



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

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ONE - TWO - THREE

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RUTGERS - THE STATE UNIVERSITY -

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Incidentally, Rutgers has a large Campus in downtown Newark.

In the world at large, in spite of the fact that no works on political economy have had the circulation and reading obtained by his writings, discussion of the practical merits of his plan of reform of taxation has actually tended to blur his outstanding position as a thinker.

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EXPLODING THE POPULATION EXPLOSION?

The resurrection of the gloomy dean Thomas Malthus, proceeds apace. His rebirth within the past decade by the archangels of liberalism has now been publicly acknowledged by the archbishops of conservatism, the editors of National Review, the country's leading conservative publication, as evidenced by their baptismal certificate entitled "The Population Explosion."

Possibly Albert Jay Nock, that whimsical artist with words, might have blessed the felicitous union of these two sects in their mutual veneration of Malthus. He might even have given encouragement to them in their mighty crusade to save the world from the horrendous disaster of a superfluidity of Nature's finest creation. After all Nock pleaded guilty to being one of the most superfluous of men. And, as our society has little use for the truly sensitive and none whatever for the philosophical anarchist, his birth obviously should have been prevented. This would have provided more room on this minute, exhaustible planet for someone more pragmatic who would pursue the truly noble end of directing other people's lives.

It is indeed, unfortunate that Malthusism was at a low ebb when men such as Nock and Einstein were conceived or else the world might have been spared the writings of that intellectual gadfly, Nock, or the relativistic concepts of Einstein. The work of both has caused no end of trouble in literary and scientific worlds. Can there be any doubt that those gifted with such prophetic insight as to enable them to foresee that "in the year 5000, the mass of humanity would exceed the mass of the earth itself" are eminently capable of establishing such conditions of selectivity as to insure that the world will only be peopled by geniuses as Babbitts or Malthusians and certainly not such purveyors of nonsense as Einstein or Nock?

But, unfortunately, while Nock might have blessed this liberal-conservative sect, it seems more in keeping with his bent that he would have attempted to proselytize its adherents, ever so gently, of course, as coercion was anathema to him. "Diagnosis is the important thing", he once pointed out, which would imply that we would have urged a careful analysis of the Malthusian problem."

And what is the problem? Malthus stated that population tended to outstrip subsistence, and that in order to prevent this misery and vice, as well as moral prudence, were the necessary checks, which Nature and man utilized.

Actually the problem has two variables. One is man, the other is the earth. Obviously, man can no more over-populate the earth than a person can overflow a bucket. Neither is it possible for population to increase to a point where there is but one square yard for each

individual, as has been claimed. Such statements are mere hyperbole.

The problem as visualized by many people is that unless men take conscious premeditated action men can populate the earth to a figure beyond which it would be impossible for more men to live. If that is the case, well there is nothing humans can do about it, any more than they can about increasing the size of the earth by one iota.

More likely what is really meant by the "Malthusian problem", is that at some maximum figure, the earth can only sustain that number of people at the barest possible subsistence level. Even if this were true, what of it? If that is what men want, that is that they are entitled to. Why should they be denied the right to life merely because some intellectuals believe fewer people would mean a higher standard of living? Who is there living today who has the right to deny any man the gift of life today or in the future?

Why are the conservatives concerned? The liberal's position is understandable. They desire governmental controls in order to enjoy the deliciously exhilarating pleasure of manipulating the lives of other people, and population controls open up a field for a whole host of interventions in the lives of individuals. But, conservatives are dedicated to the principle of freedom and are justifiably suspicious of governmental control. Yet, they spend time and effort attacking a "problem" about which nothing needs to be done and which if anything is done, will only mean increasing restriction on the freedom of the individual.

The "Malthusian problem" is merely a variation of the discredited wage-fund theory, which assumed that wages were paid out of a capital fund. Thus to have high wages, there should be less people.

No doubt the standard of living desired is that which exists in the U. S. But, our high standard is not due to a low density of population, as many areas of the world have a lower density. It is largely due to the relatively free market economy which exists here resulting in a more efficient utilization of land, labor and capital. In particular, our higher standard of living is reflected in the relatively low cost of land as compared with other parts of the world.

It is conceivable that man can populate the earth to some absurdly large figure for as the earth, while tremendous, still is of limited size, which thus would indicate some maximum figure. It is also conceivable that men can live to be 200 years old. But just as all the evidence indicates that no man has ever or will ever live that long, so all the evidence indicates that the world is today, and always will be sparingly populated.

