

The Henry George News

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"An Event Long Overdue"

HENRY GEORGE. By Charles Albro Barker. Oxford University Press, New York, 1935. Pp. 605. \$9.50.

Reviewed by ROBERT CLANCY

Here it is at last—a book that shows the whole of Henry George—or as much as can be revealed in a book. Here is a biography that tells the story as it was lived—absorbing, thrilling and majestically significant.

Professor Barker has moulded a life-size Henry George in the round—and what's more, a Henry George who lives and breathes and moves in a real environment. And the other characters and events that he (and the reader) meets on the way are just as convincing.

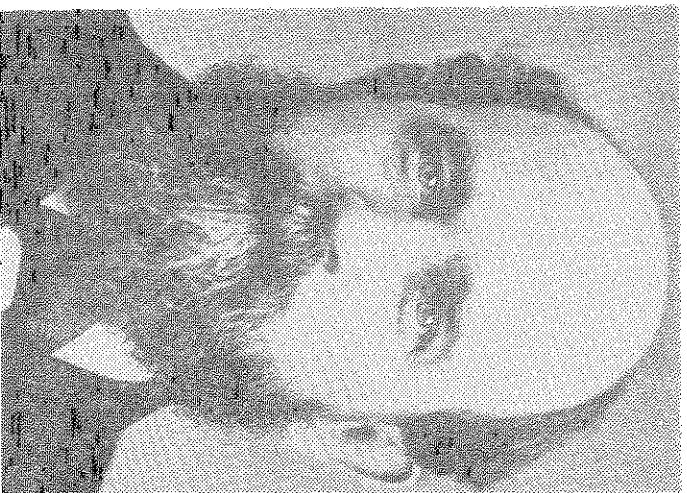
It would be difficult to find followers of any man or philosophy as intensely devoted as are the admirers of Henry George. But, if possible, Dr. Barker's book shows a Henry George of even greater stature than could have been known before now. Not his most ardent disciples, not his closest intimates, not his own adjoining family, saw all of George's greatness as we may now see. Professor Barker has made a contribution that cannot be overestimated and is beyond praise.

The books about Henry George that have hitherto appeared have all made some special contribution. The earliest life of George was by his son, Henry George, Jr.—a careful and detailed document. The later biography by the daughter, Anna George de Mille, was a warm and loving work in which the father was seen best when facing his family. George R. Geisler's *The Philosophy of Henry George* was a carefully synthesized and philosophic interpretation of all the source material readily available. And Albert Jay Nock's essay on George brought literary criticism into the picture. These are probably the four leading works on Henry George—and now they are joined by a fifth, and I will say greatest, work.

If I may be permitted an analogy, it is as though George, a modern Moses, had been seen only among his people, out of sight now and then, reappearing with the tables of the law which were then studied and interpreted. Now we may see the long silent years when he matured at Pharaoh's court, we may be with him beside the burning bush, we may follow him right to the summit of Mt. Sinai.

How did Dr. Barker happen to write this book? Barker, now a professor of history at Johns Hopkins University, counters this with the question, how is it that the job has remained undone for so long? At any rate, in his preface, the author relates his awakening interest in his subject during the depression of the 1930's, when he was in California; his decision to write the book, and his long detective work looking into sources. And at the end of the book there appears a stunning "Notes on the Sources" with a 45-page bibliography!

With such first-hand research in California, the author has done a special job on George's California period which were the crucial years



Henry George (frontispiece)

of his life—from early "nanhood to the writing of *Progress and Poverty* at the age of forty.

The California panorama is spread before us with peculiar vividness. We are permitted to see and touch it during its exciting development from a wild frontier to a modern civilization within the unbelievable span of two or three decades. And we are also permitted to look close up at Henry George, who was growing right along with all this. Barker's treatment of this period, in which he brings to light a wealth of new material, may well be his chief contribution.

Chapter X is a very important one in the book, being devoted to an examination of *Progress and Poverty*. Professor Barker's treatment of this classic parallels his treatment of its author. We are given a close look at the book and at the same time our view is directed to other books and ideas and influences which went into its shaping. It is as though *Progress and Poverty* were at the center of an exhibition, with ribbons running from its various pages to other related books from which George drew knowledge or inspiration. The lines are many and complex. There are also other ribbons showing the influence of George's book on his younger contemporaries, like Frederick Jackson Turner and John Bates Clark, though George's influence is reserved for the final chapter of Barker's book. Some interesting discoveries are revealed, such as the probable influence on George of Alexander Del Mar's theory of interest based on the generative forces of nature.

Chapter X is a gold mine, but one could miss sensing in this chapter the irresistible flow of *Progress and Poverty*, the dynamic and logical build-up from beginning to end. No doubt the type of analysis done by Barker made this sacrifice necessary. However, *Progress and Poverty* itself can be consulted easily enough—and

Charles A. Barker, author of Henry George, will be the guest of honor at the annual dinner of the Henry George School of Social Science on April 20th at the Town Hall Club, 123 West 43rd Street, New York. The price is \$4 and reservations should be made in advance. Other speakers will be Agnes de Mille, William M. Ouman of Oxford University Press, and Brodus Mitchell of Rutgers University. Lancaster M. Greene will be toastmaster. The book, "Henry George" will be published on April 21st. Autographed copies will be available to dinner guests only, at \$7.50. A special price of \$8.50 will be granted those ordering through the school after April 20th, though the list price is \$9.50.

this chapter is, after all, a critique—a most scholarly one, at that. Nothing quite like it has appeared up to now.

