

It's Progress Man!

The Americans have come up with a really super-duper killing machine — a sort of shotgun device to scatter a lot of little nuclear warheads instead of one big warhead. The ghoul who wrote it up in the Southam Press said it would be most useful against "soft" targets like open cities. The claim is also made that the radiation effect of the new artillery will be very good at poisoning the atmosphere with radioactive dropout.

If they haven't got it already the Russians will probably have it soon. And the Chinese will have it before very long. They are good gamblers and don't tip their hands as readily as we do.

So this is civilization! Civilization, according to the definition in my dictionary, is an *advanced* social organization. And indeed we have advanced, in some respects, beyond the society of Stone Age man. We have invented

money, alphabets, and the wheel. But it is doubtful if we have made any advance in the field of ethical conduct. In spite of the admonitions which warn us that those who live by the sword will die by it and the counsel to love our neighbors as ourselves, we seem to disregard both. We are savages with technical training that makes us monsters with terrifying destructive powers.

Yet there is hope for us. Henry George Schools, in various parts of the world, are busy teaching ethics, or, if you like, common honesty and fair dealing. The Georgists, as they call themselves, seem to be the only group with any conception of how justice, the basic social ethical concept, can be attained. And the encouraging thing is that their influence is increasing as articles appear in more publications of national and international scope.

— Urquhart Adams



SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS REASSESSMENT

The much contested reassessment of vacant land in Nassau County, Long Island, has been upheld by the Supreme Court of the State of New York. However, its opponents believe it to be discriminatory and illegal, and court action and appeals are expected when tax bills are received in October.

The program initiated by Eugene H. Nickerson, County Executive, was directed against land speculators who, while holding land in lieu of higher prices, are not paying their full share of taxes. The new plan bases assessment of vacant land on current market value and has added \$63 million to the rolls of school districts which last year totaled over \$3 billion. It was said, therefore, by a member of the Nassau Board of Assessors who opposed it, that the court's affirmative decision was no surprise, since "it would have been almost physically impossible to change the land valuations back." Increases in valuation were made on 21,854 of the 22,883 parcels studied.

A spokesman for the Democratic majority on this board said they were delighted with the decision, and the new program meant that the assessment rolls would be equalized and the average property owner would be able to understand how his assessment was determined. The next step will be improvement of administrative facilities to make the handling of assessing procedures equitable and expedient.

James Clarkson, mayor of Southfield, Michigan, will speak at a mass meeting at the Progressive Baptist Church, the largest colored congregation in Chicago, at 3658 Wentworth Avenue on August 14th. This is the meeting organized by Wilbur Johnson, which was announced for July 10th but was postponed to the August date.