

A Bunch of Gadgets?

To the reader who is not familiar with Georgist philosophy and particularly with fundamental economics, the thought behind many phrases used in *The Freeman* will not be quite definite. Such expressions as "a free economy," "economic rent," "abolition of taxes," "true capital," "real free trade," "privilege"—and a host of others—carry a specific significance and convey a fuller meaning to one who has read Henry George.

Georgism, however, is not an esoteric philosophy, nor is its understanding based on the mastery of special phraseology. It is a correlation of obvious facts in our economic world, and the testing of these facts by fundamental principle. Such difficulty as is met with in mastering this philosophy is due to the encumbrances with which befuddled economic teaching has saddled our minds.

Every machine, no matter how complicated in detail, is based upon a simple fundamental principle. If we study it as a collection of gadgets, without relation to this principle, our understanding of the machine will be but a jumble of unrelated things. A long and concentrated study of these gadgets—especially if such study is supported by authority—is likely to cause over-emphasis of their importance, even to the extent of forgetting the underlying principle.

So with the economic machine which determines our social well-being. If we want to really understand it we must find out what makes it go. Unfortunately, there are some people who for predatory reasons do not want us to know too much about it. But there are many more people who because they have made a fetish of the gadgets are blinded to the principle; and since these people occupy high places and talk authoritatively, they have blinded most of us in the same way.

It is difficult to eradicate misinformation from our minds. That is the only difficulty in understanding the philosophy of Henry George. Realizing that encumbrance, the ap-

proach to that study becomes quite simple.

For those who are entirely unacquainted with Henry George, or whose knowledge is superficial, the Henry George School offers a ten lesson correspondence course, based

on "Progress and Poverty." Free tuition—the policy of the School—maintains. Write for details to the correspondence division, 211 West 79th Street, New York.

This offer is made also to those who desire to review their study. And everyone is requested to send the names of those who might be interested in taking the course, so that invitations can be sent to them.