

the Henry George News

PUBLISHED BY HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE • DECEMBER, 1957

ONCE A YEAR an invitation is sent to you. Upon your response depends the success of the Henry George School. The trustees appreciate the generous support you have given in the past, and this gives them courage for the future. The president, John C. Lincoln, is urging an immediate strengthening and expansion of the school's program. What can we put beside the new weapons of destruction that will be vital and constructive? We can put up our dollars for education as faithful Georgists have done during the 25 years of the school's existence.

In a recent letter to the Henry George School, Judge Max Korshak of Chicago wrote: "The importance of the work you are now doing and have been doing over the years cannot be minimized. I want to be a part of this work and so have decided to send a monthly contribution." (Judge Korshak and all others whose gifts are \$10 a year or more will receive as a free bonus, a year's subscription to HGN).

This is your opportunity. Please give generously. But with your gift, give also your confidence, encouragement and good will. This spirit added to your gift will make it doubly effective. Thank you.

A Word With You

ALL of a sudden, we are within sight of the Age-of-Science-Fiction-Come-True. That far-fetched dream of man, travel through space to other worlds, is close to reality, we realize with a jolt.

Then we are brought up with another jolt—it's not just a matter of Man Conquering Space, it's a matter of Americans vs. Russians.

* Too bad it can't be a cooperative endeavor of Man, but that's the kind of world we're living in. It's just one more poignant development of the two conflicting tendencies of our time—great strides in technology and science, shameful backwardness in human relations. We can harness the atom but we can't decide whether to use it for peaceful progress or to blow the world to smithereens. A man-made satellite in 90 minutes can circle a globe festering with a thousand age-old varieties of man-made hatred, tyranny, conflict, poverty and chaos.

Even in the face of the awe-inspiring possibility that man may soon reach other worlds, it doesn't look, at the present rate, as though he will be ready to behave sensibly as a social being.

What will man do when he sets foot on another planet? What decisions will be made as to who owns what, who does what, and who gets what? I suppose we should ask, what will Americans do if they get there first, or what will Russians do?

If they follow true to form, the Americans will follow the good old rule, "first come, first served." Speculators will sell acreage in advance on the moon and on Mars. (They're doing it already). The choicest planetary lots having been appropriated, there will be a great appeal for good old

American enterprise to come along and really make things hum and pay rent to the planet-owners. (I am presuming we will by this time have either annihilated the natives, confined them to reservations, or given them jobs in the molybdenum mines—unless of course, they are super-men and teach us a thing or two).

As for the Russians, there won't be speculation, or enterprise, or anything but state, state, state. Directives from Moscow will prescribe what, who, how, when and where—but not why. Commisars, collective farms and communism will duplicate the dreary performance behind the Iron Curtain.

Both these ways look pretty stupid when you imagine them taking place on those twinkling lights in the sky millions of miles away. There's a third way, the way of Henry George. Make the planets the common heritage of mankind, as indeed our own planet should be. Give each individual the freedom and scope to produce and develop, and let him keep the product of his labor. Let people pay into the common treasury a rental for their use of the planets.

Really, now, looked at from an astronomical perspective, that's the only sensible way.

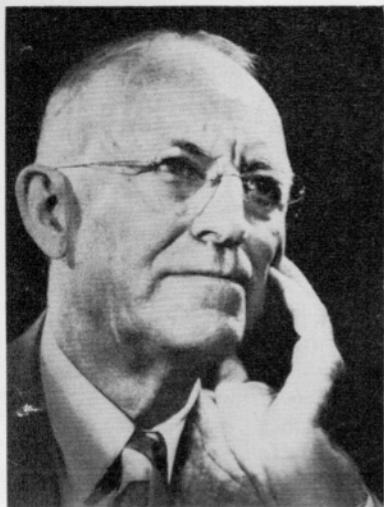
But why do we have to wait for space travel to apply it?

—Robert Clancy

Vol. 21, No. 1

Dec., 1957

The Henry George News is published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y. Publication Committee: Lancaster M. Greene, Chairman; Otto K. Dorn, William S. O'Connor; Alice Elizabeth Davis, Editor. Entered as Second Class Matter, November 15, 1943; at the post office of New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions, \$2 a year; single copies, 20c.



Walter Locke

Walter Locke

This World Was His Home

by Walter Rybeck

AS FAR as I know, Walter Locke, editor, columnist and philosopher, who died on October 23 at the age of 82, never called himself a Georgist. No school of thought, group, dogma or doctrine was big enough for his free roaming, individualistic mind. Yet, in his autobiography, *This World, My Home*¹, which came off the press just three weeks before his death, Mr. Locke (on page 156) wrote:

Henry George was warning that back of all worldly problems lies the question of the land, man's common inheritance. That issue has been from his day to now overturning old world governments. Our day to face it cannot always be deferred.

