

The Barquole



"A throat, mouthpiece, spout." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

No. 71

A P R I L 1 9 6 3

A P R I L

S p r i n g !

CARGOYLE - seven years old - first issue 1956.

15th - File Income Tax Return - Good day to remember The National Committee for Economic Freedom, sponsors of the Liberty (23rd) Amendment - to abolish the 16th Amendment.

22nd - TAX FREEDOM DAY - You have worked thus far this year to pay taxes - now you can earn money you can spend yourself.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL NOTES

Addison K. Barry, voted Trustee Emeritus New Trustees: John A.B. Greulich, Manufacturer; Thomas A. Roman, Industrialist

Deceased: Walter J. Triner of Caldwell.

"LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW" to be shown by Director Tetley at the Community Church Forum in New York City, Sunday April 7th and at meeting of The Pilob Club of Newark, at Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, April 9th.

Fundamental Course opens at school in Newark on Tuesday April 16th; 6 to 8 pm Inform your friends of this class.

Early Class for Downtowners

Six to eight o'clock, p.m., starting Tues. April 16th at school headquarters. The Fundamental Economics Course. This will give those working downtown Newark an opportunity to have a sandwich, attend the class then get home for any engagement.

Please inform anyone you know who might be interested in this - the course will be given without charge. 10 weeks.

Days Gone Forever

"His administration was run so economically that the Treasury had a large surplus and he was able to abolish all internal taxes. In his Second Inaugural Address he could boast, 'What farmer, what mechanic, what laborer ever sees a tax gatherer of the United States?'"

OUR LEGACY FROM MR. JEFFERSON
Readers Digest - March 1963.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 14, N.J.
MA 3-9333, John T. Tetley, Director

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21 APRIL

Henry School of Social Science
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THE IRISH FAMINE

The Irish potato famine of the 19th Century is being resurrected today in a work "The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-1849" by Cecil Woodham-Smith, an Englishwoman. This shocking tragedy made its imprint on the United States in many ways for as a result of it hundreds of thousands of Irish fled Ireland to the more hospitable shores of the United States with results on our nation's economics as well as politics.

To Georgists it is particularly important for as a result of this famine, landlordism became so repugnant to the Irish that Henry George's works made a profound impression on the Irish intellectuals, and George himself became an idol of the Irish people.

In the early part of the 19th Century, the Irish peasants were almost entirely dependent upon the potato for food. The British owned most of the land and rented it out to the people under a particularly vicious system of share-cropping in which almost all of their produce, as vegetables and grains, went to pay the rent. The peasants largely subsisted on potatoes as these could be easily and cheaply grown on small bits of land. However, time and again the potato crop failed. When this happened the peasant was in a desperate situation for he had to pay the rent or lose his land for good. Thus, he starved himself in order to sell all the other produce to pay the rent. In 1845, a blight struck the potato crop which resulted in its total failure. It struck not only Ireland, but England, Holland and France. However, as the Irish were so dependent on potatoes, the loss of the crop was a major disaster.

It is estimated that about 5 3.5 million worth of potatoes were ruined. Peasants died by the thousands in their miserable huts or by the roadsides if they were evicted from their postage-size plots. And this was going on while practically all the produce raised in Ireland was going to England to pay the rent for the land on which the Irish lived. It is believed that they paid 6 million pounds a year in rents alone when the blight struck. By 1851, 1.5 million out of eight million Irishmen had starved to death and another million had fled to the United States, Canada and other parts of the world.

This dreadful calamity created a hatred for the British which persists to this day. The British government's handling of the crisis was stupid in the extreme. It seems almost incredible but it did practically nothing to alleviate conditions.

Those in control of the Government believed in the principles of private enterprise and laissez faire to which all Georgists willingly subscribe. However, what

they did not know then, and few know today, is that fundamental to laissez faire philosophy, which means a fair field to all with favors to none, is that land be freely available. With land rack-rented by the British, the Irish were at the mercy of speculators in foods. They literally had to sell their very souls to obtain something on which to live while the British army protected the British landlords in their ownership of land.

This is equivalent to people being on a well provisioned ship with a man with a gun standing guard over the entrance to the hold of the ship where the goods are. He permits the people to go down but only to bring up the provisions to give to speculators, who, in turn, then sell the goods to the people. They do all the work and the absentee British landlords and speculators get all the wealth.

