

HENRY GEORGE NEWS

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Keep Tyranny Out of Your Pay Envelope

By HENRY GEORGE III

IT IS MY belief that to establish a compulsory health insurance is to establish the first step in a socialized state. I believe that what is found expedient in medicine will become desirable in other professions and activities, such as law, engineering, architecture, and all other forms of private endeavor.

I hope a way can be found for escaping this compulsory insurance, but the people who are pressed by taxation will want to get something in return for what the government takes from them. For proof of this a brief glance at history will suffice. The Romans would not give up their bread dole or the circus, and the American people too, when they have once been chained to paternalism, will cry with all their might and main for their physical needs to be cared for by the state. After that some displaced American may write another history—the decline and fall of the United States.

Men or Slaves?

Man is a social creature, his body proves it and so does his species. The division of sex establishes the validity for the division of labor in the rearing of young, while the co-operation and division of labor among men determines the status of society. Singly man is a savage and a brute and his existence is reduced to a quest for food with which to keep the body fire burning. But through co-operation with others of his kind, a division of labor enables each to more and better benefits from nature than they could have by their single efforts. This co-operation is the alchemy that transmutes the beast into the man—the mud but into the marble house.

This living together in co-operation we call society—that is, the condition wherein each man's play of talent and energy has the widest scope without injury to his fellows. The freer the society, the greater the well-being of all.

The acceptance to do as we are done by is our code of justice by which government, the mechanism of society, maintains equilibrium. Madison said, "Justice is the end of government, it is the end of Civil Society."

But when government limits man's freedom of association with his fellows, curtails his trade of what he has but does not want, for

what he wants but does not have; or deprives him of the free use of his talent—then government is breaking the natural law of society and will destroy itself. Instead of a servant and instrument for the advancement of humanity it becomes a master that will reduce mankind to slavery.



EVERY day I am more and more impressed with the idea that the biggest work one can do in life is to use every power at one's command in advancing the human race.

The aspiration to be of service in this way is a spark that alights in your soul and pushes you forward to a life of broad, useful work.

The one imbued with this spirit sees ahead what should be done, and labors to advance this great objective entirely regardless of impediments encountered. He receives enjoyment out of every moment of his life. He takes human nature as he finds it, and appreciates at all times that his work is necessary because human nature is as it is.

Personally, I feel that I was most fortunate in having this spirit become the dominating power in my life in the days of my boyhood, and I feel that my efforts have not been in vain.



FREDERICK H. MONROE,
in a letter to his son, John Lawrence Monroe,
from the Euclid Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio,

November 11, 1927.
Founder Henry George Lecture Association, October 19, 1903,
and its President until his death in 1929.
Born April 7, 1865, Arcola, Illinois.
Died August 26, 1929, Palos Park, Illinois.

CHRISTMAS, 1929

as much as from that of personal loss or gain. Let us examine the aim of compulsory health insurance and after that the mechanism.

Billions for Red Tape

Compulsory health insurance as advocated by the Office of the Federal Security Administration, would supplant voluntary health insurance by levying a payroll tax of from 3 per cent divided between employer and employee. Notice this is from 3 per cent to an undetermined amount, and that cost of operation which may rise rapidly to many times that figure.

This plan is advocated by those who claim that low standards of public health and medical care in America make government control imperative. It is supported by the Federal Security Administration, the President, all who seriously believe in a socialistic state, left-wing organization, the Committee for the Nation's Health, and the Physicians' Forum. Add to these the labor leaders, labor organizations, and the Communist party, all vocally militant in its favor.

The compulsory health insurance would require an over-all sum of from 6 to 15 billion dollars for its operation, and if the United States does as well as Germany was doing on her state health insurance it will withdraw from productive private employment one out of each hundred persons, or roughly about 1,500,000. This figure does not include the physicians, dentists, druggists, pharmaceutical manufacturers, nurses, technicians, orthopedic manufacturers and the host of other businesses that would be involved. It means that 1,500,000 men and women would be taken from private employment, and re-employed as lay clerks, inspectors, detectives, accountants, prosecutors, tabulators, and tax collectors. They would check records, allocate funds, conduct hearings, determine fees, prosecute and give testimony, compose boards, and generally fill out the bureaucratic roster of a police state.

But more important than the number of workers shifted to the government payroll is the fact that the contract relationship between men will be destroyed. The cessation of contracts will naturally terminate recognition of the

Thus, when we consider any broad social

reform, it is incumbent upon us to preserve our freedom of action and our right to the fruit of our labor. So at this critical moment when compulsory health insurance is receiving consideration, we must be careful to study it from the broad philosophical viewpoint quite

A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

As 1949 draws to its close we are reminded that it has marked the centenary of the Danish Constitution.

We Georgists like to think of Denmark as "our" country, and the year 1849 played its part in the progress made there toward our goal. It was then that democratic institutions replaced the old aristocratic regime in Denmark. It is true that the constitution was an imperfect instrument and that, as has been observed, it is still in need of revision. But it helped create the right atmosphere toward the achievement of economic democracy.

A political instrument has meaning only so long as it is accepted as a guide by the people themselves. And even when so accepted, a political instrument that seeks the ideal of freedom and equality must be implemented by measures that bring the ideal to reality—otherwise it is "the sound of clashing cymbals."

The Danish Constitution, is in a measure, an expression of the age-old Scandinavian love of freedom. It has helped toward the penetration of responsibility in affairs of state to all strata of society—and thus has tended to close up the gap between "classes."

Land-value taxation fitted naturally into the picture. In the first place, the idea has long been rooted in Danish history. As far back as the days of the Vikings it was known and applied. The influence of Henry George gave further impetus to the movement, and through a process of education the Danish people with their new democratic responsibilities were given to see the justice of the reform.

At the present time there is a national land-value tax, local land taxes, periodic land valuations, and a strong movement to increase the tax so that it will embrace the full rent of land.

Denmark has a long way to go. She is still saddled with the restriction and "social-welfare" legislation that burden practically every country in the world today. But with land-value taxation she has taken the first steps toward a reign of freedom and justice. The inspired work of our fellow Georgists in Denmark (who have become a force to reckon with), promises further steps.

And so, in this year of commemoration, we tip our hats to Denmark—the laboratory of land reform and liberty.

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Questions on Land-Value Taxation

HAROLD S. BUTTENHEIM, Editor of The American City, recently sent these question to The Henry George News saying that he had found them rather puzzling and wondered whether we would like to invite comments from our readers. He has not introduced them for the purpose of attacking or undermining any proposals by Henry George. On the contrary, as a participant on programs, and a member of committees on land use, he has been for many years a consistent advocate of land-value taxation. These are questions which his colleagues in the planning and housing associations have frequently used in reply to his arguments. He passes them on because he has not yet found convincing answers.

Does anyone have an approximate estimate as to the total annual economic rent of land in the United States as a whole, or for the states whose laws require separate assessment of land and improvements? If so, how do such totals compare with current governmental budgets—national, state and local?