To distill a great concept and its bearing on world events so simply and beautifully would be utterly impossible without having for it deep understanding and high regard.

Before Mr. Locke risked accepting me as an editorial writer of the Dayton Daily News, he asked what I had been reading, and I mentioned that I had been studying Henry George. He shook his head—whether in pity,

amusement or amazement I could not tell as I searched his rugged face and kind eyes. After a silence, he said, "I know of no book that gives more insight into social problems than *Progress and Poverty*."

As to his early acquaintanceship with the ideas of Henry George, I never learned from Mr. Locke. However, Sidney Evans of San Diego once told me that he was a member of a discussion group in Lincoln, Nebraska, led by Walter Locke, many years ago, and that George's ideas were debated.

During the depression days Mr. Locke became disenchanted with some who called themselves single taxers. He felt they were so preoccupied with a plan that they became blinded to the desperate needs of people. These needs for food, clothing and shelter were immediate, but the plan to which these single taxers held had no immediate chance of being accepted. A man of big heart, Mr. Locke was in accord with New Deal efforts to minister quickly and with whatever expedients to the raging misery, hunger, fear and desperation.

How far to compromise with evil

¹Antioch Press, \$3.

in an imperfect world? All who knowingly benefit from an unjust land tenure system face this question. The important thing, Mr. Locke said on several occasions, is to avoid fooling yourself. He would trace the phenomenal rise, "through absolutely no effort on my part," in the value of lands he had purchased. If we are parasites, he said, we must admit it. This implies an obligation to tell others, to teach, which Mr. Locke did all his life. It also implies, I think, the faith of a deeply religious man in the power of conscience to lead toward correcting those evils that disturb men's sleep.

Vigorous in body, mind and spirit, Mr. Locke relinquished his duties as active editor of the Dayton Daily News at the age of 78. At that time he begged another associate to keep an eye on me, to make certain I did not let Henry George "creep" into my editorials. "It's hopeless, though," he said, lifting his head back and laughing heartily. "It takes a single taxer to recognize one."

In semi-retirement, Mr. Locke continued writing his daily column, "Trends of the Times." Unique in American journalism, these columns combined a perspective ranging from his log cabin home in West Virginia to the atomic age, an intimacy with poetry, reflection of nature, sense of history and politics, biting satire, gentle humor and prophecy. Reprints of his

"Trends" about corner lots on the moon (quite timely now)², India's land problems and others introduced Mr. Locke to many contemporary Georgists, beside his regular following in the James M. Cox newspapers in Dayton, Springfield, Ohio, Atlanta, Georgia, and Miami, Florida.

Men of the past half century, trampling upon or by-passing so many things Mr. Locke cherished most, naturally did not hail him as one of their brightest lights.

Yet his light shines on. When men seek an answer to the vitality of young America, they must turn to *This World, My Home* for one of the finest rhapsodies on freedom in our literature.

Again, when men try to reconstruct this freedom, they will re-read the chapter, "Paradise Lost," about the Seminoles among whom he lived and taught, whose economic system provided that "each Seminole child had at its birth its free and equal access to the soil."

So, too, when men ponder why political and social reforms fail to fulfill fond early promises, they may discover in Mr. Locke's revelations of the oft-forgotten world of the spirit certain elements they ignored.

Walter Locke was an uncommonly good man who greatly enriched our world.

²HGN January, 1956

Dr. Charles A. Ellwood, professor of sociology at the University of Missouri, recently remarked:

"Thus it happens that we find the family life at the beginning of the twentieth century in a more unstable condition than it has been at any time since the beginning of the Christian era."

If this is the situation we face as American parents and children then I

would definitely recommend more Henry George economic books, courses, and activities for our youth.

If Henry George economic leaders and parents do the injustice of neglecting to increase economic activities, they will create in America's youth a spirit of instability, fickleness and unsteadiness, instead of building a feeling of constancy and firmness.

GEORGE H. HARMON

A Contemporary View

By Selim N. Tideman

THERE are many sources of evidence that land value taxation is gaining recognition in conservative circles as a serviceable reform within capitalist economy.

On those whose aim it is to promote this movement, it now becomes incumbent to examine the manner in which it is being presented. Does our customary line of argument fit into the conditions of the modern world? Are we taking into consideration the vast changes in our economy since *Progress and Poverty* was written?

When we advocate a "single tax" on land values to the exclusion of all other taxes, we are put under the necessity of advocating as a part of this reform the abolition of a great many government functions that cannot without an uncommon amount of imagination be expected to be supported by the limited amount of revenue made available by this tax alone. Let us not forget that any attempt to take from land value any more than its annual worth would be completely destructive to our purposes.

