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New Light on Old Russia By V. G. PETERSON (A Review)

IN THE beginning, the magnet which drew Russia and the United States into friendship was their antagonism for Great Britain. Max M. Laserson's book, *The American Impact on Russia: Diplomatic and Ideological, 1784-1917*, is a record of that pre-Stalinist relationship.

German and French influences were great in Russia. English influences were also considerable, though never widespread. Interesting to note is that as early as Catherine II, two Russian students were sent to Glasgow to study under Adam Smith and brought back the main ideas published later in *Wealth of Nations*.

But it was not to old Europe, but to young America that the Russian liberals turned for inspiration. The American Constitution became the ideal which vitalized Russian political and socioeconomic philosophy and put sinews into the fight for constitutional reforms. A correspondence between Alexander I, Thomas Jefferson and Joseph Priestley discloses that, at the Emperor's request, Jefferson sent four pieces of literature, to Russia explaining the American Constitution. The attitude of the court is reflected in a letter from Alexander to Jefferson: "At all times I nourish a very high esteem for your nation which knew well enough how to use its independence particularly by giving itself a free and wise constitution which insures the happiness of all and that of every one in particular."

As in slave-holding America, the emancipation of the Russian serf came only after a long struggle. Many were the brave voices silenced by execution or exile. Many were those who fled their Fatherland to continue their fight from European capitals. Dr. Laserson gives us some of their stories.

One of these was Alexander Herzen. Surviving two exiles, Herzen left Russia to set up headquarters in Western Europe. Here, in brilliant articles, he vented his anger against czarism and serfdom. His "Kolokol" (Bell), though officially banned in Russia, was widely circulated there and was read by members of the royal household.

Another was Nicholas Chernyshevski who, because he remained in Russia, was hamstrung by censorship. A system of doubletalk called the Aesopic language which he employed, did, however, enable him to get over his ideas in disguised form. Thus, the abolition of serfdom—an illegal goal—was called a "reasonable distribution of economic relations" and was clearly understood. In 1858 Chernyshevski's "Sovremennik" sent to all its subscribers, as a free supplement, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. As Dr. Laserson points out, "the acceptance of this story into Russian literature in the 1850's and 1860's is one of the most interesting features of American cultural and political influence in Russia."

Serf and slave were freed almost simultaneously. After that, the two countries followed similar capitalistic lines of industrialization until 1918, when they parted company.



MAX M. LASERSON

Author of "The American Impact on Russia: Diplomatic and Ideological, 1784-1917." (Macmillan, New York. 426 pp. Indexed, illustrated, \$5). Lecturer at Columbia University on Contemporary Civilization.

The chapter, "Henry George in Russia" is valuable because through his translation of Russian books and other documents, the author has brought to light new information. For the first time we have some measurement of the impact on pre-Soviet thought by the great American economist. This was felt first about 1880 and his popularity was greatest between 1900 and 1910, in which period the agrarian problem was being hotly debated.

By 1910 most of Henry George's books, important articles and speeches had been translated, read and interpreted in Russia. *Progress and Poverty* had been twice translated and many revised editions had appeared after the revolution of 1905. Censorship had been lenient. Only such references as, for example, the one describing the crowned heads of Europe sitting on barrels of nitroglycerine and the allusion to the hanging of the three Nihilists at Kiev, had been deleted.

Like the puzzle-builder who chooses from among his many colored pieces those which fit the pattern as he envisions it, each school of Russian thought—the Populists on the one end, the Marxists on the other—took from George that which best suited its political goal.

A letter from Karl Marx to his friend Friedrich Sorge displays his ignorance of the American scene. He asks, "... how did it happen in the United States where in comparison with civilized Europe land has been relatively accessible and to a certain degree remained so, to the great masses of people, that the capitalist economy and its enslavement of the working classes grew quicker and more shamelessly than in any other country?"

A non-Marxist German economist, Werner Sombart, made the interesting observation in 1906 that "If ... modern socialism actually is nothing but a phenomenon of reaction against capitalism ... the United States must inevitably become the classical country of socialism and its working people the bearer of the most radical socialist movement." That this has failed to materialize, Dr. Laserson says, is one of the great disappointments of European socialists.

"The social doctrines of Russian Populism grew from the roots of the reparitional tenure of allotment land before the emancipation, implemented periodically by the village community. Periodic distribution and redistribution by village communal assemblies with the intention that such redistribution should be made justly and equitably to each member households became routine and self-understood. From this institutional custom the Social Revolutionaries later built up their ideas of equal land use. Thus Russian agrarian Populism created its own conception of a new peasant socialism permeated by the ideas of natural law and justice. This in itself was a repudiation of Western Marxism."

From the above it is easy to see how Henry George fitted into the land nationalization program of the Russian Populists. They did not embrace him wholly; nor did they believe that his doctrines had universal application, but, according to such Populists as Tugan-Baranovskii, *Progress and Poverty* was "the first independent and original American answer to the old problem ... how to abolish poverty" ... and, "transferred to the sphere of economics 'liberty, equality and brotherhood' which must be made the basis of the social order." Another Populist, Victor Chernov, called for the socialization of land, which the author distinguishes from land nationalization.

The first legislative expression of Populist ideas was a bill introduced in the Second Duma. Articles one and two read: "Every kind of (private) property in land is from now on and forever abolished." "All land with its waters and subsoil is proclaimed to be the possession of the whole population of the Russian State." Cornered by land nationalization and land socialization, the czarist government took refuge in legislation which further entrenched the principle of private property in land. This was passed, despite vigorous opposition.

Henry George was the common denominator between the Russian Populists and the followers of Leo Tolstoy. It was George's program of land reform which lured Tolstoy into his first and only defense of any kind of legislation and law. "For decades he had fanatically condemned law for distorting morals," Dr. Laserson explains. "However, Henry George conquered the soul and heart of Leo Tolstoy, as a conscience-stricken landlord worried about the fate of Russian peasantry." The influence of the American on this Russian proponent of the

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A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

The uproar between Britain and Iran over the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company points up some noteworthy current trends.

First (a fact scarcely needing further corroboration), that Asia is Number One trouble spot in the world today—quite a "spot," at that.

Then, there's the interesting fact that this is essentially a dispute over raw materials—a *land question*—quite in line with lots of other disputes going on in Asia and elsewhere.

Learned economists for some time have been chanting that land just doesn't count anymore—not so much as formerly, anyway. It's beginning to look as though they were wrong.

Supreme Court Justice Douglas, after his recent trip to Asia, warned us that the land question is Asia's biggest problem, and that anything we want to do to gain the good will of the peoples of Asia had better take this into account.

Of course, the idea of our seeking the good will of Asiatics is relatively new. The U. S., Britain, and a few others have in the past gotten used to the idea of marching into Asia and setting up local leaders to negotiate with.

Now, a little too suddenly, the voice of Mother Asia's millions is beginning to be heard. Imagine! It is a bit shocking—even frightening, when you realize how many there are.

The High Contracting Parties make their plans, their global strategy, including how much oil goes where—and then this!

