

# the Henry George News

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LEX SCHRAG of Toronto says:

## *"There Are No Caribou Left In Ungava"*

OUR entire culture is doomed. There is nothing new in this statement. You've heard it over and over again without getting the least bit excited. You are students of economics. You must surely know how the human race is squandering irreplaceable resources as sacrifices to that golden calf of modern days, the Gross National Product.

So far as the actual production of necessary goods is concerned we could get along very comfortably on a two-day work week if all the miracles of modern technology were applied to production. But we are advised by the economists that to maintain our standards of progress and prosperity we must achieve a constant increase of five per cent per annum in our Gross National Product.

A rebellious New Englander, Henry David Thoreau, declared in 1854 that "men have become the tools of their tools." Economics, in my antisocial opinion, is one of the major tools by which the human race is hopelessly enslaved. I feel, as Thoreau did, that one of the most important elements of true wealth is leisure.

It is becoming the custom among the self-appointed intelligentsia to

declare there is no sense in giving the masses leisure because they wouldn't know what to do with it. We are being kidded, too, that retirement is dangerous—that unless we are prepared for the dreadful shock of not having to punch a time clock we'll go nuts. I am inclined to think this propaganda was inspired by all the fuss and worry over that five per cent annual increase in the Gross National Product. For myself, I will continue to regard leisure as an essential end of wealth. Indeed, I am much more greedy for leisure—for the right to do what I want with my time—than I am for yachts, booze or a 10-roomed, air-conditioned split level ranch house.

It would appear the trade unions are obtaining the enjoyment of this form of wealth for us by demanding more wages for shorter work weeks—but I am not so sure they are succeeding in this ostensible aim. When I went into the newspaper business 40 years ago, a reporter had no stated hours. He was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Yet it seems to me I had more real leisure then than I have now on a 40-hour week—and I kept all my pay instead of contribut-

*(Continued on page 14)*

# A Word With You

A COUPLE of fellows from ancient Greece—Eratosthenes and Aristarchus—made some important astronomical discoveries about the earth and the sun.

Erat—let's just call them Ernie and Archie. Ernie decided the earth was round, and he came close to giving its right measurements. He even noticed that the earth tilted on its axis. Archie went further still. He said the earth revolved around the sun and gave distances that, while not exactly accurate, were a long way closer to the truth than anything up to that time.

These brilliant discoveries were outcomes of observations, calculations, deductions which could be demonstrated. Why were they not accepted? Why did the world have to wait 1600 years before the same ideas were broached again?

For one thing, the empirical data was small, and the amount of thinking required was great—so there were two strikes against them. Strike three was the fact that these ideas went against the accepted notions of polite society—so polite society did the only thing it knows how to do in such cases—it ignored them.

Ptolemy came along and presented the more acceptable notion that the earth was the center of the universe, and that the heavenly bodies moved in accordance with the meditations of the philosophers. It was not that this

theory fitted the facts better—it simply fitted prejudices better.

Henry George made important discoveries in the economic world. Like Ernie and Archie, he worked without an arsenal of statistics and equipment, using instead "the familiar facts of intelligent observation." Like them, too, his ideas were lost in the shuffle and ignored by polite society.

Today's batteries of computing machines, statistical bureaus and research agencies are at the service of economic theories which, like the Ptolemaic theory, are a maze of inconsistencies and complexities which fail to add up to a coherent explanation of economic society.

Indeed if polite society ever takes note of our Georgist ideas, it is generally with two reproaches: first, that it is impolite of us to offer a simple explanation of economics when (with the help of fallacious theories) it is really a hopelessly muddled subject. The other reproach is that we haven't got miles and miles of statistics.

This latter reproach is really very impolite of polite society. After all, they're the ones who have all the equipment and research facilities. Instead of picking on us, they ought to test our theories with their facilities.

On the other hand, perhaps the familiar facts of intelligent observation suffice for those who have eyes to see.

—Robert Clancy

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The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.



Mr. and Mrs. James Ramsay, Barry Holmes and Peter VanMeggelen.

## *Research and Action Growing*

WORDS are labels, said John Tetley, at the first luncheon talk at the 19th annual conference of the Henry George School at Victoria University, Toronto, and the word for the 1963 conference is Canadian. If this is a label, it surely carries the seal of quality. Toronto was a city of cool sunshine and Canadian courtesy, from the first smile of the customs inspector right through fine smooth, unhurried conference days. Each school conference is unique, and the last is always the best. The Henry George family seems to grow in maturity and understanding—or perhaps the atmosphere of pleasure and harmony which pervaded the meetings was the result of the delightful quality of trust and acceptance so natural to our Canadian hosts.

Although Toronto has an enthusiastic and responsive Alumni Group, most of the responsibility was carried by its director, James (Jim) Ramsay, and his wife, Elinore, assisted at various points by their daughters Bonnie Helen and Heather Ray.

