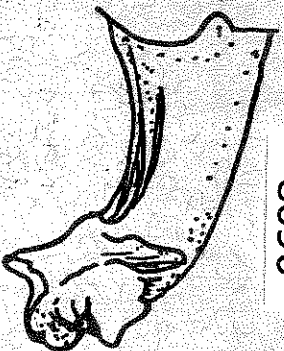


The Bargoyle



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

No. 57

D E C E M B E R 1 9 6 -

The CARGOYLE and The Henry George School of New Jersey wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Many years ago at a Sunday School Christmas program a little tot slightly misquoted scripture as follows: "It is more blessed to give a receipt." Well perhaps it is. Many non-profit organizations appeal to their members at this time of the year, to be "put on the gift list" for Christmas. Your school is not exactly doing that, but would, of course, be pleased to "give a receipt" for any such gifts as may be forthcoming, and we believe both giver and receiver may be blessed.

Some people are appreciative of suggestions for gift-giving and we repeat one - a copy of PROGRESS AND POVERTY. There is no better value than this book for \$1.50. Or you might like to give Joseph Thompson "Taxation's New Frontier" - \$1.00 - or - "Land-Value Rating" by Lord Douglas of Barlooch, also \$1.00. This new treatise explains concisely the WHY and HOW of Land Value Taxation.

THE CLOTHESLINE STORY

Dr. Webster Stover of Rye, N.Y. for several years hung dirty rags and clothing on clotheslines in his front yard to protest real estate taxes. He sold his home after "twenty-two years of persecution".

Dr. Stover, former president of Arnold College claimed he was paying excessive taxation, \$1,226, on a house for which he originally paid \$8,000. The town adopted a ban on front yard clotheslines and gave Stover five days to remove the lines before facing 30 days in jail, a \$100. fine or both. He pleaded not guilty on charge of violating the ordinance. Paul R. Zuber lawyer for Stover and who took an option on buying the home, began a suit to have the ordinance declared invalid - saying it violated constitutional rights to freedom of speech and to peaceful protest against officials and was an abuse of police powers. On trial Mr. and Mrs. Stover were found guilty. They were ordered to pay \$25. fine or be jailed five days. The judge gave them an option - the penalties would not be imposed if they removed the lines.

Dr. Stover said he not only would retain the lines but also would erect scarecrows representing the Mayor and City Councilmen who passed the ordinance. He said he

had sold the house to Zuber who said he would keep the lines and also the scarecrows.

The CARGOYLE suggests both Dr. Stover and lawyer Zuber could better devote their efforts to real tax reform a la I.V.T.

SENSE AND NONSENSE

McGuffey's Readers have just been put on the taboo list in Wisconsin. By decree of the State Board of Education, these Readers cannot be used in any public school classroom, even as supplementary reading. Why? Because many of the selections in them discuss God. God is thus being outlawed by this bureaucracy. McGuffey's Readers are those famous series of books on which generations of Americans were nourished in the latter half of the 19th Century and which helped instill in them high moral as well as intellectual concepts. Today, they have been superseded by books which are as tasteless as Fablum and so boring that it's a wonder any child learns to read these days.

Twin Lakes, Wisconsin wanted to use the books as supplemental reading, but the State Superintendent advised them that the financial aid given to the local schools would be withdrawn if the Readers were not banished.

One wonders what happens to home rule? What will happen when Federal aid is the rule of the day? Will the Federal Government give "aid" without prescribing how it should be spent? The proponents of Federal Aid say it won't but here is a concrete example of just such interference.

The omnipotent State is taking the place of omnipotent God in our public schools. However, as God seems to have outlived other all-powerful states, as Rome, the probabilities are that he will outlive even the all-wise State Board of Education of the State of Wisconsin.

Conservatism is sweeping the nation. So say the headlines. Well, in New Jersey the voters just okayed two referendums for bond issues of \$100,000,000 - one of which is for \$60 million just to buy land for park and recreational areas. If that is an example of conservatism, maybe we'd be better off with some more liberalism.

There are two kinds of voters. Those who vote for your candidate, and a lot of ignorant, prejudiced fools.

THE DEAN THINKS

OPPOSITES

How much of our intellectual "thinking," our convictions, our political and social views are the result of our cultural pattern influenced by language, the written and the spoken word?

Words are symbols. Yet most if not all our intellectual pursuits are in words. It has been demonstrated many times that the greater a vocabulary possessed by an individual, the greater is his potential for constructive thinking. Words are the tools for the disciplined mind and from constructive thinking often emerge the guideposts of knowledge, of behavior and adaptation to our environment.

Yet words, being symbols and not reality may also be the cause of some of the maladjustments in human behavior. Most of us are aware of our predilection for learning and thinking in words of opposites. We unhesitatingly answer to word suggestions such as "good" by responding "bad" to "black" by answering "white" to "right" by replying "wrong."