The "real" Malthusian problem" is an economic one which deals with the unjust systems of land tenure existing in the world today. The conservative and liberal intellectuals are looking at man; they should take time out to look at the land and how men allocated it among themselves. If they would do that they would see that "Malthusianism" is just another one of man's absurdly silly fantasies with which every now and again he indulges himself, possibly because "rational" man can be so confoundedly irrational.

Oscar B. Johansen

SENSE & NONSENSE

The Roman politicians' formula for staying in power was to give the people bread and circuses. Not to be outdone, the American politicians are now offering the people the equivalent of cake. A commission set up by Congress has just recommended that the Government should provide a minimum income for those unable to work so as to keep every family above the poverty level of about \$3,000 a year. The cost is a mere \$2 billion to \$20 billion annually, depending on the minimum income. In addition, the Government should be the "employer of last resort": spend up to \$2 billion a year to give jobs to anyone able to work but unemployed. And on top of this all workers in private industry should be paid salaries with hourly wages being abolished.

If the people can't get up in arms to defeat this program, then anyone foolish enough to work deserves to pay the taxes to finance it.

Tiwan (Formosa) is giving countries throughout the world a simple lesson in economics. Instead of frightening away foreign capital with restrictions it has attracted capital by all kinds of inducements. It gives to entrepreneurs everything from a five year tax holiday to factories ready for leasing, or land with utilities supplied, if the companies prefer to build their own factories. The result is that a flood of foreign money is coming into Taiwan with that nation changing from an agricultural economy to an industrial one. Just another example that good old-fashioned libertarian economics pays off. Give people access to land and the incentive to work and they will do the rest.

Most of the other small countries use Keynesian economics with the result that they suffer from inflation, lack of initiative and have only one solution. Let Uncle Sam bail them out.

The Federal Government is in a quandary over its U. S. Savings Bond Advertising. For years, it has been plugging savings bonds as being "profitable" and claims the money "grows" when invested in these bonds. No one thought much about it until now. What has happened is that an ever increasing number of banks are now advertising a form of savings which is similar to the U.S. Savings Bond. The

bank receives money for a definite period, usually five years. In return, instead of getting a savings passbook, the investor gets a "bank savings bond" or "savings certificate". The interest accumulates, just as it does on a U.S. Savings Bond. About the only difference, except for safety, between government bonds and the bank bonds is that the Government is now paying 3 3/4%. The problem which has arisen has been caused by the fact that the banks are using the same advertising. The Federal Reserve System worried about the fact that the banks are paying too high interest rates has tried to restrict their advertising. But the banks want to know why they cannot advertise that they "guarantee a 25% profit". After all, they've just copied it from the government ads.

The banks simply haven't learned that the government has a double standard. No matter what it does, it's right and moral but what you do may or may not even if you are merely copying exactly what the government is doing. But the banks will learn even as you and I.

THOUGHT FOR FOOD

"Henry George: Dreamer or Realist?" by Steven B. Cord, reviewed briefly in Henry George News, January, is a new book. Suggest it be read by all Faculty and Trustees of Henry George Schools. It gives an excellent look at what we are doing. The book may be borrowed from library or purchased from H.G.S. N.J.

"An Intuitively Perceived Theory of Money and Interest" is the title of a new pamphlet by Erick S. Hansch, Director Henry George School, Portland, Oregon. It is published by Taxpayers Publications Inc. While it is somewhat "technical" the following note taken from it presents something particularly for Faculty members of HGS to mull over:

"An interesting fact is the fairly steady rate of interest oscillating around 5% that has been observed in the economy for long periods. In setting the sales price for land the seller often figures the rental income for twenty years as the capitalized value on it. This comes to about 5% per annum for the rent using the 'customary' interest rate of say 5% to calculate the sales price. Note that, computed by the latter method, in the case of a very low interest rate, land would assume fantastically high values! Assuming a rate of 5% a rental income of \$100. - per annum would have to be capitalized at \$20,000. instead of at \$2,000."

There seems to be new organizations being launched quite frequently. Of late we have received literature from "Thomas Jefferson Research Center, Pasadena, Calif. and "Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania" of which Steven Cord is a Board Member, William E. Schoyer, Pres., and Percy R. Williams, Executive Director. (Good stuff in this one.)