Jack Bea, group treasurer, was in charge of the tape recorder. Stan Chester kept the literature table stocked with helpful reprints. Among others who helped make the visit pleasant were Shirley Pennie, Isobel Mackie,

Neil Walker, Laurie Mannell, George Rogers, Vic Wilcox, Dirk Nieuwlaat, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nesbitt, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hindle, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Phillips and others.

Toronto Georgists are doers. Tom Hindle, for instance, works on *The Square Deal*, the Alumni Group publication. Barry Holmes, was another who helped on *The Square Deal*, as well as in organization of classes. He is now employed on a weekly paper in nearby Cobourg, Ontario, where he hopes to write on the tax question the next time the assessor raises the local homeowners' taxes. Many others are active in a variety of ways.

The first meeting of new arrivals took place at the Salada Tea House at Canada's National Exhibition Park. There a delightfully unrehearsed and impromptu program was informally M-C'd by Harry Marquis. An amusing skit was presented by Robert Clancy, George Collins, Gilbert Herman and Dorothy Sara, all of New York. Lancaster M. Greene, also of New York, a member of the Williams College Glee Club, sang and encouraged group participation. Games and dancing rounded out the evening.

Jim Ramsay of Toronto presided at the opening luncheon on July 4th and pointed out with suave reasonableness,

that a number of countries abroad had been taken over by larger ones, and since this seemed to have become an accepted pattern, and since Canada was larger than the United States in square miles, he welcomed the opportunity, on our special Independence Day, of inviting the United States to unite with Canada.

John T. Tetley, director of the New Jersey Henry George School (his name reminiscent of a certain historic Boston party) proposed a toast, recalling that July first was Canada's Dominion Day, to the "continuation of the friendship of the people of the two great nations of the North American continent: Canada and the United States."

Suggesting that the true Americans were the American Indians, he said all persons of the Western Hemisphere: North America, South America, Central America, Mexico, Brazil, Canada, were, properly speaking, Americans. His talk was entitled "The Use and Misuse of 'American' Concepts," and he urged precision in using the American label, recalling that Aristotle said "many a debate could have been deflated into a single paragraph if the disputants had dared to define their terms."

Official welcomes were brief and genuine. First from Alderman Thomas Wardle in the absence of the Mayor, next from Dr. A. G. Clark senior tutor of Victoria University. This is part of the University of Toronto. Murray Johnson of the Central YMCA added an enthusiastic endorsement to the work of the school.

After the luncheon all delegates and visitors walked across the quiet campus situated in the heart of the city beside Queens Park. Harry Marquis, a Toronto accountant, presided at this session, as a number of speakers presented a program packed with valuable statistics.

The first was Mitchell S. Lurio, director of the Boston extension, who

in his business capacity is the president of Walter E. Heller & Company of New England, Inc., a subsidiary of one of the largest national commercial finance companies in the United States. He gave sound examples showing that increased taxes on buildings discouraged building, whereas increased taxes on land values encouraged building and discouraged speculation in land.

Benjamin F. Smith, a consulting engineer of Grand Rapids, Michigan, next explained "How we can compute land values." He made his findings understandable by the use of a visual method suggested by his wife, who was present and who had helped him prepare this material. (See HGN next month for more on this).

### Value Formulae

Julian Hickok, founder of the Philadelphia extension, represented that beloved school of which Joseph A. Stockman is director. Unable to attend because of illness, Joe's jovial presence was greatly missed and his early recovery is the earnest wish of all.

Mr. Hickok presented two algebraic formulae to show the effect of tax rates on land values. One, covering increases in tax rate on land only, demonstrated that, "as the tax rate is increased and approaches infinity as a limit, land value (price) decreases and approaches zero as a limit, and tax revenue increases, approaching the full economic rent as a limit." He referred to a statement by Henry George that we already collect some rent by taxation and should collect more by the existing machinery.

A graph showing the effects of varying rates of taxation on the percentage of rent taken as public revenue, was a straight line up to about a 90 per cent tax rate, followed by a sharp curve for 95 per cent of rent at 100 per cent tax rate, with a nearly straight line reaching to 100 per cent at in-



finity. As Henry George recommended leaving a small percentage of rent to the landlord to avoid the evils of public administration, it was indicated that the maximum tax rate should be about 100 per cent and that this rate should be approached gradually over a number of years to allow the market to adjust prices to the increased tax rates and avoid jar and shock to the economy.

The second formula covered the increases in tax rate in land together with decreases in rate on improvements. In this it was demonstrated that the increase in tax rate on land must be in inverse ratio to rate of exemptions as land value is to improvement value, for stabilization of tax revenue as well as land value. If, however, the ratio of tax increase to tax exemption is less than the ratio of improvement value to land value, there will be an increase in land value and a decrease in public revenue, definitely defeating the purpose of land value taxation. Conversely, if the ratio of tax increase to tax exemption is greater than the ratio of improvement value to land value, there will be a decrease in land value and an increase in public revenue, which is the objective of land value taxation.