To make the argument for a "single tax" tenable it becomes necessary to associate with this argument not only (1) the abolition of many government bureaus and services, (2) reduction in public expenditures for education and for care of the incompetent and infirm, (3) reduction of expenditures for the security of person as well as of the nation—also repudiation of the national debt and pension and social security obligations. Whatever may be the individual opinion of any devotee of the value of these functions and obligations, it should not be necessary for him to give vent to it in order to promote the principle to which he is

principally devoted. Let him take other matters to another rostrum.

There are governmental functions that reflect themselves in land values, but there are others that do not. The cost of armies and navies, bombers that can circumnavigate the earth on one load of fuel, pensions and bond interest that must be paid before either landowner or tenant may share in the products of labor, do not add to and cannot be collected out of land values. Let us cease making broad complaints about the income tax. We are not in position to guarantee tax exemption to anybody but we propose a system under which real estate improvements, capital wealth and personal property would be, to the greatest possible extent, relieved of taxation, and the tax on the value of land would be increased until it approaches as closely as possible, within the limits of human judgment, the full annual value of the same. If, due to fortunate circumstances and systematic reduction in the cost of government a surplus results, it must be used to reduce other taxes.

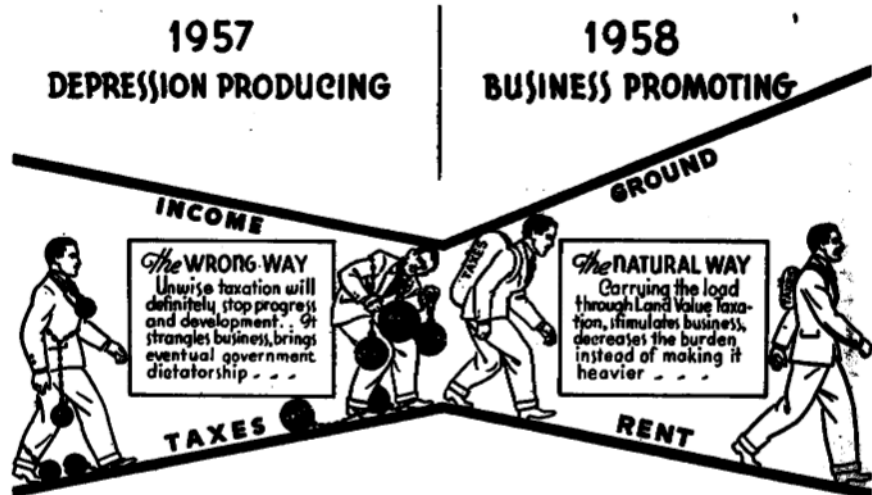
In the days when both laborer and executive had to live within walking distance or horse drawn transportation of their place of employment and their market place, projections could be made of the course of land values. People were being crowded together in our metropolitan centers. Today great industries frequently set up their plants far into the country and the coercive element that pushed up land values in those days is now greatly reduced. The foregoing is no reason for reducing our enthusiasm for the universal principle of equal rights of all men to the use of the earth, which

principle can only be implemented in our form of society by having our government collect the socially created land value in the form of taxes. This being done, it would become an economic imperative for present holders to release all unused or poorly used land for occupancy by others, who by using it productively would be able to pay the tax.

I am asking that we unburden ourselves of the responsibilities of condemning, particularly, the income tax. We have nothing to offer to take its place and it is not our responsibility to question the government expenditures that make it necessary.

Let us avoid statements that are not based on factual evidence and acceptable logic. How many times do you recall presenting the "single tax" to a well informed person who listens patronizingly but with a barely concealed smirk as he would to an adolescent? By simplifying our proposal, we would remove the subject from ridicule by professional economists, and compel them to give it respectful consideration, for or against.

Let us get on firm footing with this deal—land value taxation. To be sure, much of the emotional charm will be taken out of our teaching, but that sacrifice will be worth while.



—Drawings from a forthcoming book by William E. Clement

"The program proposed . . . is as radical as the proposal to abolish slavery was one hundred years ago in the South. [But] while it is radical, [it] can be made without disturbing our methods of taxation. At present our man-made law takes part of community-created ground rent for community expenses by levying a tax on land values. Most of government revenue is obtained by the tax on wealth of its citizens. To make the proposed change it is necessary to increase the amount of ground rent collected to its full amount and stop collecting taxes on the wealth of the citizens."

—from **GROUND RENT, NOT TAXES**
by John C. Lincoln

Land Ownership and Morals

by ALEXANDER M. GOLDFINGER

The conception that the earth, which has endured for millions of years, belongs to all men, has been expressed by many. Among primitive tribes, as for instance the American Indians before colonization, the land was considered the source from which all men could derive their sustenance. Whence, then, came the idea of making land private property?

