THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

NEWS OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS

Published by the Henry George Womans Club, Room 765, 818 Olive, St. Louis, Mo.

8630

SEPTEMBER - 1956

GREETINGS!---- AND A PROPOSAL FOR ALL HENRY GEORGE GRADUATES!

Here we are again with THE GEORGIST all poised and ready for its takeoff on another season of news and service. As a proper preface to that season it seems fitting that our front page be devoted to an important news item and a proposal for service.

Those heated months of July & August, perenially dedicated to leisure generally, does not preclude the possibility of some "heated" thinking which may produce ideas. That seems to be exactly what happened in a small circle of Georgists who came up with an idea for the formation of a working Henry George Alumni group in St. Louis.

The idea was no doubt sparked by the recently announced policy of the N. Y. School with regard to its Alumni (on a national scale). To be a working part of a great national group has great appeal to active-minded people interested in any institution. And so the idea of a St. Louis Alumni group was given fresh impetus, and a small group willing to spearhead such a project got together.

The movement is, of course, scarcely more than an idea to date--an idea waiting to be fully developed by the entire body of St. Louis Georgists. A sort of prospectus, however, has been discussed and it includes, we understand, the following activities: group discussions, both round-table & panel variety; lectures on timely and pertinent subjects; open house activities for the School, such as addressing and mailing "bees"; purely social affairs as square dances, hobby and variety shows, evenings of music and so on--- activities intended to be open without reservation to both graduates and friends of the School. Any dues decided on will be left to the group and actually will not be dues, but contributions to the School. It is not the idea, however, that sharing in the activities of the group will in any way be dependant upon contributions. As stated, this is merely a prospectus - space not permitting more detail.

As proposed, the St. Louis Alumni group will have but two objectives: to aid and promote the Henry George School and to strengthen fraternity among its graduates.

A call for the organization meeting will be issued soon. It is hoped that there will be a tremendous response. Anyhow, save THURSDAY EVENING, SEPT. 13! LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER!

LAND-TAX REFORM FOR COLOMBIA RECOMMENDED BY WORLD BANK MISSION

Why should agriculture keep a country poor?

"COLOMBIA--Needed: Farm Reform", in this article (TIME, July 2, 1956) it is stated Latin American, like the people of other undeveloped countries, "tend to assume dependence on agriculture keeps their countries poor." In Colombia "Some 60% of the breadwinners earn their living in agriculture, yet food production fails to keep pace with population growth.... a World Bank mission urged the Colombian government to undertake a "mobilization of resources to expand agricultural output." Among the recommendations is this one of special interest to Georgists!

"Land-tax reform to encourage more productive use of land. Much of Colombia's good crop land is owned by absentees who use it for low-yield grazing, or simply hold on to it as an investment. By taxing unused and underused land, the government could force big landowners to sell some of their holdings to farmers or go into farming themselves."

It seems that even the bankers are gradually divining that the private ownership of land is a public betrayal.

PUT POPULAR CONVICTION BEHIND THE PROGRAM

Any effective program for genuine land reform must have popular support. On these programs Georgists should unite and make known to the leaders their intelligent approval. Indeed, Georgists everywhere should unite on a well-developed program for the abolition of poverty in the world.

Mordecai Ezekial who is on the staff of the U.N.Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO), with headquarters in Rome says in "U. S. SURPLUSES And a Hungry World" (Nations, Sept. 24, 1955) that "only 1/4 to 1/3 of the world's peoples now enjoy a dietary sufficiency; the rest live below any adequate standard. This is what makes the whole problem so difficult. Food supplies must increase a great deal faster-say 1½ times faster- than the annual rate of population increase, and maintain this rate for a long period of time, before we can begin to see the solution."

The carton illustrating this article is that of a huge wedge labeled "Hunger" driven into the world and splitting it in two. It is appropriately titled "Two Worlds". That 3/4's to 2/3's of the world's people suffer from hunger is a highly explosive factor in an atomic age. The author speaks plainly to the effect that "help must be forthcoming" if the American way of life is to maintain a hold on men's minds who otherwise"in desperation may succumb to demegogic promises."