After dinner on this "Glorious Fourth" all cheerfully reassembled to hear a report by W. Wylie Young on the Erie story which was introduced so effectively last July at the conference in Pittsburgh.

Residents of Erie, Pennsylvania have been subjected to a steady barrage of facts and theories, and land value taxation is a phrase that most of them have at least heard. Erie is the largest of the third class cities, and since it is not boxed in by hills, as most Pennsylvania cities are, it presents a wonderful opportunity to prove what a land based tax can do for a sprawling city. Until the basic principles are understood, however, there is no likelihood



**Bertram A. Wilson and  
W. Wylie Young.**

that the permissive legislation will ever be given form, Mr. Young said.

Most readers of HGN will recall that the interest in Erie began as a result of a conviction on the part of Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, and several prominent members of the Henry George Foundation, that an attempt should be made to get one city in Pennsylvania to adopt and test land value taxation. Both Harry Gunnison Brown and Mr. Young began by making talks in Erie, but it was not until Mr. Young organized a six-lesson course based on *Progress and Poverty* that members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce responded with understanding and enthusiasm.

Following their report to the Henry George School conference last summer in Pittsburgh, the association president, William Walker "walked in deeper," and turned over a building he owned for use as headquarters for ELTA, the land value association. This is at 2217 Peninsula Drive, Erie, and provides office and residence space for staff workers.

Mr. Young introduced the new president, Bertram A. Wilson, president of the Wilson Research Corporation, who said his sudden call to this office was a shock, but on thinking it over, being a business man, he granted there was an objective and a job to be done, and therefore agreed to "give it a year."

Mr. Wilson said it is quite obvious

that intelligent reassessment must take place in Erie, Pennsylvania, and he believes strongly that the people of a community should be made very aware of the amount of their assessment and that of their neighbors—not on a map at city hall, but distributed where anybody can see the figures. In his opinion the critical period is the next six months when the newly appointed tax study committee will presumably report to the City Council either affirmatively or negatively.

Delays arise even with the best of planning, but perhaps they have their place in the economy of providence, for Mayor S. James Clarkson's arrival in Toronto was halted by heavy traffic, but his entrance late in the evening was warmly welcomed. His success in Southfield, Michigan, a suburb adjoining Detroit, with a population of 38,000, is cheering to all who have followed the slow but steady interest of Georgist students and instructors in the field of local politics.

Ernest Bowser, sales manager for Barclay Distillery, Toronto, demonstrated skill and experience in presiding over this evening of surprises.

Friday was the day for a bus tour of Beautiful Toronto, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Casa Loma is Toronto's stunning castle situated well within the city boundary, and incidentally a striking lesson in land values. Despite its grandeur the comparatively modern castle did not have a working elevator, and Georgists who filed up and down narrow winding stairs to the turrets had their full quota of exercise for the day.

By evening however, having had a preview of the city during the tour, they were ready to listen with interest to a panel discussion of Toronto's land problem. Helen Nesbitt, president of The Alumni Group, acted as moderator and introduced the following participants:

Neil Gough, president of the United

Steel Corporation, having completed the basic course as given by the Toronto School of Economic Science (27 weeks), has advocated land value taxation, especially for all municipal expenses, in many speeches he has been asked to give before civic and business groups.

Ian Evans of Hamilton, with the Electronics Division of Canada's Westinghouse, completed the same course and since then has been a tutor in the Niagara Peninsula.

William Phillips, an accountant with the YMCA, also finished the course and has since tutored in Toronto.

Fraser Kelly, a reporter for the Toronto Telegram's special squad organized recently to seek out and expose injustices, served as devil's advocate and asked questions which were answered by the panelists or the audience.

### Toronto's Problems

Mr. Kelly opened the rather one-sided debate with a reference to the downtown cultural center which does not support itself but is built on a very high priced location. If land is to be put to its best use, he said, this cultural center would not be there, which would be a loss.

This was answered in a variety of ways—it was suggested that cultural needs are of no importance until the basic needs are met. Also that the art center, being in a large, expensive building in a locality of run-down buildings, was now paying more taxes than it would if the site were taxed. Such cultural centers are visited by people, and the surrounding locations become more valuable because of their increased interest—this would more than offset any loss to the cultural center, said another.

The rise of apartment buildings among one-story residences was deplored but could be clearly understood, for as homes are built and occupied,

the surrounding land becomes more valuable, eventually becoming so costly under the present system, that it cannot be used for private residences.

It was agreed that the very act of city expansion and building produces the forces that offset the expansion. The east-west subway now being built, having stimulated great speculation in land along the route, the entire cost of \$200 million could have been paid out of this increase if land values had been taxed. Thus this superb subway, a masterpiece of design and comfort and surely the most beautiful in America, could have been self-liquidating in a short time.