If, through the taxing power, the entire economic rent were collected for public purposes, would such funds be enough to cover even the current totals of municipal, county and school district expenditures?

One of the strongest arguments for land-value taxation is the fact that it would discourage the holding of land out of use.

What is the best answer to the counter-argument of the city planners that urban congestion—too intensive use of land—is a major evil in parts of almost all cities, and that any system of taxation that would stimulate this evil is against the public interest?

How nearly 100 per cent tax on the economic rent of land would produce the most desirable results?

If 100 per cent were taken, what inducement would there be for builders to use the best sites, or for farmers to till the best land?

If less than 100 per cent were taken, how would land speculation be prevented?

Whatever the percentage—80 per cent, 90 per cent or 100 per cent of the economic rent—how would land values be determined and the tax rate fixed when the sales value of land had diminished greatly or disappeared as a result of site-value taxation?

Would the assessor estimate the land value of a particular piece of property at what it would be if that property—and that property alone—were exempt from taxation?

If land were the only source of taxation, would not much land be abandoned by present owners, thus depriving local governments of much revenue now derived from vacant land held for speculative purposes? And would not the necessary result be higher taxes on land productively used? [This is answered in the next column, *Econo-quiz*.]

What is the best method of taxing timber land, coal land, oil land etc., to prevent depletion of natural resources on the one hand, and monopoly of profits on the other?

How should sites be assessed which a municipality desires for future schools, parks, playgrounds etc., but which it is not now ready to buy?

If, as Henry George says, "there can be no just title to an exclusive possession of the soil," does this apply as among cities, states and nations?

It is claimed that taxes levied upon land values cannot be transferred by the owner to the purchaser or tenant. Is not this so only in respect to such taxes as do not increase the real value of land?

Let us assume that a city issues bonds for important public improvements—say a sewage disposal plant and a new high school and a park and playground system. The interest on these bonds means additional taxes on all of the real estate in the city. The improvements, however, increase land values by attracting new residents and by making the city a more desirable place for those already there. Landowners are thus enabled to secure higher prices from future purchasers or tenants. Does not this mean that the added taxes are paid by the future purchasers or tenants, and is it not desirable that this should be so?

Is advocacy of income and inheritance taxes and gasoline taxes, for national and state revenues, incompatible with advocacy of land-value taxes for municipal and county revenues?

Econo-quiz

By HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN

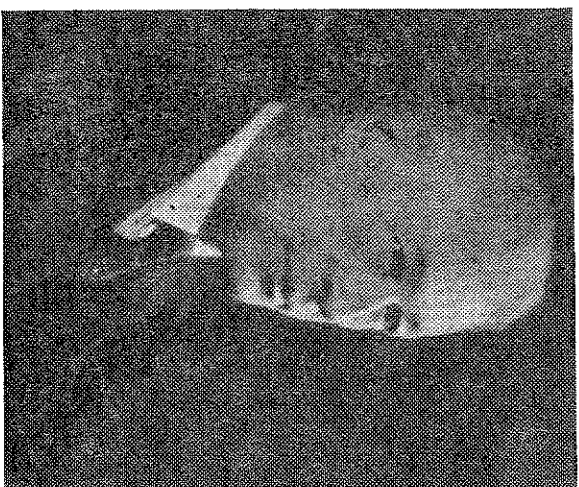
Question. If land were the only source of taxation, would not much land be abandoned by present owners, thus depriving local governments of much revenue derived from vacant land for speculation purposes? And would not the necessary result be higher taxes on land productively used?

Answer. To both questions: yes, indeed. But those effects need not be permanent. It is a matter of administration. Even under the present disorderly revenue system, a tremendous amount of real estate, both improved and vacant has been abandoned with the result mentioned. The condition arises from the failure to foreclose as promptly as the law specifies on tax delinquent properties and offering them for sale, with good merchantable titles, to willing taxpayers.

If municipal taxation were wholly on land values and an orderly policy of tax payment enforcement firmly administered, all lands vacant and improved, having sales value would be in the hands of landholders, willing to pay taxes.

Under such administration, the real value of tax delinquent vacant lands would appear when they were offered for tax foreclosure sale. The lands for which no offers were received, could be adjudged to be without value and taken over by the state and held until at a periodic competitive sale they would be purchased, when of course, they would again be entered on the tax rolls. We should always remember that all the land is our common estate. This consideration makes of every landholder a trustee for the part of the common estate which is in his possession. He is not an owner of land in the sense that he owns his body or the products of his labor. In the nature of things, within the limits of the sum of rent obtainable for his landholding, he owes to society, the source of his title, whatever tax the community may levy upon the land he holds. Some folks worry over the prospect that landholders may get some small profit out of their trusteeship. Others, equally earnest, fear that the single tax might take more from landholders than their lands are worth.

Unless there be some profit after tax payment the landholders will sell their land titles, and the new occupier will buy only on such terms as will give him a decent reward for collecting the rent and paying the tax into the public treasury.



A Salute of Respect and Affection

In an attempt to reconstruct for readers of this generation the environment in which Mr. Purdy worked, Philip Cornick describes the growing movement for reform of the property tax as stimulated by the appearance in 1879 of *Progress and Poverty*. By the time Lawson Purdy had reached his majority, Henry George was well on his way to becoming an international figure. Mr. Purdy saw that a thorough knowledge of existing tax law and the law of property would be a great asset to him.

It is fairly well known even in so forgetful a generation as this, that Lawson Purdy was president of the Department of Taxes and Assessments in the City of New York. But much less is known of the wise direction he gave to chairmen of legislative committees for the enactment of certain pending bills or his skill in utilizing the influence of organized groups of citizens, two of which were the New York Tax Reform Association under leadership of Thomas G. Shearman and the New York State Conference on Taxation which held the first of its several sessions at Utica New York in January, 1911. Of both societies Arthur C. Pleydell was at that time secretary. Something of the influence deriving from these groups was seen in the fact that the legislature, already in session when the first of these conferences convened, enacted six laws based on conference resolutions and five additional ones which grew out of conference deliberations.

"Of the many bills enacted into law as the result of Lawson Purdy's efforts," writes Mr. Cornick, "only a few can be described here. For convenience they will be presented under five headings: those designed to draw a more precise line between real and personal properties; those designed to remove personal properties from the assessment rolls compiled by local assessors; those designed to improve administrative procedures for the valuation of real estate; those designed to provide for a more equitable distribution among minor civil divisions of tax burdens on real property imposed by the state or by counties; and for a fairer apportionment between classes of real property assessed by different agencies; and those designed to simplify and clarify procedures for the enforcement of liens based on arrears of taxes on real estate.

An Example for All

"Few appraisers," continues Philip Cornick, in the American Journal article, have ever recognized more clearly than Mr. Purdy that, in a free market, cost of reproduction new does not establish the value which a building adds to the value of the land on which it stands. All it does is to indicate the upper limit of that added value.

