

A Good Gamble

Dear Mr. Chodorov: When I received the announcement of the correspondence course, my first reaction was to throw it in the waste basket, for I am afraid of things that are free. But for some reason I decided that maybe it would be a good gamble to invest one dollar in a copy of "Progress and Poverty."

When the book arrived, I read the introduction and the conclusion—I have found that an excellent way to find out whether a book is worth reading. The conclusion especially impressed me. I read the book through.

I immediately decided that I would have to try to get George's ideas across to a class in this CCC Camp, and so I started making abridged lessons and having them mimeographed. I got the class through Book V in four months; that's why I sent in only two correspondence lessons in that time. It was hard work, but perhaps it was worth it. Then I went to work on my course and finished it.

We now have a new company here and I am trying to get the Educational Advisor interested in having some of the boys take the correspondence course. From what I know of CCC camps, most of them will be here only long enough to get about half way through the book. I can help them with their correspondence work in classes held either every morning for 30 minutes, or once a week for an hour or two.

So much for my first reaction to "Progress and Poverty."

I studied Taussig in college, and got very little out of it. During the Technocracy craze I read everything I could get on the subject, including the more important of Veblen's works. But Veblen has nothing constructive to offer except a "soviet of engineers." I am much interested in the Russian experiment, but it won't work. I have always felt rather dimly that Christianity would work, if it were given a trial. During the past few years it has become necessary for me to get something to tie to, and I have found that religion will work if it is given a chance—for there is no difference whatever in the teachings of the different religions. Buddha said: "There

are not many truths, there is one truth." The Man of Nazareth said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." In Psalms it is written: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof." That is my understanding of Henry George's teaching.

I have an A.B. from Yale, and an M.A. from New Mexico, both of which cost me quite a lot. But the free course in the Henry George School of Social Science is worth as much as either of them, although they undoubtedly did much toward getting me in the proper frame of mind to accept George's philosophy.
—William Chauvenet, New Mexico.