How many of us are aware that this preoccupation with opposites becomes the texture of our outlook upon the world and of our fellow-men.

We unthinkingly seek in all of nature, in all the behavior of humans the apotheosis of our concept of opposites. For example, in practically all the "westerns" shown on television there are the "good guys" and the "bad guys" and each prototype is usually depicted with all the virtues and the vices attendant upon our concept of "good" and "bad." The pioneers are usually the "good" and the native Indians are the "bad."

Do we consider that the natives felt that the pioneers were intruders and marauders, bent upon stealing the land which the Indians considered as theirs.

Continuing to "think" in words of opposites is evidenced in our willingness to accept the idea that "if you are not with us, you are against us." This thought projects itself in our relationship and behavior in the world scene. We are in a cold war status with the Soviet Union. Many small nations now or recently emerged from colonial status are engrossed with their own problems, political and economic, and are not taking sides in the cold war. They call themselves "unaligned," and in truth this fits their view of the great powers. But, carrying out our concept that "if you are not with us you are against us" we view their aloofness as ingratitude for favors bestowed or as callousness to despotism if not outright enmity towards us.

This is not a defence of the unaligned countries. The writer does not agree with the eagerness of Premier Nehru of India in taking the United States to task

and his unwillingness to condemn in a positive way the Soviet rape of Hungary. But our thinking in terms of "black" and "white", "right" and "wrong" make us blind to the fact that there are "grays" and that all the "right" may not be possessed by us and all the "wrong" by those who oppose us.

Were it not for the fact that humans, including the Russians, view the world in words and thoughts of opposites and thereby claim for themselves the justification of their behavior, more tolerance for the other person's views, his behavior, influenced as it is by a different cultural pattern, might prevail.

Henry George, as a social philosopher, used the expression, "association in equality" as the ultimate goal of human behavior. The habit of thinking in terms of "right" and "wrong" leads humans to look upon human behavior that is unfamiliar, strange and different as "wrong."

We commonly characterize human behavior as normal and abnormal, again resorting to opposites. Yet we know that humans react in as many different ways as there are people, to similar situations.

The writer, some years ago, was one of six lawyers who were litigating a will contest based upon the testamentary capacity of the testator. For days on end, during the trial, witnesses related the strange utterances and behavior of the testator. Then, for more days, medical doctors and psychiatrists testified, responding to questions as to whether such and such behavior would be considered "normal" or "abnormal" or "sane" or "insane." Among the experts there was more divergence of opinion than among the laymen who had opinions. The remarkable thing was that one of the expert psychiatrists on the witness stand, who had just characterized the acts of the testator as "sane" and "normal" suddenly interpreted an innocent question by the writer as a revelation of an unknown episode in the doctor's past and the doctor went into an emotional exhibition, ending up by sobbing like a child. Jokingly, thereafter, several of the lawyers concluded that psychiatrists must be "off the beaten path" mentally and emotionally, so how can they determine norms of human behavior in others.

In science and in scientific experiments, basic conditions are controlled and, with all other factors but one the same in successive experiments, the change of the one variable factor often leads to interesting and constructive results.

In human relations and behavior, it is not possible to control the factors causing behavior so that there shall be the sameness of all factors but one variable. Each person has a different ethnic, cultural, environmental influence to affect his behavior than every other person. When we use the word "environment" we mean the sum total of each and every experience in

the person's life, all of which may and will affect his subsequent behavior.

We hear so much these days about the electronic computers and other machines which in common parlance are sometimes referred to as "electronic brains." Actually, remarkable as these machines are, they are but empty storage bins into which myriads of facts, figures and data can be fed by humans and, if the machine is properly "instructed" to perform certain functions, the data stored in the machine can be correlated and then the machine can "predict" or advise in order to obtain certain desired results.

Intricate and remarkable as the machine is, it is less remarkable than the human brain which acts in manner similar to the machine. Every experience of the person is stored in his brain and patterns of previous behavior emerge under similar experiences. We are what we are because our brains motivate us, and the data stored in our brains is fed to us causing us to do what we do.

Since this is so, and since each person's stored experiences differ from every other person's it would be more tolerant, more conducive to harmonious human relations if, instead of viewing the world and people as "right" or "wrong" we attempted to determine why they behaved as they do, and if their culture and environment can be changed for the better, to consider that their reactions and behavior might more readily conform to ours.

Now to return to Henry George's expression "association in equality," we can realize that not alone in the economic field can there be association in equality founded upon justice, but also in the field of human relations in the social and political patterns.

If instead of using the usual opposites "right" and "wrong" we viewed with sympathetic understanding the motivations and reasons for behavior different from our own or even antagonistic to our own, we might benefit by understanding those whose behavior differs from our own, and true equality in association might be attainable.

In likening our brains with its stored data to the electronic machines, we do not mean that man's behavior is entirely mechanistic. We recognize that man's will is a behavioral factor, but even in this respect, if the individual has by choice or cultural influence adopted a moral and ethical code by which he intends to act, this is data which his brain stores and releases as a motivating factor to subsequent behavior.