"As his first hand knowledge of urban land use grew during his long term of office [eleven years], it was almost inevitable that Mr. Purdy should become interested in the control of those practices which, as he had observed in many cases, led to the destruction of socially-created land values, as well as of the values of the buildings which had been well designed to take advantage of the potentialities inherent in the sites. He was therefore active as a member of the Commission on Building Districts and Restrictions which pioneered in drafting New York City's zoning resolution; and he served as its vice chairman. His terse, two page summary of the reasons for that legislation, its ad-

vantages, and its shortcomings, is still worthy of attention by those engaged currently in work preparatory to the first general revision of the nation's first comprehensive ordinance."

Philip H. Cornick states in a summary of this article which must have been for him a labor of appreciation and love:

"It is given to few men to see clearly in youth the outlines of an immediate job which needs doing, to seize on it, and to carry it to completion. Lawson Purdy is one of those rare persons. From 1896 to 1933, he was a leader in the renovation of the general property tax law of New York, and in the development and establishment of new patterns of administrative procedure. That period in his career has therefore been a notable one not only for him but for his time.

"This statement is true whether his accomplishment is viewed as an essential step toward the distant goal on which he had fixed his eyes, or simply as an allocation and adjustment of the tax on real estate to its accepted place in current thinking as an important foundation stone of local self government. From the longer run point of view, the elimination from the assessor's task of the time consuming and largely ineffective duties of listing and valuing tangible and intangible personally, and the attendant emphasis on the separate valuation of land, constituted logical first steps toward his ultimate goal. In the shorter run, his labors had contributed to making order, system, and analysis possible in a situation in which chaos and confusion had previously been almost inevitable.

"From either point of view, Lawson Purdy has been a laborer worthy of his hire."

Praise and Esteem from All

The pages of this handsomely printed journal which depict in detail the conditions that had to be met by this remarkable leader, and how they were met, make a thrilling story. It is a saga of achievement—one that reads, in the light of our present governmental confusion, something like a Horatio Alger tale. Almost a complete novel in itself, is the development of Mr. Purdy's training technique for assessors, but this occupies only a small part of the all-over view. Readers of *The Henry George News* may remember the April, 1948 issue in which, under the title "The Assessment of Real Estate," Mr. Purdy did us the honor to set down for our teachers especially, the formula as it was then introduced. In this account he characteristically avoided any mention of his own guiding genius in the successful venture. Unfortunately that issue of the *News* was speedily exhausted. We therefore hope that those among us for whom these events have meaning, will avail themselves of the delight of reading through the entire October number of the American Journal of Economics and Sociology, thereby giving themselves a treat and an intellectual repast. Copies are available from the Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y. at \$1 a copy. The subscription rate is \$3 a year for four issues.

We are grateful to all the above-mentioned persons who have succeeded in putting into words the esteem and devotion we all share for our great friend, Lawson Purdy. From *The Henry George News*, sir, many happy returns of the day!

DISTINGUISHED is the word which always comes to mind with respect to Lawson Purdy. His appearance and his utterances have distinction, he lives with distinction, and his active career which ended several years ago, is always remembered as a distinguished one. It was therefore a service to his friends more than to himself, when a dinner in honor of his birthday was announced by the Schalkenbach Foundation. This became also the occasion on which the Schalkenbach Foundation presented to Mr. Purdy, chairman of its Board of Directors, the first copy of the October number of the American Journal of Economics and Sociology. This is devoted to "Essays in Honor of Lawson Purdy, LL.D. on the Occasion of His Eighty-Sixth Birthday." Roy Foulke, vice-president of Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. presided at the birthday dinner on November sixth at the New York Athletic Club.

A Treasury of Information

The commemorative number of the American Journal was edited by Harold S. Buttenheim, and opens with a biographical note in outline form which is very useful to those who were not aware that Mr. Purdy had served in nine major fields of activity during his eminent career. Although Lawson Purdy has occasionally favored Henry George News readers with articles or comments, he has always been so reticent about his achievements that until this invaluable collection of essays appeared there was no complete view of his lifework.

While not all articles in this issue deal directly with Mr. Purdy, they all point a dramatic historical trend which needs to be restudied. Among notable contributors to this issue are: Samuel Seabury, Francis Neilson, Albert Pleydell, Albert W. Noonan, Robert S. Childs, Shelby M. Harrison, Mabel L. Walker and Philip H. Cornick. Mr. Cornick writing of "Lawson Purdy's Career in Property Tax Reform," began with this tribute:

"Fortunate is the man whose natural bent, training and experience qualify him to play a part in some great movement of his time. Such a man was Lawson Purdy in the quarter century preceding the outbreak of the first world war. Already steeped by environment and education in the concepts of individual liberty and private initiative on which our nation had been founded, and with a grasp of the obligations and responsibilities imposed by citizenship, his imagination was fired and his life given purpose by the teachings of that great American, Henry George."

How to De-feather a Goose

By FRED WORKMAN

UNTIL RECENTLY taxation in the United States has been low as compared with European countries. Following two world wars and the threat of a third, however, the picture has changed. Unless taxes can be more equitably distributed in the near future, our prosperity is doomed.

Sales taxes, which are as old as organized government, have been advocated as an answer to our local tax problems. They were used under the Pharaohs in Egypt and by the emperors of Rome, India and China—reaching their culmination in imperial France where peasants paid twenty-eight assorted sales taxes, while the aristocracy, who owned all the land, paid no taxes whatever on their vast land holdings.

The injustice of this situation brought on the French Revolution after which the French aristocracy was thrown out and the sales tax abolished. The Prime Minister of France had told wasteful, extravagant King Louis XIV that sales taxes were best because they took the most feathers from the geese with the least squawk.

William Pitt, Prime Minister of England at that time, also advocated sales taxes because, as he expressed it, you could take the last rag from the people's backs and the last bite from their mouths, and they would not know what had hit them but would only complain of hard times.

It seems obvious that a tax which suited these ancient tyrants so well should have no place in our free enterprise economy. There is instead a "golden rule" form of taxation proposed by the late Henry George, the great social scientist, which is a democratic form of taxation because it is really not a tax at all, but simply the collection of socially created [land] values for social needs.

Land is unique. It cannot be carried away or concealed. It is necessary for human existence and yet owes its existence to no man. Land value arises from the activity and demand of the population as a whole and should be, therefore, the natural support of government.

When land is taxed its selling price goes down. When the products of labor are taxed their prices go up. It is to everybody's advantage that prices of all products of labor be low, and to the advantage of 90 per cent that land prices be low. Only about 10 per cent (the landowners) benefit by high land prices. What happens to a democracy when 10 per cent are benefitted at the expense of 90 per cent?

When window glass was invented the French Government levied a tax on windows. As a result all but the rich had to enclose their windows and live in darkness. We do worse than that today. We tax the whole house.