The Iranians are probably not handling the matter in the most discreet way, and nationalization of the oil industry is probably not the right solution. (There's a ticklish—and tickling—situation involved here, what with Socialist Britain not being a stranger to nationalization).

Still, it is good that the issue has been raised. Let more such issues be raised. Let not the age-old dragon of land monopoly slumber forever undisturbed over his treasure.

Indeed, the sooner the issue is raised, examined, met and solved, the better. Asia is easy prey for the bait of "land for the landless" held out by Communists. The "foreign imperialist" issue only scratches the surface; there's still Asia's home-grown dragon. If the leaders of the "free" world had the courage of their convictions, they might help Asia find herself.

Gems for Georgists

By NOAH D. ALPER

Nice Start

From a Life Magazine article on the Waldorf-Astoria, we gleaned this gem: "Ironically, these 47 floors of magnificence stand on land which the Waldorf does not even own. It leases it from the New York Central Railroad at an annual rate starting at \$300,000."

"Agrarian Reformers"

The following is taken from a full column leading editorial of The Evening World-Herald, Omaha, Nebraska, April 2, 1951—sent by Major A. W. Falvey. In view of the economic knowledge of the relation of man to the land factor the comments on land reform are strictly primitive.

"As 'agrarian reformers' Communists have not done very well.

"Wherever they have sought power they have promised to give land to the farmers who have worked it."

"But if the Communists have done badly with the land problem, so has most of the non-Communist world. In many countries the large landowners still fail to see that if they don't break up their estates voluntarily, or with Government co-operation, the land may be taken from them by revolution."

"It is a curious circumstance, therefore, that perhaps the most successful 'agrarian reformer' of the day is a man who probably has never thought of himself in that light. He is General MacArthur, whose program for redistributing Japanese farmland has met with widespread approval, has resulted in increased production, and has made the Japanese farmer into a firm foe of communism."

"That MacArthur's program should succeed where the Reds have so signally failed is due in part, of course, to the skill of the administrator."

"As agrarian planners and reformers, the forebears of the present generation of Americans did rather well by making it possible for a citizen to acquire a farm, and then letting him alone."

Red Land Reform a Snare

There is lots of talk these days about "land reform"—against the Soviet type and, in some places, for the simple-syrup agrarian type. Peter Lisagor, writing for The Chicago Daily News and The St. Louis Post-Dispatch tells the story in a March 30th news item in this paragraph: "The State Department said the North Korean farmer had to give up his best quality grain and produce for the tax-in-kind imposed by the state. His ox and cart were taxed and he was required to support the weighty Communist bureaucracy of land officials. At the end of a crop year, he didn't have enough to buy his quota of cotton goods from the state-owned mills."

Of course this is only part of the story. But it was interesting to note that in the good old U.S.A. farm tenancy up'd from 25 per cent in 1880, when the census started recording the data, to 42 per cent plus in the early 1930's. It would have continued up except for the New-Fair Deal policy of extracting wealth from many to pay a few farmers to buy land with mortgage attached or lift the mortgage out of unearned profits. The land question boils at the edge—the agrarian edge. It needs a bit of heat in its middle say at about No. 1 Wall Street, or under Radio City's 12 acres (\$3¼ million a year).

National Sales Tax Test

In Elmer Roessner's column on Business which appears in The St. Louis Globe Democrat (March 14, 1951) we find this item:

"Georgia, in adopting one of the broadest sales taxes imposed, will serve as a sort of guinea pig for the proposed federal sales taxes."

"Other states have sales taxes but few have the 3 per cent rate imposed by Georgia and few apply it so broadly. Beginning April first all retail transactions, admissions, utilities and transportation will be taxed, as will gasoline, beverage and cigarettes, already subjected to other state taxes. The effects on sales, standards of living and attempts at evasion may give an idea of what will happen if a federal sales tax is enacted."

Am I Hooked?

I saw it in the paper—an "ad" showing a man in "cap and gown" holding a sign which read: "How To Be 'in-the-know' for \$1." It promises I will have a "better understanding of the economic forces at work today and to evaluate the position of the American Economy among conflicting ideologies."

I am aware that millions now living have been exposed to economics at college level, many of them are in positions of leadership in all walks of life. I have a feeling that in spite of this, chaos and "confusion compounded" have engulfed the people of this country. "What," I asked myself, "does this university in New York City have that is different?" So I sent the dollar! Am I hooked?

Econo-quiz

By HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN

Question: Why cannot an increased tax upon land values reduce wages by being shifted into the cost of living as other taxes are.

Answer. Answering in terms of business economics, and with the least dilation, the increased tax does not increase the value of the land. Every landlord having common business sense already charges his tenant all he can get.

That's all there is, there ain't no more.

He cannot get more rent than his land is worth. If he operates a business on his own holding, so that he is both landlord and tenant, he cannot pay an increased rent out of a business the net gain of which is reduced by the increased tax. If he holds land idle there is no tenant with whom even to discuss the matter. Besides having to pay the tax himself, he will find the next prospective buyer of his lot discussing the increased tax as a reason for a reduction in its price.

In political economy the answer is more thorough. Land varies in quality. Some will yield barely enough to induce men to continue to labor on it. Such land yields only wages. Hence the law of wages may be stated thus: *Wages depend upon what can be produced from the poorest land in use.* That is, upon the margin of production.

For the use of the land better than the margin of production, the landholders will demand all the excess producible over what can be expected by the same application of labor and capital on the margin. This excess is rent. Whether there be a tenant to pay it or a landholder who gets it by attention to his business, does not matter. The rent is there—like the cream which rises on fresh milk, it is a separate value. It is a value in excess of the cost of production.

The real cost of living is the labor required to produce the living. The minimum standard of living with the maximum labor is determined by the poorest land to which men will resort.

An increased tax upon land values can be paid only from rent. There being no land value on the margin of production, such a tax cannot be levied there. Therefore the income from labor on marginal land cannot be reduced by a land value tax. Thus the income from labor on other lands would not be reduced. Is not this another way of saying that such a tax cannot be shifted into the cost of living?

John C. Lincoln Says No To Government Ownership

A Chicago businessman writes: "Your letters are very persuasive, but . . . If government taxed land 100 per cent, the effect would be to make government the owner. There would be no inducement to own land for rental purposes. To own land on terms fixed by the government is nothing more than having a lease from the government. We might as well nationalize all land and be done with it."

I am unalterably opposed to government ownership. Government ownership means government control. The public appropriation of ground rent would enormously extend the use of land by private individuals, each having complete freedom to use his land as he sees fit. How many land users, farmers for instance, have that privilege now? The fact that the public collection of ground rent would destroy the incentive to own land for rental purposes is one of the chief arguments in its favor. If land may be justly rented by one man to another, then the equality of opportunity for all men to the use of the land is violated. No man made the land; no man has the right to charge another for its use. No man has the right to live off the earnings of another man—unless the other man is willing.

The desirability of a given piece of land is determined by its location with respect to population and public services; by the effectiveness with which capital and labor may be applied to it in the production and exchange of wealth, and by the readiness with which its occupant may supply his needs for goods and services. None of those advantages, please note, is the result of individual effort. Each is concomitant to community growth. They should be paid for by the use of the site to which they pertain. Such payment, called ground rent, should go to the community for community expenses. In normal times ground rent would be sufficient for the expenses of government. In abnormal times, such as these, its collection would permit a reduction of billions of dollars annually in taxes on labor products.

