

The Bardoble



"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. 10

FEBRUARY 1967

WINTER TERM CLASSES

Cranford Public Library - 5 sessions
Thursdays 7:30 to 9, starts Feb. 9th.

Perth Amboy Adult School - Newark
headquarters and possibly other communities - inquire.

Springfield - Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, Tuesdays 3 to 10
starts February 7th.

AFTERNOON MEETING

2nd Tues. Feb. 14th 2 p.m. Newark
headquarters - Film and discussion.
These meetings are open to the public
and anyone who can attend in the daytime
are most cordially invited. The
discussions are geared to the wishes
of the audience - no holds barred -
come learn - enjoy yourself.

In the space below, in last month's
GARGOYLE a quotation appeared from
the writings of Frank, who was formerly
a Director of the Henry George School,
New York. He died, after a long illness
on December 29th. Some will remember
him as the editor and publisher of
ANALYSIS, and for his articles in
HUMAN EVENTS. While in his late years
he was not actively affiliated with the
school, he certainly was one of its friends
and it might be said, he was Mr. Individualist
himself.

* * *

"Canada Ups Sales Tax"-headline in
local newspaper - Is this any way to
welcome a Henry George School Conference?
You Bet It Is!

"You can fool all of the people some of the time,
but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time."

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HONEST ABJ LINCOLN

who also said -

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift.

You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred.

You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich.

You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative
and independence.

You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and
should do for themselves.

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IRAN'S PEACEFUL REVOLUTION

As readers of the GARGOYLE know, Iran has been instituting a land reform program under the aegis of the Shah. Latest reports are that so successful is it that the Communists there are in trouble. They feel that the program for revolution has been stolen from them. The commies can't find anything to fault the program except that it's run by a wealthy monarch, so they are losing followers.

Not quite 3 million peasant families have obtained fields, and over 26,000 young army recruits have been sent to the villages to teach reading and writing, and new roads and factories are now being built.

Criticism and agitation are dying out. The old leftist student demonstrations have all but disappeared, and happily the landlords and religious leaders who had challenged the Shah apparently have virtually given up their opposition.

Developments have reached a point where the United States is scheduled to end its civilian aid program in 1968. In fact, the country has developed so far now that there is considerable competition from both the East and the West to build industrial complexes there. Yugoslavia is planning a ship yard, Romania is selling tractors, Czechoslovakia is building a machine tool factory, Russia a steel mill and industrial development, while Allied Chemical and Reynolds Aluminum Co. are building plants.

This illustrates how important a system of land tenure is to the industrial development of a country. With the mass of the people having the opportunity to make some kind of a decent living, the result is the need for many industrial products which they can now purchase as they have a little surplus. This results in the building of factories requiring people not only to build them but to man them. They, then, in turn have more wealth to spend so their demands result in more factories, and more service and direct consumer establishments as restaurants, night clubs, theatres and schools.

What is particularly interesting about the peaceful revolution in Iran is that it is one from the top. Usually, the revolutions from the top are socialist or communist with a small group of hardened individuals with a definite idea of what they want to do. They institute their socialistic reforms. They do not work out, of course, because socialism is not in accord with the nature of the human species and is merely a cathetically wild dream of men with little real knowledge of economics or human psychology. But this one is to preserve the capitalist economy.

Our work in the Henry George Schools has been predicated on the belief that the move for sound land reform must come from the bottom through educating enough of the mass of the people that action will follow. Certainly this seems to be the sound procedure for a huge nation as ours as it would be politically impossible even if the head of the nation were a Georgist for him to do much as the people simply would not understand what he was urging.

In a nation like Iran, where the people largely comprise two groups -- a small wealthy land-owning group, and the mass of the people who are tenants, it would seem that a dedicated group of intellectuals controlling the government may, with wisdom and good luck, institute a land reform system which can be accepted. This would appear to be true particularly if the first phases when opposition is most intense and no results apparent are successfully surmounted.

It could well be that Iran is not out of the woods yet. The Shah was always in danger of assassination by some member of the religious or land-owning group, and he was ruthless in fighting the opposition.