The chapters on George's later life bring in more hitherto inaccessible material, and there is valuable new documentation on the case of Father McGlynn. In these chapters, Barker shows more clearly than I have ever seen before, the phases of development in Henry George's outlook, and the emergence of the movement that has since been associated with his name.

Here I must take issue not so much with the author's thesis as it is developed, but with the description of it on the book's jacket. This is what is said: "Professor Barker's new interpretation shows that the single tax, for which Henry George is remembered, was more largely his followers' work than his own and that his own greater importance lay in stimulating land reform and other social reform in Britain, labor and urban-reform politics at home and in offering doctrinaire free-trade criticism to American tariff policy."

I am reminded of a remark Picasso made when he was praised for his influence on "functional design": "How would Michelangelo feel if he were praised because someone had designed a new sidebar based on his Moses?" Britain's Town and Country Planning Act, which is unfortunately linked with Georgism in the book's last chapter, is not even a decent sidebar—it is more like a Rubo Goldberg invention, as our English colleagues were the first to point out.

The Fiscal Theme Was Central

The single tax (though the name was supplied by a follower), stripped of some cleverness and tenuity which developed in the movement, remained the central theme in Henry George's life and thought. It is what distinguished him from any other Fourth of July orator, and even from any other land reformer. The economic undergirding led to the single tax. The ethical implications surrounded it. The philosophic superstructure was reared upon it. When Henry George lectured or wrote about wider questions it usually was in order to lead into an area that would in turn lead to the single tax. If some of his hearers or readers did not take the second step but went off at tangents—like G. B. Shaw and the Fabians—that wasn't George's fault! The ramifications are (Continued on Page Eight, Column Three)

A Word with You

ROBERT CLANCY

Production in the U. S., we are told, today is four times per capita what it was a century ago. This is usually presented as a boast.

You're in a game of chance when dealing with statistics, but I'm willing to play.

The population of the United States in 1855 was about 25 million. As population increases, productive power should normally increase at a greater pace.

I think it is modest enough to say that a population of 50 million should produce four times what 25 million can produce—or twice as much per capita. And that 100 million people should produce four times as much as 50 million—or 16 times as much as 25 million; that is, four times as much per capita. With a population of over 160 million, there should be a showing of at least six times as much per capita as with 25 million. So we are really behind schedule today.

The above has to do only with increase of population—economies resulting from division of labor, etc.—and does not consider invention, use of machines, etc.

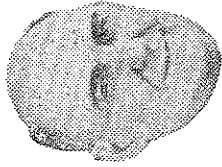
We are told that 100 years ago, manual labor accounted for 90 per cent of the production, and machines only ten per cent. With the enormous advances in technology made since then, the proportion is just about reversed today—90 per cent of production is done by machinery and ten per cent by manual labor.

If we can assume the same rising proportion of production with the increased use of machinery (as with increased population), then we should have about 80 times as much production done by ten men today as was done by 90 men 100 years ago.

This means that one man today should produce 720 times as much as his forefather did. We must multiply this by six to figure in the benefits of increased population—so production per capita today should be 3,620 times as much as a century ago.

Why, then, is it only four times as much (if, indeed, it is truly that much)? There are three possible explanations. The theory of diminishing returns with increased applications of capital—a theory belied, I think, by the results of automation; or, we can rattle the bones of Malthus; or, we can look to social and economic maladjustments that are in our power to remove.

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Noah D. Alper's BRIEF CASES

Large Land Holdings and Mineral Rights in the News

A brokerage company, in a letter to clients, lists the following companies and gives information about their land holdings: Northern Pacific Railroad; 3,200,000 acres, famed Williston Basin—51 oil wells, with 39 wells to be drilled in 1955. Southern Pacific Railroad; 5¼ million acres of mineral rights of which 2,656,500 acres are in Nevada—2,185,339 in California—2,56,045 in Utah—116,452 acres in booming Texas, etc. Of these outlying acres, 4,019,000 are actually owned.

Kern County Land Company has almost 2,000,000 acres which they own in California, Oregon, New Mexico and Arizona. Most of this land is in Kern County, California. There are some 915 producing oil wells but exploration in new zones is going on most of the time. Canadian Pacific Railroad holds petroleum and mineral rights on 11,400,000 acres in Western Canada. In 1954 income from oil and gas leases, etc. probably rose to a new peak of 65 cents a share from this source alone. The Company also owns 8,412,500 shares of Consolidated Mining & Smelting.

Union Pacific owns or has mineral rights on 7,500,000 acres . . . has extensive low-grade iron-titanium ore deposits in Utah and Wyoming, and nets about \$7.70 a share just from oil and gas alone, before income taxes.

New Mexico & Arizona Land—50.3 per cent owned by St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad which has mineral rights on a total of 1,351,195 acres scattered over seven different tracts in the above states.

One of the biggest land holders, the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, has extensive mineral rights in the Southwest area. Its uranium mine near Grants, New Mexico is one of the nation's largest and most profitable uranium properties. This railroad also has an income from oil and lumber.

Montana-Dakota Utilities control 220,000 acres of leases in Willis-ton Basin of which 90,000 are in Cedar Creek anticline in Montana.