If, as our correspondent says, the public collection of ground rent would in effect make the government the owner of the land, what is to be said of our present tax system which now takes a huge slice of individually produced wealth and is getting ready to take more? Is the government any less the owner in that case? Are not both types of ownership wrong?

The use of ground rent for the public expense would not affect land titles; they would remain in private names as now. The landholder would continue in complete and exclusive possession of his land so long as he paid his ground rent, just as now he retains his home or business property only so long as he pays his taxes. Buildings and other improvements on the land would count for what they are—improvements. They would neither add to the value of the land itself nor increase ground rent. Moreover, rent for rural lands—farms, pasturage, etc., would be insignificant as compared with that of million-dollar city lots. Ground rent in each community would be fixed by local boards, just as assessments and tax rates are now fixed, with the same right of appeal and review. They would be determined by machinery similar to that used in many localities throughout the land, notably such large cities as New York and Pittsburgh.

—From the May Lincoln Letter

PLAIN TALK by Jerome Joachim

Unless the American people quickly rid themselves of the leadership which at present is taking us rapidly down the road to state socialism we will soon be in the same predicament as the one in which England finds herself. Every business man, every employer and every laborer realizes daily how extremely difficult and impossible the present situation is becoming. In England conditions are becoming so bad there is serious doubt as to whether the labor government will be re-elected.

State ownership of the coal mines in England in 1947 brought on a coal famine the first year and innumerable residents of England's large cities had to shiver by candlelight amid the gloom of winter afternoons. Again last winter there was a coal crisis and again the government was unable to foresee it coming. Instead of exporting coal the Minister of Fuel announced that he would import coal from America. Being the first time in the history of the nation that this had ever happened the British ports were not equipped to unload American colliers and the coal had to be taken to Holland for expensive transshipment. Meanwhile each householder was reduced to a few scuttlesful of coal, industry was given drastically reduced amounts and many railroad trains were suspended.

Now the government has taken over the iron and steel production of the nation—at a time when armaments for Britain are all important. This was done—so the Socialists contend—for the benefit of the wage earners, whose welfare they claim to have above all at heart.

But the nationalization of the coal mines has not filled the men who go down to the pits, with the delights prognosticated. The miners have found the government coal board an employer as harsh as any capitalist. The Britains still ration food, the trade-unionist's like that of everybody else. Meat, butter, margarine, cheese and sugar are to be bought only in limited quantities.



Despite low prices made possible by subsidies provided from excessive duties on tobacco, wines and spirits, the January meat ration was brought down to the value of 16 cents a week. Even a Socialist can see the futility of a low price for no meat.

Housing in England, under socialism, is shorter than ever before.

Though government has not forbidden private building it has made it very difficult. Licenses to build are either not issued or with much procrastination. Many of the meatless Socialists remain homeless as well. The government keeps rents low, so low that dwellings are not kept in proper repair and tenants will not evacuate houses which are too large for them.

No country except Russia has more socialism than Britain today but the result is not a welfare state but one in which everyone suffers, particularly the little people. And daily our administration is attempting to bring to us more of the "welfare measures" which are impoverishing England. Effort to promote the welfare of everyone in general and of the industrial wage-earner in particular, are foredoomed no matter by whom or where attempted. The argument that if control and direction by the state were sufficiently embracing all factories would at once become efficiently located, all decisions would be wise, prompt and expert, and the happy smile on the worker's face would be permanent—will not bear examination. Complete centralization is not only a task beyond human capacity but one which—if it were possible—would result in the complete degradation of all except those responsible for such planning.

But enslavement to the socialistic doctrines which Edward Bellamy portrayed causes many of our leaders to persist in trying to alleviate problems caused by lack of incentives with solutions which decrease incentives still more.

Government Only

By JOHN R. RICHARDSON

THE function of government is to govern. It has to do this by creating a law code that will work justly and equitably, yet leave the people as free as possible.

"Are we preserving freedom in this land of ours? Have we, the inheritors of this continent and of the ideals to which the fathers consecrated it—maintained them, realizing them, as each generation must, anew?"

These questions were asked by Woodrow Wilson, who wrote further: "The answer must be, I am sure, that we have been in a fair way of failure. And we stand in danger of utter failure yet, except we fulfill speedily the determination we have reached, to deal with the new and subtle tyrannies according to their deserts. Make their organized power permanent, and it may be too late to turn back."

Our present government is cumbersome and top-heavy with bureaus and interfering agencies, all requiring a tax burden that weighs heavily upon the people. All its faults flow automatically from one big mistake—permitting private property in land.

New Light on Old Russia

(Continued from Page One)

non-resistance of evil doctrine, is well defined in his writings.

The outbreak of the World War in 1914 brought to a halt the industrialization of Russia which had started after the emancipation. In the hectic years which followed, dissatisfaction with the West and the belief, growing since the 1860's, that the United States was a nation of fortune-hunters, gained steadily. The ineptness of American diplomats did not help matters. From Francis Dana, the Putnam lawyer, who was the first American minister sent to Russia in 1781 and who was not recognized by Catherine II, to David Francis, ambassador to the last Czar, America continuously sent men unable to speak the language and only faintly familiar with Russian history and affairs.

The tide of Russian-American friendship rose out of their mutual distrust of Great Britain. As Anglo-American solidarity developed, it receded. Dr. Laserson's book, a pioneer in its field, helps to show us why. As background for understanding relations between the two countries today, this encyclopedic work will be indispensable.

To Market, To Market . . .

By MARSHALL CRANE

MAN'S natural laziness has waged a constant but losing fight against his urge to alter his environment ever since the earliest times. And as century has followed century he has found more and more ways to produce more and more wealth from the gifts of nature. It would seem that there is a natural tendency for goods to become more plentiful and less expensive. With this in mind the immortal Mr. Dooley once said that man could live like a human being if it were not for human nature.

We are moved to awe sometimes by the thoughtless destructiveness of nature, but it is really not such forces that thrust us forth from our earthly paradise, but rather things which should be within our control. For even the humblest beasts manage to hold their own against earthquake, hurricane, famine and disease. Man's fall comes from within himself. The acquisitiveness which is both the parent and the problem child of his wealth perversely drives him out to destroy his own and his neighbor's substance. He makes vainglorious and futile claim to the ownership of the earth from which he is made. There is, I think, no doubt that war and the appropriation of rent have always been the most constant and most powerful enemies of productive activity. And just as plenty tends to make goods cheap, so scarcity makes money cheap, and prices high.

Working toward the same effect are other influences of another sort, viz: those that tend to increase the amount of money in circulation. Conquest, exploration and technological research have greatly increased the supply of the precious metals. Even the earliest coins were stamped with a ring, to prevent "clipping," but there are few if any governments which have not themselves clipped or devaluated their coinage at one time or another. Many have abandoned all pretense, and have simply issued fiat money, worth no more than the credit of the issuer. Popes, emperors, kings, ministers and presidents have sometimes spent tremendous sums of public money on more or less useful public works, or to maintain great armies. Such things tend to lower the relative value of money, and to raise prices.

