

Caribbean Cruise

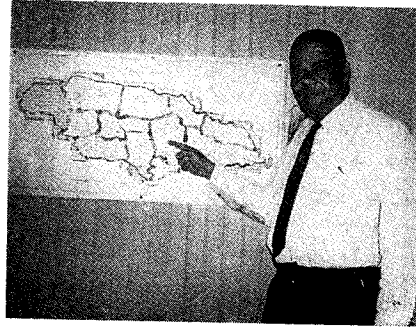
ROBERT CLANCY, Director of the Henry George School, New York, visited the Caribbean islands of Jamaica, Haiti and Puerto Rico in mid-December (missing the big snow by a few hours).

He was made speedily and hospitably "at home" in Jamaica by Phillip Wallace, newly appointed Director of the Henry George School, and by Mr. S. O. Veitch, Deputy Secretary of the People's National Party, who had been a visitor to the Henry George School in New York. (See Oct. HGN).

Mr. Clancy also saw members of the Jamaica government, including Norman Manley, the Premier, Keble Munn, Minister of Agriculture, and O. C. Stephenson, Acting Commissioner of Land Valuation, who gave information on the system of land valuation and land value taxation adopted on this island.

Mr. Wallace, a student of Urquhart Adams, who last year taught classes in Jamaica, is continuing the Henry George School on a voluntary basis. He and his colleagues are, naturally, not satisfied with the small degree of land value taxation that is being applied, but they intend to build up the educational work so that Georgist ideas will have greater influence.

Jamaica struck the visitor as a country of mixed races—Oriental, as well as African and Occidental—and presents a good example of inter-racial harmony. Unfortunately, Jamaica still has its problem of poverty, although not quite so acute as in Haiti. This French-speaking country is endowed with great natural beauty, but abject poverty is all too prevalent. However,



Mr. O. C. Stephenson, Jamaica's Acting Commissioner of Land Valuation. Jamaica is divided into sections for land valuation purposes, and further subdivided, so that every piece of property can be immediately identified.

it is a land full of interest, and there are a number of very cultured and high-minded persons who are seeking to elevate the status of their country. Among them are Schiller Nicolas, former Minister of Agriculture and a Georgist, and his father-in-law, Dantès Bellegarde, a prominent diplomat and author.

Mr. Clancy was pleasantly surprised to meet a former graduate of the Henry George School now teaching in Haiti. Although at present no classes are being taught in Haiti, Georgist ideas will soon be made known there via the French correspondence course.

In Puerto Rico Mr. Clancy visited the two principal cities, San Juan and Ponce, where the densest population is to be found suffering the usual ill effects of scarce and extremely high priced land. The average man cannot afford to own even a small homesite. The general complaint is "over population," but as pointed out by the New York director, if they looked around

they would see their problem to be really one of mal-distribution and unused land.

The recently established Henry George School in Puerto Rico is under the direction of Edwin Rios Maldonado, an idealistic young man with many good connections in business. He has already conducted several classes, advanced as well as basic, and has trained other teachers. A graduation dinner was held in Ponce on De-

cember 18th which Mr. Clancy attended and addressed.

In general, the Caribbean islands are stirring and feeling the impact of modern progress. They also have on their hands the problems, already mentioned, of poverty, mal-distribution of wealth and limited land. They are ripe for the message of Henry George, and it is to be hoped that the small start made in Jamaica will grow and spread over the entire area.

Tasmania's Graduated Land Taxes

From Mr. J. Heckley, a reader in Queenstown, comes news of a Tasmanian tax debate and a useful tabulation of the valuations and their corresponding exemptions.

The land tax is graduated according to value. On rural land, if the unimproved value does not exceed £4,800 there is no taxable value. If the unimproved value exceeds £4,800, but does not exceed £7,200, the taxable value is the unimproved value, less an exemption arrived at by deducting from £4,800 two pounds for every pound by which the unimproved value exceeds £4,800.

If the unimproved value exceeds £7,200 the taxable value is the total unimproved value, i.e., no exemption.

On urban land, if the unimproved value does not exceed £120 there is no taxable value. If the unimproved value exceeds £120, the taxable value

is the unimproved value. (The minimum tax is ten shillings). The graduated rates continue as follows:

£120-£480; 1/2d (pence) for each £ of taxable value.

£480-£960; one £ plus 3/4d for each £ over £480

£960-£2,400; £2-0-0 plus 1d for each £ over £960

£2,400-£3,600; £8-10-0 plus 1 1/2d for each £ over £2,400

£3,600-£4,800; £16-0-0 plus 2d for each £ over £3,600

£4,800-£9,600; £26-0-0 plus 2 1/2d for each £ over £9,600

£9,600-£14,400; £76-0-0 plus 3d for each £ over £9,600

£48,000-£72,000; £738-10-0 plus 6d for each £ over £48,000

Over £72,000; £1338-10-0 plus 7d for every £ over £72,000

GEORGE TOMFOHR

A Geogist of long standing, and loyal friend of HGN, George Tomfohr, died at his home in Kalispell, Montana, at the age of 72. He is survived by Mrs. Tomfohr, a son, and two grandchildren. His son's name is Henry George Tomfohr. He operated a machine shop, and liked to sketch as a hobby. One of his drawings appeared in HGN in January, 1960.