The effect of land value taxation on small business men was excitedly debated, and the charge that they would be unable to stay in their accustomed places was met with the suggestion that as tenants operating in the basement or ground floor of large buildings, they would be better able to develop a good business and serve their customers.

It was pointed out in conclusion that the basic aim must always be justice, and we must not think it will not work a little hardship—but it is going to work good for the community—and isn't our present system a hardship on many? When a new highway is built we should indeed be concerned about the little man, but in the end, under land value taxation, he would benefit—said the experts. In any case, most small business men do not usually own their premises and are paying rent, i.e. land value tax, to the landlord. A similar restraining argument could have been used 150 years ago when farmers owned Toronto's present urban locations.

Reports from related organizations are always heartening because they indicate that much more progress is being made than appears at first glance. Laurence Kobak, assistant director of the Henry George School in New

York, presiding at the Saturday afternoon session said, "we won't have to educate all the voters—just start blowing up the balloon. Things are beginning to happen now—the world is changing—we're getting successes."

News from coast to coast revealed activities by various groups associated with the school program but not a part of it. These varied according to the needs, the opportunities and the talents of the participants. Next month read what is being done by Toronto's Alumni Group, Chicago's Henry George Woman's Club, The Public Revenue Council of St. Louis, The League to Untax Buildings in Detroit, the Henry George Foundation of Pittsburgh, the Incentive Taxation Committee of California, the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York, and AGLA—a Latin American organization in New York.

### **"From Wheat to Gum"**

Most directors and visitors had heard of a "chalk talk" originated by Mrs. Henry West of Chicago, illustrating Henry George's "Story of the Savannah." It was therefore a rare privilege to have both Mr. and Mrs. West present and to observe the effectiveness of this joint effort sketched by Mrs. West and narrated by her husband who was himself a pioneer in New Brunswick, Canada.

Based on careful studies and statistics, Mrs. West showed the development of Chicago's lake front from the time of the arrival of the first covered wagon to the present with deft and skillful drawings. From the wheat fields and trading posts of the past to the soaring skyscrapers of the present a bewildering study in contrasts is suggested. Rapidly sketching in the tall building on the Wrigley site, Mrs. West remarked, "from wheat to gum in less than a hundred years!"

A Georgist "social hour" before dinner is just that—a modest and short

interlude before dining. Georgist conferences are in marked contrast to some of the more deplorable convention gatherings, and one of the distinguishing traits of these conference groups is their good behavior.

The banquet signals that the end is near, and it comes usually on a Saturday Evening. Senator A. W. Roebuck, who spoke at the annual conference last year in Pittsburgh, had hoped to be present again, but health and a heavy schedule prevented his attending. Though disappointed, all were willing to forego the pleasure of seeing and hearing him rather than impose an undue burden, since his contribution to Canada's public life is unique and invaluable. A message from Ashley Mitchell of England was read, paying tribute to Senator Roebuck who said Mr. Mitchell could have been Premier of Canada if he had been willing to compromise his principles.

Ernest Farmer, president of Toronto's School of Economic Science, was chairman at the banquet. He is better known outside Canada as the originator of *The Square Deal*, a bulletin which has for many years served as a barometer of Canada's economic welfare for readers abroad, and has now become the official organ of Toronto's Alumni Group.

Lex Schrag, a columnist on the *Toronto Globe and Mail* was the first speaker. Lancaster M. Greene, trustee of the Henry George School and a director of the Robert Schalkenbach



**Bruce Michels, Los Angeles; J. R. Bea, Rexdale, Ontario; and George Menninger, Jr., Chicago.**

Foundation, was asked to speak in the absence of Senator Roebuck. Ronald Young, president of Scot Young Ltd., Toronto, spoke briefly as a concluding speaker, pointing out the complexities of the Henry George idea, the many different approaches, and the need for practical research and action. These three addresses will be found elsewhere in this issue, in shortened form.

At the farewell luncheon on Sunday, George Menninger, Jr., member of the 101st Airborne Division and son of the director of the new Chicago extension, gave a report on the Commerce and Industry program being conducted by the Institute of Economic Inquiry in Chicago. Lucian T. Wilcox also spoke briefly on new developments in Fairhope, Alabama.

So from beginning to end the Toronto conference was a joy. Friends regretfully took leave of each other to reassemble next summer in New York City, where the school will hold the first international conference in the United States since 1939.

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### PLAN NOW

Attend the International Henry George Conference next year. It will be held at the Henry Hudson Hotel, New York, the week of August 30th to September 5th, 1964, and will be co-sponsored by the Henry George School of Social Science and the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. Rates will be moderate. Besides talks and discussions, the conference will include, on September 2nd, celebration of the 125th birthday of Henry George and a visit to his birthplace in Philadelphia. A tour of the World's Fair is also scheduled. It is hoped that a large international delegation will be present, and programs in various languages have been planned.