Long Bell Lumber Company has mineral rights on 458,240 acres of cutover lands in the South—mainly in Texas.

International Paper has mineral rights varying from 25 per cent to 100 per cent interest on about 4,000,000 acres of forest lands stretching from East Texas to the Carolinas—also a large acreage within 50 miles of Humble well in Alabama.

St. Regis Paper has 2,000,000 acres of timberland scattered over the United States. About 300,000 acres near the Alabama-Florida line where considerable oil exploration is going on.

Masonite has 342,025 acres of timberlands, most of which are in Mississippi where some oil production has been developed.

Others See The Great American Tax Shift

Labor economists look down the same horse's mouth for economic wisdom as do capitalists economists. CIO's Economic Outlook spots a trend. It points out, according to a recent Associated Press dispatch, that "59 per cent of state tax revenues last year came from sales levied on consumers, while only 17 per cent came from individual and corporate income taxes. State and local tax collections already account for more than two-thirds of all tax revenue which is spent for civilian public services throughout the United States—for schools, highways, health, recreation, police protection and the rest."

Wailing that federal taxes are "progressive" in that rates rise according to ability to pay, the Outlook states that most state and local taxes are "regressive," taking proportionately more "from those who are least able to pay." . . . Referring to sales taxes a "growing menace," the CIO implies it will be possible to reduce and ultimately eliminate them "if we succeed in substantially increasing state revenues by strengthening progressive income taxes."

How sad it is to labor so to bring forth a mouse and not a mountain! What a struggle to lift the leaves and twigs and branches of evil taxes from a man who lies prostrate under the weight of a tax-tree-trunk. What a tribute to this confused thinking is the current college and university economic education which presents fragments of a problem when the whole might more easily be seen!

The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

The fact of an activating principle is well understood by a mechanical engineer. Even in an intricate machine with a complexity of operations he understands what makes it go. This knowledge is, of course, not necessary to its use.

People who drive cars, for example, learn to control movements and to regard the instrument board. They do not always understand the activating principle.

In spite of nearly foolproof design such drivers often impair the life or efficiency of the car. Becoming dependent on the judgment of service station attendants. At best they follow formal driving rules.

The engineer, on the other hand, is a creator. He uses, but he improves what he uses. He extends and broadens the scope of the activating principle, giving a form and character to it which he finds inherent in it. From a single cylinder he moves to a jet, a rocket and who knows what next—all in accordance with advancing development.

What the engineer does corresponds with the progressive course of the Georgist. Henry George might be considered the activating principle of the movement which bears his name. In that case, anyone desiring to follow his principles would seek, as objectively as possible, to see things as he saw them, think as he thought and act as he acted. That is not nearly as simple as being merely conversant with his published works.

The superficial responder could be compared to the motorist who, having learned to stop, start and steer the car, never looked under the hood. By the same analogy, one could thus be considered a follower in a movement even if activating principles were never considered.

Yet the same creative force which moved Henry George—through insight to action—could be practised again by accepting and trying to follow his creative insight now, all sorts of adjustments, new modes, and adventurous action could be possible. This would set off fresh enthusiasm which would lead to as many ways of gaining interest and attention as were possible during George's life.

These new ways must be found in the present hour if we are to apply the philosophy known to carry so much clear truth. *Basically high moral action tunes the Georgist in at once to the spirit of the founder.*



Fifty Golden Years

ABOVE is a picture we take great pleasure in sharing with our readers. It shows Mr. and Mrs. Otto K. Dorn in all their unposed joyousness, on their fiftieth wedding anniversary last summer pleasantly rocking on the lawn of their son's home in Utica, New York.

We love this little picture. We like to think of this romantic couple, Otto and Amanda, coming to the leisure years together, with a sense that life is good. We like to remember Mr. Dorn's regular Monday visits to the school when he would stride in, erect as a member of the king's guard, give a cherished and courtly greeting to all members of the staff, read his mail, sign a check or two, and sometimes, if we were especially lucky, bring us up to date on some of the big names in early Georgism.

Lately he has been reluctant to continue these commuting trips from his home in Westchester County, and has asked the board to find someone else to sign checks and be the school's vice-president (though he still continues as a trustee). For a long time the board members said no—we want Otto. Finally they did yield and made Ezra Cohen vice-president so Mr. Dorn could stop worrying. He was *that* conscientious that if he thought there was anything at the school, however slight, that needed his attention, he would come and take care of it, even in the most severe weather.

Some of the New York faculty members will surely remember hearing Mr. Dorn tell "how it all began." It is the kind of legendary story we like to mull over and retell.

"In 1896 my attention was called to a course in economics to be given on Monday evenings in one of Cleveland's prominent churches by Louis F. Post, editor of the *Cleveland Record-Examiner*," Mr. Dorn once told us. "The tuition was free, the only requirements were a pencil and writing pad and a fifty cent copy (paper covered) of *Progress and Poverty*."

"I attended each of the ten sessions," he said firmly, "and stubbornly resisted accepting as final, the theories expounded by this excellent speaker."

Suborn as he was, he was not aware of the influence Mr. Post's clear logic was having upon him until the end of the course. About that time the minister of the church "took upon himself the responsibility of demonstrating the injustice and harm that would result in making so radical a change as that advocated by Henry George." (Henry George was still living then, and his ideas were hot topics for discussion.)