Is it any wonder that private enterprise suffered in the eyes of the Irish as well as many sympathetic English? Possibly George Bernard Shaw's acceptance of socialism stems from his knowledge of how his people suffered under this mistaken application of laissez faire concepts. It is difficult to convince anyone that when land is free, as well as labor, such occurrences are impossible. Shaw read Progress and Poverty and owed much of his philosophy to Henry George but did not think George went far enough. He felt the government had to protect the people from exploitation of speculation such as occurred in the Irish famine.

Have we learned anything since then? It is doubtful. From the reviews of this book, there seems little understanding that the entire system of land tenure was at fault. Instead, the reviewers seem to feel that it was the result of stupidity and too rigorous an application of the concepts of laissez faire. Paradoxically, therefore, this book instead of helping focus attention on the land may result in helping to implement socialist concepts.

This points up the fact that to teach Georgism is a difficult task for it is not easy for people to grasp the subtleties of the philosophy. Either they go too far, or not far enough. If they go too far, they become socialists. If they don't go far enough they become the libertarians of today who can't seem to make up their minds as to just where the government should step in and where it should stay out.

The Georgists walk a tight-rope between these two opposing forces. It is exhilarating if he stays on the rope. He can only do this by constantly studying and re-studying his basic concepts for it is so easy to fall.

Georgism is freedom and freedom is so difficult to understand.

Oscar B. Johansen

SENSE & NONSENSE

Human Events has come up with a plan known as Plumicare. Under it all of us will be able to save through social security for our old-age plumbing bills. Everyone knows that people over 65 have more plumbing trouble than younger people. Under Plumicare, all plumbing bills of those over 65 would be paid by the government. The financing would be done by social security.

Once this plan is through, new plans will arise such as Electricare, Autocare, Radiocare, etc. The final one will be Embalmicare.

With all these plans in existence the young people will probably just throw up their hands and start their own plan -- "I-Don't-Care". and let everything go to pot.

Note from Communist party organizer to the Kremlin: "It is becoming quite difficult to reach the downtrodden American masses."

In the Spring, they are forever polishing their shiny new cars.

In the Summer, they take vacations.

In the Fall they flock to baseball and football games.

In the Winter, I can't get them to leave their warm, cozy homes and TV sets to hear my lectures.

How can I make these slaves of Capitalism see how oppressed they are?

Capitalism: Freedom
Socialism: Feed'em
Communism: Bleed'em

We've finally figured out why the administration wants to give so many billions in federal aid to education. They hope to develop so many smart kids that finally a young genius will arrive who will figure out how to keep the government out of the red.

Talking about education, someone recently remarked that the prayers should certainly not be taken out of the public schools. That was the only way he got through.

Some anonymous genius has determined that the average life of the great civilizations of the world has been about 200 years. The evolution is as follows:

1. From bondage to spiritual faith
2. From spiritual faith to great courage
3. From courage to liberty
4. From liberty to abundance
5. From abundance to selfishness
6. From selfishness to complacency
7. From complacency to apathy
8. From apathy to dependency
9. From dependency back to bondage.

The United States is almost 200 years old. What stage are we in? Judging by the difficulty the Henry George School has getting students and the attitude of the people about us we are rapidly progressing from the 7th to the 8th stage.

Do you know the difference between Patrick Henry and a 20th Century American? Pat said: "Give me liberty or give me death." We leave out the liberty - and death.

Civilized society: That's a society in which all kinds of complicated contraptions are invented in order to simplify it.

United States: A place where you have to be able to remember numbers if you want to make a telephone call.

New Frontier Definitions

Budget: Something that should never be balanced.

Kennedy: Someone who succeeds the first time.

Deficit: Nothing to worry about.

Thrift: Something to worry about.

Loophole: Something the rich Republicans are always wiggling thru.

Cuba: The unmentionable.

News: Something to manage.

Spending: Something that always rises.

Economy: A naughty word.

A READER OF THE GARGOYLE

Mr. Joseph Vogel tells me that he, too, passes the GARGOYLE around to others. Such a statement astonishes me still in view of the almost universal public indifference to a subject like economics. But it is easy to forget that we have so many friends of the Henry George School all around us.

This particular friend, with his wife and family, have lived in South Orange for some years; in short, they are New Jerseyans.

They have one daughter about to graduate from Cedarcrest College in Allentown. Then there are two sons who are both lieutenants in the army and a third son majoring in accounting and economics at Rhode Island University. Interestingly enough, he is part of the new swing to conservatism recently noticed among university students in opposition to the entrenched socialist ideas.