# Wanted: Moral Fervor

by LANCASTER M. GREENE

OUR objective is justice through land value taxation. Our means is involvement in moral fervor. A short term method might be instruction through politics, but it is education—the long term method—which must first thoroughly train students to become competent teachers. Courses offered by the Henry George School, along with reading such as *The Henry George News* seeks to provide every month, make successful teachers who will make other teachers. It is this "leading out" which is significant and gratifying, as discussion causes students to make for themselves the startling discoveries their teachers made earlier.

I shall always be indebted to George L. Rusby, founder of the Henry George School in Newark, who kept "instructing" me for nine years about social justice. By 1934 he was tired of talking and insisted that I expose myself to the discipline of a course at the school founded by Oscar Geiger in New York, using *Progress and Poverty* as a text. This was the most exciting course in economics I had ever taken, and I was soon caught up in George's moral fervor as well as his irresistible logic. It then became *my* Henry George School, and land value taxation was no longer merely Mr. Rusby's cause, but mine. In due course I became a teacher, then a trustee of the school.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, of which I became an officer, pursues another long term plan, by publishing the necessary books used by schools and economists around the world. It also sponsors such educational aids as the film "Land and Space to Grow," and has instituted an annual land value conference where discussions by the professors who are invited

could result in them carrying some of the principles back to their classes.

The June 1960 issue of *House & Home*, personally edited by Perry Prentice, vice president of Time, Inc., has been, especially for the construction industry, the greatest single factor in arousing interest in Henry George's proposal. It is perhaps not generally known that Mr. Prentice began this study years ago because he found architects and the construction firms handicapped by the lack of good sites at reasonable prices. This led him to the Henry George School and eventually to serving as a director of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. In accumulating his research material he consulted Professor W. Mason Gaffney of the University of Wisconsin, who had studied at the Henry George School in Chicago before going to Harvard. The result was an extensive "Land" issue. Reprints are available from *The Henry George News* at 50 cents each.

We have heard at our conference of much needed money for the important political activities, and I hope this will be willingly and gladly forthcoming, but even more essential is the ever continuing long term Henry George School program, which is the basis for all other efforts. Informed students and teachers imbued with a dedicated fervor have a valuable contribution to make. The seed money for this work is required anew each year, and we have not yet learned how to raise enough to give commensurate support to our splendid extension directors. There are many encouraging signs of progress and these will continue, because we are on the side of right. Our educational effort is and must remain synonymous with the cause of justice. Sound principles of taxation are the means.

## *"We Will Get Results"*

**R**ONALD YOUNG of Toronto, a youthful Scot with sandy hair, a broad grin and infectious burr, told amusingly of his exposure to the Henry George idea six years ago through Harry Pollard, then director of the Toronto extension. He responded with zeal and action, but when he wanted to "do something" he found himself against a brick wall. "You tend to think of the finish as well as the beginning," he said. "I tried to think of a good approach—something that would work—I wanted to change things." He recalled a "hopeless, helpless fear" in trying to "sell this thing."

"The principles are clear, they will never die, but there's more than just selling the principle," he warned, "you have to get it to work." Now after six years he is getting "a glimmer" of how it might be done. He thinks the idea must be presented individually through the example of free enterprise, with research on a detailed basis that business men can see is practical. He suggested that there are perhaps some 500 groups or organizations which espouse certain segments of Henry George—these might be induced to synchronize their efforts for the sake of a principle.

He is convinced that political results have got to be in votes that change legislation, and believes politics should help the school rather than vice versa. The Henry George School is not his particular concern at present, for he feels this idea cannot be sold as it is currently being taught there, since it is hard to interest a working man in "poverty" in this welfare age when presumably no one is poor. Addressing school directors in the audience, he

evinced laughter and agreement when he said, "I don't know how you do it on the money you get. If a depression does come along you fellows are really in training for it."

"I do believe things are going to get worse, because the people of this country are disregarding certain financial and economic truths," he enunciated firmly. "I believe either one of two things is going to happen, (a) total depression; or (b) total socialism, which will be communism—and I do not believe the people of this continent will accept total socialism. Therefore I predict that a cessation of production will be our lot. Good solid constructive research into this predicament from a Georgist standpoint could give us a fairly accurate assessment as to the approximate date of this catastrophe, but as far as I'm concerned we can invent a date. On the assumption that it is inevitable, a pretty good guess is that it's going to happen soon."

Referring to a plan of action, without revealing it specifically, he said, "soon in Toronto, in Ontario, in Canada, we will get results. The peoples of this great and rich country shall soon emerge as a powerful nation with each and every Canadian, regardless of his origin, knowing exactly what and who he is, and they shall form a real and convincing argument against the zombies of the state. A population of 18 million will be easier to convince than 190 million. Canada will become one of the most powerful nations on earth, not by guns or machines of war, but by letting Canadians become the freest human beings the world has ever seen."