Primitive man sought to gratify his desires with the least exertion just as his progeny do today. Living with other men, he learned that when he killed a food animal and satisfied his hunger, it was easier and less energy-consuming to save part of the animal for the next day than again seek and kill his prey for food. But he also learned that unless he stood guard over his food other men would seek to satisfy their wants, and only by the show or use of force could he protect his source of food. When primitive man found a woman as a mate, he similarly had to guard her or else others might take her from him.

Our early ancestors learned from experience that constant vigilance to protect their possessions was a costly expenditure of energy, and so, to conserve their energy they made compacts—"if you will not take from me my food and my mate, I will not take from you your food and mate." Thus early we find that a sense of possession of a thing or a person became accepted as an aid to harmony.

But the idea of private ownership of land came much later. When man learned to cultivate the soil and to obtain his livelihood from agriculture, the energy he exerted in clearing a piece of land, cultivating it, seeding

and harvesting his crops gave him a sense of possession, or exclusive ownership of the land, and led to his desire to have his children reap the harvests when he was gone. But even this feeling was a long time in developing.

In ancient Rome, land was considered to be the possession of the tribe occupying it. It existed for the benefit of all individuals and was, by agreement, parcelled out for use. The user, however, was not deemed the owner. Non-use or misuse of land resulted in displacement of the family, and reallotment to another family for more beneficial use.

In two respects, the Roman religion compelled the recognition of private ownership of land. The family burial ground and the family hearth on which were installed the *Lares* and *Penates*, the hearth gods, were looked upon as being sacred and belonged in perpetuity to the family which consecrated them.

As time passed, the Romans recognized the succession to possession and also to title of the eldest son of a land user (owner). If such an owner had no son, he was permitted to adopt one to succeed him. In time, a legal fiction was recognized whereby an owner might adopt his daughter as his son and "she" was permitted to succeed him. Finally, the Romans abolished all fictions and, first by custom and then by a law passed by the Senate, they authorized the succession of ownership of land was a privilege authorized and recognized by the people.

In feudal times, throughout Europe, land titles passed by the law of primogeniture to the eldest son or male

relative nearest to the existing owner. Land could not be sold or alienated, but its succession was fixed by law. Intrigue and murders were planned and committed by aspirants to the right of succession. This prevailed until mercantilism forced the abolition of feudal tenure.

It is interesting to note the effect which the recognition of private property in land had upon the code of morals of our ancestors and upon us. When it became accepted that a man's eldest son could inherit his land, the determination as to who were his offspring became a legal problem. To obviate many contestants for title, the law and the early Christian church established monogamy as the only acceptable standard of human conduct. In biblical times men had multiple wives and the morality of this custom was not questioned. When it became necessary to protect legal titles to land and estates, man devised this restrictive code of human conduct.

This discussion of our matrimonial concepts is not meant as a criticism of our legal and religious rules. Perhaps this was the only way to bring

order out of chaos in a world of private property rights. But this legally adopted moral code has had a profound and continuing effect upon man's psychological development. It must be clear to all that our ancestors recognized as concomitants of civilization, these private property rights, first in the things and people which primitive man wanted for his exclusive enjoyment, and later in land. That the recognition of private property rights in land is different from private property in *things made by man* is still obscure to many. Recognition of property rights in personal property has resulted in man's ability to specialize in production and then to exchange products with others so that more and better things could be enjoyed. Freedom and the advance of civilization emerged from the recognition of these rights. But the recognition of exclusive right to use land and prevent others from doing so, except at a stiff price to the enrichment of the exclusive owner, has had a retarding effect upon man's well-being and has brought misery and starvation to millions.

Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

A FRAGMENT OF THE GREAT INIQUITY, OR THE POWER OF POWER

According to Ripley's column, Believe It or Not, "The Abbey of Fethard, Ireland, together with a vast estate, was granted by King Henry VIII to Sir Edward Butler on a perpetual lease—at a rental of \$1.28 a year."

CIVIC LEADER SEES SOMETHING

Edwin M. Clark, president of Civic Progress, Inc. and of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (St. Louis), was quoted in The St. Louis Globe Democrat as saying that he did not regard the net decline in assessed valuations downtown as a sign of decay. He warned, however, that if the trend of reducing land assessments and increasing building assessments continues it "will contribute materially to the tearing down of buildings to make way for parking lots and the like."

Economics As You Like It

COMMON-SENSE ECONOMICS, by Gilbert M. Tucker. The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. 1957. 289 pp. \$4.95.

