THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

NEWS OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS

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MARCH - 1955 ISSUE 34

THANKS!

The Women's Club takes this means of publicly expressing its thanks to the following firms for responding to our request for attendance prizes for our annual Card Party, Thurs. Feb. 10. We solicit for them the patronage of our St. Louis Georgists: England Magazine Agency;--Griesedieck Bros.Brewery;--Kreeg Games;--Kruse & Sons,Florists; Laclede Gas Co.--Jacob Mange & Son;-Mayola Beauty Salon;--Peck & Peck;--Pevely Dairy Co.;--Quality Dairy Co-Rembrandt Studios;--Royal Crown Bottling Co.;--St.Louis Dairy Co.;--St. Louis Jewelry Co;--Union Electric Co.

OUR THANKS, too, for the cooperation received everywhere from Georgists, who sent cakes, prizes, money-- and who bought tickets--! Thank - You!

HAVING TROUBLE?

Having trouble answering pros pects' questions? Send for new booklet:"YOU ARE INVITED TO LEARN"...Let it answer them instead.

VICTOR WASICKI HAS THE RIGHT IDEA

He has organized a discussion Group which will hold its first meeting at his home, 2415 Bristow Ave., Sunday afternoon, March 6. We anticipate a report and hope for other regional groups to be organized.

TAXES, TAXES!

Last month the St. Louis Georgist carried a statement which showed that assessments in St.Louis Co.were made at 18 per cent, and in the city at 35 per cent. On Feb. 22, came the news that James M.Robertson,Chairman of the State Tax Commission, is "launching a program to equalize all assessment of real property in Missouri of 30 per cent of true value."

James B. Duval, of the St.Louis Globe Democrat, informs us, "This is the first effort in 35 years to reach an overall state level on assessments.

Mr. Duval states further: "Robertson said the program will not

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SPRING CLASSES JUST AROUND CORNER

(Week of April 10)

Here is the schedule:

Mon.Apr.	11, 7:45 PM	-- Y.M.H.A.
Tues. "	12, 7:45 PM	-- Richmond Hgts. City Hall
Tues. "	12, 6:15 PM	-- School Off.
Wed. "	13, 7:45 PM	-- Wellston Highschool
Thurs."	14, 7:30 PM	-- School Off.
Thurs."	14, 7:45 PM	-- Webster Gr. Public Library

Send in names of prospective students at once.

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DID MALTHUS RECKON WITH THE LAND MONOLOPY?

Today there is a marked revival in the Malthusian Theory and it is widely accepted as sound in its appraisal of the effects of over-population. Henry George subjected Malthus to a pitiless refutation, & his study remains a classic on the subject. Book II in PROGRESS & POVERTY could well be reviewed by those who would like to be brought up-to-date on this matter, for George's observations are as pertinent as when he set them down. Does it not remain true that "Compared with its capacities to support human life the earth as a whole is yet most soarsely settled?" If atomic energy could be converted into full civilian use, the productive and creative possibilities before man would stagger the imagination to envision. The standard of living for all levels of society could be lifted immeasurably. The free and unrestricted use of man's own abundant energies would in itself release a potentiality hitherto all too inadequately utilized. As George asserts, "the very reverse of the Malthusian doctrine is true...."

Mrs. Mae Jadwin, graduate of the School one-time teacher and ardent Georgist, is proprietor of the Mayola Beauty Salon, mentioned among contributors to the Card Party. She deserves the patronage of Georgist women and is highly recommended by Club members who are her customers. The salon is located at 427 DeBalivere Ave.

ACTION!

Many meetings have been held in the past several years to discuss ways & means of furthering the work of the School, out of which came numerous suggestions--some sure-fire if worked, and others not so sure but with possibilities. Up to Friday night, Feb. 25, these suggestions have been more or less left hanging in the air. Now something is to be done about them.

At a meeting held at the Forest Park Hotel, a temporary Steering Committee was appointed with Mrs. Ross Schachner as temporary chairman. A further meeting will be held within the next few weeks for the purpose of permanently organizing the committee, with a permanent chairman to be appointed, etc. Many suggestions considered worth trying were put forth at the above meeting. These will be tested by the permanent committee and, if adopted, steps taken to put them into operation.

A full report on organization and plans of the Steering Committee will be presented later. In the meantime, prepare to submit your individual ideas for the good of the School and propagation of the Georgist System.

Names of those appointed to the Steering Committee follows: Mrs. Norma Clark; L.W.Forrester; Henry Johnson; Wm. Mahon; Jerry Saillard Mrs. Ross Schachner; C.W.Segelhorst; Wm.Vahey; Victor Wasicke, Neal Zinser.

AXES! (Con't)
et all constitutional requirements
s to assessments and will not raise
he state level to 100 per cent of
rue value

"This value, Robertson explained
eans a value at which property has
een sold in voluntary transactions.
He said the valuation accepted for a
30 per cent determination are based
on some 40,000 transactions over the
last three years. 'We are not trying
to raise taxes.' Robertson said. 'We
are merely equalizing assessment as
the law requires. Local agencies
will control how much taxes they de-
sire to pay by adjusting their rates
accordingly for minicipal, school,
county and other purposes.'"

Real income on land is figured around a 7 per cent basis. Full value assessments, as called for by the Constitution is 100 per cent. To collect the full economic rent in land, as it is generated by the people and their activities, would require about a 7 per cent rate on a 100 per cent valuation. The difference between this just rate, and the rates levied, and the valuation assessed, reflects net income or potential net income to the title holder. This is the public "giveaway" that causes land--that which is given by nature and is without any labor or capital-effort cost of production--to have a selling price.

The more the cost of government is shifted to those who live primarily from wages and interest incomes, the more net income for the title holders of land. This explains the great tax shift that has taken place in Missouri through use of sales, gasoline, income, and other non-land value taxes. As weeds cultivated in the garden, choke and smother the growth of the desired plants, taxes choke and smother labor and capital incentives and production. This gives encouragement to the holding of needed land out of use. The results inevitably breed conditions in the state and nation which encourages Marxism in all its forms.

* * * * *

IS THE TAX QUESTION OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE TO MERIT THE EFFORT OF ARRIVING AT GENUINELY "FAIRER TAXES?" If so, why is it that the following considerations are almost invariably overlooked by tax commissions?

"The value of land does not express the reward of production, as does the value of crops, of cattle, of buildings, or any of the things which are styled personal property and improvements. It expresses the exchange value of monopoly. It is not in any case the creation of the individual who owns the land; it is

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Mark it on your calendar and plan to attend -- ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL, July 14-17, 1955, Berea, Ohio

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TAXES (Con't

created by the growth of the community. Hence the community can take it all without in any way lessening the incentive to improvement or in the slightest degree lessening the production of wealth. Taxes may be imposed upon the value of land until all rent is taken by the State, without reducing the wages of labor or the reward of capital one iota; without increasing the price of a single commodity, or making production in any way more difficult.

"But more than this: Taxes on the value of land not only do not check production as do most other taxes, but they tend to increase production, by destroying speculative rent."

Why are these truths so persistently overlooked by our so-called tax experts? On Feb.26, the St.Louis Post-Dispatch carried a lengthy editorial titled, "Toward Fairer Taxes". But the following quotation is taken not from it, but from PROGRESS AND POVERTY:

"The tax upon land values is, therefore, the most just and equal of all taxes. It falls only upon those who receive from society a peculiar and valuable benefit, & upon them in proportion to the benefit they receive. It is the taking by the community, for the use of the community, of that value which is the creation of the community..."

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"It doesn't take much sound to put over a sound argument."---Dreyer

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