

The Cargoyle



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

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL Issue #117

DECEMBER 1967

HOLIDAY GREETINGS!

At this season of the year many people observe the custom of extending good wishes to each other. THE CARGOYLE extends to you a happy time and very best wishes for 1968.

DECEMBER DOINGS

4th - 8 P.M. Informal Reception for those completing the basic course, Fall Term. Speaker, Dr. G. W. Esty, President Henry George School of NJ. Refreshments & Social Time - everyone is welcome.
12th - Afternoon Program 1 to 3 P.M. Film: "In Common Cause" - life in America from pioneer days to the present time. All are welcome.
Both of above at 78 Clinton Ave.

When Jesus of Nazareth nigh on to two thousand years ago preached the gospel of brotherly love, peace on earth and good will to men, scoffers greeted His message with scorn and vilification.

Rome was mighty and the Hebraic tribes were in thrall to it. The opportunists, the men of property, the "establishment" of His day had long since made peace with Rome and did its bidding. They wanted no part of anyone who would upset the pattern of order which had been set up.

They well knew that within the mass of the people rebellion smoldered for
(Continued on Page 2.)

IDEAS ECONOMICAS

This is Publication of new Henry George School Extension in Costa Rica. International Bi-Lingual Organo Cultural De La Escuela De Economia Universal Henry George De Costa Rica. Articles in English have been published from such authors as Steven Cord, Will Atkinson, A. R. Hutchin-son, Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown, Mabel L. Rees and others. Just one more indication of the spreading throughout the world at increasing speed of the quest for Justice proposed by Henry George. Congratulations to Carlos A. Riveros, Director of the school in Costa Rica.

Joseph S. Thompson, President of the Henry George School of Social Science (N.Y.) states: "The years of educational effort by the Henry George Schools is adding up to impressive results. More and more magazine stories on the Georgist philosophy are flourishing. More and more of the school's graduates occupy positions of considerable influence. It is becoming fashionable to talk L.V.T."

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark, N.J. 07114
623-9333, John T. Tetley, Director

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
01¢ CTS. PAID
NEWARK, N.J.
Permit #2136

Henry George School of Social Science
50 East 69th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

URBAN AMERICA: GOALS & PROBLEMS

radicals erupted now and again urging them on to the suicidal policy of freeing themselves from bondage through force of arms. But such fanatics could be easily contained. The very violence of their proposals frightened away even the most sympathetic.

But Jesus was something else. What did His ambiguous words mean? What did "render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's mean? Give nothing to Caesar for nothing rightfully belongs to him?

What did "turn the other cheek" mean? After Rome slapped the second cheek were men to revolt, bringing down with their revolution everyone, including the "establishment"?

The "establishment" did not trust Him. His very tolerance was suspect. His preaching the gospel of brotherly love, was this not the cleverest of all subtleties urging the people on to disaster? No matter what He meant, His words were dangerous, so away with Him. Silence Him! Crucify Him! Let the "establishment" live in peace with its Roman masters.

But His crucifixion only added impetus and power to His message. It helped spread it from a tiny corner of the mighty Roman Empire to the whole civilized world. It helped His message not only to transcend the confines of space but of time for His message lives with us to this very day.

The message is a simple but a beautiful one. The creation of a world in which men can be truly happy can only be achieved by tolerance, by kindness, by recognition that men err and that the way to correct their errors is not by shouting, violence, and war, but by peace and justice.

The might of Rome has long since passed away but the message of Jesus lives on. Those who envisage a better world and who work constantly for it can take hope in the Christmas message. One does not have to become part of the "establishment" of his own period. Instead by tolerance, by thoughtful consideration of others' viewpoints and by calm, judicious attempts to teach Truth, one can be an effective teacher. Arrogant, blatant attempts to ram the Truth, as one sees it, down the throats of others will not avail.

Men learn slowly, but they do learn. And one thing men relearn every Christmas is that all men are truly good at heart, and that it is possible that some day there will be Peace on Earth and Good Will to all Men.

Oscar B. Johannsen

Noah Alper, President of Public Revenue Education Council, St. Louis calls attention to a report "Materials Compiled and Prepared for the Subcommittee on Urban Affairs, of the Joint Economic Committee, August 1967, particularly the portion contributed by Representative Thomas B. Curtis of Missouri.

