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"THE GARGOYLE"

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY — NOVEMBER 1956

The Real Problem of Science.

This past spring newspaper dispatches indicated that certain members of the faculty of the California Institute of Technology have satisfied themselves that man can support himself on this earth if he uses sufficient brain power to utilize the resources of the earth.

This conslusion is derived from a study on "The World's Food: Need and Potention", by Dr. James F. Bonner, Professor of Biology at CIT, who feels if the brain power is available there is no important limitation on the amount of food that the world can produce.

Dr. John R. Weir, associate professor of philosophy and director of student counseling at the Institute, deals with the problem of brain power in a report titled, "Technical Manpower, Requirements Supplies and Limits".

It is pleasant to find out from these savants that there is no techniological reason why shortage of food should limit the population growth of the earth. With the exception of men like Malthus, few people down thru the ages have ever worried too much about man surviving. However, this scientific "proof" while hardly conslusive in itself, may be reassuring to those with a Malthusian complex.

But apparently when the scientists talk about increasing brain power, they mean increasing the number of engineers, scientists and technologists who will provide the necessary brains and know how to operate the technical processes so that the masses can exist. That this tends to reduce the mass of the people to so many sheep supervised by a relatively small coterie of men whose intellectual capacity is such as to make them necessairly the rulers is overlooked.

It amounts to approximating the planned economy of the statists, ruled by Plato's philosophical statesmen, with the philosophers being replaced by the scientific engineer. But if men consists merely of a few shepards and millions of sheep why bother being concerned whether men survive or not.

However, if one recognizes that man is not a mere animal; that he partakes of a fragment of the Divine; that he is a soul it becomes obvious that man's survival is important.

But it also makes it obvious that questions as to man's survival are as important as questions on how many angels can dance on the head of a pin. The Almighty God would not make a world which could not support all His children. To do that would, in effect, deny His own omnipotence. Certainly, it would imply that He was capricious.

But the fundamental proposition upon which all scientific investigation is based is that natural law esists throughout eternity, that there is nothing capricous about them--that is, that God is not capricious.

Most men, having absolute faith in the Goodness and Wisdom of the Almighty, have never concerned themselves with the ability of man to survive on the earth. They knew "if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you." Matthew, Ch.6:30

Therefore, the problem is not really can the earth support men, but rather how can man so apportion the opportunities of the earth with justice to all.

This is the problem the scientists might attempt to solve. If they do so they should arrive at some of the same conclusions that Henry George did. And in so doing they may become aware of the fact that man is not merely flesh and bones but an individual, important not only to himself but to God.

Oscar B. Johannsen

A Thanksgiving Toast -

"Here's to our two National Birds
May they always be great -
The Eagle on our money
And the Turkey on our plate."

* * * \

R E N T

"The rent of land is determined by the excess of its product over that which, with the same application, can be secured from the least productive land in use." That is the well known and much misunderstood law of rent. For some the excess is rent. For others the excess measures rent. Some call the excess economic rent as distinquished from contract rent. Could it be that the excess merely determines that there is rent?

The law of rent is a determinant. How then can we maintain that it is rent, economic or contract or a measure thereof?

When the apple bounced off Newton's noggin it determined for him that there was a natural law which drew and held things to the earth and he labeled it gravity. The falling apple, which for Newton was the determinant, was not gravity. The distance from the stage determines what you see thereon; but, the distance, the determinant, is not what you will pay to see. We could go on like this forever "and never the twain shall meet" for the determinant can never be what it determines to be.

The excess productivity, of some land over that of other land determines that rent is potential when a given condition is existent. The given condition is that lands of unequal productivity be is use. Well what about "with the same application?" That is the yard stick or measure. Without it how could we possibly ascertain which was the most productive land? Then, given occupied lands of unequal productivity rent becomes existent for the occupants of the most productive land. We are discussing land value - economic rent. If there is no production there can be no economic rent and in consequence no land value. Rent, and nothing else but, gives value to land.

Let us assume that, as of now, land value is being paid to the community. You go to the collectors office with the intent of renting land space where production is high. The rent asked is more than you are willing to pay and you want to know why so much. The collector tells you that over the ridge, on the least productive land in use, with the same application half as much is produced as on the land you want to rent. Therefore, he goes on, you pay the community half your production. The law of rent measures what you have to pay, the excess, remember. Yes you say, "I remember and will likewise forget about renting on this side of the ridge. I will go back over the hill. I like the view on that side better anyway."

