

EXCELSIOR EMPIRE

SAVINGS BANK

NEWS

221 West 57th Street • Two Park Avenue • 66th Street at Second Avenue • 830 Third Avenue, corner 51st Street
137th Street and Broadway • 125th Street between 7th and 8th Avenues

NEW YORK, N.Y.

10915

January, 1968

School of Social Science Teaches Tax Theory

Founded to Foster Henry George's Beliefs

In his own time he was looked upon as an "Incendiary agitator."

He once bested Theodore Roosevelt in an election for New York City mayor (but lost out to Abram S. Hewitt.)

In 1879 he wrote "Progress and Poverty," which has sold 3,000,000 copies and is an all-time best seller in the field of economics.

He is the grandfather of Agnes DeMille.

Today such giants of urban planning as Perry Prentice, who founded House & Home, who published Time and Architectural Forum, believe this man's theories can solve the ills that are rotting away our big cities.

Who is this man?

Henry George, the single taxer. George believed in taxing only land, but at its real value. The true land tax, he said, would do away with or largely replace the income tax and excise or other taxes.

Why, George's adherents ask today, do we tax those who improve their property and award, with negligible taxes, those who do not? Such taxation, they say, drives up prices and the

cost of living; has created the slumlord and was the root cause of riots in Watts and Detroit.

If the single land tax were in effect there would be no inflation, no land speculation, no ugly urban sprawl, no city erosion, they say.

Why is the voice of Henry George being heard across the country 70 years after his death? Why are his theories being re-examined??

It is due largely to one New York businessman, Oscar Geiger, who recognized that George's theories were not likely to flourish in the heated political arena, but were better suited to an intellectual environment.

In 1932 Geiger founded the Henry George School of Social Sciences, 50 East 69th Street. It is chartered by the University of the State of New York. A branch was organized three years later in Philadelphia, George's birthplace. Today they are in 15 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and 13 foreign countries, including England. New York is international headquarters.

Free Courses

Supported by contributions and bequests, the schools offer basic and advanced courses in economics, all free. More than 125,000 have graduated from the basic course, many of them entering as sceptics and emerging as zealots.

One of them, Ted Gwartney, has been city assessor for the Detroit suburb of Southfield for five years. In that time the population of Southfield has

doubled and 30 major U.S. corporations have built new office buildings there.

Another, Dr. Irene Hickman, was elected Sacramento County Assessor in 1966 on a platform of equalizing property assessments at full cash value.

The articulate Gwartney, at 26, the youngest chief assessor in North America, says, "If you're smart today you go and invest in slums. Then let them deteriorate so your taxes won't go up. The present tax policy builds slums."

He adds that a real land tax would not halt the Great Society (Viet Nam would be no excuse) and "we could have urban renewal for peanuts."

Canada's oldest parliamentarian, Senator Arthur W. Roebuck, goes further. He warns that present taxation drains industry's profits, inhibits its growth and may result in a major depression.

Today there are also George schools in Alabama, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Miami, Chicago, Boston, Michigan, Kansas City, St. Louis, Newark, Oregon, Pittsburgh, Kingston on Jamaica Island, Hong Kong, Montreal and in Ontario and Alberta, and nine other foreign countries including England and Italy.

Branches were opened on Long Island, in Albany and Costa Rica last year.

The Board of Trustees includes such hard-headed businessmen as Leonard T. Recker, treasurer and vice president of John S. Swift Company, and H. Jan Ritscher, vice president of Volkswagen in America.