Mr. Vogel, though now retired, has been involved in the industrial advertising business, being himself an engineer. He thus, has time for his favorite interest which is travelling. He and his wife have just returned from a winter cruise, visiting many countries, nineteen, I believe, in European area.

They cruised the Mediterranean and the Black Seas and travelled in a number of iron curtain countries. He was interested to find that initiative and free enterprise has far greater expression in Rumania than in the other communist-dominated areas that he saw, such as Russia itself and Bulgaria.

By contrast with the desolate appearance of the latter, the Rumanian economy

hums with activity, it seems. He could not account for the difference, nor could I imagine it.

Mr. Vogel came by our economic philosophy most naturally. George Rusby, co-founder of our school, used to drop into his office; and the interview always ended with economic talk. And we can be sure he received a thorough grounding in Rusby's favorite subject. Nevertheless, he came later for courses offered at our headquarters then located on Broad Street.

So here is this good friend of ours, who years ago made economics as presented by the Henry George School, his own; and they are still fresh and clear in his mind because of that presentation. In a word, in common with many of us, he has seen Truth, with his mind, and he can never forget the sight of it.

Virginia Harvey

INFLUENCE OF HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL - - G R O W S ! !

Economic impacts of two kinds of property taxes are to be studied by the Urban Land Institute of Washington, D.C. A grant has been awarded to U.L.I. by the Lincoln Foundation. The research will be undertaken by Prof. M. Mason Gaffney, department of economics, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The study region will be in the Milwaukee area and the two tax systems studied will be the ad valorem system now commonly used and a tax solely on the value of land itself. To be completed during 1963, the study will be directed by the research committee and the Technical Advisory Panel of the Institute.

From - St. Louis Post-D.

In the city of Erie, Pa., the Erie Land Tax Association (organized by the Junior Chamber of Commerce) urges the City Council to examine the merits of a graded tax program by the appointment of a committee representing a variety of interests in the community, to the end that its advantages be thoroughly, fairly and publicly examined. The "Morning News", Erie, carried editorial "Land Value Taxation Deserves a Fair Study". This editorial concluded - "We can see considerable possibility in the plan and urge that a complete study of the system be made and presented to City Council and the people of Erie. We should then know how worthwhile this land value taxation is."

In California, Constitutional Amendment 20, to allow cities and counties to untax improvements and personal property, and to collect public revenue from a tax on land values has resulted in studies being made regarding it. A report urged the legislature to give it serious consideration. On April 20th ACA 20 will receive a hearing before the Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee in Sacramento.

The State of Michigan is also an area where Land Value Taxation is being urged in the political field.

For more of this see HENRY GEORGE NEWS, March issue. Also in that issue on page 11 "Mirage in the Desert" is article which starts - "The GARGOYLE published at the New Jersey Henry George school - and "Georgism versus Socialism" by Oscar B. Johansen. Those who contribute \$10. or more to the N.J. school receive a subscription to the HENRY GEORGE NEWS, or you may subscribe by sending \$2. to THE GARGOYLE.

Incidentally, should you be one who receives THE GARGOYLE and does not wish to continue receiving, it - would you please drop us a note so we can send your copy to someone else. Thanks.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Economist: A person who talks about something he doesn't understand and makes you believe you're ignorant.

Remarks overheard on the new car:
Father: How many miles to the gallon?
Mother: What color is it?
Daughter: How many will it seat comfortably?
Son: How fast will she go?
Neighbor: How can they afford it?

Did you know that behind every successful man is a woman who couldn't be more surprised?

Money will not help you get friends, but it will help you get a higher grade of enemies.

Never trust your wife's judgment. Look who she married.

Three books necessary for a successful marriage: The Prayer Book, the checkbook and the cook book.

Taxes are like golf. You drive your heart out for the green and then wind up in a hole.

Most people are liberal-conservatives. Liberal about wanting services, conservative about paying taxes.

Definitions

Optimism: The ability to speak of "my car" in the face of nine payments still to be made, a bill at the garage, and the immediate prospect of a new auto tax.
Education: What you have when you hear a quotation from the Bible and know what part of Shakespeare it comes from.
EGG: A bird's home town.
Epigram: A remark that is too good to be true.
Epitaph: A description of the dead.
Escape: A slave's business.