Mordecai Ezekial recommends that economic aid should be based in part at least on increased

production rather than on the disposal of surpluses. He says that the process of transforming the economic situation requires among other things the overhauling of "feudalistic land tenure and fragmented land holdings and antiquated tax systems."

The problem of hunger is a world problem and a land problem. Georgists by addressing themselves to this problem and by means of completeness of information, should be able to plan a program based on such factual knowledge as to invite considerable favorable attention. We can rest assured that were Henry George living today, the explosive problem of world hunger would be his field of thought and action. Let us make it ours.

ERADICATION OF HUNGER NOT UTOPIAN SCHEME

Josue de Castro, a distinguished scientist in his book THE GEORGRAPHY OF HUNGER (1952) says, "The eradication of hunger is no Utopian Scheme; it is a perfectly available objective. All it requires is a better adjustment of men to the lands they occupy, and a better distributions of the gifts of the land among men.... Great tracks of unused land lie waiting to be tilled; agricultural technology can show us how to make the best use of them."

"HUNGER AS THE CAUSE OF OVER-POPULATION

Under this heading Josue de Castro advances this argument in opposition to Malthus, "that overpopulation does not cause starvation in various parts of the world, but that starvation is the cause of overpopulation. He says "And from the evidence it is logical to deduce that although it is impossible to eradicate hunger by controlling the growth of population, it is perfectly possible to reverse the process and to control the growth of population by doing away with starvation. Simply to retard the birth rate as the neo-Malthusians advocate would, with our contemporary economic framework, only diminish food production and thus increase starvation. The opposite procedure, however, that of enlarging and improving the world's demographic possibilities, reestablishing man at a healthier level, is sure to lead to greater food production."

This book has a Foreword by Lord Boyd-Orr, former director of the UN Food & Agriculture Organization, who says, "The author gives well-authenticated facts to show that there is no physical difficulty in doubling or redoubling the world food supply."

Lord Boyd-Orr has the distinction of having won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1949. He writes the Foreword of LET THERE BE BREAD by Robert Brittain in which he says, "This book gives the most complete account I have seen of what can be done with modern science to create a world of plenty. Another authoritative reply to Malthus is THE ROAD TO ABUNDANCE by Jacob Rosin.

FALL CLASSES START SEPT. 17

(All classes 7:30 pm unless otherwise stated.)

MONDAY:-- CLAYTON CITY HALL
Rm. 210, 10 N.Bemiston
UNIVERSAL DANCE CENTER
5005 So. Kingshighway

TUESDAY:--VOGT JR. HIGH SCHOOL
200 Church, Ferguson
WEBSTER GR. PUB. LIBR.
301 E. Lockwood
YMHA, 724 N.Union Bl.
SCHOOL OFFICE, 6:15 pm

WEDNES.---E.ST.LOUIS PUB. LIBR.
9th & State Streets

THURSDAY--ST. LOUIS CO. LIBRARY
6814 Natural Bridge

The School needs funds to publicize & support its classes. How much can you spare? Now is a good time to get up-to-date on pledges.

FOR GRADUATES!...ADVANCED CLASS!

Of interest to graduates is the class to begin Monday, Sept. 17, at the TEACHERS SERVICE BUREAU, 6642a Delmar Boulevard. The class will use the book SCIENCE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY by H.G.

ATTENTION...BARGAIN HUNTERS!

Readers of the HENRY GEORGE NEWS were invited to write for free copies of three very worthwhile books: USEFUL ECONOMICS, CAUSE AND CONTROL OF THE BUSINESS CYCLE, and RECONSTRUCTION OF ECONOMICS.

Why not subscribe to the HENRY GEORGE NEWS & order these free books. It's a great bargain! Call the School.

Henry George School of Social Science
Room 765, 818 Olive St.
St. Louis 1, Mo.

THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

Sec. 34.65 (e), P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
St. Louis, Mo.
Permit No. 4650

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED