

The Barriople



"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. 70

M A R C H 1963

FROM WHENCE COMES?

1. "Let George Do It."
2. "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."
3. Word - "Govern?"
4. Fort Nonsense.
1. King Louis XII of France. George D. Amboise was prime minister and the king delegated problems to him.
2. Leviticus 25:10 (Inscription on Liberty Bell.
3. Latin - "gubernoc" meaning "to steer a ship."
4. During American Revolutionary War - when in winter quarters to keep men occupied unneeded works were constructed - Fort Nonsense - a wooden fortress was built at Morristown, N.J.

SOME FAMOUS NEW JERSEITIES

"The important man who more than any other guided this transition. (Woodrow Wilson from academic life to the White House was George L. Record, a lawyer, politician and reformer... and the leading Georgist in the state." Charles Albro Barker

"George L. Record was one of the most extraordinary men this country has known."

Amos Pinchot

"George L. Record was for more than thirty years New Jersey's foremost citizen, and an acknowledged leader in progressive political and economic thought in the nation

James G. Blauvelt

Long a resident of Maplewood, N.J., Alfred N. Chandler - traveler and economist was active in public affairs for more than fifty years. He was particularly known for his activities in matters concerning land reform. His book LAND TITLE ORIGINS written when he was 87 years old contains much interesting material.

T A X P R I N T E R

There is something can be done about taxes. People like you can do it.

What are Taxes? Taxes are the means or method of raising revenue.

Taxes are not the source of revenue. Pumps are not the source of the water they draw. Taxes are like pumps.

Any consideration of taxation should start with incidence - source.

Second consideration should be effects - upon individuals - the economy.

A comparatively simple change in assessing and taxing property, after re-evaluating incidence and effects has much to offer. Let's start.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
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Contents

Land or Death
Just Spouting
A Good Friend and True -
Saul Lachter
Tax Inquiry Council

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JUST SPOUTING

While THE GARGOYLE is primarily intended for those who wish to be kept informed of the activities of the Henry George School of N.J., it might interest readers to learn that it is sent to persons in 21 states, Washington, D.C., Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico and England. These "out of staters", I presume are chiefly interested in "Dean Thinks" - "Sense and Nonsense", O.B. Johannsne's timely articles and some of the tid-bits appearing from time to time.

We have endeavored, for the most part to avoid "talking to ourselves" or rehashing "the same old thing". The majority of GARGOYLE readers, I believe, are basically informed regarding the philosophy of Henry George, Land Value Taxation, Competitive enterprise and limited Government.

The little thumb nail sketches brought to you by Virginia Harvey, add a personal touch, and while many may not know the persons written about, it gives some idea of the type of people interested in the school.

For the past year or so in New Jersey, much has been appearing in our newspapers (we still have them in N.J.) regarding taxation. It has been set forth there is needed increased government revenue but the General Property Tax has become so burdensome it cannot be further increased therefore other sources of revenue must be sought. The State Tax Policy Commission recommended a general retail sales tax. The Governor has proposed a bond issue. Some favor a state personal income tax.

An organization has been built up to oppose any new taxes insisting the State live within its income. One section of the property tax that pertaining to assessment of business inventories has aroused tremendous opposition. The recognized increase in farm land values has prompted demand for a constitutional amendment.

Of course, those of us who understand Land Value Taxation, see the futility of all the current proposals. When will the public demand basic reform?

The film LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW has been shown to Taxpayer Associations, civic clubs and many different groups, and we have provided speakers at meetings. We have offered Tax Seminars and Forums. We have talked with individuals of influence and representatives of groups and organizations which have appointed committees to study the tax structure. They seem only interested in their own diagnosis and just will not dig deeper into the real fundamental aspects.

I have spouted.

J/ Tetley

LAND OR DEATH

"Land or Death" are the signs plastering the mountains of Peru. They might as well be posted on the highways and byways of every nation in the world for the problem is the same everywhere.

But it is particularly acute in Peru for there 60 families virtually own all of the land. With the typical purliness of which usually afflicts generations of landowners, no intelligent action is being taken to answer the demands of the people.

Only a month ago, 10,000 campesinos--peasants--went to Cuzco to demand land. The police broke up the demonstration, killing many Indians. As a result, raids are being made on the haciendas and blood is flowing on both sides of the dispute.