"In the light of what we had been studying," and we quote the dignified and proper Mr. Dorn verbatim, "the pastor's remarks seemed to be absolutely silly and unfounded. So I jumped up upon my juvenile feet and

rushed to the defense of Henry George. This seems to have allied me with him ever since."

That incident was perhaps the greatest single factor in determining the future course of his life, as he has often affirmed to us. In public affairs as well as in private business he was determined to look for the underlying cause of every phenomenon as Henry George did. This enabled him frequently to find answers to problems which were not apparent to others.

Mr. Dorn has often emphasized to present-day students the importance of Henry George in the field of logic. The clear sightedness of this logic gave him an advantage in business development of a chain of shoe stores, as well as other activities in which he engaged. He was president of the Dorn Shoe Company in Cleveland from 1910 to 1920 and later manager of the Ground Gripper Stores, Inc., for nine years. (His first job was with a wholesale rubber house at \$6 a week).

Mr. Dorn never had any political ambitions but was active in the Tom Johnson campaigns in Ohio. In 1910 he took an active part in bringing about fundamental changes in the Ohio State Constitution, and in 1914 he served on the Board of Education in Cleveland.

In 1920 the headquarters of his chain of shoe stores was moved from Cleveland to New York, and that is how it happens that some of our sturdiest present day Georgists can remember Mr. Dorn as a teacher in the 1930's when the Henry George School was in its first home on 79th Street.

It was Mr. Dorn who kept this school going during that beginning period. He actually performed the duties of director but was too modest to assume the title. He served as business manager in 1935-36 and helped to get the school located in a large building on 29th Street. He it was who later searched out the present building on East 69th Street.

He is a director in the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and has been, since its inception, president of the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. Mr. Dorn has told us that he had only a common school education (to the seventh grade). This seems hard to believe. His superb self discipline, kindness, fairness, good manners and generosity give the impression of a man educated far above the average. His innate courage and faith will, we hope, speedily return him to a state of robust health. A recent operation and sinus ailment have temporarily gotten the better of him. Mrs. Dorn is a shining angel of hope and encouragement. A veritable multitude of friends have called to inquire and wish him well.

Ezra Cohen, who succeeds Mr. Dorn as vice-president, is an affable fellow indeed, and a native New Yorker at that. He also is a member of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation board and has been since 1939 a trustee of the Henry George School. He is an active member of the school board and board of trustees of the Park Avenue Synagogue in New York, and a trustee of the Milton Steinberg Educational Foundation.

Until 1950 he was in the fashion business (manufacturing of dresses), then he retired from "hard work" and went into the delightful business of helping Americans travel to glamorous, romantic, scenic, foreign ports. As you must have guessed, he's the man personally responsible for transporting Georgists to and from St. Andrews this summer.

Bagpipes Will Play For These Georgists

SOME of you may have to stay at home and swelter in the humidity of another hot August, but as we go to press we know of a considerable number who will be enjoying the cool breezes and goodly company at St. Andrews, Scotland, from August 13th to 20th, and possibly longer.

These include three Canadians, Stretchel Walton of Montreal and Mary E. Rawson and Helen M. Smith of Ottawa; the West Coast residents, J. Rupert Mason (president), of San Francisco; Robert C. Bryant and William B. Truchart of Los Angeles and Anne B. Lorenz of Portland; Chicagoans, Judge and Mrs. Max M. Korshak and Mr. and Mrs. George M. Menninger and son George; two Clevelanders, John W. Weir and John W. Weir, Jr.; and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton J. Ewing of Mobile, Alabama. From the East Coast bookings have been made for Mr. and Mrs. James McNally of Hartford—and from New York, Miss V. G. Peterson, Robert Clancy, Norman Casserley, Leon Caminez and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne S. Berry.

Of course this is only a beginning. As soon as dates and details are completed for others who are now in correspondence with the Bankers and Merchants Travel Service (511 Fifth Avenue, New York), the list will be much longer.

For anyone who wants to get right at the heart of the best thought on the Henry George philosophy *today*, there can be no better way than to meet with the brightest minds from all parts of the world—and the place to go for that is St. Andrews for the Ninth International Conference on Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

Programs, though they are presented in the native language of the participants, are always clearly translated and easily understood by all. Visitors and speakers will undoubtedly be present from Australia, New Zealand, South America, South Africa, India, Pakistan, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain and of course the United States.

We should perhaps emphasize once more that the time to be making reservations for ocean travel and hotels abroad is *now*. Even if you cannot make a definite decision, you should at least outline a tentative schedule. Don't put it off!

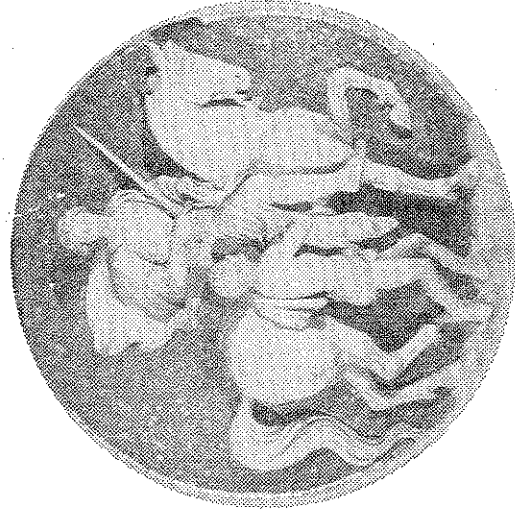


Montreal S. A. G. E. A Real Benefactor

Three classes in Fundamental Economics in Montreal are being taught by Ted Baush, Pat Hadden and Stretchel Walton (director).