What the collector has failed to consider is another law; that of least effort. Love of leisure lures men into paying rent. Men will relinquish part of their production, as rent, if by so doing they can, with less effort, secure the same or, with the same effort, secure more than obtained where they came from.

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Economic rent is a share of the product. It will smell just as sweet if you call it contract rent. It would certainly be the result of an agreement and or contract. But why get ourselves involved. Let's keep it simple.

Economic rent is dependent on production per se. It is a premium willing paid for the privilege of having the exclusive use of land. The inducement to pay is prompted by the desire to get more for less. We labor under a primeval curse and how we hate to sweat.

John J. Devoe

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NINETY-SEVEN YEARS.

Amalia DuBois is a remarkable woman. Because she carries all thos years? No, but because she appears to ignore them. When I commented on her sunny, attractive rooms where she lives in Glen Rudge, she protested feelingly. "But none of the others living here speak my language. They only talk of their own personal lives and don't know and don't care about world affairs."

She has done her best to bring the world to her, however. Her walls are tastefully hung with pictures of great men, illustrated classics and the flag. Her table is neatly stacked with separate piles of clippings, correspondence, and articles. And from time to time she would unerringly pick out a particular one for comment. I thought of my own mislaid clippings, and mentally gave her the palm.

She knew all the leaders of the George movement in his day. Her family was on intimate terms with the George family, and often went on vacations together. She mentioned that Henry George usually took her brother, who used shorthand, with him on his speaking engagements to keep records of the proceedings.

I tried to persuade Mrs. DuBois to put such reminiscences into an article for the Gargoyle; but she was most reluctant. She appears to be more interested in concepts, ideas, and ideals than in speaking of herself or any personality. Such an attitude is remarkable in itself.

She was the first organizer of the women's suffrage movement in her home town Bayonne, where she spent her younger years And from her strenuous activities in this successful crusade has come her frank faith in this method. She has a heroic vision of the whole world caught up in a gigantic movement for peace. And if she were physically as active as she is mentally, I'm sure she would be out in the thick of the fray, and enjoying herself mightily.

A salute is due to this gallant woman; and I do salute her individually and in the name of the Henry George School.

Virginia Harvey.

Coming Increase of Social Pressure

Henry George, in the above titled essay which appears in Social Problems, described the emigration to America which was going on in his time as well as the westward trek of the people in America itself. He believed that "it has been the great distinquishing feature in the conditions of our people. Without its possibility we would have been in nothing what we are. Our higher standard of wages and of comfort and of average intelligence, our superior self-reliance, energy, inventiveness, adaptability and assimilative power, spring as directly from this possibility of expansion as does our unprecendented growth. All that we are proud of in national life and national character comes primarily from our background of unused land."

He pointed out that "we are but transplanted Europeans, and, for that matter, mostly of the 'inferior classes'." Yet because of great opportunities available, the character of the people either changed, or else had the chance to develop under more healthful economic conditions.

"It is the virtue of new soil, the freedom of opportunity given by the possibility of expansion, that has here transmuted into wholesome human growth material, that, had it remained in Europe, might have been degraded and dangerous."

But in prophetic words he said, "one of the most momentous events that could happen to the modern world would be the ending of this possibility of westward expansion...Practically, this event is near at hand...Not that there is any danger of this continent being really overpopulated...Europe today is not overpopulated."

Rather "the social pressure which forces on our shores this swelling tide of immigration arises not from the fact that the land of Europe is all in use, but that it is all appropriated. That will soon be our case as well. Our land will not all be used; but it will all be 'fenced in'."

That he recognized the danger to the world when all our land was "fenced in", is clear as he pointed out that "the day is near at hand...when we shall not only begin to feel that social pressure which comes when natural resources are all monopolized, but when increasing social pressure here will increase social pressure in Europe. How momentous is this fact we begin to realize when we cast about for such another outlet as the U.S. has furnished."

He reviewed the possibilities of Europeans or Americans settling in other continents and showed that as a result of the existing system of land tenure plus climatic and other conditions, the opportunities were relatively limited.

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And then he turns to "Asia--mother of peoples and religions--which yet contains the greater part of the human race--millions who live and die in all but utter unconsciousness of our modern world. In the awakening of these peoples by the impact of Western civilization lies one of the greatest problems of the future."

As today we see Asia arising as a communistic menace, worshipping the monolithic State, we can only wonder what the effect would have been if the people of Henry George's time had heeded his warnings and made land more easily accessible both in America and Europe. Would the knowledge and understanding of freedom have seeped into Asia so that today she would have been struggling toward greater freedom rather than toward barbarism?