But while prices generally may be either high or low, the price of any particular object represents its value at the time, relative to all other objects. It is the quotient of its desirability divided by its availability. For the free, open market automatically takes account of prospects and hazards, natural, economic and political, like a skilled insurance actuary. Its vast computing machine weighs every factor and reduces the sum to dollars and cents. It is the most truly democratic institution which man has evolved, expressing not the will of a majority or group, but something of the opinion of all who buy and sell, which it voices directly, without representatives or intermediaries, day by day and hour by hour.

In the freedom of this open arena money performs one of its most important functions. It becomes the yardstick of relative value. The value of money itself may change—as, for instance, when the national debt soars from less than twenty billion to two hundred and fifty billion dollars in half a generation!—but it is nevertheless the only reliable indicator of the relative values of all goods and services which we buy and sell.

I have heard many discussions of government control of the prices of raw materials and manufactured goods. I cannot recall one in which the subject of black markets did not come up. Advocates of price control did not always seem to realize that it is inevitably accompanied by the black market. But economically the black market is a symptom rather than a disease, and treatment of a symptom alone can never remove its cause. Perhaps its worst feature is its tendency to become associated with organized crime of all sorts, which it strengthens, and which strengthens it in return. I am sure that most wartime housewives would have been horrified and incredulous if they had been told that they were aiding the operations of the white slave and narcotics rackets when they bought a pound of butter from under the counter. But criminologists say there is no doubt that this is true.

The influence of illegal buying habits on the public morale in general is one of those intangible things which is often forgotten. A civilized people is one which lives according to an accepted code of law and custom. Rousseau and others have maintained that civilization itself is evil. I will not argue the point. But I will venture the opinion that without it life would be impossible for large populations. If civilization is an evil, it is a necessary evil in modern times. Today law is as essential to man as instinct is to a community of bees or ants. "Law-abiding" people are those who generally accept the mores of their time, and who live according to the rules which they or their rulers have enacted. Such habits of conformity are certainly weakened when public opinion does not condemn the individual citizen who passes judgment on the laws of the community and obeys or disobeys them as he finds it expedient or convenient. A very wise man—I have forgotten his name—once remarked profoundly that we weaken the entire structure of law when we disobey any law, even if it is a bad one. This is a good thought for any legislator to ponder, whether he is a councilman, an assemblyman, a congressman or a dictator. He too is to blame when a bad law is broken.

Such restrictions as price controls produce some very questionable political and moral repercussions, as we have seen. But it is in the economic field, perhaps, that their impact is most immediate and their evil influence strongest. When Henry George defined exchange as a process or phase of production he was not employing a mere figure of speech. When any regulation retards the turn-over of goods in the marketplace or store the effect is apparent, and very quickly, in the freight yard, on the docks, in the warehouse, in the factory, in the mine and on the farm. All of production is affected. The entire team must change its plays and revise its signals.

Of course this is terribly expensive and upsetting. But industry in general is a very tough customer. It could take such a blow in its stride under certain conditions. If the manufacturer could be assured that the new rule meant just that in the future his product was to have a lower relative, or real value, he could very well, by chopping costs here and there, manage to keep in production. But even the brainiest Planner cannot promise him anything like this. The "controlled" price is an absolute one, which

Unanimous Vote for New Third Class City Code In Pennsylvania Senate

ANOTHER significant step pointing toward ultimate victory for the optional graded tax plan for third class cities has been taken by the State Senate, which had already passed the McGinnis bill (Senate No. 121) by a vote of 5 to 0. [See May Henry George News].

The Committee on Local Government has now amended the Third Class City Code (codification of all legislation affecting third class cities now pending in the Legislature) so as to incorporate in the code the provisions of the McGinnis bill. The proposed new code was reported as amended and on May 10th passed the Senate by a unanimous vote. Thus the Senate has now twice placed a decisive stamp of approval on the legislation sponsored by the Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania.

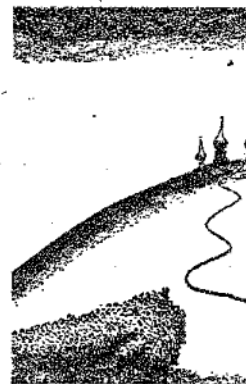
Early action in the House of Representatives is now anticipated. Both the code and the McGinnis bill are now in the House Committee on Cities of the Third Class and the committee chairman, Hon. D. W. Dalrymple, of Erie is favorable to the legislation. Hon. Hiram C. Andrews, Minority Leader of the House, has also endorsed the measure.

The final passage of either of these bills would achieve the first goal of the Pennsylvania campaign. But even though it would involve duplicate legislation and might be regarded as superfluous, the campaign leaders are urging the passage of both bills, because the McGinnis bill would become effective immediately while the Third Class City Code would become effective in January, 1952.

Recently the Councils of the Cities of Beaver Falls and of Clairton have unanimously adopted resolutions in support of Senate Bill No. 121. Secretary P. R. Williams is representing the Graded Tax League at Harrisburg, with the active cooperation of Senator McGinnis and others. Final action by the House is expected sometime in June.

has no relation to anything except a current the buying power of which varies from day to day. Some commodities may be little affected by price fixing, but all too many manufacturers find the risks involved in continued production so multiplied that it seems wisest to limit output to a minimum or to suspend operations altogether.

It seems to be very generally admitted by economists of all varieties that increased production is a sovereign specific for inflation. If this is true, should we resume price controls? Surely it behooves us rather to shun any law, regulation, tax or restriction of any kind, the effect of which is to discourage trade or manufacture, or the investment of capital funds in productive enterprise.



"George All-the-Way"

Dorothy and Dick Kollmar are heard over WOR in New York every morning at 8:15 speaking informally from their living room on East 66th Street. On April 20th Georgist listeners were galvanized to feverish action as the following conversation took place:

DOROTHY: "Well, here's someone who sent us a postcard which piques me, but I don't have time to go to school . . . The card is from Roma Bianca, who says, 'Dear Dorothy and Dick: Heard your talk on the three per cent sales tax Sunday. Do you want to abolish taxes? Sounds fantastic? Take the free course in economics at the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 East 69th Street, New York.'"

DICK: "George all-the-way, that school."

DOROTHY: "What do you suppose that is? Do you think it means join the Communist party and you won't have any taxes because they'll take all your money? I really haven't time to take the course but I'd love to know how to abolish a few taxes anyway. Wouldn't everybody?"

**Dorothy Now Knows About
The Henry George School
(April 27)**

DOROTHY: "Brother, do I know about the Henry George School of Social Science now. I would like to thank all the listeners who sent me booklets and wrote me letters saying, how could you be so ignorant! . . . This is a great big name—I'm convinced now. This is a startling example of how you can go through life thinking that you're fairly well informed, at least on obvious subjects; that you know who George Washington was, and Benedict Arnold and John Dewey and Albert Einstein and Lenin and Karl Marx and things like that, but you can pass up a guy that apparently is absolute murder on questions of social science."

