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John Lincoln Bequest Keeps Alive the Tax Theory of Henry George

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By GEORGE
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WHY IS IT THAT with all the progress the world is making in so many directions—science, letters, fine arts, every form of industry, commerce, transportation—why is it that there still exists so much want, so much of all that which for lack of a better name may be summed up under the word poverty?"

The question was asked by Henry George, writer, philosopher, economist, nearly 100 years ago in this country. He asked it in a famous book, "Progress and Poverty," which swept across men's minds everywhere. He continued to ask it time and again in speeches and writings. He died in 1897.

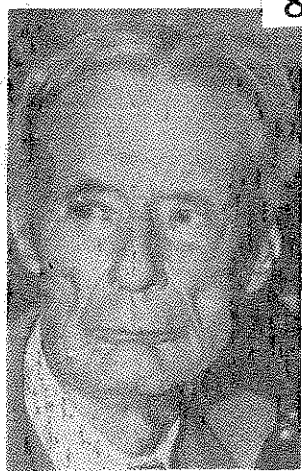
Many men have pondered this question through history, and they, too, have had answers. But Henry George had an answer that was pretty simple. It was this: A man's income must be free of tax. All revenue must be taken from land rent. The land is the community's.

This is the famous single-tax theory of economics.
All-Time Best Seller

George's book was an all-time best seller in the field of economics, where books sell only to the dedicated. It has been translated into every civilized language. It has sold more than 3,000,000 copies. Aside from its stature as a work on economics, is it also said to be a masterpiece of prose.

Many notable people throughout the world have been captivated by George's theory. The list includes such Clevelanders as Newton D. Baker, Tom L. Johnson and the man who left so much to advance the idea, John C. Lincoln.

There is a Henry George School of Social Science in New York that, at a time when most educational institutions are wondering how to make ends meet, offers all its courses free of charge. There are extensions of the school in Ohio, including Cleveland. Johnson sits in state



John C. Lincoln
... the man with money.



Henry George
... the man with the idea

nights before the election in which George was running for mayor. Golden says he sat up most of the night thinking of the men George had inspired—Wilson, George Bernard Shaw, Robert M. LaFollette, Samuel Seabury, among others.

Why this intense and constant interest in Henry and his theory? Ivan R. Dailey, 1657 Wyandotte Avenue, Lakewood, long a supporter of the idea, said:

"It's simple. It's uncomplicated. It would free society from any grasping. There would be no opportunity for grasping. It would make for an immensely better world. But it's the simplicity of the theory that catches."



Tom L. Johnson, the legendary Cleveland mayor, spoke often for Henry George's single-tax theory.

in Public Square with a copy of George's book in one hand. The colorful Cleveland mayor gave much of his money to push the single-tax theory. Johnson is buried next to George in New York.

Newton D. Baker, who was President Wilson's secretary of war in World War I, contributed time and money to acquaint Americans with this revolutionary tax idea.

President Eisenhower, according to the Georgists, voted to include Henry George, rather than Stonewall Jackson, in the Hall of Fame in 1950.

Harry Golden, the popular editor and writer, says in his latest book, "For 2c Plain,"

Catches, Holds Lincoln

There must indeed be something to the theory to catch and hold such a good solid capitalist as the late John C. Lincoln, who died at 92 last May. He had an estate of millions. Some of his money went into the Lincoln Foundation, which has headquarters in Phoenix, Ariz.

Lincoln Bequest Keeps Alive Henry George's Tax Ideas

and which makes grants to further the single-tax theory.

John Lincoln once ran for vice president on the Commonwealth Land Party ticket. That was in 1924. William J. Wallace was on the ticket for presidency. In an interview here in the summer of 1958, Lincoln said he could not recall how many votes he received in that election. But he added: "Not enough to get elected."

Another Clevelander, Richard C. Barnum, was on the ticket for vice president, with Robert C. Macauley, in 1920. That was called the Single Tax Party ticket. Barnum, who is 80, lives at 11421 Mayfield Road S.E. He is a retired book publisher.

"I've been a single taxer for 60 years," said Barnum. "It gets a hold on you."

William Feather, editor of the William Feather Magazine in Cleveland, is a director of

the Lincoln Foundation. He was interested in the Henry George movement when he was in his 20s, and some time ago John C. Lincoln got him to be active again.

Moley Runs Foundation

Raymond Moley, the former Clevelander and a "brain trust" in the early days of the New Deal, runs the foundation, which he said to have about \$1,500,000 at the present time and which may realize \$1,500,000 from the latest Lincoln bequests.

David C. Lincoln, Lincoln's son, is president of the foundation.

John Lincoln wrote many things of his own about George's theory, modernizing a part of it, in fact.

Henry George, born in 1839,



Richard C. Barnum
... Political candidate
for Georgism

was nearly crushed by the depression of 1873. He had been delivery boy, seaman, type-setter, gold prospector, salesman and editor, but those hard times were tough blows. From his readings of the California

land boom, he evolved his single-tax ideas. The book was slow to catch on, but when it did people who never had opened a book before did so.

He caught the mood of the people who left that depression with the scars of poverty.

'You Won't Forget It'

But as the years went on the George theory moved slowly, attracting adherents here and there. In these days, with government so deeply rooted in the tax structure of all the people, it does not seem that Henry George's idea ever will move to great stature.

"It's something, once you've encountered it, you won't forget," said Daily, who is yard clerk for the Nickel Plate Road.

Daily seems to have struck a note that sounds as clear as Henry George's statement years ago: "I am for men."

George's single-tax idea came about as a result of his search

for a substitute for socialism, an economic system he opposed as cutting into human rights.

Perhaps, as his supporters today believe, this is time for men.