Is it any wonder that houses are scarce? Whenever a man commits a "nuisance" he may be fined once and discharged. If he commits an "improvement", i.e., builds a house, he is fined every year of his life.

The Eighty-first Congress considered several new socialistic measures to stave off the threatened depression, but socialism has led to penury in every nation where it has been tried. We need leadership which will point out the road to economic freedom and continued prosperity. This road must be a common one which labor and capital can walk as partners, not foes.

Labor and capital are natural allies. Both are now impeded by the tremendous number of taxes imposed on enterprise and the exorbitant toll exacted by landowners. When labor and capital join forces to abolish these twin obstacles to production and distribution, we may look for prosperity again....

Henry George traced the close relation between these factors and gave us an answer to the problem. Today we are facing the serious crisis in distribution which he foresaw. How long must we suffer before we seek a cure?

The foregoing is an excerpt from an address delivered before the Rotary Club in Pacific Grove, California, where the author has been for years an active protagonist of taxation reform.

New York

John C. Lincoln, the school's president, was a recent visitor, and David C. Lincoln has taken a position in the Engineering Department of the Sperry Gyroscope Company in nearby Long Island. Two years ago David fled torrid New York for the West Coast. Now that he is back we hope to make a better impression—though he still refuses to live in New York City—says he's too much of a country boy!

Dr. Rolland O'Regan, Georgist leader of New Zealand, visited in New York in November and expects to call on Georgists in San Francisco enroute to his home in Wellington, New Zealand.

Completion exercises will be held on December 13 and 14 for regional extension class students and headquarters students respectively.

The only December lecture will feature Raymond Duncan of Paris who will tell of first hand encounters with France's growing socialism and will afford a delightful evening touching on many topics. Friday, December 9 at 8 P. M. is the date. On December 2 and December 16 there will be motion pictures selected by SAGE.

"Noah! Where's Noah," has become a popular tune. Besides speaking at headquarters' functions in New York, Noah Alper has become known to the newspapers here through several of his letters which have been published. St. Louis can be justly proud of their Noah.

Los Angeles

The mid-term faculty meeting on October 28 at Los Angeles headquarters proved both a surprise and a delight to all present. Ashley Mitchell, who happened to be in the city for a short time spoke of the recent International Conference in England told the group something of the history of the Georgist movement in England. Mr. Mitchell is treasurer of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and a British textile manufacturer. Someone asked him about the views of Winston Churchill, who, as a young man in 1909 made some excellent speeches advocating land-value taxation (he was then a Liberal and campaigning for Lloyd George's budget). Mr. Mitchell explained that Churchill recently came out openly in Parliament as an advocate of free trade, and said that when he was challenged on his land position a couple of years ago, he replied that he would be glad to sing the "Land Song" again if there were enough public sentiment in favor of it (the "Land Song" is a march tune that was used in the

1909 campaign). Ashley Mitchell explained that twice during his lifetime England had been on the verge of adopting the taxation of land values. He said the Commons had passed a budget bill embodying it, but that the opposition used the first World War and then the depression as excuses to sidetrack the issue.

Another surprise feature of the program was a demonstration by Herbert Salkin, instructor, of various visual aids which he and his fellow instructors and students had prepared to illustrate various important points in the first few lessons. The ideas were extremely novel.

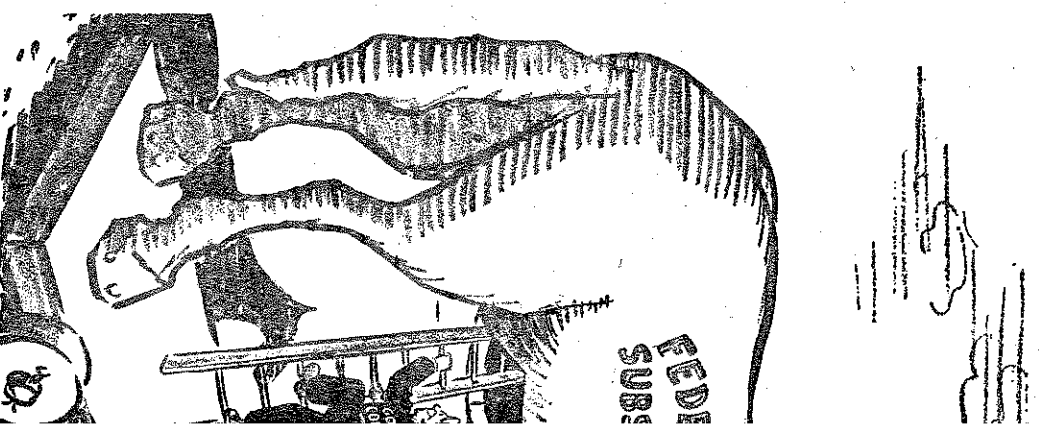
The semi-final figures are now in from the fall term enrollment. They are: 250 students enrolled in 13 fundamental classes, and 30 students enrolled in 5 advanced classes.

New class leaders recently added to the faculty include: William R. Blumenthal, Mr. and Mrs. John Bostain, Mrs. Sewall Clark, Helen O. Perry, James Fox, Donald O. Hawks, and Minerva Quinby.

Ohio

The Ohio extension opened its fall term with 175 students meeting in 17 classes. There are no advanced classes this term. Class promotion efforts included the use of posters, about 5000 printed penny post cards and 5000 triple cards used in Columbus. News items calling attention to the classes appeared in newspapers in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Cleveland, Hamilton, Lima, Urbana, Troy, Toledo, Lorain and Sidney. Paid ads were used in the larger

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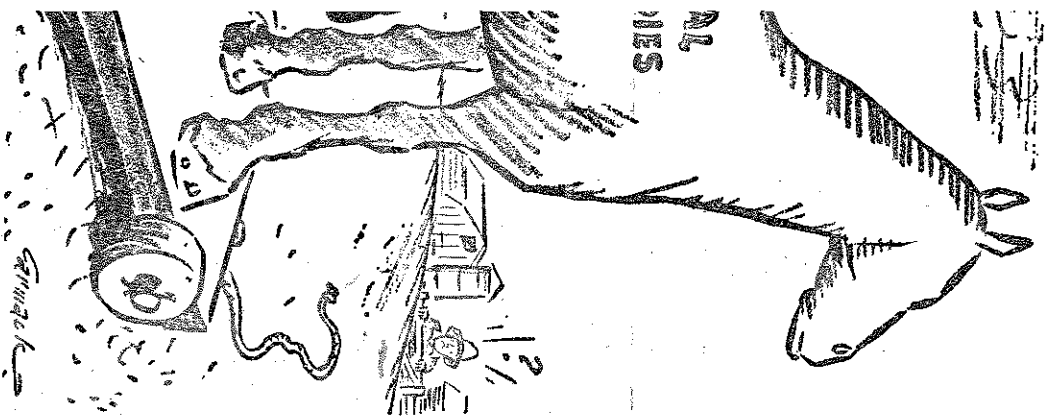
papers. Also, follow-up news releases were sent to all newspapers prior to the opening of the second session. Special letter invitations were sent out to 2500 select names in Hamilton by Ellis Jackson.

