

From the archives

"Giving back a bit of the shove Henry George gave me..."



G B Shaw

THE PLAYWRIGHT GEORGE Bernard Shaw said Henry George changed the "whole current" of his life.

After hearing George speak, Shaw – a leading figure in 20th century theatre – joined the Fabian Society in 1884. In 1893 Shaw collaborated with Keir Hardie in writing the programme for the new Independent Labour Party. He co-founded the London

School of Economics and in 1925 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Shaw died in 1950. The May-June 1933 issue of L&L reported a radio address that Shaw delivered in New York on 11 April 1933, written up in the *New York Times*.

The complete index and selected articles from back issues of *Land & Liberty* are being archived and will soon be online at: www.henrygeorge.org.uk. On this page we reprint what Shaw said 69 years ago:



Shaw's play *Pygmalion* on stage in the guise of West End musical *My Fair Lady*

"When I was a young man... science was to me a thing outside politics. I didn't know there was such a thing as political science.

"I went one night, quite casually, into a hall in London, and heard a man deliver a speech which changed the whole current of my life. That man was an American – Henry George. He was a man from San Francisco. He was a man who really had seen places such as San Francisco grow up from

Your views

Conspiracy

In your last issue (L&L Winter 2001/02) there is an insert drawing attention to the work of Frank Othick in 1963, where he demonstrated that the mechanics of land valuation were very simple – if hard on the feet. Last summer I had the privilege of being engaged

to review both this and the 1973 follow-up by Othick and Wilks and submitting a report to the Henry George Foundation.

In essence, my report says that the conclusions of Othick and Wilks were received and noted by all of the relevant professional bodies and then just ignored – as though suppressed.

Robert W Young
London N5 1JA

Thirst for freedom

Ian Mason has said that fiscal reform follows spiritual and cultural regeneration. Shirley-Anne Hardy tells us (L&L Winter 2001/02) that "the great mass of Scots" are "a people grossly held down" by the land tenure system and consequently incapable of spiritual and cultural regeneration. For them, "the restoration to them of a direct stake in their own land" must come first.

That would be nice but it is unlikely. Yet she herself holds out some hope that Scots do already understand the basis of this regeneration. They know, she says, that "(land) is the basis of life, identity and spirituality."

Henry George wrote in *A Perplexed Philosopher* that "before liberty can truly reign men must be fit for liberty." He says: "The yearning for liberty" and some perception of the wrong done by its denial is the beginning of the true change." The problem is how to reach that yearning. I am afraid

that happening upon some small helping of land value taxation will not do it. George himself said that it could only be ignited by "a religious conscience."

Richard Giles
New South Wales
Australia

Full of eastern promise

All free traders must unite to complain about President Bush's imposition of 30 per cent duties on many US steel imports.

The burden of this lies in the first place on free traders in the USA. It is American industry that will ultimately suffer.

Unlike the British Labour Party, I have not yet had a contribution from Lakshmi Mittal (who lobbied Bush to impose the duties), but I will happily pass on any future contributions to the Henry George Foundation should you teach him the error of his ways.

Andrew Alexander
Chairman, Free Trade League
Rousham, Oxon



Othick and Wilks used the land of Whitstable in Kent to prove the valuation theory

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George had seen places grow from nothing into enormous rich places; and he had noticed that the richer they got, the poorer they got

comparatively nothing into enormous rich places; and he had noticed also that the richer they got, the poorer they got.

"They had got into this terrible tangle that your growth in riches, your spread in science, and what you call civilisation, was accompanied by an appalling reduction of the standard of life in your people, and the spread of pauperism. Well, Henry George put me on to the economic tack and the tack of political science.

Shortly afterwards, I read Karl Marx and all the early political sciences of that time; but it was the American, Henry George, who started me.

"Therefore, as that happened at the beginning of my life, I have thought it fitting that now at the end of my life, because it will cheer you to hear that there can't be very much more of it (laughter), but that at the end of it, perhaps, I might come and give here in America back a little of that shove that Henry George gave to me." **L&L**



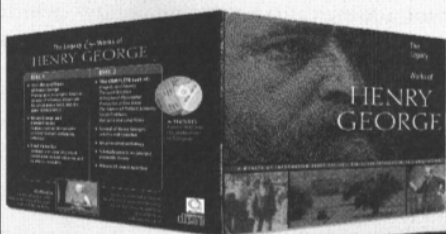
Joanna Riding as Eliza Doolittle in My Fair Lady

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