DICK: "No Johnny-come-lately."

DOROTHY: "This is, you know, like Adam Smith . . . a name that you should know, and I never heard of it before in my entire life. Now, how could that have escaped me? Well, the result of all this is that after reading a couple of these pamphlets on the Henry George School of Social Science, I have sent to Brentano's for the book *Progress and Poverty*. Apparently you just have to know about Henry George or you don't know anything about social science. I can't wait to find out—he's the single tax boy, or no tax at all—but I had better not get into that."

DICK: "Wait till you read the book."

DOROTHY: "At any rate, he once ran for mayor of New York, and he was the grandfather of Agnes de Mille, among other little side-lights."

DICK: "Naturally, if he knew that much about economics he could never hope to be mayor of New York."



Cartoon in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Denmark's Justice Party Advocates Free Trade and More Land Value Taxation

Special letter to The Henry George News
From ARGE KRAPPER, Copenhagen

DENMARK has had a new election, this time to the second chamber of the parliament, the *Landsting*, to which only elderly voters, who are 35 years old or more have the right of voting. Only 28 of the 76 members are elected every four years for a period of eight years. Nineteen are elected by the *Landsting* itself and one by the *Lagting* of the Faroe Islands.

There were six political parties, who got the following number of voters:

| Socialists | | Moder. Liber. | |
|------------------------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 1943 | 1951 | 1943 | 1951 |
| 291767 | 259381 | 169032 | 162330 |
| Conservatives | | Rad. Liber. | |
| 1943 | 1951 | 1943 | 1951 |
| 148050 | 115035 | 71429 | 58397 |
| Justice Party (Georgists) | | | |
| 1943 | 1951 | | |
| 11020 | 49248 | | |

and the Communist, who didn't set up in 1943, got 19119. As it will be seen all the other parties have lost voters since 1943 to the Justice party, who increased their number from 11000 to 49000 and now for the first time is represented in the second chamber. (In the first chamber it now has 12 seats out of 151).

The election means that the government, which is a minority government with only 59 seats (Moderate Liberals and Conservatives), is likely to continue the reign taken over from the Socialists in November last year.

It had been supposed, that the new government would liberalize the trade. But instead they have continued the planning nearly in the same way as the Socialists. Of course they have had the inflation problem to deal with which they inherited from the Socialists. Higher prices, higher wages, higher taxes have continued for years. And the export prices on agricultural products have been fixed for six years with England, who buys about 90 per cent of all our agricultural export. In the meantime the prices of import goods have gone up 40 per cent. In this way the balance of trade has been disturbed, so there is a deficit in the currency of nearly 800 mill. kr.

The government has tried to fight the evil with new taxes. The taxes in the last year increased nearly 1000 mill. kr., from 4000 mill. to 5000 mill., with the idea of reducing consumption and increasing export. But the result has been more inflation and more deficit in the currency.

The Justice party has proposed one per cent more taxation on land value (it is only now 150 mill.). One per cent would give an additional 90 mill.). It also advocates free trade and discontinuance of public advances to building. Nearly all building (about 20,000 flats a year) is supported by the state, and the result has been that the building prices are nearly double what they should be—therefore the shortage of houses continues. But none of the other parties could offer a solution.

The government commission to promote land value taxation, in which the Justice party has three members, has been at work four years but it has made no progress. Therefore the Justice party must have a new impetus and will get it!

Always Decisions

By STANLEY SINCLAIR

WHAT would you do if you were a business executive and had to make plans?

That is probably an unfair question: It doesn't say what kind of business; how large an enterprise; whether the plans are in the field of finance, inventory or labor relations.

Nonetheless it's a valid question because every one of us earning a living today is, in a sense, a businessman. Each of us has our own personal business to run.

You may be merely earning and spending a weekly salary, or you may be managing a sizeable income from several sources. In either case, you must exercise decision; you must make your choices in the market place. You must decide whether to buy that television set now or wait until fall, whether you want to spend the money for that elaborate vacation trip or keep it in the bank.

There's nothing new or startling about these problems—you face similar ones every day. But what do you base your decisions on? The business executive—we like to think—has elaborate sources of information and well trained diviners to guide his choices.

Let's look at some of these sources: A leading business paper offers these front page headlines in the middle of May: "Confusion Rife as Aluminum Expansion Lags," it goes on to explain, "US plan limits major producers, then fails to attract newcomers," still another, "Four Scarce Metals Curbs Tightened."

The top financial newspaper of about the same date looks slightly different: This publication calls attention to spiraling taxes, extensive layoffs for want of steel, expanded business borrowing and promises of more steel to fillers of defense orders. All these stories are on page one.

Turn to the foremost business magazine and you'll find an attempted explanation of all this. They say, in part, "be prepared for any international situation—not that volume of output will be changed by anything that might happen, but mental attitudes will."

And that's about the best summation we've been able to find. As business slumps while the White House blows hot and cold; as employment statistics thwart all the predictors of labor shortages while Congress ponders on tax measures to meet the government's bills, and as threatened shortages fail to develop while the bureaucrats jerk sharply from right to left, the poor harassed earner and spender is left with "mental attitudes."

Last fall it wasn't hard to see just what would happen this spring. It took a little longer than we had expected, but it happened nonetheless. Controls and restrictions contracted business activity before stepped-up defense spending made their existence necessary. Heavy inventories weighing on this confusion have served to increase the businessman's burden. No wonder he acts like a nervous puppet wondering whether his sponsor is going to take up his option.

Predictions of the future are extremely hazardous at this time, but we'll stick our neck out. Don't look for any boom this summer. It should look more like a bust. And as for next spring: well it's hard to tell. But it's a cinch that those mental attitudes will be decidedly frayed.

Letters

To the Editor:

The Henry George News went to the races! It reached me just as I was starting out with some friends and as a result I was kidded all afternoon at the track. Everyone else had their noses in the racing forms, but mine was in the H. G. News. When I was asked what I had for a particular race I turned to the front page of the News, and someone in back of me, for a joke, put a small wager across the board on "A. Henry." The horse came in third, and since it was a "long shot" it paid off well. Some fun!

—BETTY BREESE
Miami Beach, Florida

To the Editor:

As one who has recently had the experience of struggling for an Economics Master's Degree at one of the "big three" universities that consider themselves leaders in economics, I feel called upon to express my enthusiastic gratitude through The Henry George News for the really enlightening course by Professor Harry Gunnison Brown in New York on general economics.

Anyone who is used to the fundamental, straightforward economic analysis of Henry George and who then tries for a formal advanced degree in economics in such universities, knows what I mean. But to those who haven't had that discouraging experience, it should be pointed out that Professor Brown's course is covering, in a minimum of time, an amazing amount of the economics that is taught at such places, but so well evaluated and presented that the student can get, with a minimum of effort, a clear picture of everything of importance that has developed in this field since Henry George's time.

I suppose we all know that many college economists say that Henry George is oversimplified and out of date even when they are not candid enough to say, as one of the more brilliant ones did say to me, "You must know that Henry George is at least *out of fashion*."