Verlin Gordon, the Ohio director, reported that special invitations were sent out with excellent results, to letter-to-the-*editions-of-the-Toledo-Blade* writers. The *Blade*, he writes, is the only Ohio newspaper which prints the addresses of the contributors to its letter columns.

Those teaching the Ohio classes this term are: Ellis Jackson, Carl Strack, Charles W. Davis, Jr., Robert D. Benton, Edwin C. Esten, Floyd R. Gorman, Harry Merz and William Palmer.

"It's beginning to look like we're going to have a 'regular extension' here after all," writes Robert D. Benton, from Columbus, Ohio. The enrollment for that area is 72 in a total of 8 classes, 5 of which are in Columbus, one in Urbana, one in Springfield and one in Dayton. Mr. Benton conducts the last three in three different towns on the same day, by staggering the hours from 2 P.M. until well after 10 and getting home about 1:30 A.M. Kathy Shoaf is acting as secretary in Columbus. She is sending effective reminders to absentees, contacting organizations for speaking engagements, and looking after correspondence generally. She has also agreed to act as a substitute teacher in emergencies. Hers was the distinction of being the only graduate in one of the fundamental classes last year.

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—Courtesy The Christian Science Monitor

The Wonderful Kansas Egg Mine

By RICHARD L. STROUT

EVER HEAR of an egg mine? Yes, I said "egg"—E-G-G. If you haven't heard of it yet, you should read this because you are helping to pay for the egg mine. Eggs underground. Millions and millions and millions of them. The poultryer's Fort Knox.

Fort Knox is the place where they put gold. They dig up gold out of the ground, you understand, ship it to the United States at a fancy price, and then bury it underground again in Kentucky. That keeps up the price of gold. For some reason that makes a great many people feel happier and more secure.

The difference with the eggs is that they are patriotic American eggs, not imported goods like gold, and they are using a limestone cave in Kansas. Gold—Kentucky; eggs—Kansas. It is dried eggs that are stored there in Atchison, Kansas. Good old hens lay the eggs and the government steps in and buys them before the hens have stopped cackling, dries them and stores them underground in a natural limestone cave.

That keeps the price of eggs up. For some reason, this makes a lot of people feel happier and more secure. It has to be admitted, however, that buying eggs also annoys a lot of people. When the city housewife goes into the market and asks: "How much are eggs today?" and is told "80 or 90 cents a dozen," she is inclined to be a little irritable at the thought of all those eggs the government is storing down in Kansas to keep the price up.

This writer has long since stopped trying to argue about modern cave-burying economics because he can't understand it. But as I say, other people seem to understand it, or at any rate they go on doing it. So it must be all right. You can't blame the government for inefficiency, either. They set out to keep the price of eggs high and by golly they have succeeded!

Why should the taxpayer object? He can have all the satisfaction of knowing when he pays 90 cents for a dozen eggs that he is the one that put the price up there; it's his taxes that bought the underground eggs. One and the same buyer is competing with himself for the same product.

The United States isn't the only country that pays food subsidies. England this year is spending the sterling equivalent of around \$1.3 billions. Of course there is one difference in the operation: the British subsidies are designed to keep the price of food down; the American

subsidies are designed to keep them up. America has the only egg mine.

I called the Department of Agriculture up to get the latest figure on stored eggs. The government now has approximately 62,000,000 pounds. The man said he could get me a more exact figure, but I said no, that was close enough. He said the normal American dried egg consumption is about 15,000,000 pounds a year, so we have four years' supply. Nobody seems to know what to do with the eggs. Some have been kept so long they are spoiling.

The cavern at Atchison, Kansas, is big but not big enough to hold all the government's dried eggs. It comprises 15 acres with nice concrete floors and big exhaust fans to keep out humidity, and the earth keeps the whole thing at a cool even temperature. So far as you can see in this cave, there are barrels and barrels of eggs, piled in tiers four- and five-barrels high.

Figure it out for yourself. If you have 40 hens they will produce maybe 36 eggs a day. If you dry these out, you get a pound of dried eggs. Each one of these barrels holds 175 pounds of eggs. And the cave is stacked with barrels. They say the attendants at the Atchison cave develop a habit, after a while, of cackling in their sleep.

Some members of Congress at the recent session tried to reduce the food support parity program but they didn't get far. The new price support law, it is now estimated, will actually lift the support level for farm products an average of about 10 per cent over the present rate. It was a victory for the high price farm bloc.

Eggs symbolize the support program. Besides the egg mine at Atchison, eggs are now being stored at Minneapolis, Chicago, Kansas City, and Dallas. The Department of Agriculture would like to give away more of its dried eggs for school lunches and to Indians on reservations, but it seems that there are only so many dried eggs that a reservation Indian or grammar school child will eat. My man at the Department of Agriculture said that generally dried eggs are used in baking. Mostly whole eggs are dried but he said "the noodle people" prefer the yokes dried separately.

Richard L. Strout is the Washington Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor. Permission to reprint the above article has been generously given by the author and The Christian Science Monitor.

ing them in several places. Perhaps our studying the course may be the modest beginning of the first Dutch Henry George School."

The correspondence course sheets were sent and another letter accompanied the first lesson which read in part: "What is the meaning of 'to work on a shoe string?' (from the textbook)." Also, "It was a revelation to me to read of the enormous work the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation has delivered during the few years of its existence. How happy we should be if there was a Dutch capitalist to give us a start for a Dutch R. S. F. I possess only a Dutch translation of *Progress and Poverty* and it has been my heart's desire for years to have a copy of the Anniversary Edition." (A copy has been sent to him by John T. Tetley, the director at Newark.)

(More School News on Page Eight)

Newark

The Newark school has received a letter from Beverwyk, Holland from which the following is taken—"Here comes a voice from Holland—I come to you with a strange request. My brother and I possess a copy of *Economics Simplified*. I myself have read it from the first page till the last with increasing interest, having been for several years a Geogist. I have studied *Progress and Poverty*, *Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems*. I am also a contributor to *Ons Erfdeel* (Our Inheritance) monthly of the Dutch Geogistic Union, and *Recht en Vryheid* (Justice and Freedom). We two and a young friend would like to take the correspondence course offered on the cover of *Economics Simplified*. We are not yet so advanced as to have Henry George Schools in this country and we are jealous of you for hav-

No Victory Without Compromise

By MARSHALL CRANE

A REFORMER must know neither cynicism nor despair. His work is a statement of his belief that social improvement is not only desirable, but possible too. His efforts however, are of little use unless he understands the nature of the material with which he is working and governs his activities accordingly. This is neither fatalism nor pessimism. Any signs of an unrealistic approach in any direction should put him on the alert for false premises.