As would be expected, the communists are in the thick of it all, headed by a modern "Robin Hood" in the person of Hugo Blanco. Though he is a hero in the eyes of the natives, actually he is a Moscow trained communist. With all the deftness of the communists, he has put his finger directly on the sore spot--the land--and is attaining national acclaim thereby.

What are the westerners offering the people? Roads and schools sometime in the future. What do the communists offer them? Land and food now. Although the peasants are mentally and physically stunted as a result of the terrible conditions under which they barely exist they are not that dumb as not to know which to choose. So they choose communism and now Cuzco is the center of all communist activity in Peru.

Conditions in Peru are incredible. Women of 20 to 25 look as though they were 50 or 60. They feed cocaine juice from coca leaves to their babies to ease the children's hunger pangs. As you read of the conditions under which they live, you burn with anger and shame that humans are forced to live so. The cocaine makes the adults dull-witted but apparently terrible strong for they carry 150 pound loads at an altitude where a visitor gets a headache just from taking a short walk.

You are reminded of Edwin Markham's immortal poem, "The Man With the Hoe", for just about every vestige of humanity has been drained out of these unfortunates. When these dumb, tortured souls finally do rise up, the world will read about terrible massacres of the landlords and their hirelings.

The communists urge the redistribution of the land. This, obviously, is no solution and when the communists get into power they will not actually redistribute it any more than they did in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. But that is their cry and that is what makes them so popular.

One interesting item about Cuzco is that it was the capital of the fabulous Inca empire. A great civilization had arisen in that area and to this day ruins of the fortresses they built may still be seen.

It is a sober reminder of what can happen to great civilizations when freedom is lost. The native Indians today could no more rebuild the Inca civilization than could animals. But give them two or three generations of being free men on free land, and their achievements would compare favorably with ours.

Will they get that freedom? Not very likely. If the communists take over in the bloodbath which is impending, the Indians will be little better off than they are now. The only hope is that before it is too late, the businessmen and intellectuals will convince the landlords to initiate land reform. If they redistribute the land, conditions will improve considerably, but no great civilization will arise. Landlordism will be stronger than ever for instead of having 60 landlords, Peru will have thousands.

The only real hope is that some student of Georgism will be able to sell the Peruvians on the collection of rent on the local level. This would mean the breakup of the huge haciendas as the landlords are forced to disgorge the land on which they cannot pay the rent so the peasants will get the land they need.

Will such happen? One never knows, but surely some day, somewhere, some country will institute George's reform and when it does it may spark a chain reaction which might sweep the world.

Oscar E. Johannsen

SENSE AND NONSENSE

Have you noticed that titles are getting longer in the Federal bureaucracy? The Wall Street Journal has just found out that in the Defense Department there is a man whose title is Assistant to the Deputy Special Assistant to the Assistant for Space Office, Deputy Director, Research and Engineering (Tactical Warfare Programs).

Well, why not? After all, the bureaucracy is the new aristocracy, and aristocracy has always been ennobled with fancy titles.

Did you know that an aristocrat is a democrat with his pockets filled.

After analyzing the proposed tax cuts and the tax reforms, including such choice items as only permitting deductions for charities, state taxes, etc. if they are greater than 5% of one's income, the question arises can any of us afford a tax cut.

One wag after noting that Social Security taxes rose again the first of this year said sadly, "I'm going to be broke before I'm secure."

These new tax "cuts" may not be raising taxes, but as the real implications percolate, they certainly raise tempers.

It looks like the "gentle rain from the heavens above" is causing a lot of trouble, particularly since man has found a way to answer Mark Twain's complaint that "nobody does anything about it." In West Virginia, orchardists have hired a weather control firm to seed silver iodide into cloud formations in order to stop hail from falling. Hail is one of the worst enemies for fruit, as apples. Apparently, the iodide works, but works too well, for neighboring farmers claim it also stops the rain. They had a terribly drought last summer and fall. So wrought up were the farmers that someone actually hit the plane with a high-powered bullet, which brought an end to its activities as the pilot quit flying when that occurred.

Now the politicos in West Virginia are going to have a study to determine if there is a relationship between rainfall and hail prevention. Well, by the time any definitive results are received, the farmers will probably have devised means to make it rain, and the city folk will have devised means to make the weather always sunny, so we in America will not only have managed news, but managed weather.