Reviewed by **MARSHALL CRANE**

Believe it or not, there is no logical reason why a book on economics should not contain common-sense, so long as its economics really *is* economics. If I were an economist myself I might contribute another opinion to the literature of what that means, and even without any union card I can recall the many definitions of economics and political economy which we have all seen. A great deal has been written on what they are, on their points of similarity, their differences, and their relation to philosophy in general. Entertaining reading, at least to me. But I have still to be convinced that there is a better check on whether an economic work is the real McCoy than whether it is characterized by common-sense, from the first page to the last. And, feeling as I do about it, it is a very great pleasure to be able to announce that I have just finished a book which passes this test with honors.

Of course, when I started it, a few days ago, I expected to enjoy it. It was written by the distinguished author of *The Self-Supporting City*, a famous little work on municipal taxation and finance which appeared some years ago, when very few cities were self-supporting, and which has been knocking around ever since, stimulating a lot of very serious and valuable thinking. (Note: This book is now in process of re-publication. In the past I have occasionally heard it referred to as "notorious" rather than "famous"; but you will make a great mistake if you let anything like that scare

you. Keep an eye open for the revised edition. It will be good.)

Anything and everything that comes from Mr. Tucker's typewriter is readable. But many readers of *Common-Sense Economics*, when they finish the final page, will turn again to the first and start in on a second treatment, either to make sure that the first injection "takes" or, as I did, just for the fun of reading it. And, no matter why you read it, you will not be bored. The book may delight you, or infuriate you (could be!), or it may start you going on a course of very interesting lucubration, but whatever other effect it has, it certainly will not disappoint you by any shortage of ideas.

However, the real value of any work of social science must lie in the vital stuff which caused it to be written in the first place, in the logical development of the real substance of which it is composed, and that is true of this book. I do not mean by this that the author has hewn out and inscribed a lot of metaphysical cornerstones and, with due ceremony, laid them to support a mighty, balanced structure of social philosophy. Even if that were possible in the limited size of this work—perhaps a hundred thousand words—it would not be "common-sense economics"—not as we are accustomed to understand that expression, and you may be sure that Mr. Tucker writes English as it is understood by everybody.

But he does make sure that his reader knows exactly what he is talking about when he mentions wealth, land, labor and capital. There is no double-talk on such subjects as rent, wages, interest and profits. And the chapters on money and banking, on the corporation, on monopolies and trusts, and on the various aspects of taxation will clarify their subjects for

a lot of us. As I read them—both times—it seemed to me that they were just about as good as they could be.

Purists to the contrary notwithstanding, it is virtually impossible nowadays to write at all adequately on economics without getting into the political field. Perhaps this is unfortunate, perhaps not. But it is certainly true, and Mr. Tucker has done a great job of pointing out the essential relationship between government and industry, how each may and, once in a long while, does legitimately benefit the other, as well as the very real dangers that threaten either—and all the rest of the community too—when the influence of the other upon it is

not a proper one. And such subjects as republican government, democracy, capitalism, socialism, communism, recent political trends in this country and elsewhere; and the outlook for the future, both here and abroad, though we ordinarily think of them in very general terms, take on entirely new profiles, with really sharp outlines, in this book. They are treated in a way that clears a great deal of very cloudy atmosphere. As I have said, I am not an authority on matters of this sort; but it seems to me that we have here a genuine "must," both for the teacher and for his pupil. Its publication is certainly a real event to any student of economics.

Meet Him With a Smile!

The most important measure introduced in the British West Indies legislature a year ago was designed to encourage the development and full utilization of land. The bill was passed and is now law. How did it happen? Ernest M. Ginders, a Georgist living in Morfa Nefyn, Wales, wrote a letter to Jamaica's newspaper, *The Daily Gleaner*, which, when published, gave impetus to the idea.

Mr. Ginders is past eighty, has a charming wife, carries on an extensive correspondence with far-away colonies, and is unceasingly busy promoting the idea of land value taxation. Among his other interests are engineering, navigation, astronomy, history and boat designing.

But to return to Jamaica: the new system of land valuation supplants a law dating from 1901 which provided that the owner of land must state its acreage and value for tax purposes. Although the law provided for revaluation every seven years, some properties have remained for several years at the same figure, while other properties which have changed hands are on the roll at a much higher figure.

Under the new law the government will send out trained valuers who will ask a few simple questions. This is fairer than the old system where a man could escape with a lower tax than his neighbor's merely by saying that his holding was smaller than it actually was.

The present law provides that land will be valued without any of the improvements upon it, the value depending on the location and what the land is capable of producing. Houses, trees, crops, soil conservation works will not be taxed—all such improvements are regarded as the fruit of man's labor and will be taxed on his labor.