Few books combine idealism and realism as well as *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George. Page after page is illuminated by his high purpose. He has left the world a basic principle and a practical expedient which are unique.

But how well do George's adherents follow his example? Exponents of great causes are often accused of being theoretical, utopian and unrealistic. It is true that they are apt to neglect the development of strategic policies, political techniques and organization. Experience shows that without these they face inevitable defeat.

A classic "lost weekend" is found in the case of the British Fabian Society. Some of the most brilliant of George's early enthusiasts were among its founders. They advocated the public appropriation of economic rent, but they forgot how futile this would be if human enterprise was shackled by any other force, public or private. Unwittingly they proposed to socialize the tools of industry. As a result the British Socialists now in power exempt vacant property from taxation entirely.

The Force of Truth

Nevertheless, the experience of having met truth face to face is thrilling. Both Bernard Shaw and Tom Lofth Johnson said later that their lives had been changed; the former by hearing George lecture, the latter by reading one of his books. I doubt if there is any Georgist who does not treasure the memory of his introduction to Henry George's works. Shaw responded by diving into the study of political economy. Johnson went to George and asked, "What can I do to help you?"

But what is the effect on the average student today? In the light of his new knowledge, he naturally deplores the present set-up, but there seems little that he can do about it. He talks enthusiastically to indulgent friends, but is often doubtful of the value of his mission. He tries to soothe his growing frustration by promising himself that he will support his new creed, when it appears on the ballot—a promise about as unrealistic as anything could be.

Evolution Must Be Gradual

For neither he nor any of his representatives will ever have the opportunity of voting for or against Henry George's economy, as such. Economic evolution reflects such varied interests that we must in all reasonableness expect it to be gradual.

Similarly, even those political changes which appear violent and drastic, are seldom as complete as they seem. The American Revolution freed this country from the British crown, but left it still governed by British common law, with its institutions almost unchanged. The Constitutional Convention of 1787, a four-months' dog fight, closed with the adoption of just seven articles, of varying lengths, mostly

couched in general terms. Only one, a brief sentence referring to ratification of the instrument, was passed without debate, intrigue and conspiracy. The other six were all compromise agreements. More than half of our present Constitution consists of amendments, many of which also are compromises.

Democracy Cannot Be Rigid

This is the democratic method. Its faults are obvious, but it has the virtue that it can, if the people wish, prevent government from becoming a malignant growth on the body of society.

To the Georgist, democratic processes suggest that the George economy will never emerge from the debating club phase unless he becomes a great deal more politically minded. He must consider the implications of the fact that such laws as he might wish to propose, would certainly be hammered into some very strange shapes by the opposition before they reached the ballots. In fact, their acceptance might be possible only after so many concessions had been made as to make their passage seem pointless. Success may come at last only to the connoisseur of compromise.

At present we face two foes: the burdensome system of taxation, and the planned welfare state with its galloping trend toward socialization and its concentration of political power. This second foe is surely the more dangerous to the social philosophy of Henry George. For of what benefit could land-value taxation be in an economy in which the laws of nature were hobbled? In the late war the Allied forces cleaned up the stronger enemy before concentrating their power upon the weaker. Good strategy, it would seem.

The Tax Program

Henry George's followers are sometimes called "single taxers," and it is true that the public appropriation of economic rent was the conspicuous point in the original program. Rent, having its origin in the existence and efforts of the community, Henry George believed it should belong to the community. Its full collection would prevent an accumulation of false titles to the wages of labor and capital, whose interests he considered identical.

He emphasized again and again that only natural forces, functioning freely, could distribute the product of labor fairly. He was depicting a real welfare state made possible through free industry—with free markets for goods and labor. His goal was of course, freedom of human institutions, labor, and enterprise. The tragedy is that not having known tyranny ourselves we imagine it has disappeared. Freedom, which already seems to us old fashioned, will again be desirable only after we have lost it. There are at least three uncensored serial reports on the Soviet State now being published, any one of which would convince us that tyranny is possible, and that it reappears regularly. It is knocking at our door now. If Henry George were alive could he arouse Americans to the danger? If so—how would he do it—what arguments would he use? Can we not produce a leader who will try to save our pitiful country—even if, like Abraham Lincoln, he is forced to compromise?

Keep Tyranny Out

(Continued from Page One)

equal rights of contracting parties upon which all contracts and co-operation are based. Thus is lost the recognition of self-rights and the awareness of others' rights, and with this loss of right-in-contract goes the loss of that sense of justice which prompts resistance to the infringement of rights in general. Aggressions are notoriously frequent through bureaucratic control. Once individual resistance is broken it becomes an act of disloyalty to protest or fight back and disloyalty to a bureau that cannot afford criticism leads to repressive measures.

Perpetual Paternalism

No doubt there are many who will feel that these remarks are too critical, but why not take another backward glance at the Roman Empire? When Caesar stationed his cohorts outside the gates of Rome the Senate at once gave heed to his wishes. His legions became the first Praetorian Guard, and it was his army, a closely knit, self-interested body, and not the Senate that made the Caesars of the next four hundred years. Does anyone imagine that if we build an army of a million and a half job holders their self interest will not impel them to keep the *status quo*?

When man was driven from the Lord's garden this curse was put upon him: "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." Genesis 3:19. Ever since then men have been trying to devise ways and means by which they can escape this curse, and most of the schemes thus far propounded have had to do with eating bread that some other man sweated to make. Such is the case of socialism and socialized medicine. The ethics of socialism deny the individual his natural rights to the fruit of his labor, and assert the right of the state to possess the fruit of the labor of all men. But as man continues to fail in his ability to meet the primeval curse, society intervenes and promises to give "to each according to his needs." Thus socialism repudiates the first law of life.

If you have followed my reasoning you will see that compulsory health insurance is identical with socialized medicine because:

- 1) The government collects the tax.
- 2) The government controls the money.
- 3) The government determines the services.
- 4) The government sets the rates.
- 5) The government keeps the records.
- 6) The government directs both the citizen's and the doctor's participation in the program.
- 7) The government assumes control not only of the medical profession, but of public and private hospitals, as well as all allied professions and businesses.
- 8) The government dominates the medical affairs of every citizen through administrative lines leading from the central government in Washington down through innumerable state, city, town, district and neighborhood bureaus.

Malingers Multiply

Don't let anyone tell you that we do not have socialized medicine now for in our Veterans' Administration we have a small but faithful example of what inevitably must come to pass. I say inevitably, because once the wheel is started down the hill extraordinary strength and skill are required to stop it. We have plenty of evidence already to show that when even a small group feels they are getting something

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Keep Tyranny Out

(Continued from Page Six)

for nothing, the same law of gravity comes into play and the entire populace wants a share.