In the Canadian city of unforgettable hospitality, it seems most of the social features are sponsored by S.A.G.E. One of these was a supper party in February, which was arranged partly to give new members a chance to get to know one another, and also to give various committees a chance to report on what they are doing for the school.

Besides helping in many ways to promote classes, the alumni members have engaged in such activities as making a tax survey in Montreal and canvassing old members of the school.



St. Martin and the Beggar, is a beautiful mural relief on the third floor of the Henry George School building. The above reproduction appears in the Annual Report for 1954, a 24-page booklet, which we hope HGN readers will wish to own. It's free, of course, and will be sent on request.

BARUCH SPINOZA AND WESTERN DEMOCRACY. By Joseph Dunner. Philosophical Library, New York. 1955. 140 pp. \$3.

Reviewed by MARSHALL CRANE

Liberty is one of the things we take more or less for granted in this country. It is the cornerstone of the political philosophy to which we have been exposed from our childhood up. It never occurs to us that there has ever been a seriously considered alternative to it. Yet only three hundred years ago the same ideas which we take for granted were regarded as not only wicked and contrary to divine mandate, but unworkable as well.

Then came a thinker, Baruch Spinoza, who may be said to have laid the philosophical foundation for our modern conception of liberty. That his works are not more read today must be blamed on the current unpopularity of metaphysics, for certainly nothing that he wrote three centuries ago is any less true now than when it was written.

This is a little book on Spinoza by a man who knows his subject thoroughly. As head of the political science department of Grinnell College he is very much at home with the western democracies as well. In a hundred and forty pages he has given the reader a surprisingly clear picture of Spinoza, of his metaphysics, and of his political ideas. He closes with a rewarding chapter on what Spinoza means—or, could mean—to the twentieth century.

Throughout the book one is aware of a strong and heady aroma of the *schule*, which adds not only to its flavor, but also to the reader's understanding of Spinoza and his thought. In too many analyses he is presented without the context of the rabbinical background which was such a strong influence in his thinking, and without which he seems like a different person.

Two hundred years after his death a statue of Spinoza was placed at the Hague by a number of his admirers. At the unveiling, Ernest Renan, who officiated, finished his address as follows: "This man, from his granite pedestal, will point out to all men the way of blessedness which he found: and ages hence, the cultivated traveler, passing by this spot, will say in his heart, 'The truest vision ever had of God came, perhaps, here'."

Bomb Scare Boosts Land Sales

By WAYNE S. BERRY

ON a recent business trip to the northwestern part of Connecticut I had an interesting conversation with the mayor of a small town. The town has a population of approximately one thousand and is located about one hundred miles from New York City.

During the conversation I found out that the mayor also held a couple of other positions of influence in the town. He is chief tax assessor and justice of the peace, and he receives no remuneration whatever for any of his civic duties. His source of income is his factory.

Naturally I asked him how he assessed the property in his town for tax purposes. He said he thought his method was the same as that used in most communities—the buildings and lots were assessed and the owners were taxed on the basis of the total amount.

Instead of giving him what I know to be the right answer, I asked him if he was able to keep up with the new improvements the owners made. He assured me that he himself drove completely around the town each year to check on the property owners and see what improvements had been made during the year. He further remarked that if he noticed the home owner had planted some new shrubbery in his yard he increased his assessment and of course increased his taxes the next year.

I said to him, "you should be ashamed of yourself for penalizing your good citizens when they are helping to beautify your community."

He looked rather startled and replied, "we have to have money to run the town."

I told him there was a better way to collect money. He wanted to know what it was—and during the next ten or fifteen minutes I gave him a very short outline of Henry George's philosophy. He indicated his interest and I suggested the Henry George School as a source which could supply additional information.

As our conversation tapered off I remarked how the George method of taxation would prevent speculation in land. He was now even more earnestly impressed than before, and told me of some rather curious cases where wealthy people from New York had come to his town over a period of several years and bought homes. Their reason for coming was not business or pleasure; they were looking for a place in the country in case of a war and the anticipated bombing of New York.

These people had plenty of money and when they found a house they liked, even if the owner didn't care to sell, they could offer three or four times what the normal selling price would be. In all cases the owners then rapidly changed their minds and decided to sell. In one instance an offer of 25 thousand dollars was made for a house formerly priced at 7 or 8 thousand.

After the first two or three of these sales, all property owners became land speculators. Now when a new resident comes to work in his factory, the mayor said, even ten thousand dollars will not buy him a house and lot—owners all want 20, or even 30, thousand dollars. Every one expects more rich New Yorkers to come up next summer and pay the high prices. The normal real estate business in this little town has been strangled as a result. No doubt this situation prevails in similarly situated communities.

When the atom-shy New Yorkers come to buy a house they have no intention of living in it even for the summer. It is merely a safety measure in case of war. When I told the mayor or he could stop this land speculation by adopting the land value taxation system, he began to see a little light.

I hope he becomes convinced that there is a way out of this hideous situation so he can enlighten his fellow citizens. If the seed of wisdom takes root in this one New England town, then at least *some* good will have been accomplished by the threat of the atom bomb.