While the simple purpose of the law is to encourage development of the land, people will not be taxed because they have developed it. A striking modern booklet with illustrations in color was distributed among landowners emphasizing the facts and clarifying the law. Although it was stated that anyone who refused to allow the valuer to enter his premises could be punished in the courts, it was confidently felt that no punishment of this sort would be necessary.

Certainly the case as presented gave every incentive for cooperation and every reason to rejoice. The Minister of Agriculture and Lands ended his message to the people with, "meet the valuer with a smile and give him all the assistance you can . . . God bless you."

Land Hunger—Then and Now

LAND TENURE AND LAND TAXATION IN AMERICA, by Aaron M. Sakolski. Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York. October, 1957. 316 pages. Cloth. \$3.50.

Reviewed by
LANCASTER M GREENE

This is not just another academic work for a limited audience of scholars. It is a document of timely interest to all thinking people for it bares some of the root causes behind the present social and political upheavals that threaten peace.

Boldly inscribed across the jacket of this book might have been the words: *What happens when a land hungry, freedom seeking mankind is confronted with the unique opportunity to convert some 3,000,000 square miles of the world's choicest real estate from a vast wilderness into a great and cohesive nation?*

Over and over in these pages we see that truth is indeed stranger than fiction. Imagine for a moment how the nation *might* have been envisaged by the early settlers. And then think of the present—a land of many freedoms and opportunities, but withal, one where the most fundamental right of man—free access to the land—has not been realized.

To understand the evolution of land tenure and taxation in America, we need to know something about the seedbed. Dr. Sakolski gives us the European, and more especially the British, background explaining why our colonial forbears could not shake off the ingrained heritage of landlord and tenant relationships they brought with them.

"Instead of taking steps toward land reforms in a vast area untrammelled by traditions and antiquated statutes," he states, "they even attempted to return to the old systems of tenures which for centuries were

the prime causes of political and economic unrest and which still hamper human progress."

Fortunately, these efforts to turn back the clock did not succeed, and by the time of the American Revolution, some headway had been made toward a more liberal land policy.

Jefferson's credo that "as few as possible shall be without a little portion of land" found many friends. The Congress and the various state Legislatures enacted laws designed to encourage land settlement, to protect the rights of the "squatter" and to appease the land hunger of hardy souls forever pushing their way west.

Somehow these well intentioned efforts—among them the first Ordinance of 1785, the Pre-Emption Act of 1841, and even the famed Homestead Act of 1862, did not bear the expected fruit. Always there were loopholes through which slippery minds could crawl. Always there were the weak, the credulous and the unsuspecting waiting to be shorn.

Speculation in land, a practice which made its appearance early in colonial history, continued to flourish. Town jobbing became one of its most lucrative forms. When the railroad and industrial interests reached for their slice of the public domain, they walked away with far more land than they could swallow. That excess was disgorged to provide construction capital and to fatten private pocketbooks. Here was the fuel on which land speculation thrived. The discovery of gold in California and oil in Texas brought tidal waves of fortune hunters to the scene and in their wake, the ever present opportunists.

"Those who refuse to study history are condemned to repeat its mistakes," said Santayana. Dr. Sakolski has made U.S. history vivid and meaningful for anyone with even the most casual interest in the land question.

Sydney Mayers

VIEWS THE NEWS

Everyone seems to have his own view of economic phenomena. A friend of ours (obviously not a tee-totaler) complains bitterly that the cost of living has gone up two dollars a quart.

* * *

As soon as voters had approved a constitutional amendment authorizing New York State to sell 221 tracts of so-called "forest lands," the Conservation Department was deluged by offers and inquiries from potential buyers. These eager folks may want to get back to nature—or maybe they happen to know that many of the tracts adjoin bustling (and growing) up-state communities, where land values are steadily rising.

* * *

Economic experts in Washington are puzzled because prices for consumer goods have not declined, remaining stable in spite of curtailed demand. We might call to the attention of these "experts" that prices reflected in terms of inflated money are not "stable," but have in fact declined as much as has the value of the money in the consumers' pockets.

* * *

A New York Times article concerning the tremendous development of the east side of the Metropolis carries the headline: "CITY BUILDING TIDE SURGES EASTWARD." You will not be surprised to learn that the news-item's sub-head reads: "PROPERTY VALUES SOAR."

* * *

The development of the Sputnik is indeed a great achievement, but we

hope one day there will be launched the Freedomnik, a far more wonderful planet where productive labor, no longer enchained by private rent, taxes and monopolies, will enjoy the benefits of progress. It could even be our little old Earth—if we ever learn and abide by the science of political economy.

