THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

NEWS OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS

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RECOGNITION

The "Georgist" staff believes it fitting and proper to give First Page Recognition to those who assisted with the preparation and mailing of announcements for the current classes. particularly so since for the many, it was by no means their first contribution; the majority in fact have contributed this same service regularly.

We have in mind, particularly, one of these--a housewife and mother of two small children--who has never been known since her graduation to refuse assistance when the work could be done at home.

We salute her!---And all those whose services make it possible for the School to carry on. There are many who contribute liberally to the various other activities of the School. We salute them too. But with the big mailing job just finished, special recognition of the following seems apropos:

Mrs. Mary Louis Caglia--Mrs. Norma Clark----Willard Forrester--Mr. & Mrs. Gietner Hibbeler---Geo.

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TWO SUGGESTIONS--HOW ABOUT THEM?

(1)--It has been suggested in the interest of closer association and healthy discussion that a downtown eating place might be selected and a table reserved for each day between the hours of 11:30 and 2:30 where all Georgists so inclined might repair for luncheon and there be sure of meeting other Georgists and while lunching, engage in "shop talk." No obligation to go regularly or as to the food ordered--all on a voluntary basis. Who knows what might come out of such an arrangement! What do you think?

(2)--A second suggestion is for an evening or a Sunday afternoon "Question Group" at an appointed place where Georgists might meet for an exchange of thought on questions, bearing not only on "Single Tax"but on related subjects as well with a selected leader for each session. Interested "outsiders" would not only be welcome but sought after to add variety and interest. No charge except possibly a nominal fee for the meeting place and perhaps refreshments; and, of course, no obligation to attend re-

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WHY SHOULD TAX RATES BE THE SAME FOR CASES NOT PARALLEL?

We are indebted to Mr. Noah Alper for the following contribution. He quotes from a news item which appeared in the St. Louis Globe Democrat, Fri. Jan.21, 1955:

"City Counselor Samuel H. Liberman said that assessing city and county property holders the same amount would be unfair discrimination against city property owners.

"The reason is that the city assesses,for tax purposes, all tangible property at a much higher proportion of its value than does the county. Average assessments are around 18 per cent of true value; in the city the average is around 35 per cent, nearly double.

"The Supreme Court, January 10, held that tax levies set by the sewer district trustees--2 cents per $100 assesses valuation in the city and 3 cents in the county, to equalize the differing assessments--is a violation of the state constitution, which says rates may not be different."

Because of this ruling, the Globe Democrat says, "The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District faces legal action and harassment."

Mr. Alper analyzes this giveaway of government in this way:

"The difference between these assessments of the county of 18 per cent and of the city of 35 per cent and 100 per cent is 82 and 65 per cent, respectively. Usually a private investor would expect $6 to $7 income from each $100 of value of the land he possesses. Unless the government uses this same figure as a tax rate, it fails to collect the full income of the value of land as assessed at 18 and 35 per cent.

"It is this value--this rent of land which the government fails to collect that is capitalized into higher and more burdensome prices for those who wish to construct buildings for their own use or for rent. It also encourages the holding out of use for speculative purposes, land urgently needed for homes, industry, business and productive farming. In this way, natural resources can be hoarded." Mr. Alper points out that the biggest gap involved here is that caused by the people's blindness to this giveaway. Enemies of democracy are quick to take advantage of this blindness to further their own isms.

A government improvement made at public expense, not only gives added service to a community, but also increases its land value. It does this even though the land remains out of use. Is it not fair that those who receive this increased profit as a gift of public service, pay a higher percentage of taxes than those not thus favored?

It is obvious that the improved sewage system does not increase the land value in the city proper as it

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CIRCULATION-REPRODUCTION:-NEAL ZINSER

does that in the county which it specifically serves. Why then should the people in St. Louis, who are already assessed at a rate nearly double that of the county, be assessed a still higher rate because of advantages chiefly enjoyed by the county?

Why should the American people be resigned to accepting a form of taxation which represses production while encouraging land speculation? As the tax burden increases, the people complain vociferously, and yet the land monopoly remains as secure as ever. Why will the people surrender their own earnings for a public fund while fighting against surrendering a publicly created fund for this purpose?

Mr. Alper has illustrated a practical example of the truth Henry George so clearly discerned. Man's productivity makes fertile the land. The creative powers of man "has increased the bounty which men enjoy, as truly as though the fertility of nature has been increased. Into the mind of one came the thought that harnessed steam for the service of mankind. In the inner ear of another was whispered the secret that compels the lightning to bear a message around the globe. In every direction has the laws of matter been revealed; in every department of industry have arisen arms of iron and fingers of steel, whose effect upon the production of wealth has been precisely the same as an increase in the fertility of nature. What has been the result? Simply that landowners get all the gain.

"Can it be that the gifts of the Creator can thus be misappropriated with impunity?"

It is readily recognized that timber increases the value of land as does the fruitfulness of the earth in general. But it is not seen that every department of industry has the same effect upon the production of wealth as an increase in the fertility of nature. With but rare exceptions, the schools do not enlighten the citizens on this matter. Our legislatures do not so much as consider it. The great SILENCE thus observed conditions intelligence. And so as great improvements are made, Land remains the Great Gainer and at the same time it is undervalued in that this very truth is overlooked.

Men look about eagerly for opportunities and complain of their sparseness. They fail to see the artificial barrier to production which is set up by private ownership in land--the non-producer and great gainer.

Recognition--From Page One

A. Hippolite---Mrs. Wm. C. Howard---Jo Hannah Jacobs---Henry Johnson---Mrs. James La Forest---Misses Ann & Shon Lockhart---Wm. C. Mahon---Mrs. D. H. Mann, Jr.---Caroline Nations---Matt Paradise----David Parnas----Ernest M. Potts---Mrs. Clara Rephlo---Geo. C. Richmond---Jerry Saillard---and Victor Wasicki.

JINTER TERM CLASSES

Five classes in basic economics and one advanced class are off to a good start with the report from teachers that the students enrolled are alert, capable and interested. We may expect, therefore, a creditable showing of graduates in March.

Henry George School of Social Science
Room 765, 818 Olive St.
St. Louis 1, Mo.

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"A war that soldiers can win by pushing buttons appears as far off as one that taxpayers can pay for in the same way."
--Major Folvey

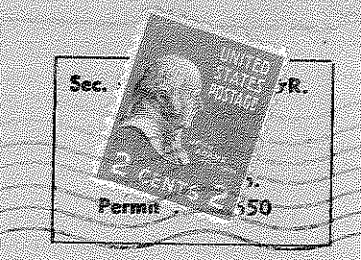
Suggestions--From Page One

gularly.

What do you think? Are you interested? We earnestly solicit your reactions and suggestions on both of these projects.

If interested, drop a card or letter to Miss Neal Zinser, 3449 Gravois, St. Louis 18, with your comments, any suggestions as to where to meet, daily or weekly luncheons, etc. Don't forget to include your address or telephone number.

DON'T FORGET.....Our Big Card Party Thursday, February 10th....ALHAMBRA GROTTO.



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