

By George

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IMPROVEMENT TAXES A BURDEN

Many of you, no doubt, read the editorial in the November-15 issue of the Evening Tribune in which the editor quotes City Manager Campbell as saying that property taxes are about at their peak "without causing difficulty". I wondered just how he bases that statement. Could it be that no one has had any difficulty paying his property taxes thus far? Or does he anticipate the difficulty we arise when the property owner can no longer stand the gaff?

The editor goes on to great lengths to explain how taxes came into being and in doing so he almost parallels some of Henry George's teachings - just accidentally of course. He brings up the fact that taxes are the price of civilized community living. That if every family were self-contained - living apart on the fringe of the frontier as the pioneers did - perhaps taxes could be eliminated. But this would mean that every man would have to hack out his own roads, forge his own tools, provide his own protection, educate his children and perform the almost countless things connected with living. The moment ancient civilizations found that a division of labors was more satisfactory than going it alone in all directions, the need for taxes was born.

What he failed to add was that mankind benefits by association and that their cost of government, namely taxes, should be derived completely from the location of this association - the site value of land.

In closing he made the statement that taxes are a burden only when they fail to buy the services they should. I say they are a burden to everyone when they are imposed on the production of man as are almost all of our present day taxes.

- O. J. Collette

TWENTY-FIVE CORONADO GRADUATES

Comdr. O. E. Looser, U.S.N., was the guest speaker at the Coronado commencement exercises on November 17, 1955. His subject was "Looking at Henry George One Year After".

Capt. J. C. Arnold, U.S.N., and Harry A. Fymer represented James Palmer's class & Mrs. Elizabeth Loidacker represented Dr. Paul Jerard's Imperial Beach class.

A TON OF THANKS

This masthead and one thousand sheets of mimeograph paper were donated by Tom G. Dawson, Printer, 654 Eighteenth Street, San Diego.

Our sincere thanks, Tom, for giving "BY GEORGE" a look of distinction.

MEET YOUR TEACHER

A half century of spreading the work of Henry George is the record of Capt. Jesse B. Gay, retired naval officer.

Capt. Gay graduated from Annapolis, 1901, and first learned of Henry George as a post midshipman aboard the U.S.S. Wisconsin following his graduation.

Capt. Gay was awarded the Navy Cross for services as Commander of destroyers based at Queenstown, Ireland, during World War I. At the outbreak of World War II, he was called out of retirement and served as Naval Observer at Martinique, War Plans Officer for the Caribbean Sea Frontier & Commander of Convoys in the Pacific.

Retiring again in 1945, Capt. Gay resumed his association with the George Movement and taught classes in El Cajon, La Mesa, Grossmont, Pacific Beach and is currently teaching the Ocean Beach class. In addition he has taught several public speaking classes. Capt. Gay is much in demand as a speaker, master of ceremonies and panel moderator, where his ready wit and claims delight the audience.

PROPOSALS IESON EXCHANGED

BY GEORGE salutes Mrs. Lillian Buck for her splendid letter to V.O.P. on Judge Lucas's visit to San Diego. Judge Lucas pointed out that the Government of South Africa keep the natives in complete subjection fearful that they someday might deprive the "masters" of their jobs.

The Judge also told San Diego audiences that since 1918 Johannesburg has exempted home and improvements from taxes, and by taxing only part of the ground site value has no sales or other "nuisance" taxes and no need for any other revenue.

Mrs. Buck states: "Cannot San Diego and Johannesburg each take a lesson from the other? Can't we teach them about just and humane racial relationships? And cannot we profit by adopting a revenue system patterned after the one that has helped make the great city of Johannesburg so prosperous and progressive?"

COMING EVENTS:

The San Diego graduation exercises will be held on December 7 with The Rev. Jack Addington as the guest speaker. This event will take the place of our regular Alumni meeting.

County Assessor Arthur C. Eddy will address the Alumni Association on February 7, 1956, at Highland-Landis Community Hall. Plan to attend this meeting.

BIG LUNCHEON, EVERY TRI., MARLAIN HOTEL