Cameras, Tariffs and Trade

THE case for gradually reducing import tariffs, as urged by President Eisenhower, is usually expressed in generalities. It is true that trade with our foreign allies is preferable to aid; that compartmenting the free world with trade barriers serves the purposes of communism; that we cannot export unless we permit exports.

But these truths have a way of becoming pale and unpersuasive when set alongside a circumstantial story of how flesh-and-blood American workers find their jobs endangered by the competition of cheaply produced foreign goods.

The statement of Bell & Howell President Charles H. Percy to the Ways and Means Committee was a Washington sensation because he wrestled the high-tariff pleaders on their own ground. Bell & Howell made photographic goods, mostly motion picture cameras. The camera industry is hot for tariff protection because of a lively import trade in cameras and lenses. Percy said it actually could withstand and benefit by lower tariffs.

The industry says the cheap competition will drive it out of business. Percy said "bunk." At worst, he said, the industry can shift gradually to lines in which its costs are competitive. Bell & Howell did, when abandoning manufacture of a high-priced, handmade still camera, because Germany could make a better camera for less.

The industry says it must be protected because its force of skilled optical workers is vital to national defense. Ten years are needed, it is claimed, to make a skilled optical worker. Again Percy's answer was "bunk." Bell & Howell, in 1941-45, trained optical workers in six months and "if we had to do it again, we think we could do it in three months."

Besides, said Percy, the truth is that the American worker can compete and need not be displaced. The answer is his higher productivity. Years ago Bell & Howell sold a movie camera for \$49.95, at that time paying labor an average 40 cents an hour. Now Bell & Howell again sell a \$49.95 camera, which it calls "a finer camera" and which is made by workers paid upwards of \$2 an hour. "The highly-paid American worker has become the most efficient in the world, two to 10 times as productive as his European counterpart."

There was nothing pale or unpersuasive about Mr. Percy.

From The Detroit News

New Adventure for Matthew Ramage

By GEORGE MARAVELIAS

MATTHEW RAMAGE was a personality one would not easily forget, even though the encounter was brief. His clear, incisive speech; still vigorous after nine decades; was beautiful and heartwarming. There never was a more dedicated or able Georgist. His enthusiasm was a spur to everyone interested in our cause. Widely read in history, religion, philosophy and political economy, he saw all men and nations, all institutions, in a process of evolution. There could be no standing still or living in a vacuum. Each individual, he felt, was responsible for his actions, and each would be rewarded accordingly. He believed the path to peace, happiness and abundance for mankind could be reached by conforming our economic and social systems with natural law.

Mr. Ramage came over to the social philosophy of Henry George through a personal experience which reveals the sterling character he possessed. As a young man he purchased some lots in Ontario, Canada. After a year or so the land greatly increased in value. He once remarked to the writer that he was not sure what caused the increase—but he knew that it was not through any particular effort or ability on his part. This was good fortune, but he did not think he had earned it entirely through his own effort. It started him thinking, and the thinking crystallized when he heard a speech on Henry George at a labor meeting in Toronto by the "Philadelphia Cyclone," Herman V. Hentzel. Mr. Ramage often remarked that Hentzel "was the best stump-speaker" he had ever heard and dated his conversion to the single tax idea from that speech. Shortly afterward he read *The Land Question* and followed that with *Progress and Poverty*. He was readily convinced. While living in the New England States he became a bitter foe of tariffs when he heard a hired orator say to textile workers (earning \$3 a week) "Are you going to let the pauper labor of Europe take your jobs away?" At that time the American textile industry had protection to the tune of 114 per cent on all imported fabrics. Still, all over New England dozens of mills were closed.

At the turn of the century, Washington was the center of considerable activity among the followers of George. Mr. Ramage was president of the Single Tax Propaganda Association of Washington, D. C. from 1895 to 1905. This organization and affiliated groups sponsored a contest for a novel based on the single tax. A prize of \$10,000 was offered and contributions came from all parts of the world. The plan was dropped and the money returned because of Henry George, Jr.'s disapproval.

Mr. Ramage, through his newspaper connections and prospecting ventures, came to know quite intimately such eminent public men as Champ Clark, Bainbridge Colby and Newton D. Baker. Many Congressmen and Senators visited him on his farm in Maryland on the banks of the Potomac, to discuss *Progress and Poverty* and quote passages by the page. Few of this generation realize the impact of *Progress and Poverty* on the political men of a half-century ago.

Matthew Ramage has "gone to the other side of life," as he would have put it, but the

Matthew Ramage renewed his Henry George News subscription for five years in June, 1954, saying he hoped to read every copy. Where would you like us to send them, Mr. Ramage?

His letters were always in beautiful handwriting which showed no trace of feebleness, despite his 90 years. Also they were delightfully gay, polite and even mischievous. "Please enclose it in an envelope," he wrote, "all the nice ladies in this hotel read my mail and I don't want them to get jealous." In the same letter, last November, he said, "If reincarnation is true, and I think it is, there is a chance for us [Georgists] yet."

George Maravelias, Robert E. Allen, Jr. and other Washington Georgists feel bereft without their good friend. Mrs. Ramage and two sons survive. Please do not be sorrowful, Mrs. Ramage. In the words of George Maravelias, "it is the beginning of another adventure for him."