They certainly could not criticize Harry Gunnison Brown in this respect and yet he neglects no important part of George's teaching. In addition to which he is a much more interesting lecturer than most of the professors of the "dreary science" and he presents his points simply and clearly because he is evidently more interested in having his listeners understand than in impressing them with his erudition.

Again my sincerest thanks for a pleasantly enlightening experience.

—MARSHALL DEANGELIS, M.E., M.A.
New York City

To the Editor:

I am enclosing a letter which I sent to The Bridgeport Post—every letter that was printed that day could have been answered by the teachings of Henry George.

It seems to me that here is a field for all George enthusiasts. Mis-statements might be made, of course, and it is difficult to explain George's plan briefly. But letters to newspapers are an inexpensive way of pointing out the solution to current injustices. I wonder if this is being done enough. I've never seen any evidence of it in any newspapers I read.

—CLIFFORD W. FITTON
Bridgeport, Conn.

A portrait of Henry George by Franklin Watkins, appeared in the May 21 issue of Time, and is being published in other current magazines, by the Container Corporation of America. This is part of a series entitled "Great Ideas of Western Man." The following lines from *Progress and Poverty* are printed across the portrait which the artist created after studying a number of photographs found in books at a Philadelphia library:

"The Law of human progress, what is it but the moral law? Just as social adjustments promote justice, just as they acknowledge the equality of right between man and man, just as they insure to each the perfect liberty which is bounded only by the equal liberty of every other, must civilization advance. Just as they fail in this, must advancing civilization come to a halt and recede."

To the Editor:

In the May number John Codman states in a letter, "Robert Clancy, in speaking of the term 'single tax' has concluded that this term 'fills the bill' and he undertakes to answer objections which until then he had agreed with."

But no one seems to have mentioned the fact that public opinion is often established by the results of elections. Under the title of "single tax," for instance, amendments to adopt all or part of that policy, have repeatedly been beaten.

In the campaign waged in California for "The Ralston Amendment" in 1938, the electors voted seven to one against it. The foes of that amendment (which called for the repeal of sales taxes, the reduction of taxes on personal property and improvement, and the gradual increase of taxes on land value) elicited from the real estate board, "it's the same old single tax that has so often been beaten by the public vote in California and elsewhere." Thus was the public prejudiced against the amendment.

A beaten proposal is handicapped right at the start. A slogan that has missed fire should be changed, but how? —EDGAR POMEROY

San Francisco

To the Editor:

After reading various articles about the best name for our method, it has occurred to me that we confine ourselves too narrowly. We should take a more active part in the one big battle being waged today, for if that goes against us all good ideas will be lost, including our own.

If we take note of the way socialism in England and the United States has taken hold in spite of the fact that the Socialist party never amounted to anything in either country, we should get some valuable pointers.

Men will usually fight for freedom, and will rally round the cause of truth, but it must be pointed out to them. Henry George perceived that an active interest in the politics of his day provided the best means of educating the public. The battle of our day is much more important. It is the climax he foresaw in saying that political economy was the only science that could save the world from disaster.

There are many organizations today that are opposed to our present welfare state, opposed to inflation, to price control and various other unjust and socialistic ideas. Most of them render lip service to the idea of free enterprise. We can in all sincerity promote and enter into these causes so far as they promote freedom, and when we have to part company we hold all the aces and can point out the fallacies.

The big thing is to get into the battle, because it is in the heat of battle and controversy that men do their best and that the public is most effectively informed.

—J. P. HAIR
Lockwood, Ohio

To the Editor:

The printing press is a curse—except when the dead print is made the instrument of a living body of teachers and organizers. In this way your New York school seems closer to what I consider ideal than is our Australian school. Here we have the Henry George League, the Australian School of Social Science and the Australian Georgian Association—devoted respectively to printing, teaching and organizing. I am president of all three bodies and I feel that they are not properly co-ordinated. Some Georgians specialize in one of these movements, while others are interested in two, and a few devote their energies to all three. This is all very good—for each can concentrate upon that line which to him seems most progressive or most congenial. But I do feel that they are all unduly burdened with the "historical load," that existential burden which makes all things in the concrete so different from that essential clarity which they have in the abstract.

Gradually, however, the movement seems to be clarifying its position. The Georgian Association now caters for the more politically minded followers who desire to concentrate *opinion* while not forgetting that "the laws of the production and distribution of public opinion" are, as J. S. Mill noted, a much more difficult subject than the laws of the production and distribution of wealth. They have definitely abandoned the old Georgian technique of insulting all our democratic parties and political leaders, and are attempting to win influence *inside* these parties.

The School of Social Science is catering for the more scientifically minded followers who desire to concentrate on the eternal truths, to go to the students, the groups of thinkers who desire to know, keeping to the work of teaching individuals interested in the social sciences.

Thus are the "reformers" separated from the "informers"—to the great benefit of each. But both of these are relying upon immediate personal contacts. Neither has any journal to serve as a medium of contact, and such mediate contact is important in sustaining the interest and co-ordinating the efforts of both groups. This is where the league and its journal [The Standard] can be helpful to both the association and the school. Thus we can have distinction with union.

As Lenin put it, we can keep apart in order to strike together. The printers, the teachers and the organizers can cease annoying one another and yet all can co-operate in the one great aim. The knowers must keep out of politics while the doers must not keep themselves out of politics by trying to form "New Order parties" (as the school tried to do about 1940) or by forming parties "against-the-parties."

As president of all three movements, I have, you must agree, plenty to do and, especially in this present year, many opportunities and hence many obligations in steering these somewhat divorced groups towards a better appreciation of one another.

But, as I was saying, my chief interest is in the school. For this I write day and night, not with any view to publication but with the object of supplying texts to strengthen our teaching. These writings can live in a school whereas they die in a book without a school. When the soil is ripe and the weeds have played themselves out the good seed can overspread the earth. There are historical conjunctures which enable ideas to spread like an epidemic.

—HENRY G. PEARCE
Sydney, Australia

Go west to Los Angeles in July for a fine conference program, friendly hospitality and perfect vacation weather. But please make plans at once, to insure comfortable hotel accommodations.

Los Angeles

Graduates and friends are preparing to welcome delegates to the first Henry George conference to meet on the West Coast July 19-22nd. It is hoped that large numbers will avail themselves of the opportunity to combine perhaps a long anticipated trip to the Golden West with the stimulus of this year's conference. There are several grand scenic routes, beckoning overland travelers, as well as the usual train and plane facilities.

"You will find the climate here exhilarating," say the Los Angeles hosts. "You may shed your coat and be comfortable in summer attire during the middle of the day, but you will reach for it at night. And do not be surprised to find one or more blankets on your bed, for you will reach for them also before morning. Some of the hotels (and we hope to line one of these up for you) afford swimming facilities for those who feel like a dip between sessions. Since California is a land of sun-worshippers, you will find sun-bathing popular in the parks."

In the spring enrollment, 9 basic classes registered 141 students; and 3 advanced classes, 16 students. Robert C. Bryant, an outstanding faculty member, in lieu of teaching a class this spring, is giving a series of lectures to a group of civic leaders, twenty or more of whom meet in the home of Mr. and Mrs. David J. Davis on beautiful Los Feliz Boulevard. A new addition to the faculty is F. Herbert Thompson, with a class in Los Angeles High School.