The government already provides some medical care for about 24,000,000 persons—service-men, veterans, Indians and others. All who are eligible have climbed on the bandwagon, and the number of those left to pull diminishes as the number of riders increase. According to the Hoover Commission on Organization of the Government, that job has not been done efficiently. The report states that the Federal medical activities are devoid of any central plan. Four large and many small governmental agencies obtain funds and build hospitals with little knowledge of or regard for the others. No one assumes responsibility. For example: San Francisco has 13 Federal hospitals 7 of which might be closed with a reduction of bed capacity of 20 per cent and still leave the remaining 6 hospitals with only 54 per cent of constructed capacity occupied after bringing in all the transferred cases.

The New Monopoly

Why not check the record of the government hospitals in your vicinity? You will probably find it indicative of one of two things: either there has been political wastage in securing equipment, more to ingratiate the local feeling than because of the need; or else it has prepared for some enormous unforeseeable need envisioned in someone's crystal ball. This might mean that the government has well laid plans to monopolize our public health.

As with hospital facilities so with individual cases. When a man or woman depends on a bureau for the satisfaction of his medical wants, he loses the contact with his physician implied by our cherished law of contracts.

Let I be accused of heartlessness let it be said that at present there are about 55 million people in this country who have provided for their medical needs through voluntary health insurance, and this figure is steadily growing. This type of insurance does comply with the law of contracts between the parties, and it costs, for complete coverage per person, only a few cents a day. Medical expenses for an average American family amount to about 4 per cent of income—according to the Brookings Institution—while tax bills take from 20 to 30 per cent of the family income. Add what compulsory health insurance would come to (3 to 10 per cent) and you will see that the advocates of compulsory health insurance are asking the American people to assume a staggering load. For let it be remembered that while the Federal Security Administration hopes to make out with only a 3 per cent tax, deficits must be met promptly, or the public service will be reduced. Thus the wheel gathers force as it speeds on to disaster.

Let's Work for Justice

On the subject of public health much more might be said, but the last remarks of former Major General W. C. Gorgas, Surgeon General of the United States Army are as vital today as when he uttered them before the Clinical Society of Surgeons on November 26, 1915:

"I recently heard one of the members of the Cabinet state that in the United States 55 per cent of our arable land, for one reason or another, is being held out of use. Now, suppose in the United States we could put into effect some measure that would force this 55 per cent of our arable land into use. The effect at once

PLAIN TALK by Jerome Joachim

"You're almost as bad as the politicians in the sense that you are vague about the specific remedies you would suggest to prevent the 'creeping socialism' you predict so frequently for America. Why don't you tell us specifically what needs to be done to 'Save America'?"

Perhaps one answer to the question would be to refer my reader or readers to Senator Robert Taft's article in Collier's on "How Much Government Can Free Enterpriser Stand"? But permit me to quickly add that Senator Robert Taft's answers are not my answers.

Taft suggests that under his ideal government we would have a Security and Exchange Commission, perhaps similar to the one that permitted Tucker to sell millions of dollars worth of his stock to the public.

Under my government, the security and exchange commission would either be non-existent or at most it would only be an agency for the dissemination of information. Even so, as an investor I would rather get my information from private sources than rely on the honesty of a political body.

Taft suggests the continuation of the National Labor Relations Board, which under the Wagner Act, he says, gave labor too much power. His bill, the Taft-Hartley Act was intended to keep a more even balance. In both cases he admits that the administration was bad, but Taft never even suggests that the government should keep its hands strictly off except to see that neither side uses physical force to achieve its ends. In other words, he still favors governmental regulation but beams the fact that such regulation has not been well administered—totally ignoring the fact that history proves government has always been incapable of properly administering any human activity.

would be to double the number of jobs. If the jobs were doubled in number, wages would be doubly increased. The only way I can think of forcing this unused land into use is a tax on land values.

"I therefore urge for your consideration, as the most important sanitary measure that can be at present devised, a tax on land values."

I agree with Dr. Frank Crane who said: "The only untainted charity is justice." Conventional charity drops pennies in the beggar's cup, distributes clothing to the naked and food to the starving. Real charity, which is justice, sets about removing the conditions responsible for the beggary, starvation and nakedness."

Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington, Delaware is the grandson of Henry George and son of Henry George, Jr. His grandfather was Tom L. Johnson of Cleveland. Articles by Dr. George have appeared in Progress Guide, Mind Digest, Coronet, and a number of professional journals. Among many public service activities in his community he has conducted classes in the Henry George philosophy for nurses in St. Francis Hospital under auspices of The American Red Cross. He was educated in the University of Arizona and later studied in Switzerland. This was Dr. George's first article in The Henry George News. Another has been promised for a future issue.



But, like many others, Taft still hopes . . . and infers that if he were president the administration would be O. K. Why doesn't he admit that government is out of its sphere and advocate that the police power be used only to prevent the use of force?

Taft contends at great length in the article, that it is the function of government to care for the poor, the indigent and the incompetent—words that are as New Dealish as any ever spoken by Roosevelt. Again he wants what the New Deal advocated, but like Dewey he suggests greater moderation in administration.

Nowhere in the Collier article does he attack the principle of taxation based on the effort made. He seems to feel that a man should be taxed more (fined more) if he is effective in his endeavors than if he is a failure. Like all politicians, he infers that if he were elected the total of the taxes levied would be lower, but makes no attack on the income tax principle. He suggests that we might find a way to change our tax system but fails to mention it. What he might have said was that we should tax people on the basis of the natural resources which they control, rather than on the basis of their effective effort; but he failed to do so. Not until we do tax only unearned and unproduced incomes, instead of taxing greater effort, will we stop the trend to socialism. But nothing suggested by Taft indicates any inclination on his part in this direction.

My specific recommendations are:

1. Repeal the Federal income tax law. Replace it with a tax on natural resources. Direct all taxes at those who get their income without aiding in greater production. Levy taxes on the basis of benefits derived instead of on the basis of social gains created. Make it necessary for a man to produce in order to have. Soon there would be so much wealth created and so many opportunities available that only the physically handicapped would need help.
2. Explode the myth that nature is stingy and that there is not enough for all. Where freedom exists, the ability to increase nature's bounty increases with population. Give men equal access to the earth and its resources and no one will be burdened.
3. Explode forever the notion that capital pays wages. The recent 75c minimum wage law decrees that unless a man can produce more than 75c worth of wealth in an hour he must be denied the right to work—for surely no one would hire him at a loss to himself. Such ridiculous laws indicate clearly that the majority of our legislators think that capitalists pay wages instead of merely buying labor's produce and reselling it.

When even our Congress has such foolish concepts of economics, it must be apparent that the adjustments so often predicted here are inevitable. We expect uninformed people to learn only from experience. We should know by now that our Congress is no smarter. Let's preach the doctrine that our welfare depends upon our own efforts, not on the government's ability to "steal" for us that which others produce!

Who's Reactionary Now?