He was a retired geologist and oil prospector, and had an almost priceless collection of volumes, among which was the famous "White House volume" formerly owned by a White House employee during Lincoln's administration.

life he lived here will be a constant challenge and source of inspiration to all who knew him. One is at loss for the proper words to do honor to his character and personality. We turn to Shakespeare and say with him:

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, 'This was a man!'"



Philadelphia Director On Radio Station WHAT

Spring term classes in Fundamental Economics begin the week of April 18th, Mondays through Thursdays, from 6 to 8 P. M. and 8 to 10 P. M. at school headquarters. Friday evenings will be reserved for discussion of current events to which non-Georgist groups are invited. On March 25th Robert Clancy, New York director, met with this group at an informal supper meeting.

A civic committee has scheduled Philadelphia's director, Joseph A. Stockman, as the regular feature on their radio program on the first Thursday of each month over station WHAT at 11:45 a. m., this without cost to the school.

Jack Lindeman, an instructor, has entered the ranks of publishers with a literary magazine *Whetstone*, which has already received very favorable comment.

"While this trend towards statism continues in America, no military effort will stop communism or establish lasting peace. Atom bombs are useless against the infiltration of communist ideas when the military program itself is used as an excuse to extend collectivist policies everywhere. Loyalty oaths and acts to outlaw the party merely cause changes in labels. The propaganda of socialist agencies in our own government makes new converts to the communist program faster than the FBI can identify or catch them.

"The way to lasting peace is very different. We can find it only as we free ourselves as did the Founding Fathers from the delusions and restraints of coercive collectivism."

In Christ

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Get Your Airmeter Here!

By MATTHEW NATALIE

WE are now working on a method of harnessing the atmosphere. Once that is accomplished, we will unit with the lawmakers and landlords and pass a law that everyone who breathes must rent a machine from the individuals who have harnessed the atmosphere (known as airdords). This machine will be placed on your back with a hose connected to your nose. Air will be metered to your body at the rate of ten cents a day. Every day you will drop a dime in the little slot, one of the airdords will send somebody around once a week to collect the money.

Airdords and landlords will all be privileged characters and will not wear meters. A little fuss will be made over the use of air machines at first, but eventually everyone will get accustomed to the idea. In the future, the airdords will probably be looked up to as benefactors of humanity. Those few who refuse to use an airmeter will be placed in special compartments similar to our jails of today. They will be the ones who will be considered "too lazy to work for their own air." If they try to escape they will be shot immediately. For those who find themselves unemployed and unable to pay for their air, we will increase social security and increase the number of our charities.

We now look into the future to the year 2055. Eighty per cent of the world's population have airmeters. The other twenty per cent (airlords, landlords, and their confederates), live on revenue from air and land.

The big question is "shall we nationalize the air industry?" We will interview a few private citizens. Here comes the first one.

"Good afternoon, young lady. We would like your opinion on a question. Would you be in favor of nationalizing the air industry?"

"Of course not. I believe in free enterprise." I'm very sorry. We can't talk to her any longer. I have an appointment with the air inspector. My meter needs adjustment. Here comes the next citizen.

"Good afternoon, young man. Do you feel the price of air is too high?"

"No, as long as I can work fourteen hours a day I'm satisfied, even though my wife and four kids breathe a little too much air for their own good. I can't understand how our grandfathers were able to live working only eight hours a day. Look what happened to my friend Joe. He got laid off—couldn't find a job—ran out of social security. So instead of resorting to charity for free air he shot himself. He was too proud to take the air free. Thank you very much."

We now give you the latest news. There will be a statue erected at City Hall of the famous Joe Blow, who invented the airmeter which enables the airless to breathe air from the moment they are born to the last minute of their lives. Ten men were sent to the electric chair for advocating overthrow of the airdocrats.

You may by now be smiling at this pathetic bit of fiction, but I am quite sorrowful, for this story is likely to come true. We must have land to live, we must have air to live, we must have sun to live. If it is not right for men to own the air or sun depriving us who must depend on them for life, it is also not right for men to own land and rent it to us who must have it to live.

Denmark — The Better Way?

By HARLAN TROTT

IN Denmark, of course, there are class distinctions just as everywhere else. Only the Danes have difficulty discovering where to apply them.

This augurs well for the popularity of the Scandinavian Airlines System's thrilling new Polar Route which makes Denmark and California overnight neighbors.

Any way you look at it, America's "breezy Westerners" are sure to get along just fine with these friendly Danes. There's nothing stand-offish about either and SAS will show the way.

It doesn't take visitors very long to detect the high and very even cultural level which the Danes have reached through their excellent school system, including the extremely practical folk school founded by the great Lutheran Bishop Grundtvig.

This and the quality of democracy out of which it has grown explains why university professors and bus drivers can converse with ease on any worthwhile subject, and usually do.

The only difference between them, according to Mogens Lind, is that bus drivers earn more than professors.

"Nobody looks down on a man who is a millionaire," one straight-faced Dane explained. "Besides, we know that the tax collector is not going to let him go on for very long, and anyway he is not happier than the rest of us."

Knud Tholstrup impressed me as a man no less happy than those who are blessed with more immunity from tax collectors. The "Direktor" of Kosangas lives in a beautiful new glass house on the road to Kronborg Castle. He drives a new Ford car, and is a major distributor of bottled fuel gas in Denmark and other Balt countries.