Curtis offers for exploration three myths which have been advanced in connection with development of central cities. These are myths advocated by those proposing to turn over to municipalities either Federal block grants or large amounts of Federal funds.

The first myth is that the Federal tax system has proven to be so efficacious that there is a "dividend" which may be declared. False! The second myth is that the Federal block grants or funds provide swift and flexible remedies to urban problems. Untrue and economically unsound!

The third myth is that the real estate property tax is overburdened.

Quoting Curtis: "Much potential revenue goes unrealized because tax assessors assess vacant land far below its asking price...The Committee for Economic Development and the Tax Foundation have taken steps in the right direction to uncover this fallacy.... For years I have pointed out that here is the Cinderella of taxes dressed in shabby clothes, with smutty face, keeping the household going while her much less beautiful and productive sisters, in glamor clothes go to the ball. If only we could recognize the beauty of Cinderella, wash the smut off her face and hands, and dress her in modest, but up-to-date clothes.

"The property tax needs more understanding and certainly a lot of updating. It is dependent upon sound and equitable assessment policies. It requires an understanding that idle land-- raw land should be taxed at higher rate as encouragement to put land to its most productive use."

THE HENRY GEORGE NEWS is an informative, well-printed monthly, offering 16 pages of news and views of the Georgist world. Read about the latest advances in land value taxation, comments on current issues, articles on economics and social philosophy, book reviews, letters to the editor, and news of the world-wide activities of the Henry George School. The Henry George News is given free to those who contribute \$10. or more to the Henry George School of New Jersey, or you may send \$1. for a one year subscription to the school at 78 Clinton Ave., Newark, N.J. 07114. DO IT NOW!

DEVALUATION OF THE POUNDSENSE & NONSENSE

(Note: The following was written BEFORE England devalued the Pound in November. It is submitted without a single word changed.)

The British pound is under pressure.

So say the newspapers. One would think the British pound was some kind of physical substance which was subject to the laws of physics, rather than merely being the currency of England. Speculators are attacking it. So goes the story. Actually, nothing of the sort is occurring. Instead, people are acting quite rationally. They see England is living beyond its means. It can't pay its bills and insists on living as though it could. The result usually shows up first in foreign exchange. Foreigners fearing the pound will be devalued exchange their English pounds for other money, as Swiss francs as soon as possible. If they owe English pounds they wait until the last minute for if the pound is devalued in the meantime they will put up less of their own currency for the pounds they require to pay their English bills.

England is trying to borrow one and one-half billion dollars from other countries, but is meeting resistance. They are insisting that she put her financial house in order before they loan her the money. She doesn't want to do it for that means she will have to cut down on her welfare programs, spending and increase her interest rates. This will increase unemployment and cause economic distress. (When one has been on a binge, one must pay the price with a hangover.) The British politicians are afraid if they crack down, they will be thrown out of power.

So what to do? If they borrow the money and go through the economic wringer, they lose power. The only other alternative is to devalue the pound, which amounts to a unilateral declaration of partial bankruptcy. This will cause a tremendous upheaval because so many of her allies and members of the British Empire, as Australia and New Zealand have huge quantities of English pounds, on which they will take a loss. This, too, could throw the politicians out of power.

What will they do? No one can say. About the only sure thing is that if they do not put their finances in good shape, the English pound definitely will be devalued, probably within the next six months.

The New Economists think they can use Government to adjust economies the way they want. England's predicament is the most glaring example of the falsity of this assumption. Natural forces are at work which are too powerful for any government, no matter how strong or defiant.

Oscar B. Johannsen

Never underrate the power of woman. According to statistics today there are about 80,000,000 females in the United States who are 14 years or older. Do they have power? They own 65% of all savings accounts, 74% of all titles to suburban homes, stand to inherit 70% of the nation's wealth, and control 85% of the nation's total consumer buying power. Fortunately, they like the men, or they would be running the country to suit themselves. Come to think of it, they couldn't do much worse than the men are doing.

According to Maimonides, the twelfth century Spanish-Jewish Scholar and Philosopher, the most meritorious of the eight degrees of charity he listed "is to anticipate Charity by preventing poverty; namely, to assist the reduced fellowman, either by a considerable gift, or a sum of money, or by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business, so that he may earn an honest livelihood, and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for Charity. This is the highest step and the summit of Charity's golden ladder."

Would the Ninth degree be to point out the fundamental causes of involuntary poverty?

The enemies a man makes by taking a definite stand generally have more respect for him than the friends he makes by sitting on the fence.