By ASHLEY MITCHELL



TO TALK of security from the cradle to the grave in an insecure society, compels one to believe that under such circumstances the only security comes in the grave. Whereas, if all barriers were removed by the application of the policy of Henry George, that would throw all natural resources open to those who would use them. At the same time it would abolish the iniquitous system of taxation which will surely, unless altered, prevent the maintenance of sufficient funds to provide for social welfare. If the right road were taken, the number of real unfortunates who needed assistance, would be a very small proportion, and a just society could easily take care of them.

We are faced with a public policy of "security" based on a system of taxation which is inevitably going to destroy itself. For those funds have been raised by a system of taxation which depresses production. It will lead not to security but to insecurity, which might lead to anything. There is a danger from internal destruction; and a nation is unable to defend itself from internal forces which arise from social injustice.

Everybody should understand that it is perfectly natural that there *should* be a challenge to democracy. But one thing is very clear today, the Western democracies face a challenge to their existence, not only from external forces, but from those internal forces which are far more dangerous. Any failure to achieve a sound basis for a just society leaves the door wide open for those who would destroy the benefits of the partial freedom already secured.

In time to come Henry George, the author of *Progress and Poverty*, will be recognized as the greatest discoverer of the twentieth century in proving the direct relation between the law of wages and the law of rent. Henry George pointed the way to a just society which would not only retain the existing freedoms, but would extend them to every sphere of social life and make them completely stable.

Today we see politicians or statesmen, whichever term is preferred, putting the cart before the horse with a vengeance, in professing to establish a welfare state before attempting to discover how much welfare is needed.

One of the most pitiable spectacles today is the sight of businessmen working prodigiously in the hope of providing adequately for their families, but all the time with a powder magazine under their feet which can blow the existing conditions into atoms and wreck all the hard labors of a life time of industry.

One hundred years ago in Britain the condition of restrictions was almost precisely those existing today. All lovers of liberty were well acquainted with Buckle's *History of Civilization in England*. There he described how the people of Britain, with political patience through all the bonds of repression, had achieved a state of freedom—although only partially. It allowed the country to raise its prosperity to the state of wealth and power that made the nation a great country. The government which Britain has endured for the last five years has maintained and extended the shackles of restriction that were already put

there by their predecessors and have inflicted in addition such a condition of taxation that by all previous standards show them to be the most reactionary government of Britain in the last hundred years.

Before 1914 there was not a single protective tariff in an England which had a population of 45 million (or a third of the population of the United States in an area smaller than New York State). In 1931 there was a panic election, with land-value repeal, and the start down the slope. England became a tariff country, lost free trade, and the Conservatives themselves began the nationalism.

War came with all its regimentation—and after that the general election. There was a party which instead of realizing they should remove the barriers, instituted more. England never had more taxes than it has now. If you were to examine the records of the present party you'd say it was the most reactionary government that England has been saddled with for many years—the very opposite of 1840.

A century ago when we were struggling for freedom, businessmen of that time particularly those known as the Manchester school, did not avoid public affairs, but on the contrary were the spearhead of a movement led by Richard Cobden and John Bright, that removed the controls and repressions. [See "Wanted: Another Richard Cobden—November issue!"]

It is possible to make people understand the kernel of this matter even without *Progress and Poverty*, as those men demonstrated who went the length and breadth of the country talking to audiences of all kinds. The six points which they emphasized again and again in relation to land were that it was, (1) created, (2) limited in area, (3) necessary for all human activity, (4) a value created by the community, (5) a value separate from buildings and improvements, and (6) that value could not be concealed or taken away.

Unless the businessmen in the Western democracies are animated by the same lofty sentiments which were the compelling force of those businessmen of Manchester, things are likely to move from bad to worse. Then the enemies, who are always present, will seize the opportunity to destroy democracy and abolish even the partial freedom that we now enjoy.

Georgists, in whatever they are doing, even if it does not seem like much, are doing a vital thing by telling people there is a way out. They are giving people what is the greatest need of the present time; that is a *hope in the future*.

"America is well down the road to socialism," wrote Jerome Joachim in *The Berwyn Beacon*, the newspaper which he publishes at Berwyn, Illinois. [Ashley Mitchell, speaking before an audience in the Henry George School at New York recently, consented, under pressure, to estimate that England was "two-thirds of the way down the slippery slope" and that the United States was half as far along as England].

"Will we awaken in time to save ourselves?" asks Mr. Joachim.

Campaign for Funds Launched in New York

AN APPEAL for funds is being sent this month from headquarters to friends and graduates of the Henry George School. The goal is to raise \$50,000 in contributions. This, together with the funds already assured, will meet the budget for 1950.

John C. Lincoln, president of the Board of Trustees, stresses that a contribution to the work of the Henry George School is a wise investment in the future, since the school is dedicated to eradicating the economic conditions that result in recurring crises. Thus it is the best cause to which one may contribute.

In the brochure accompanying the appeal, plans are outlined for expansion of school work on all fronts. One-third of the funds received is used to support the work at headquarters and classes in the New York area. Another third is for the support of extension schools outside New York. The remaining third maintains the correspondence course, The Henry George News and general promotional work. Only with the support of its friends can the school expand. You are urged to GIVE TO THE GREAT WORK.

Ottawa

"The Cheeriest of Yuletide Greetings to you all," writes Marion Minkler from the Ottawa, Canada branch of the Henry George Society, which has been advancing well in its season's work and serious study of *Progress and Poverty*.

Prior to the class opening, this extension was honored with a visit from Ashley Mitchell, of Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. He made a special trip to Ottawa during his stay in Montreal, and addressed the students and their friends at the home of the Ottawa director, Mr. H. G. Barber. The speaker presented a comprehensive picture of conditions in Britain, and answered a barrage of queries.

Mr. Mitchell's splendid powers of oratory imparted to everyone a sense of unfailing fellowship—in a world "grown small in the light of modern inventions; a world which *will be* made an excellent place in which to live—when this great philosophy is brought into practice in the daily living of its peoples."

The Ottawa correspondent's annual Christmas greeting, which is heartily reciprocated, ends with this quotation: "Make for thyself a definition or description of the thing which is presented to thee, so as to see distinctly what kind of a thing it is . . ."

San Diego

Late summer activities in San Diego included a lecture in September by Jos. S. Thompson of San Francisco on "Earned Income." An audience of some 200 enjoyed this speech and participated in the lively question period.

The Alumni Association of the Henry George School of San Diego sponsored an informative talk in October on "The Devaluation of the English Pound" by Captain Jesse B. Gay, USN, Ret., and one in November on "Free Enterprise vs Planned Economy, An Investigation and an Evaluation," by Sidney G. Evans. Both were well attended and evoked keen forum discussion.

The fall term opened with an enrollment of 86 basic students and 13 advanced students. San Diego boasts a Public Speaking class for graduates this term, for the first time. It is being conducted by Captain Gay, in an ample basement auditorium in his scenic home on Point Loma overlooking beautiful San Diego harbor.