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**That government is the strongest of which every man feels himself a part.**

**— Thomas Jefferson**



# Every Student a Teacher

"IT HAS become a custom with industrial concerns to send their most promising young executives to college to up-grade their thinking. The promising Henry George executives meet annually for mutual up-grading of their plans for the coming year," said the New York security analyst, Lancaster M. Greene.

The school conference sessions are the delight of spectators because the spontaneous (and often humorous) dialogues taking place between directors are provocative and entertaining to the visitors. To the directors themselves, for whose benefit the sessions are held, they are not only intensely practical but a source of vital encouragement, and a means of evaluating their efforts with respect to the total program.

Directors from the Canadian extensions were James W. Ramsay of Toronto, and Raymond Perron of Montreal. Present for the first time from the new extension at Jamaica, West Indies, was Phillip Wallace. The U.S. directors included Robert Tideman, San Francisco; Harry E. Pollard, Los Angeles; Noah D. Alper, St. Louis; Robert Benton, Detroit; Raymond Abrams, Miami; Mitchell S. Lurio, Boston; John T. Tetley, New Jersey; Robert Clancy, New York; George Menninger, director, and Mina Olson, executive secretary, Chicago; Emanuel Choper, director, and Bette Breese, executive secretary, Syracuse; Ivan Dailey, assistant director, Ohio; and Sidney Evans, representing San Diego.

The first directors' session dealing with promotion, was presided over by Raymond Abrams of Miami, a fairly new extension that is proving interesting, though small. Teaching methods were discussed on the second day, with Emanuel Choper of Syracuse, New



**Robert Tideman, San Francisco; Raymond Abrams, Miami; Ronald Young, Toronto; and Harry E. Pollard, Los Angeles.**

York, as chairman. Under the strict but merry guidance of Harry Pollard, a third session dealt with a number of reports and a short discussion on fund raising. Mr. Pollard, on arriving from England some years ago, became director of the Toronto extension (School of Economic Science), where he initiated the "long term"—a curriculum which includes not only the usual text, *Progress and Poverty*, but *Science of Political Economy, Protection or Free Trade*, and will soon add a text on Georgism versus Communism.

This longer course, for which a fee is charged, is still followed in Toronto, and will be in effect in Los Angeles where Mr. Pollard will now serve as director.

The final session on Sunday morning was under the direction of Phillip Wallace of Jamaica, W.I. He thanked the Henry George School for allowing graduates and directors freedom in following their own counsel, instead of making them conform to a prescribed method.

While the hoped for completion of a land value reform in Jamaica was defeated in the last election, the group of students plan to enlarge their knowledge of this principle in order to be ready with technical help should

the occasion arise. Mr. Wallace is starting a library where students may borrow, free, any books by Henry George or others related to basic economics. In this way he says he hopes to push away some of the dark clouds. A number of books have already been promised. If you wish to contribute to this new library, the address is care of Phillip Wallace, 24 Harcourt Street, Kingston 16, Jamaica, W.I.

### **"Not for Burning"**

Although all directors and instructors dream of more students who will catch their enthusiasm for this philosophy, it was agreed that some graduates are "not for burning." Those who can be set on fire with the principles of Henry George, and who are themselves capable of teaching or in other ways innoculating others, should however be fired with this zeal in order that the circle may ever widen and knowledge of the importance of this reform may reach more and more people.

"Everyone should be told he ought to become a teacher," said Harry Polard. "If you have enough teachers you don't have to worry about anything else. Graduates should begin teaching in one year, and should become officers in outside organizations inside of two years. Keep the graduates apart," he quipped, "we want them to talk to others, not to us."

The opposite view, however, was more fully endorsed. In Syracuse alumni attempts have helped to keep people together and interested. The idea is to get students involved, getting their "work—not their opinions." It was a general opinion that everyone can be motivated to do what is right. Mr. Greene, long a successful teacher at the school in New York, spoke emphatically for moral emphasis and courage, with deeper levels to be touched by such questions as "what is justice—where do rights come from?"

Noah Alper of St. Louis and others readily agreed that justice is the top question, since nothing is ever settled that isn't settled right.

Mitchell Lurio of Boston brought an engrossing tape recording of lessons being given in Boston on radio—these were listened to with rapt appreciation.

Los Angeles is planning to begin a branch organization plan somewhat similar to that now successfully being used in San Francisco. Robert Tide-man of San Francisco gave a brief but effective report on the branch organization of the Northern California Extension which was referred to last month (page 14). Each branch serves a defined territory, and the purpose of each is to advance the school's educational program. Branches are chartered under clearly defined terms, for the school year, from July 1st to June 30th. Each holds monthly meetings, of a board consisting of no more than 12 persons, serving two-year terms. Each branch board elects a president and secretary—the president appointing five committee chairmen. All officers and committee chairmen serve one-year terms. The branch sets goals for the year and reports achievements at the year's end.