Have you noticed that the Internal Revenue Bureau is now called the Internal Revenue Service? Its service is still the same -- to relieve you of a large part of your hard earned money.

A trend in the renting of goods rather than buying them is becoming increasingly evident. Auto and truck rentals have been with us for some time and are now increasing by leaps and bounds, but other goods are also being rented on an increasing scale. Items like floor polishers, rug cleaners, power tools, even lawn mowers, camping and vacation tools as well as china, tables and chairs are now rented daily.

At the present time it is convenience which largely dictates whether to rent or to buy. However, as inflation proceeds apace, about the only way one will be able to enjoy some of the new appliances will be by renting them as people simply will not be able to afford to purchase them. Probably in another decade, it would not be surprising if one-third of the cars produced annually will be rented to customers rather than sold.

Is it any wonder that auto rental companies are doing so well. This is a growth industry if ever one was.

BURDEN

Almost anything you read about taxes refers to a "tax burden". The implication is, of course, taxes are "burdens". How realistic is this?

To the person of small income the tax which must be paid is a burden in most instances.

However, since most taxes are passed on in prices and in the final analysis are paid ultimately by the consumer, for a business to consider taxes per se a burden is fallacious.

The nuisance of having to collect, record, account for and remit taxes may be a considerable burden - but the tax itself is not a burden on the business.

But to the land speculator, the extremely low tax paid on under-assessed land is far from a burden.

Aside from the possibility that considering taxes a burden might provoke thought and action to do something about it, many of us are fed up with the expression "tax burden" so far as taxes on land values is concerned.

SKYLANDS OF NEW JERSEY

It's no secret that open land in New Jersey is becoming a scarce commodity. But, fortunately our State Department of Conservation and Economic Development is doing something about it. Recognizing that we can no longer afford to set aside land for a single use, such as recreation or water supply, it's pioneering an exciting project in land conservation called "Skylands of New Jersey". It will tie together land reserves along the NY-NJ boundary of Bergen, Passaic and Sussex Counties with the Pequannock and Wanaque water sheds and reservoirs encompassing some 150,000 acres. The region will do double duty as a natural preserve and a recreational area.

N.J. Bell Tel. Co. - Tel-News

SALT OF THE EARTH

Life nowadays is just one tranquilizer after another.

It seems that most knocking is done by people who aren't able to ring the bell.

Executive: A person who can take two hours for lunch without having anybody miss him.

Conservative: A person who refuses to buy a color TV set until he has finished his payments on his stereopticon viewer.

Money makes fools of famous people, but it also makes famous people of fools.

Even a tombstone will say good things about a fellow when he is down.

Husband(calling wife to the telephone) "Dear, someone wants to listen to you."

Weary looking tramp: "Lady, I haven't eaten in four days."
Stout housewife: "Goodness, if only I had your willpower."

Wife to husband: "I wish you had the government's spunk. They certainly don't let being in debt keep them from spending."

Critics of credit say it is too easy to borrow money, but the real problem is it's so hard to pay it back.

Wise man: One who never pokes fun at his wife for shopping all day without buying anything. Neither does he go before his time-unless the boss leaves early.

I don't want to be a millionaire. I just want to live like one.

A Texan tried all his life to find an oil well but with no luck. When he died they found oil in the bottom of his grave.

A NEW WAY TO VIEW ECONOMICS (Proposed titles for Basic Course)

EVERYDAY LANGUAGE OF ECONOMICS
UNDERSTANDING DOUBLE-TALK
THE GREAT WEALTH MACHINE

WHO GETS WHAT?
HOW MUCH?

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF TAXES
WHO OWNS WHAT?

VISION OF WHAT MIGHT BE
RECESSION, REFLATION & REFLECTION
THERE'S A BIG BRIGHT TOMORROW

GOVERNMENT UNLIMITED
Translation -

Introduction

Concepts & Terms

Production of Wealth

Distribution of Wealth -

Part 1 - Rent

Part 2 - Wages & Interest

Raising Public Revenue

Basis of Titles

Natural Source of Public
Revenue

Business Cycles & Industrial

Depressions

Right Action follows correct
thinking

The Welfare State and

Civilization

GARGOYLE readers are invited to comment on this terminology.

As stated many times - this publication is intended to be an outlet for anyone wishing to "spout". Your spouting is requested.

Spout not - complain not.