THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

NEWS OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS

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FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL COMING UP

As announced in the September Georgist, the Henry George School's fall term will open the week of Oct. 11. As always, the hope is that the enrollment will be larger than ever before. This is hardly possible in view of present day competition for people's time, unless the School's graduates will do some missionary work to that end. If 100 Georgists will secure one student each, these students, together with those obtained through the regular circularization, will form a larger enrollment than for several years past. This would give the School a tremendous boost, to say nothing of the good accomplished by "spreading the gospel" to this extent.

This is a call to all loyal Georgists to concentrate on securing one sure student for the fall term. Don't worry about having to argue the case with your prospects; just an enthusiastic personal invitation from you should do it. For your convenience, we list the time and location of the scheduled classes. (See back page.)

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS YET? If not, how about getting them through the Women's Club? They have a beautiful selection for

(con't on back page)

THE U. N. TO BE DISCUSSED

The Woman's Club at its October meeting to be held Thursday, the 21 will hear Mrs. Arthur Hochmeister, Chairman of the International Affairs Dept., for the Mo. Federation of Women's Clubs, on the topic: "The U.N. AND WHAT EVERY INFORMED CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT."

Mrs. Hochmeister, because of her numerous visits to the U.N. and her work through the Voice of America program, is well versed on this subject. All talks before the Club are followed by an informal discussion. Anyone caring to hear the speaker and to participate in the discussion is cordially invited to attend. The meeting will be held at the Club's headquarters, 412 North Union, 3rd fl. west (elevator service), and Mrs. Hochmeister will speak at 8:30 P.M.

A CLASS FOR YOU

Please note that the School's fall program includes an Advanced Class which will study and discuss "Economic Problems." The class will meet at the School office Monday evenings at 7:45 beginning October 11, with Mr. Alper as leader. This class offers a splendid opportunity for "brushing up" and for healthy discussion.

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TAP NET EARNINGS--BUT THE FUND SOCIETY ITSELF HAS PRODUCED

The well publicized campaign for the earnings tax has much to say about needs, rights, duties and privileges---yet, was so much as a hint dropped that social needs should be met out of a socially created fund? As Dr. George R. Geiger has said, "Taxation just as everything else, must be justified and not merely accepted, and the sure justification appears to be that social fiscal requirements be met out of a social product..... Taxation is intended for social purposes, yet in our present economic arrangement, society depends upon the contributions (rather sacrificial offerings) of individual earnings, without attempting significantly or appreciably to tap the fund that society itself has produced. This is most paradoxical. Apply social increment to social purposes--and, to be impertinent, the land question and the taxation riddle solve themselves."

Dr. Geiger's logic here has the merit of being supported by the facts. People working together create the values which are measured in terms of economic rent. This truth is strikingly illustrated by "The Man Who 'Owns' Central Park." "He says a distant relative bought Manhattan Island from the Indians in 1626....As a result, the City of New York may one of these days have to pay $30,000,000 to 67-year-old Robert Fischer, of Weisbaden, Germany, a retired hotel man, who, as heir by marriage of Peter Minui[illegible] claims to own Central Park." (i[illegible] AMERICAN WEEKLY, May 2, 1954) Mr. Fischer makes no claim to having created even a small fraction of this $30,000. His title rests on the fact that his ancestor "bought the island now known as Manhattan for a barrel of liquor and a quantity of glass beads."

Were the Indians who exchanged Manhattan for these trifles any more stupid than those who give the socially created wealth of this island as it exists today to those holding title to its land? Unfortunately, this stupidity is not c[illegible] fined to Manhattan, but is practi[illegible] ed throughout the United States. And while the economic measure of progress is thus disposed of, a fund commensurate with it is drawn from earnings--to serve social needs.

Now if the community had no slightest need for a social fund, it might then be given to private individuals or to the man in the moon. But taxation is not only a permanent problem, but one which it is becoming increasingly more difficult adequately to meet. The strenuous campaign for the earnings tax is amply informative on this point. So why penalize the productive f[illegible] tors in our economy while making a gift of our socially created wealth to those who merely hold title to land? Is it not time to correct

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this perverted way of thinking and unjust and asinine way of acting?

Again to quote Dr. Geiger: "Taxation implies a process of self-mutilation;...The idea of land value taxation, however, is clearly to remove from industry the onus that taxation imposes; it is an attempt to make automatic and self-operative the process of defraying social expenditures. There is essentially no taxation involved here." Instead, a socially created fund flows to social needs.

The failure thus to direct this social fund is costly in many ways other than by the loss of this vast fund. It requires that productive men and women make up this enormous deficit out of their own independent earnings. Production is thus depressed and discouraged. Further, those with title to land make a practice of witholding land from use for speculative purposes. This further restricts production and forces down wages. "Stated reversely, the law of rent is necessarily the law of wages and interest taken together....Thus wages and interest do not depend upon the produce of labor and capital, but upon what is left after rent is taken out; or, upon the produce that they could obtain without paying rent—that is, from the poorest land in use." "And hence, no matter what be the increase in productive power, if the increase in rent keeps pace with it, neither wages nor interest can increase." As Henry George further observes: "If wealth rained down from heaven, or welled up from the depths of the earth, it could not enrich the laborer. It could merely increase the value of land. And hence, "the power which the ownership of valuable land gives, is that of getting human service without giving human services..... It is not a power of exchange...."

The increase of rent due to progress explains why wages and interest fail to increase with increase of productive power.

And so our failure to take the commonwealth for the common welfare not only deprives us of a legitimate tax fund, it is responsible for the major economic ills of our society.

Genuine tax reform would therefore mean basic reforms throughout our economic structure. Is not this precisely the reason genuine tax reform is so rigorously ignored?

There has been no dearth of polemics in support of the earnings tax—but it has served but to bury from sight the real tax problem.

FALL CLASSES--BEGINNING Week-Oct.10

Mondays	
Carpenter Library 3309 So. Grand	7:30 PM
YM-YWHA 724 Union	7:45 PM
Tuesdays	
School Office	1:45 PM
Webster Groves Library 301 E. Lockwood Blvd.	7:30 PM
Wednesdays	
Ritenour High School 9120 Bristol Ave.	7:45 PM
Thursdays	
Central Downtown Library	6:00 PM
School Office	7:45 PM
County Library 6814 Natural Bridge Rd.	7:30 PM
University City: City Hall (Over Police Bldg.)	7:45 PM

(Christmas Cards--Con't Page 1)

sale, including the Henry George cards gotten out by the N.Y. school (featuring the prize-winning illustration advertised in Henry George News). If you have seen the latter you know what they are. If not, we assure you they are beautiful, dignified, with a quotation from Henry George in addition to the Christmas message. These, with the other cards, offer a fine selection.

Cards will be on display after Oct. 15 at the School Office, 765 Paul Brown Bldg;Mayola Beauty Salon 427 DeBalivere; and Dexter Teachers Agency, 6642 Delmar Blvd. Call at whichever place is convenient to you and leave your order. Cards will be delivered to you.

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There was a time when a fool and his money soon parted. Now, it happens to everybody.
---Earl Wilson

Mr. Robert Clancy
50 East 69th St.
New York 21, N.Y.

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