* * *

The general feeling among industrial observers is that "softness in the economy" (which is this year's polite phrase for a recession in production) will result in a tightening of wages and a weakening of labor's bargaining power. This seemingly profound sentiment is much more simply stated in the economic principle that wages can be drawn only from production—or rather from what's left after the private landowner takes his bite.

* * *

Says a Wall Street Journal headline: "OIL STUDY HINTS DEMAND PICK-UP SOON COULD CORRECT OVER-SUPPLY." This amazing economic conclusion reminds one of the classic: "When lots of people are out of work, unemployment results."

* * *

The Administrative Office of the United States Courts predicts that the number of bankruptcy cases filed during the current year will set a record, and at the grassroots level the Clothing Manufacturers Association announces that the men's clothing industry is operating at 66 per cent of capacity, as against 86 per cent a year ago. It appears there are still evidences of "poverty in the midst of progress."

The Birthplace of Henry George

On November 9th some forty Georgists converged on the little red brick house in Philadelphia where Henry George was born. This building, recently acquired by the Henry George School, has been renovated and is now operating as headquarters for the Philadelphia extension, as well as a birthplace museum. For the present only the first floor is in use. In time it is hoped that the upper floors will also be renovated, and that one room will be reconstructed in the style of the period when Henry George lived there.

At the November 9th dedication ceremonies at which Robert Clancy served as chairman, Julian P. Hickok, founder of the Philadelphia extension, told of the time when the Henry George Foundation acquired the property in 1926 and of a ceremony that took place there at that time.

Joseph A. Stockman, the director, unveiled a large bronze plaque on the wall, containing the names of fourteen donors whose gifts made the purchase possible. (See October HGN, page 16).

The final speaker was Agnes de Mille, famous choreographer, granddaughter of Henry George, and chairman of the Birthplace Committee. She evoked an appealing picture of the daily life of the Georges as it must have been lived within these walls. Miss de Mille also observed that the birthplace of the famous singer, Marian Anderson, was nearby, and that her message was similar to that of Henry George—that we all “belong,” we are all part of one world.

Miss de Mille concluded by presenting to the birthplace a beautiful wine-red, silk shawl belonging to her grandmother, Annie C. Fox. This shawl and a book of poems given to her by Henry George were the only two things Annie took with her when she eloped with the economist-to-be. The poetry book was also presented by Miss de Mille, and these, together with other George memorabilia, are now on permanent exhibition at the birthplace at 413 South Tenth Street, Philadelphia. Included also are a Bible belonging to George when he was a boy; an author's edition of *Progress and Poverty*; the pen with which he wrote *The Science of Political Economy*; photographs; campaign buttons and various gifts made to Henry George.

Following the dedication ceremonies, a dinner was held at the St. James Hotel. Among the guests who made short talks were Ezra Cohen, Lancaster M. Greene, Geoffrey W. Esty, and Arnold A. Weinstein, trustees of the Henry George School; John T. Tetley, New Jersey director; James A. McNally, Hartford director; George Tideman of Chicago; Miss V. G. Peterson of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York; Lucia Cipolloni, Mr. Stockman's volunteer aide in Philadelphia; and Mrs. Susie Howell, the lady who has lived in the birthplace for thirty-five years and who has kept watch over it.



Ellen Winsor, Agnes de Mille (Mrs. Walter Prude), Robert Clancy and Joseph A. Stockman at the unveiling of the plaque.

The School in the News

ST. LOUIS will have as its guest speaker at the fall term graduation on December 7th, C. A. Gaston, secretary of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony. The Alumni Association is also planning a seminar at which college professors, city officials, other "key" people, and, of course, Georgists, will be invited to discuss Fairhope methods with Mr. Gaston.

Under the sponsorship of A.B.C. Dexter and G. W. Segelhorst, a number of Georgists have been attending "listening posts" set up in connection with a television program—Operation Greater St. Louis—which appears once each week. From these posts they have addressed questions by telephone to the panel experts (?) and have sent occasional couriers to present questions in person.

SAN DIEGO'S Lemon Grove group under Everett Seeley's direction, has decided to go to work, and its November meeting found members starting a slide strip to be shown to various kinds of group meetings such as the P.T.A., to stimulate enrollments in Fundamental Economics classes. Another class leader, Gordon Gran, has invited to his home on December 6th, all who would like to take a more active part in the George movement. With enthusiasm building up already for the 1958 conference, no reader of this magazine can afford to be absent.

DENVER Georgists have also been gathering this past month, and over their coffee cups they have been scanning a dozen or more bound volumes of *The Standard*, edited by Henry George. These volumes covering the years 1887-93, were sent by Margery Bates from Boston. The Denver group will present them to the public library when they have finished their perusal.

DETROIT school friends listened with interest as Brenden Sexton, director of education for the United CIO Auto Workers, told what the unions were doing in the way of economic education. James Liguori was chairman. The dinner meeting was held on November 21st at Wayne State University.