It is also true that the land reform is merely a redistribution of land among most of the people. It will thus eventually engender all the problems of a society in which land is treated as private property. For the time being, however, until land values soar the country will probably have fairly prosperous conditions, and it could well be that Iran will be the example for other Middle East countries to follow.

Now, of course, what should be done in Iran is to have some intellectual establish a Georgist school. The setup will be ideal for it is obvious to all how important land is to a nation's development. In our country people lose sight of the land, but in Iran the reform is so new that they are particularly aware of it and its ramifications. That being the case a Georgist school might make great headway there. And it would be important that it does get underway before the reform program bogs down as they all eventually do when based merely on dividing up the land instead of renting the land to the people and distributing the rent per capita to the citizens.

Wouldn't it be something if out of the Middle East which gave us some of the great religions of the world came the beginning of a system of land reform which would truly revolutionize the world!

Oscar B. Johannsen

WHO OWNS THE MINERALS?

An interesting sidelight on land ownership is provided by reports of the debate in the New Guinea House of Assembly on mining royalties in respect of copper deposits in Bougainville, as a result of which the Administration, against its will, conceded the principle that owners of the land involved are entitled to a recompense for minerals removed from their lands, notwithstanding that the Crown, as their representative is the recognized recipient of the royalty throughout Australia. Owners will receive an 'occupation fee' of \$2. an acre, but they have declared, through their Member, Mr. Paul Lapun, that they will press for more than this at a later session of the House in August. The debate, which lasted five hours and was contributed to by 31 Members, disclosed how far are the people of the Territory, yet, from any concept of nationhood with its accompanying notion that Government represents the people and the national treasury administers their joint property in their joint interests. (Admittedly, they have not been helped in this direction by the behavior of their opposite numbers in Canberra). Plainly, the Administration is still an alien mechanism of control to be watched with suspicion. Which suggests that a lot of water will run into the Gulf of Papua before the Territory, despite continuing pressure from doctrinaire bodies like the U.N., is able to present itself to the world as a self-conscious, self-governing independent nation.

FROM: GOOD GOVERNMENT, AUSTRALIA THE SQUARE DEAL

is the publication of the Alumni Group, Ontario, Canada. In the Dec. issue appeared five quotes from THE GARGOYLE - so we quote below from THE SQUARE DEAL:

The Chicago Transit Authority proudly reports that its buses plowed thru traffic in 1961 at an average speed of 11.74 m.p.h., an improvement over 1960's 11.66. Average speed of horses in 1906; 12 m.p.h. -- Newsweek. (The writers of college textbooks on Economics have made similar progress, since 1906 -- only more of it. -- Bd.)

A man may drive on a dilapidated highway, by overcrowded schools, thru slums without parks, passing a full unemployment office to a boring job where he makes component parts for weapons to kill thousands of people-but if he goes there in a new Chevrolet, he thinks he is living the good life, and this is a progressive society, indeed.

Man is the only organism known that lives by destroying the environment indispensable to his survival.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

Prices have been called the thermostat of our business system; a thermostat that sets itself by quick response to the changing heat of competition. It reacts quickly to the immutable laws of supply and demand. But there is one unique aspect of the business thermostat we should all recognize; it cannot be set by human hand; it cannot be meddled with artificially.

We firmly believe that the consumer ---and the nation---is best served when prices are determined in the market-place; when all the various market forces of supply and demand interact.

Obviously, we must some way, somehow, convince the people of this nation that the thermostat of business must not be set artificially. It must be understood that the price structure in this country is directly related to the complexity of our advanced society; that prices cannot be set by arbitrary rules. We have got to make people realize that prices must be related to the broad patterns by which the nation produces, distributes, and uses goods and services.

As long as we operate on the basis of supply and demand, our economy will continue to serve the nation. And, the consumer will continue to enjoy the benefits of free, competitive marketing.

SERVICE MAGAZINE

THIS MONTH'S FILMS: A Thousand Clowns
Another documentary, this time on the formation and initial struggles of a land commission. No expense has been spared in the production of this masterpiece. It's colossal! It's gigantic! It's Tremendous! It's Futile.