Oscar B. Johannsen

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GEOFFREY W. ESTY, M.D., F.A.A.P.

The career of Dr. Esty, President of the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey School, has been so crowded with activity that just to read his professional profile is to realize that his well developed sense of humor is a priceless asset.

He received his A.B. and M.D. degrees from Harvard, later doing post-graduate work in pediatrics in Switzerland. Eventually he practiced in his field at Westfield and was associated with hospitals both in New Jersey and New York.

In 1941, he was appointed Supervisor of Medical Personnel in the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, N.J. department of Health. Then came enlistment in the Medical Corps of the U.S. Army as Post Surgeon throughout Europe until 1945. After leaving military service, he resumed supervision of many N.J. State medical posts; also, joined the faculty of Seton Hall College.

Dr. Esty was appointed Director of the Division of Constructive Health in the N.J. State Department of Health in 1949, which includes many diverse bureaus. In addition, he is affiliated with, and consultant to numerous State and County medical organizations.

Being originally a Bostonion, he met his wife, Valiere, there when she made her professional singing debut, after graduating from the Toronto Conservatory of Music. Hers is the art song and the oratorio. They now live in Princeton and have two sons, Joseph, at 19, attends Union College for engineering and liberal arts degrees; Jonathon is 16, enrolled at the George School in Pennsylvania.

Unbelieveably, Dr. Esty has time for hobbies. He was a hi-fi fan long before it swept the country; and has been greatly interested in photography. That he is in

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(Dr. Esty continued)

terested in foreign cars, I know, for Jack Tetley, over the telephone, gave me an amusing description, as he watched through the window, Dr. Esty unfolding his great height our of his Volkswagon.

Dr. and Mrs. Esty first became interested in economics through Margaret Bateman, who resigned a vice-presidency with Standard Brands of Toronto to become Director of the Henry George School of New York. Thereafter, he conducted classes at the New Jersey school. Later, when Dr. was in Europe, Mrs. Esty took over his teaching. She became one of the few women in the N.J. school who lectured on the classic economists, becoming an authority on Herbert Spencer.

Now, for the further contributions of Dr. Esty in the field of economics; he is a trustee of the Henry George School in New York, also a trustee of Economics Education Institute; the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and a member of the Inter-Foundation Committee. He was a founder of and is a Trustee of the Lincoln Foundation. He is a former trustee of the New York Society for General Semantics and is a member of the International Society for General Semantics.

Virginia Harvey

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San Diego's Temporary Director

Wish we could tell you more about Mr. Gordon H. Gran and his charming wife, Julia. Gordon assumed the job of Director in December 1955. He came into the movement through a class taught by Mrs. Eva Maxwell in 1953. (She has been on leave as Director in San Diego, but has now resumed activity.) In 1955, Gordon became President of the Alumni of the school out there and started their publication - "BY GEORGE". Gran produced a color motion picture - "An Economists Tour of San Diego" which is used by the school to interest folks in economics. Those who can should plan now to attend the Annual Conference of the Henry George School to be held in San Diego in 1958 - it will be worth the trip to meet Gordon and Julia. Tell you about Mrs. Maxwell in a later issue.

Daffynition: College Bred - A four-year loaf with father's dough.

Stranger: Will you direct me to the bank?
Boy: I will -- for a dollar.
Stranger: A dollar! That's high pay, isn't it?
Boy: Not for a bank director.

Daffinition: Auction -- Where you get something for nodding.

Teacher: What is a forum?
Johnny: Two-um plus two-um.

A government bureau is where the taxpayer's shirt is kept.

One of the biggest troubles with success is that its receipe is often the same as that for a nervous breakdown.

Witticisms going the underground rounds in Soviet Russia:

Petrov received a sentence of 12 years for calling Kruschev a stupid incompetent. Two years was given for defamation of character - ten years for giving away a state secret.

Why is Tito like a football?
Because first you blow him up, then you kick him, finally you chase after him.

The Communists permit any number of parties to exist in Russia, but on one condition. The Communist party is the one to be in power, the rest of the parties must be in jail.

If you can't get away for a vacation you can get the same feeling by staying home and tipping every third person you see.

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H E L P W A N T E D

Some of our friends would like to attend various functions at the school, but cannot do so because of transportation problems. If anyone has a car and is willing to provide a ride for such persons, please let the Director know. Perhaps there are others who would come out if they had such transportation provided - let Mr. Tetley know if you want a tote or will provide.

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