At the same time, Mr. Tholstrup refuses to default to the tax collector. As a member of Parliament he favors the tax reform program

of Denmark's small but influential Justice party.

Denmark after the war was a country without raw materials, a country badly robbed by the Nazis, a country where the Iron Curtain has cut off a great part of its shipping and trade in the Baltic. Even so, I am told the Danes have the highest living standard among the European nations involved in the last war.

Free trade and land value taxation are two inseparable planks in the Justice party's platform — policies which helped to prevent the disintegration of little Denmark after the defeat by Prussia and Austria in 1864 reduced Denmark to half the size of Maine.

"What we have lost without, we must win back within," Capt. Mylius Dalgas told his countrymen. He referred to the vast waste land in the Jutland Peninsula. In 40 years this bleak tract was transformed into farms, gardens, and forests.

This will interest Californians. The Danes did it with the same tax principles the people of the Central Valley used to make Modesto and Turlock perhaps the richest farming areas in the world. They did it by taxing the value of benefited land and not the buildings, orchards, irrigation ditches, and other improvements.

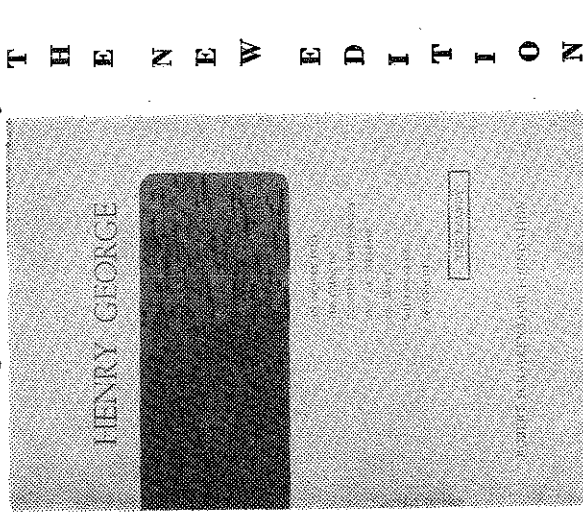
The Danes adopted a public revenue system that made it unprofitable to hold land idle. They encouraged farmers to own and use the land and intensify production so as to get the most out of the soil. Just like in the Central Valley of California, the Danes taxed people into business instead of out of business.

Denmark's land reform program worked so well that today 94 per cent of Denmark's 200,000 farmers own their own farms. The United States ranks second with 64 per cent.

About the time the United States Reclamation Law came into being, the Danes were adopting their so-called Koge Resolution. In essence it stated, "As the small-holders consider their form of husbandry to be the most advantageous for themselves and the community, their economy cannot be based on subsidies and contributions from the state or from other sections of the community. They seek no favor for themselves in the way of tax legislation, but on the contrary the earliest possible removal of all tariffs and taxes on consumption or earnings of capital and labor; and they demand instead that, for meeting the public needs, taxes be levied on the land value which is not due to any one person's individual work but arises from the growth and development of the community. Such charges will not weigh upon labor but, will make land cheaper and thereby make it easier for every man to have a home of his own."

For anyone confused by the economics of farm subsidies — people paying more taxes in order to pay more for butter—the Koge Resolution of 1902 offers food for thought. Denmark's example in trade and taxes implies that a people's wisdom is not necessarily measured by population or income.

The giants of this earth perhaps have something to learn from little Denmark.



Here it is—the book you and we have been waiting for. And what a beautiful book it is! Made from the same plates as the luxury edition at \$5, this one is being offered at the unbelievably low price of \$1.50 a copy. The Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation (publishers of the book) said, "Even I like it," and that's saying a lot. Send your orders to 50 East 69th Street, New York. They'll be filled as rapidly as possible.

"Progress and Poverty"

T H E N E W E D I T I O N

Charles A. Barker

"An Event Long Overdue"

(Continued from Page One)

complex and the influence has been many-sided, but in any evaluation of Henry George, the single tax cannot be relegated to an inferior position.

All this, I repeat, is prompted more by the blurb on the jacket than by the book itself. For the author develops his story in the most satisfying and well-balanced manner. If his thesis was as described on the jacket, then he certainly put one over on this reviewer.

Among the most controversial features of Henry George's life were his various forays into politics. Dr. Barker seems to have achieved a remarkable closeness to George's thought processes, and by the time he has built up the political settings the reader would be disappointed to learn that George did anything other than he did. At the points when George decides to abandon politics, the reader is ready for that, too.

Among the features of this biography that impressed me most was that a tone of scholarship and objectivity was maintained throughout—the author does not obtrude himself, as did Nock in his essay, and even after some 700 pages you could not tell whether he was a "Georgist" or otherwise. And yet he is warmly sympathetic to his subject and frequently goes to some trouble to demonstrate that George was right on this or that matter. He never once seems to lose balance, perspective or objectivity. I think this is a noteworthy achievement, and the book should prove highly acceptable to skeptics and savants as well as to aficionados and crusaders.

A word about the book itself—it is a very handsome production beautifully printed—a joy to behold and to hold in one's hands. It has an arresting photo of George as a frontispiece, and it is well indexed.

Yes, *Henry George* by Charles Barker is a once-in-a-lifetime affair. I don't see how it could miss opening the eyes of the academic world to the importance of Henry George—an event long overdue.

Science Monitor of
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