Did you know that rain is something which when you take your umbrella and rubbers with you, doesn't.

The government wants to establish a new domestic service corps, called the National Service Corps. This is similar to the Peace Corps and to the old Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. The purpose, so it is said, is to provide urgently needed help in hospitals, Indian reservations, slum areas, etc.

Of course, the real purpose is to get these people out of the labor pool. It is based on the discredited wages-fund theory that there is just so much money available for so many jobs. Thus, by getting these people out of competition

with the rest of us, wages should rise, or at least not fall. That's the theory but it is not true as wages come from production. But the idea is another political gimmick, and as such will be a potent weapon in the elections, particularly in 1964 just as the Peace Corps was in 1960.

Did you know that the New Frontiersmen are now known as the Deficitteersmen?

Have you noticed the beautiful new homes being built all over the country? They are certainly very nice. The only trouble is that so many of them are located on the outskirts of most people's income.

A GOOD FRIEND AND TRUE

Mr. Saul Lachter is all of that; but then he is on the friendliest terms with the world. He views the whole scene with good humor, patience, and understanding.

When I asked him to name any favorite interests, he declared instantly, with a chuckle, for an occasional newspaper and our own GARGOYLE.

Then he turned serious and said our paper generates economic discussions as he passes it around. Would that every copy could see such ultimate use.

Mr. Lachter is another of our first students who joined with our favorite pair of founders, Dr. Bowen and Mr. Rusby, her husband. Those first classes seem to have contained a goodly company. I do find that each individual from these groups expresses his long time inspiration with the principles as they were thus presented.

The Lachter family members have lived in Maplewood for thirty-five years. Before that they were located in Irvington, where his present business is located. He is an oil dealer, and has owned Littlefield Bros., Inc. for some few years.

He is frankly enthusiastic when speaking of his daughter and his four grandsons. The first is in Yale, where he is studying law; he previously attended Johns Hopkins, where he earned his Phi Beta Kappa key and was one of the finalists for National Merits Awards. The second son is on the dean's list, in engineering, at Rochester University; while the youngest two are still in secondary schools.

In addition to the George studies, Mr. Lachter was most happy in many satisfying courses which he pursued at New York University and New York Teacher's College; his favorites were philosophy and psychology.

He is chairman of the Board of the Hebrew Orphanage of Newark, located on Lincoln Ave. He has been most active in this very satisfying work for many years. At present, he is making ready, with others, extended services at the home.

He has also devoted much effort as one of the organizers of the congregation of Beth El in South Orange.

Though he believes in the theories set forth by Henry George, Mr. Lachter states he is not willing to mark time until the ideas spread sufficiently for them to be practically applied. Therefore, he tries to do other things first with spirit and with zest.

Virginia Harvey

SALT OF THE EARTH

Do you know what is the easiest thing to raise? Taxes.

Did you know that a progressive school is one where the teachers never raise their voices and the children only lower theirs when they are hoarse.

Did you know that the nicest age for a woman is thirty--particularly if she is forty.

An altruist is one who does unselfish things for selfish reasons.

The typical American is a man who is continually complaining about the government's spending and then asks for more government spending in his town.

Husband - A man of few words.

Philosophy has been called a system of thought which enables you to be unhappy intelligently.

Economist: One who knows all the answers but doesn't understand the questions.

LIGHTHEARTED LEXICON

Decapitation: The sincerest form of capital punishment.

Delirium Tremens: The wages of gin.

Depression: A dent in the dinner pail.

Diet: Something that takes the starch out of you.

Diet mix: Product whose makers live off the fat of the land.

Dress: Woman's constant endeavor to improve on her skin.

TTC

The Tax Inquiry Council conducted a Symposium at 78 Clinton Ave. on February 20th. Several from the Henry George School met new friends who are interested in the present New Jersey Tax problem and discussed the possibility of a change in assessing and taxing "Property". Mr. Larry Kobak, Assistant Director of the Henry George School of N.Y. attended. The Tax Inquiry Council is strictly an educational endeavor to interest people in fundamental principles of taxation, particularly the incidence of taxes, and the ultimate effect upon the individual and the economy. Anyone so desiring may be placed upon the mailing list.