Let us not shackle our wonderful brains with preconceived concepts of opposites, "black or white" "right or wrong" "good or bad" but recognize that as the spectrum changes colors not by sharp contrasts, but by blending and fading from one color to another, all human behavior is likewise

not at the extremes, poles apart, and thus we may hope to achieve the ultimate goal in the concept that, in fact, all men are brothers.

Alexander M. Goldfinger

SALUTE TO AN AMERICAN

When Mr. John Tellej, the Henry George School Director, recently requested help from as many as possible in obtaining showings for the film - "LAND..AND SPACE TO GROW", Mr. Joseph Pompeo went right to work on the project. He waged a personal campaign and spent time unlimited.

He repeatedly called for appointments with organizations unknown to him. He didn't accept excuses, but strove to brush them aside. A surprisingly large number of groups found themselves watching the film. Feeling responsible, he accompanied Mr. Tellej to each appointment.

Then, there are the people he is still trying to "get through" to and this goes to prove that there are many ways to help the school in addition to teaching.

I believe our country and its vaunted equality of opportunity is the passion of Joe Pompeo's life. But its imperfections and injustices are his biggest disappointments. His social consciousness shows up in his many letters published by the Newark News, and in the talks he used to give, and I believe, still does in the Dale Carnegie Club. His interest was in the content, where the usual emphasis was mainly on form.

Joe was one of ten children in a substantial family of landowners in Avelino, Italy. Nevertheless, from the age of seven, too heavy responsibilities were thrust upon him. So by the time he was sixteen, he fought for permission to come to this country. Finally, his parents gave way; and he arrived in Newark.

He had no experience and spoke no English; he was energetically solving this problem, when he had to return to serve three years with the Italian army through the first world war. On returning in 1918, he took up where he left off and married, and from then on, made great progress in real estate and construction.

From the beginning, he joined the helpful Y.M.C.A. and availed himself of their courses and other activities. Later, he put himself through high school. By 1933 he had finished his first year at Newark University, with the fervent desire to be a lawyer. He explained that this would have put him in a position to help many who were new to the country, and so often soon lost in many injustices.

But by this time, the depression was rampant; moreover, after months of illness in various hospitals, his wife suffered a fatal accident. He was left with

three small children. He set about raising them single-handed, and did so with great determination, to be the fine citizens they are today. His efforts extended practically around the clock. No wonder he has no patience with all the legions who spend their lives leaning on others, or with the common decadence of today.

Eventually, his extreme efforts brought reward. And he finally went back into some real estate activity; and in addition, he runs his own home most efficiently.

Joe says when you have rights, you also have responsibilities and obligations. So a few years ago, he donated an entire clubroom to the new Newark Y.M.C.A. He said he was helped there so much, in the early years, to be an American. But it is my conviction that he would have been all of that, with help or without it.

Virginia Harvey

MORE SENSE AND NONSENSE

Believe it or not but Soviet Russia believes in a free market. At the Third Arab Oil Conference in Alexandria the Arab delegates denounced Russia for dumping oil in the world market. It has upset the apperecart. The Arabs want to restrict supply so as to keep up prices artificially. Russia needs the foreign exchange so it is defending its right to sell in the marketplace at whatever price it can get.

It just goes to show you that it all depends on the viewpoint.

Money can't buy friends, but it certainly can make your enemies sit up and take notice.

News dispatches indicate that all is sweetness and light between the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board. It's very simple. As long as the FRB keeps money easy, it has no problems with the Treasury Dept. Having observed the election returns, the FRB has decided that playing the Treasury's game is the smart thing to do -- smart that is, for the bureaucrats, not for the country.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Egotist: One who suffers from I strain.

One thing you can still get for a dime these days is a sneer.

Nothing makes temptation so easy to resist as being broke.

The world is so full of a number of things that it's hard to keep up the payments on them.

Half a loaf is better than no coffee break at all.

Nowadays the fellow who makes a better mouse-trap is in the same rat-race with the rest of us.

A teenager is grown up when he considers it is as important to pass an examination as to pass the car ahead of him.

A bore is a person who keeps you from being lonely but who makes you wish you were.

To some, prosperity is the period between the last installment payment and the next down payment.

NEWARK STUDY GROUPS

Starting Tuesday January 9th 1962, at eight o'clock p.m., a Tax Seminar will be conducted at headquarters. Same date same place same time an Economic Seminar and a course "Capitalism-The Key to Survival" will be offered. All study-discussion groups will meet for two hours once a week. The Tax Seminar will run for five weeks and is offered without charge. The other two groups will run for ten weeks and a charge of \$21. will be made for each.

Inform anyone you think may be interested to contact the school office at once as enrollment is limited.

Have you been in touch with the Program Chairman to book "LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW"? This is the best way we have yet found to interest people in Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
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HOLIDAY

GREETINGS

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