

# HENRY GEORGE NEWS

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## The Scientific Method and Economics

By E. C. HARWOOD

MAN IS different, fundamentally different from animal life. Man learns by experience and transmits that learning to his fellows and his offspring. Man has the capacity to open the doors of his mind, to let in the new ideas, to abandon the old and unserviceable ideas, to record his experience, and, by all these means, to turn time to his advantage. Unlike the animals, time has significance for man because man can command the experience of the past and use it in the present.

Thus we see that there is a vast gulf between man and the animals, a gulf in the sense of an apparently unbridged and unbridgeable gap. Man is like plant and animal life in that he is, like them, an energy binder; like the animals, man also is a space binder; but, unlike the other forms of life, only man is a *time binder*.

The ability to learn from experience and to teach future generations implies the ability to learn and to teach what is false as well as what is true. Man would not be a time binder if he could find only the correct answers, if some infallible instinct led him always to the truth.

But the question arises — what do we mean by knowledge? or, preferably, what is knowledge? . . . Apparently man has been able to acquire an extensive understanding of the relationships between events, and an ability to apply this understanding in the practical control of future events, without any general agreement on what knowledge is. Even today the philosophers cannot agree among themselves on any consistent usage of the word "knowledge." John Dewey and Arthur Bentley, in their *Knowing and the Known*, have this to offer about knowledge:

"In current employment this word is too wide and vague to be a name of anything in particular. The butterfly 'knows' how to mate, presumably without learning; the dog 'knows' its master through learning; man 'knows' through learning how to do an immense number of things in the way of arts or abilities; he also 'knows' physics and 'knows' mathematics; he knows that, what, and how. It should require only a moderate acquaintance with philosophical literature to observe that the vagueness and ambiguity of the word 'knowledge' accounts for a large number of the 'traditional problems' called the problem of knowledge."

Men can be said to know whatever their behaviors in specific environments indicate. The primitive medicine man may be said to know that his mumbo-jumbo and ritual will cure cholera just as you may be said to know that the services of a modern physician will be more effective. In both instances, what is known was learned, can be taught, and is reflected in pertinent action.

How, then, may we differentiate between the primitive medicine man's knowing and that which we should attribute to a modern scientist such as Bronislaw Malinowski? Is it merely the popular fashion to regard Malinowski's know-



ing more favorably? Are knowing and the known like women's hats, subject to extraordinary changes in fashion without apparent rhyme or reason? . . . Or is there some means of testing the various modes of knowing in order to ascertain their usefulness?

We now approach the most significant and exciting part of the adventure on which we have embarked. Man the time binder has at last discovered a means for testing his knowing. He has not discovered TRUTH in capital letters with which his knowing can be compared; he has not discovered a new deity whose disciples or earthly representatives can provide the infallible answers to man's questions; in short, man has found, not the goal for which he sought, but a road that seems to lead forward. Instead of the original goal of perfect and final knowing, which inevitably would have meant the end of all inquiry, man has found a broad highway leading on into the unforeseeable future. No final goal is in sight, but each step along the new road called the scientific method reveals new progress in knowing.

The scientific method refers to inquiry for the purpose of obtaining knowledge. This method involves the use of certain tools.

Logic, which is one of the tools, is the theory of inquiry. Like all useful theories, it has been developed by analyzing actual events, in this instance the actual conduct of inquiries. In the course of man's long search for knowledge, many inquiries have been successful, and many others have been unsuccessful. Study of both has made possible the formulation of general rules or guides, which constitute the developing theory of inquiry, or logic.

Mathematics, also a principal tool, is, in effect, a part of the logic tool for which a shorthand symbolization has been devised. Mathematics serves not only as a means of analyzing

the relationships between data already assembled but also as a means of suggesting possible relationships and therefore of directing the inquiry to new data or relationships not previously investigated.

The language tool is used as a means of describing the problem involved and of recording observations, hypotheses and their logical implications, findings and conclusions. When properly used, the language tool makes possible the construction of a word picture that correctly represents the steps in the inquiry (much as a map represents ground features) so that other qualified observers may verify the procedure by going over the ground covered and so that whoever is interested in the research may be informed regarding the results thereof.

