoch in the annals of the human race. And this happens merely because men will not bide their time, but will insist on precipitating the march of affairs. Thus, for instance, in France and Germany, it is the friends of freedom who have strengthened tyranny; it is the enemies of superstition who have made superstition more permanent. In those countries, it is still believed that government can regenerate society; and therefore, directly they who hold liberal opinions get possession of the government, they use their power too lavishly, thinking that by doing so they will best secure the end at which they aim.

IDEALS AND ACTION

"Ideals" are thought to be remote and inaccessible of attainment; they are too high and fine to be sullied by realisation. They serve vaguely to arouse "inspiration", but they do not evoke and direct strivings for embodiment in actual existence ... The ineffectiveness in action of "ideals" is due precisely to the supposition that means and ends are not on exactly the same level with respect to the attention and care they demand ... Sentimental attachment and subjective eulogy take the place of action... After a polite and pious deference has been paid to "ideals" men feel free to devote themselves to matters which are more immediate and more pressing... Men hoist the banner of the ideal, and then march in the direction that concrete conditions suggest and reward... To many persons, the idea that the ends professed by morals are impotent save as they are connected with the working machinery of economic life seems like deflowering the purity of moral values and obligations.

John Dewey, in "The Quest for Certainty"