Not new, the Pen-Ink Publishing Co. of New York city, however recently sent us a copy of their magazine "THE NEW STAND" (published since 1944). While most of us, I rather assume have so much to read we can't keep up with it, this concern has some stuff we might like.

Incidentally, for New Jersey readers of THE GARGOYLE, you are invited to use the Library of HGS-NJ. We have just added "Real Property Appraisal Manual for New Jersey Assessors." You may not wish to delve extensively into this, but you may find glancing through it interesting.

Not long ago a Television personality presented a game to a contestant, saying "Here is MONOPOLY, that famous game which tells you all about Real Estate. We now have in our Library, "HOW TO BE A MILLIONAIRE", a new game which takes up where MONOPOLY leaves off. Shows what happens when land value taxation is introduced for the person who won't listen to you, it is just the thing! For two players - borrow it and get him to play it with you-or purchase it-\$2. complete.

Worth reading: "The Man Who Wouldn't War with Uncle Sam." condensed from LIFE in Readers Digest, Feb. 1966.

And from that issue of Reader's Digest "New York Post": Comes the Millennium - Sen. Paul H. Douglas of Illinois has called attention to the fact that the publicly-owned oil-shale lands of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming contain at least 1.1 trillion barrels, of the highest grade oil alone estimated at 600 billion barrels twice the known recoverable reserves of petroleum elsewhere in world.

A bill introduced by Senator Douglas would require that, when these resources are developed, the income from royalties be paid into a special Treasury account and used to pay off the national debt. A royalty equal to 1/8 the value of the publicly owned oil shale could yield \$320 billion, the current total national debt.

SERVICE: Internal Revenue - Always on the alert to improve its service(?) to taxpayers, the Internal Revenue has sent out the 1965 tax forms provided with a self-addressed (but not postage paid) envelope to be used IF TAXPAYER is entitled to a refund (pleasant thought) This is addressed to Internal Revenue Service Center - a different location than that to which you send the form when you have also to send a check. That goes not to good old SERVICE, but to the District Director's office.

Provided also is a special two-part label. Should the first part, which is used as address for sending the form to the taxpayer, be mutilated or unusable, said taxpayer may remove this label (evidently it is a reusable sticker) and attach it to the return he files.

I suspect this is especially prepared for electronic processing. I haven't had

the courage to peek and see what if anything is underneath and thus makes a two-part label - perhaps I'll soak mine just for fun to see what happens.

What I'm really getting at, however, is the lovely statement "A Special Message for Taxpayers" - "Every year more than 60 million individuals demonstrate their faith in America by filing income tax returns." (Underscoring mine) Ah! such faith and what about those other Americans not permitted to file an income tax form - how they must grieve!

SALT OF THE EARTH

Internal Revenue Agent to taxpayer:
"Your return blew three tubes in the computer."

+++++

Son: "Dad, was the white man really smarter than the Indians?"

Dad: "Son, when the Indians ran the country, they didn't have debts and the women did all the work. No one can improve on that."

Employee who thru an error had received his paycheck completely blank -
"I knew sooner or later my deductions would catch up with my wages."

Door-to-door salesman to housewife: -
"You should have seen what I saw over at your neighbors! May I step in to tell you about it?"

Did you know that the most irritating conversationalist is the man who wants to talk about my business when I'm eager to tell him how to run his.

Auctioneer: A man who looks forbidding The big executive thought everything was possible until the day he tried to get something done during the coffee break.

DAFFINITIONS

Picnic: Eating in a lap-hazard manner.
Pleats: A pressing problem.

Roll: A hot-dog blanket.

Rumor: The only flyer that can speed in a hundred ways at once.

Sawdust: Opposite to seedust (Past tense of seedust)???

Scottish asparagus: No tips.

Slush: Snow that has had all the fun melted out of it.

Trousers: An uncommon noun, singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

TAG LINES

Do not squander time, for that is what life is made of.

Dreams of the future are more productive than memories of the past.

Drivers who hug the wrong curves sometime cause accidents.

Enthusiasm generates energy--an essential ingredient of success.

Everybody should learn to drive, especially those who sit behind the wheel.

Failure to try is the only kind of failure that is fatal.

He that always complains is never pitied.

JUST SO

A little gal's mother worries when she goes out--the gal worries when she stays in.