The local chapter of S.A.G.E. met for dinner Monday, May 28, at the Pig'n Whistle Cafeteria on Wilshire Boulevard in the "Miracle Mile," to hear Captain Jesse B. Gay, U. S. N., Ret., of San Diego, on "A Georgist Views the News."

San Francisco

Paul D. Thomas, principal of Laney Trade and Technical Institute, addressed friends of the school at their monthly meeting in the Lakeview Library on May 4. Mr. Thomas told how Laney—one of the largest adult trade schools in the world—has been integrated into the economic life of Oakland and now enjoys the confidence, counsel and leadership of Oakland industrial leaders. Mr. Thomas pointed out that the Laney budget, which is met in part by a property tax, is always scrutinized and checked by the property owners' organizations.

Ralph Dewey, Jr., director of research and public relations, Pacific American Steamship Association, prefaced World Trade Week with his talk on "Pacific Coast Foreign Trade and Shipping" at a meeting in the El Jardin Restaurant May 18.

The Speakers' Forum, launched April 20 with an address by Charles MacSwan, is now meeting on every Friday not occupied by another school meeting, and has held programs on "Inflation," and "Money" at which the lead-off speakers were J. Rupert Mason and Albert Windt. The forum gives school friends opportunity and encouragement to mount the platform and develop their powers of understanding and articulation.

Heartily welcomed to the Bay Area is Arthur G. Linahan, formerly extension director in Sioux Falls.

The enrollment in the 12 spring term classes is now reported as 135.

Be Dissatisfied!

By WILLIAM HAWLEY ATWELL

Judge, U. S. District Court, Texas

"Bad will be the day for every man when he becomes absolutely content with the life that he is living, with the thoughts that he is thinking, with the deeds that he is doing, when there is not forever beating at the doors of his soul some great desire to do something larger, which he knows that he was meant and made to do, because he is still, in spite of all, the child of God."

—PHILLIPS BROOKS

THIS thought of a great preacher is a continuing explanation of the ambition and the inspiration which has created, and is continuing to create, America's greatness. It was the father, and shall continue to be, of the assertion of the right to live in freedom. It is the idea behind our invention and our imagination, behind the doing of things that have built America's cities, homes, schools, manufacturing plants and farms.

It has lighted the streets of cities. It has warmed homes, erected charitable institutions, filled our churches, our schools and our colleges.

It is the eternal longing for something better, physically, mentally and spiritually. Even now when days are dark with ominous shadows we must not lose hope—but push on and fulfill our destiny.

"Words To Live By"

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Chicago

Case Study: The Clearing Industrial District is composed of 120 firms southwest of Chicago, and of 50 additional firms in two areas within the city. Top executives in 18 of these firms have so far completed the basic course, several of whom are participating in the leadership of additional classes. Those who have completed the study include presidents, vice presidents, managers and superintendents.

The third executives class in Clearing started May first. A class to be made up of personnel managers from many of these companies is scheduled for next fall. Most of the companies represented in the executive classes are also introducing the course in their plants in the fall.

An executives' class in the Loop will open June 6 in the board room of United Wallpaper, Inc., to be led by F. Dewey Anderson, president of the Wilmette State Bank.

John Nuveen, president of John Nuveen and Company, spoke at the monthly Commerce and Industry luncheon on May 9, on: "What Is Our Responsibility in Europe?" W. Joseph Arnold, vice president of The Pure Oil Company, presented Mr. Nuveen. Among guests were Roy C. Ingersoll, president, Borg-Warner Corporation; H. L. Boyle, vice president, Deere and Company; Graham Aldis, partner, Aldis and Company; Allan Blair, president, Allan Blair and Company; Louis Borremans, Consul General of Belgium; F. L. von Furstenberg, Commercial Attache, Consulate General of Germany; and Christopher Harfield West, Canadian Consul.

Norman L. Mayell, research, Varian Division of United Wallpaper, Inc., and a graduate of the first term of industry classes in Chicago, addressed the annual dinner of the Henry George School in Milwaukee on May 15. "Make Mine Freedom!" was his theme.

San Diego

The student speakers, representing the twenty-five graduates completing the basic course, did not find it difficult to express their views of the course and what it meant to them, at the April 30th commencement. Professor Wm. R. Blumenthal, economics major; graduate of Harvard and president of the Los Angeles S.A.G.E., gave an inspiring address on "Henry George's Message to a Confused World." That justice will prevail and man shall enjoy the fruits of his labors, has been proclaimed by other prophets in history.

Eleven completed the course in *Social Problems* and five finished the class in *Human Rights*.

An invitation is extended to all who may be visiting the conference in Los Angeles in July, to include San Diego in the itinerary.

Newark

Recent graduates will receive their diplomas on June 14 at Newark headquarters. The guest speaker is a man who contemplated becoming a minister but became a showman instead. He sang the tenor lead in Chu Chin Chow in the Greenwich Village Follies and played Keith Vaudeville. Later he became a businessman, psychologist, teacher, lecturer and writer. That is M. B. Thomson of New York. He lived in Free Acres, New Jersey, a single tax enclave for eight years without learning anything about Henry George, but on returning to New York City he decided to learn something about him and enrolled at the Henry George School. He attended the first class with a copy of *Das Kapital* under his arm. Although he was a student speaker at the closing exercises he says he was still not convinced. However, he took advanced courses, joined the faculty, and became the school's best protagonist against devotees of Karl Marx. New Jersey friends will enjoy this talk, and besides, the parties at Newark are always lots of fun, as all visitors will attest.

New Jersey is pleased to have made the discovery that it held seventh place in the number of graduates of the Henry George Schools in 1949 and 1950—and with the help of Louis N. Perna's planning committee they hope for a big 1951 as well.

Ohio

Robert Clancy, director of the Henry George School, New York, addressed a meeting sponsored by the Springfield extension committee of the school on April 19. The YMCA meeting room was filled to capacity to hear Mr. Clancy speak on the subject of "Justice in the Bible." [See July Henry George News for shortened version]. Among those attending were friends from Cleveland, Hamilton and Yellow Springs. Following the talk, Gwen Speelman briefly reviewed the history of the school in that city, and then the group adjourned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Dalie for refreshments. Plans were made for two fall classes. Lewis Bookwalter was toastmaster for the evening.

Lawrence Rep of Cleveland, is spearheading an effort to establish a Henry George Society of Greater Cleveland. A dinner meeting was held in the Alice Restaurant in that city on Friday, May 4, sponsored by friends of the Henry George School, for the purpose of launching the new society. Plans were also made for a get-together in honor of the 97th birthday of Tom L. Johnson on July 18.

Spring term classes have been opened in Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Middletown, Lima, Lakewood and Marion.

St. Louis

This extension was honored by two visits from John Lawrence Monroe, the Chicago director, who was called upon to discuss the Commerce and Industry program with a training executive of a St. Louis industrial firm. He also discussed the details of this program at a dinner given at the Downtown YMCA on April 27, and with a group of teachers meeting at the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Angell Sausele.