A Committee on Branches of the Board of Directors supervises all branches, and a representative attends their meetings in a consulting capacity. The extension staff, with headquarters at 833 Market Street, San Francisco, with the approval of the Committee on Branches, provides lists and various printed material.

Branches facilitate volunteer participation in the school program, for they *are* the school. They are creations of the central extension, serviced by it, but not replicas of it. They are dependent while maturing, but gain independence and power progressively as they fulfill certain qualifications. Branches holding first or second class charters gain representation on the board.

Branches are not authorized to change courses or textbooks without approval. Class leaders and speakers must also be approved. This organization may be changed by the extension's Board of Directors at any time, though ordinarily the counsel of the

branches will be sought before any major alteration is made. This successful type of "imaginative involvement" originated by the San Francisco director, was considered by some to be the most creative extension activity presented.

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Peter Patsakos, International Secretary of the Henry George School, New York, is now in full swing teaching economics during the summer at the Universidad Santa Maria, in Arequipa, Peru. He is giving the school's three basic courses (Fundamental Economics, Applied Economics, and the Science of Political Economy) in Spanish, to 90 students. The university has made it a required subject. Mr. Patsakos writes that the students are responding well to the teachings, and that the head of the university, Father William Morris, has invited him to stay longer than the ten weeks originally scheduled, in order to assist further with the economics curriculum. Since he reports that the climate is ideal, the people *simpático*, and the opportunity welcome, we wouldn't be surprised if he did stay a little longer!



#### APPEAL FROM ELTA

Bertram A. Wilson, president of the Erie Land Tax Association, and W. Wylie Young, the executive director, impressed Henry George conferees with their reports of the progress being made to win over Erie, and make it the first city in Pennsylvania to adopt land value taxation.

"Our association has convinced the City Council to make a formal study," Mr. Wilson said, "and an official study committee has already been formed. We have had excellent cooperation from the newspapers. Our numbers are growing, but there are 130,000 people in Erie and many are totally unaware of our existence. Is it asking too much for Georgists everywhere to give us a hand?"

Mr. Wilson emphasized his appeal by offering to personally match 10 per cent of all money raised outside of Erie. This appeal had a dramatic effect. Phil Wallace of Jamaica, who attended the conference on an extremely slim budget, arose and urged the conferees to *do it now*. He said, "I will begin the collection with \$5," and did so. In no time at all, delegates were coming forward with their contributions and before the evening ended over \$600 was raised.

Readers are invited to add their support to this important work. Send checks to ELTA, 2217 Peninsula Drive, Erie, Pennsylvania. They will be greatly appreciated and will be used with the utmost care and caution.

(Continued from page 1)

ing to the support of another level of non-productive administration.

As students of economics there are two aspects of trade unionism you might examine: first, while we are being given more wages as a result of union contracts, prices are keeping pace with our wages, and each wage increase means that our governments take a larger slice of our earnings in taxes. Secondly, union contracts seem to me to embody a sort of economic schizophrenia. In the old days I could loaf with a clear conscience when there was nothing to do. Now, I feel I am defrauding my employer if I sit idle—but sit there I must.

For one thing, I am the tool of my tools. Although my wife and I have a very modest home, it is equipped with almost every known device, dingus, gilguy and gadget for doing electrically what I could do with my own two hands at less expense and, very often, more quickly. An alarming percentage of my income is devoted to keeping these flimsy robots in working order.

Our various governments are the greatest obstacles in the path of efficient production and the enjoyment of leisure. The civil services are packed with paper-passers and no political leader I have known in the past 20 years has had the temerity to suggest that any of them should return to private life. These civil servants complain that they are underpaid, and yet they are reluctant to relinquish the security that government employment provides for them. The old adage that the government which governs least governs best seems to be as dead as the dodo.

I suggest to you our entire culture is sick with this sort of frustration. You might extend your studies to the investigation of what proportions of our respective populations devote their lives to such unproductive efforts, as

compared with those who are usefully employed. I would add, further, that although automation is the only apparent means by which we can realize the wealth of leisure, one of its most important social effects to date has been to take the pride of craftsmanship from many of the trades.

Urged on, then, by those economists who demand an annual increase in the Gross National Product, we must do more unproductive work in order to consume more nonessential goods. In effect, the productive citizens of our culture are being asked to provide goods for increasing proportions of non-productive consumers. In all too many instances, the productive citizens are being victimized by the non-productive paper manipulators. Let me urgently recommend to you the most chilling horror story I have ever read, *Buy Now, Pay Later*, by Hillel Black.

This volume describes the growth of consumer credit in the United States. Since the Canadian economy is a rather pale shadow of its weightier — and sometimes more demented — model to the south, the book has alarming implications for Canada, too. A recent *Globe and Mail* report gave our consumer debt as \$5 billions, roughly the same, per capita, as that in the United States.