Fahrenheit 451 (A) The fantastic story of an overworked economist obsessed with the idea of destroying single-handed all tax laws and starting all over again. (451° F is the temperature at which paper ignites) It's unbelievable! It's shattering in its simplicity! But somewhere in it there is a moral.

Henry Geo. Sch. Mag. London

First Lawyer: "You are a lowdown cheat."

Second Lawyer: "You are an unmitigated liar."

Judge (rapping gavel): Now that the attorneys have identified each other we shall proceed with the case."

A tomcat and tabby were courting on the back fence when the tomcat leaned over to her and said, "I'd die for you, you beautiful thing."

The tabby gazed at him longingly and asked: "How many times?"

Scattered in the backwoods area of Kentucky, West Virginia, Tennessee and Virginia are about a million and a half people. They are so spread out that Federal planners despair of being able to give them such grand sociological goods, as water systems, sewers, hospitals and vocational schools unless they can get the people together in urban centers.

As is so often the case with the best laid plans of professional do-gooders, the people prefer to stay in the hills even tho they must do without all these wonderful things. This however, is absolutely inexplicable to the Federal bureaucrats, so as a part of a \$263,350 grant a study is to be made of "the peculiar sociological patterns of the people in this central area that discourage their taking advantage of public services."

No doubt, the theory underlying this is that if the people won't accept the handouts and advice of the do-gooders, they must be nuts. Actually, what this country needs are more nuts like these people and a lot fewer of the do-gooders who want to examine them. Come to think of it, maybe the money might be better spent examining the do-gooders to see what makes them tick, and how they could be made over into people with ordinary common sense. But probably this is asking the impossible.

At 21 a man believes he can save the world. At 30 he's happy if he can save even a part of his salary.

The French are at it again. Just when many of the major nations and the International Monetary Fund thought they had everything nicely planned for their forthcoming meeting in London on Jan. 25 and 26 to discuss a "composite reserve unit" based on a number of currencies, as a new international reserve currency with the very mention of the word "gold" banished, the French Minister Debre stated that France will demand that gold be made a part of the discussion.

DeGaulle believes that international transactions should be financed with gold, which he says is the only "real" money, and dollars and pounds need no longer be used as international reserve currencies.

De Gaulle is right. The only real money is gold and there is simply no way of getting around it. Whether nations want to use dollars and pounds as reserves in their central banks is up to them. However, they do so at their own peril. If the U.S. suddenly changes the so-called "price" of gold from \$35 to say \$70, it means each dollar in these banks would then be worth one half as much in terms of real gold.

Of course, that wily old politician DeGaulle hopes the "price" is raised as he is sitting on over \$5.2 billion in gold in France's central bank. In addition, it is estimated that the French people have over \$5 billion in gold cached away in teapots, chests, and safes. It doesn't hurt DeGaulle with his people, thus, when he argues for a higher price as they will all reap speculative profits. What this really means is that if the price were doubled, they could get more American dollars to spend for the goods and services we have.

Our government is against this. However, it will not institute the necessary monetary reforms which would cut down our balance of payments deficit and change it into a surplus. If they did this, agitation for gold's "price" increase would probably cease. Instead the government is trying to get some new form of currency adopted. This is analogous to a man who spends more than he earns, and thus has a "balance of payment deficit". What he should do is cut spending and increase his income. Instead, he wastes his energies looking for some new kind of paper money which his creditors will accept. He can't find this, and neither can the U.S. Government. But the politicians and "New Economists" keep trying.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Come to think of it the old fashioned wall telephone had its advantages. For one thing a woman quit talking when her feet got tired.

Sign of an old timer: If you can remember when mother's meals were carefully thought out, instead of thawed out.

In the U.S. there are two forms of government--the short form and the long form.

Do you know what's wrong with the modern parent? They think they know more than their children.

Why is it that the people who know the least seem to know it so fluently?

Daffynitions:

Vacation - A way of getting into the pink by going into the red.

Progress: A society where as the horsepower of the autos rises the congestion of traffic lowers the speed of the car.

Prime Minister: A preacher at his best. Philosophy: A system for being unhappy intelligently.

Radio Announcer: A man who talks until you have a headache, and then tries to sell you a headache powder.

* * *

MONTREAL in 1967!

See January issue HENRY GEORGE NEWS