Noah D. Alper, St. Louis director, addressed the Downtown YMCA Discussion Group at their weekly luncheon April 30, on "Are We Taxing Ourselves Out of Business?" As a result of the article in the Magazine Section of The St. Louis Globe Democrat on the school and its objectives on February 13, Mr. Alper was also called upon to address the noonday luncheon of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at a monthly luncheon on May 16 on, "One Basic Revenue or Many Taxes."

The Advisory Board of the school arranged a panel discussion on May 23 on the question, "How Can Labor and Capital Get Together," at the Central Library. Francis J. Becker of Carpenters' Union, Local 1596, and Gordon H. Sallee of the Communications Workers of America, Local 6350, gave the labor viewpoint. Stanley Frederickson of the Sales Department of the Mallinckrodt Chemical Company, and William C. Howard, Executive Secretary, Real Property Owners' Association, gave the management-capital owners' viewpoints. John S. Kennish, engineer, American Telephone and Telegraph Company, served as moderator. By a fortunate coincidence, Major A. W. Falvey of Omaha, who endeared himself to many St. Louis Georgists while serving at Jefferson Barracks during World War II, visited St. Louis and spoke briefly on "What's a Plumb Line?"

The Henry George Woman's Club of St. Louis became a reality on April 28 when 14 women graduates of the school met at the DeSoto Hotel and after a discussion of the aims and possibilities of such an organization, became charter members. Mrs. Margaret Grindy was made acting president and Mrs. Margaret Robinson, acting secretary. An organization committee was appointed for the purpose of drafting by-laws and serving also as a nominating committee for permanent officers. The enthusiasm generated is deliciously contagious.

Boston

Harry Gunnison Brown spoke on "The Iron Curtain in Our College Economics" to a hundred graduates and friends upon completion of the winter term classes. The audience seemed particularly interested in the effect of the partial application of George's remedy in Australia, as related by the speaker. Boston hopes to see and hear more of Professor Brown, not only at the school, but at numerous institutions of higher learning which could profit by exposing their students to his ideas.

The spring term opened with a satisfactory enrollment. The continued attitude: "this is it, take it or leave it"—seems to be producing results. Archie Matteson had the rare pleasure of having to appease the overflowing number of students at the opening session of the Monday class, by promising to put them on the waiting list for the next term.

Boston is losing another "gem" to the West Coast. Mrs. Rosa Palmieri, one of its best instructors and a faithful volunteer worker, is moving to Los Angeles this spring. "If this continues," writes Lidia Alkalay, "California may yet lead the world to Georgism!"

No Privacy Anymore

From *Once Around the Sun*, by Brooks Atkinson, Dramatic Critic, New York Times, published by Harcourt Brace and Company, New York, \$4.

"THE SINGLE tax on land values is logical and equitable, and could produce all the revenues the nation needs on a rational basis without robbing those who do not share in the increase in values. But by the time the single tax was formulated as a theory, the state was already deep in the pockets of the defenseless and had already given special recognition to landowners and had established a society on the basis of privilege and protection. Nothing can be done about it now without ripping out the foundation of our society."

"Relatively our society is free. But the steady expansion of the state in response to successive crises has constructed a predatory tyranny that we dare not recognize, it is so terrible. Now the tax collector has access to our private affairs, reaches into the vitals of business and into the seclusion of the home, sits in judgment on our earnings and expenditures, and arbitrarily decides how much he can safely carry away. The power to decide has passed from us to him."

New York

The three outstanding events in Georgist history which will be celebrated at the annual banquet on June 20 at the Warwick Hotel in New York are as follows:

The publication of *Democracy versus Socialism* by Max Hirsch, published in 1901, will be discussed by Emanuel R. Posnack, author of *Time to Understand*, whose article on "The Twin Technologies and Society" was a feature of the May Henry George News.

Tom L. Johnson, who was elected mayor of Cleveland in 1901, will be the subject of a talk by the Hon. Robert Crosser, Member of Congress from Ohio, who has caused to be written into the Congressional Record, a brilliant portrayal of Henry George's economic proposal.

Joseph Dana Miller, who founded the magazine *Land and Freedom* in 1901, and whose contribution to this movement is perhaps unknown to newer Georgists, will be appropriately remembered by Robert Clancy, now director of the New York school, and once a co-worker with Mr. Miller.

V. G. Peterson, executive secretary of the Schalkenbach Foundation will preside. Reservations may be made through the Henry George School, 50 East 69th Street. The price of the dinner is \$4.

Jessie Beard Rickly of St. Louis has honored the New York school with an exhibition of paintings and cartoons which will continue to June 15. Among the frankly "thunder-on-the-right" subjects are, "The New Order—Lowest Common Denominator for All," "Undercover Sniping at American Tradition," and "We The People" (taxes, controls and more taxes). Mrs. Rickly, a member of "The Missourians" declares that her Henry George studies will influence her future work. "I believe the pervasive leftist slant is a contributing factor in our nation's chaos today," she says. "Should not artists of other persuasions become articulate in defense of their convictions, if America has something worth saving?"

Mrs. Rickly has recently exhibited her paintings at the Petit Pigalle in St. Louis.

Footnote to Fame

By JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE

THOSE who knew the record of achievement of Dr. William C. Gorgas [1843-1920], surgeon general of the United States during World War I, were gratified by his election to the Hall of Fame last November. They remembered how

--in less than eight months, he eliminated yellow fever from Havana, where it had scourged the population for 150 years.

--in less than two years, against unreasonable and almost insurmountable opposition of bureaucratic authoritarianism, he transformed the Isthmus of Panama from a charnel house of disease and death, a condition which had existed for 400 years, to one of the healthiest spots on earth.

--in two years he organized the greatest medical corps to care for the largest army in the nation's history up to that time, developing it from a corps of a few hundred to an organization of 35,000 officers and 250,000 enlisted personnel.

The ultimate fame of this "physician to the world," however, is not likely to rest alone on these achievements, but equally on his perception of the economic causes of disease and on his approach to their removal.

Speaking at a dinner of the Business Men's Club in Cincinnati in 1914, Dr. Gorgas said:

At Panama, the Commission found that to attract labor, and keep it on the Zone, they had to increase and, within a very few months, double the wages of the manual laborer. It does not take more than a moment of thought to show to you how such a measure acts and reacts. Results take place in many directions, but particularly with regard to increasing the ability of the people to live well and get better food and better clothing. While dwelling upon thoughts such as these, I came across *Progress and Poverty*.

Dr. Gorgas was impressed at once by the proposal Henry George advanced to substitute the taxation of land values for taxes on production, and felt it would be the means of bringing about that improvement in social conditions he saw as essential to the health of the community.

"It is a health officer's duty," he wrote later in a Public Health Bulletin, "to urge forward in his community those measures which will control individual diseases, but my long experience has taught me that it is still more his duty to take that broader view of life which goes to the root of bad hygiene, and do what he can to elevate the general social conditions of his community."

"For three long years I have been going up and down this country preaching that government—federal, state and local—costs too much. I shall not stop that preaching."

—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, 1932