PHILADELPHIA, having become the one extension which has its headquarters in a famous building, is attracting increasing attention locally through its director, Joseph A. Stockman.

The birthplace and new headquarters will be on view to local members on December 7th at 8 p.m., when refreshments will be served following an informal program. Mary Cipolloni presented to the birthplace a lovely plant which has been placed in the exhibition room. For most of the visitors to the Philadelphia extension, however, the best and most welcome "exhibit" will be her kind and generous daughter, "Lu" Cipolloni.

NEW YORK is always glad to welcome guests at East 69th Street, even though they are not all mentioned by name. The most recent out-of-town guest was John McConnell, co-publisher of the weekly *Toe Valley View* in North Carolina, who suggested in an editorial that the United States launch a space satellite which would be a "star of hope" and the signal for a good-will crusade. The idea has attracted attention on several networks and at the White House, but unless a popular interest is indicated through letters from many citizens, there will probably be no action on this good Georgist's proposal. So write to President Eisenhower if you are in favor of sending a symbol of peace on earth around the earth.



To the Editor:

The article in the November issue, "Scandinavian Control of Inflation," extols the attainment in Sweden of half-statist, half-free, but democratic; a "practical course between laissez faire and socialism;" centralized planning on a national basis; centralized economic power in the hands of employees and employers. This is a bit startling to me, and I wonder if you should not fill in the specifics for the reader as to precisely what socialist practises should comprise half of a nation's economy?

Reference is made to the proud dedication to integrity in Sweden. I believe he is absolutely correct in this, so far as it relates to the long, historic tradition of the Swedish people as a whole. But this is evidently not the author's meaning, because he speaks of an integrity "that Norway and Sweden have evolved"—presumably of recent date, while socialism has been advancing. I believe it would be helpful to readers, too, if you would review facts in the light of this claim, such as the trend of theft (violation of rights of ownership) especially among young men.

F. A. HARPER
Chappaqua, New York

The article referred to was a summary of four articles in The New York Herald Tribune. My comment was briefly stated in the final paragraph. As to "what socialistic practises should comprise half of a nation's economy" my answer is *none*. I do not like socialism any better than Mr. Harper does, but I have great respect for what the Scandinavian countries have achieved.

To me it seems that of the factors mentioned as being responsible for the working of the system, the most important by far is the recognition that wages come from production. This is the much-needed lesson that we in the United States can draw from the Scandinavian experiment—that we can improve our standard of living only as we increase production. And perhaps we can use a bit more of integrity, too.

JOSEPH JESPERSEN
Flushing, New York

To the Editor:

Here is my two bucks to renew my subscription to HGN for another year. You publish many fine articles which I am happy to read and pass on to some of my friends. Then sometimes you publish something which never, never ought to appear, and I am compelled to quietly file it away.

Let's get this one fact straight, commercial banks are the only institutions, financial or otherwise, which are permitted to create and loan out money as credit. Savings and Loans, mortgage companies, insurance companies, credit unions, retail outlets, etc. cannot loan a single dollar (extend credit) which they have not first acquired from some other.

I hope the single-tax Georgists will not become so single-idea minded that they cannot see over a dime. I have read just about everything George wrote which has been published in book form, and also many of his supporters, and I find many are misinformed on what George believed on the matter of money.

ROBERT G. GROSS
Scottsbluff, Nebr.

It Is Not Too Late

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GEORGIST LITERATURE

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A valuable new book by a well-known Henry George author, and president of the Economic Education League, Inc., Albany, New York. Marshall Crane calls its publication "a real event to any student of economics" (page 7-8). To make it possible for all readers to own this book we offer it at a price considerably under the regular price of \$4.95.

Land Tenure and Land Taxation in America by Aaron M. Sakolski. \$3.50

This is a Robert Schalkenbach Foundation book in the distinguished tradition of selective literature relevant to the contemporary scene and the understanding of land tenures, past and present. As background material for instructors and students this will be as interesting as an historical novel. (Reviewed on page 9)

Henry George: Citizen of the World by Anna George de Mille . . . \$1.50

At this drastically reduced price this delightful and intimate biography of Henry George is going fast. Many are buying several copies.

Progress and Poverty (Condensed into 10 pages) \$1.15

It's new, much needed, and long awaited—a "supercondensed version of *Progress and Poverty*" by James L. Busey, associate professor of political science, at the University of Colorado. The text is made up exclusively of the phrases of Henry George, and they are presented in the order in which he wrote them. Here at last is something to hand to friends who wish an introduction to Henry George and the masterpiece *Progress and Poverty*. Ten copies for \$1.

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