Mr. Black made the statement that personal debt in the United States—as distinct from governmental or corporate obligations—stood at \$231 billions in the beginning of 1962. Of this sum, \$175 billions was mortgage debt and \$56 billions was consumer debt. He added that in several lines of trade, including the automobile business, the sale of debt had become much more profitable than the sale of the products for which the debt was incurred.

I was raised to pay cash or do without. Hence, figures such as those I have cited fill me with dismay. Yet I believe the real tragedy they represent

is not the stress they impose on the consumer who must pay heavy interest on the purchase of articles he all too often does not need, but the appalling waste of resources and manpower. If we are to have the wealth of leisure I propose as a human objective, consumption as well as production must be efficient.

Money, bonds, debentures, all paper representations of wealth, have no intrinsic value. To tear ores and fuels from the soil to make assorted forms of junk for the prime purpose of increasing the circulation of paper is criminal folly. To put men and women in cells where they fiddle about with useless bits of paper five days a week when they would be better employed restoring the fertility of a globe that is being raped of its top soil, is idiocy.

### The Slaughter

The world is divided in three camps: the western powers headed by the United States; the communist block and the so-far uncommitted nations.

I assure you I have no admiration whatever for the forms of totalitarian socialism practiced in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics or Red China. Yet it is my unhappy conviction that communism will inevitably be the victor in any prolonged economic struggle with the United States.

My reasoning is this: the United States is committed to three courses of action. First, the production of consumer goods designed for maximum annual obsolescence; second, the establishment and maintenance of military supremacy; third, the recruitment of support among the uncommitted nations by the provision of material and technical aid. All of these commitments are costly in terms of manpower and resources.

The communists, by comparison, have subordinated the production of consumer goods to their military ambitions. They have, if William J.

Lederer and Eugene Burdick have told us the truth, been more effective and economical in their approaches to the uncommitted nations than has the United States.

This argument brings me back to one of my earlier statements: There are no caribou in Ungava.

For visitors from across the line, I should explain that Ungava is a peninsula of Quebec which forms the northeastern corner of Canada. Much of it lies north of the tree line. At one time it supported great herds of caribou which, in turn, helped to support the Eskimo population.

The Eskimo is a praiseworthy person, but he is, alas, even less provident than you and I. He dearly loves to live it up, and to heck with the mortgage on his igloo. If game is plentiful, he will slaughter all of it within range regardless of whether he can use it or not. Before the white man introduced him to whisky, tuberculosis and firearms he was unable, with his harpoon and bow and arrow, to kill very much more meat than he and his community could eat. But the white man traded the Eskimo repeating rifles for his furs. There are now no more caribou in Ungava. How closely, I wonder, are we treading on the heels of the Eskimo?

Luckily for us, we live in a much more favorable environment than the Eskimo. We are far less dependent upon the whims of nature for our food. Nevertheless, we, too, are slaughtering our caribou. The scientists have assured us, for instance, that all of our fossil fuels—coal, oil and gas—will be exhausted by the year 2200. I have read that our easily recoverable reserves of petroleum will be gone by the end of this century. Yet we are advised that we must produce more and consume more each year so that the GNP can be increased by another five per cent.

What will we do after the fossil

fuels are gone? I have talked to an internationally prominent physicist and he is quite confident some other form of energy will be found to replace the hydrocarbons. At the moment, nuclear power stations are producing electrical energy on both sides of the border. Further on, far beyond the fission process, is the possibility of the controlled fusion of hydrogen, which would appear to be a much more permanent answer to the power problem, since the hydrogen isotope required exists in almost unlimited quantity.

These forms of energy, you should remember, demand a much higher level of technology for their production than is the case with coal, oil and gas. It would seem likely that fewer men at much higher wages will be used to build the plants and operate them. If this is so, then a new and awkward factor will be introduced in our economies. The new forms of energy will cost the consumer more—fewer workers will be employed in producing them.

In Ontario we already have the handwriting on the wall. Our Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission is

trying to persuade potential owners of new homes to demand electrical heating in their brand new, three-mortgage bungalows.

Now I hope my rambling remarks have given you at least a hint of the problems I believe must be solved if humanity is to survive, and that you will try to find solutions for them. If you undertake such a difficult task and succeed in it, your names will outshine even that of the illustrious Henry George.

The common man, I must admit, is not easily aroused. He is slow to recognize threats unless they tramp heavily upon his toes. Once set in motion, though, he constitutes an irresistible force. Who is to set him in motion? Well, what are you doing here, unless you are preparing to lead the common man to a better way of life.

I have been dashing about in the pursuit of my nefarious trade, snapping at the heels of the masses. Once or twice I have managed to budge them perhaps an inch or so. I suggest you should get into the game. We must keep hope alive in our hearts, if only for the reason that it is not yet taxable.

Greetings to you and all our friends. By law of nature there is a vast difference between personal property which comes and goes and land which runs on forever. We will have no economic justice until governments recognize this basic fact.

Message to the conference from  
Judge John R. Fuchs of Texas

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