The steps involved in application of the scientific method may be described as (1) awareness of a problem situation; (2) preparation of a tentative statement of the problem and its possible solution; that is, a tentative but partial hypothesis; (3) further observation, measuring, recording, and analysis of the pertinent facts or events; (4) refinement and possible reformulation of the hypothesis; (5) analysis of the logical implications of the hypothesis; (6) test or verification of the hypothesis by comparison of the logical implications based thereon with actual developments, which preferably are the results of carefully controlled experiments; and (7) publication of the data, findings, and conclusions in order that other qualified scientists may independently check and verify the results.

The scientific method is, and apparently always will be, in the process of development. Thus far in the history of mankind, this method is the only way of seeking for knowledge that (1) tends to result in agreement among qualified observers as to what may be classified as probable knowledge, (2) usually provides a basis for predictions, and (3) consistently, but not invariably, facilitates control of the actual course of events and thereby provides a solution of the problem.

We turn now to an aspect of this subject of more immediate interest. What about the application of this method to the science of economics? . . . Most of you, are interested in Henry George's writing in the field of economics. I shall assume that you are familiar with his volume *Progress and Poverty*. This is one of the great works of man, an enduring monument to the time-binding potentialities of our form of life. I am quite willing to accept John Dewey's evaluation of George in the words, "It would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate those who, from Plato down, rank with Henry George among the world's social philosophers." I assume that John Dewey had in mind the criteria of the modern scientific method when he made this statement, and I know of no man better qualified than John Dewey to offer such an evaluation. (Continued on Page Three)

## A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

A friend writes: "I've been critically watching our literature (i.e. Georgist literature) for some time . . . Whenever emphasis is placed on altering conditions, it is always on what the *government* or the *state* should do—never, so far as I can recall in any one instance, on what the *individual* should do—except, of course, buy our literature and swell the attendance of our schools . . . Even when, a couple of years back, Highland landless crofters 'squatted' on the lands stolen from their grandfathers, and were subjected to official persecution, our literature did nothing to encourage these men in the exercise of their natural rights."

If my friend means that we are not telling individuals to assert, as individuals, their natural right to land, then we had better examine this defection of ours.

First, we must show individuals what their natural rights are. A rabble-rouser could say: "You have no house. That man has a house. You have a right to go in and take over." That is a false idea—and making the distinction clear is a matter of education.

Offering a course of action to individuals involves a responsibility. If action is urged that runs counter to the laws of the land, and such action is met with punishment, what is the answer of him who did the urging? That the laws are wrong? Then the laws ought to be changed, and this becomes a matter that must be appealed to the people—eventually to the government.

This does not rule out those brave deeds of individuals who defy an oppressive order—a William Tell, a Robin Hood, a Christian martyr. But such deeds are matters of intense personal conviction—and none of those heroes asked anyone else to pull their chestnuts out of the fire.

Suppose we were to encourage some landless person or persons to illegally occupy a piece of unused land privately held. Would the right to land that should be recognized then be asserted? Not unless all men were accorded the same right—otherwise it would just be another special privilege. Also, the exercise of the right to land involves the payment of rent to society. But today society doesn't seem to be interested in that rent. We had better educate society!

I do believe, however, that when such instances occur as Highland

(Continued in Column Three)

## Gems for Georgists

By NOAH D. ALPER

"What's the only form of taxation that will not restrict production or decrease the income of labor?"—From a term examination paper given at a university in St. Louis.

Msgr. L. G. Ligutti Speaks

"Democracy and Christianity must work together to offer the world's farmers a new system of land use to counteract Communist 'agrarian reform' . . . The major problem of the world today is a problem of the land and the people of the land. The land is not used as well as it should be used.

"Seventy per cent of the people in the world are farmers or peasants. But they are the ones who own the least land. They are the ones with the poorest housing, and a high percentage of farm and peasant people are illiterate . . . It is no wonder that Communists now devote the major share of their effort to converting farmers and peasants."

Major A. W. Falvey of Omaha, Nebraska sent in this clipping from the Omaha World Herald. Msgr. Ligutti addressed the Consumers Co-operative Association meeting in Kansas City in December.

Social Termites at Work

"Robert Gerholz, of Flint, offered the Economic Club a George definition of Utopia . . . compounded on 1951 wages, 1932 prices, 1929 dividends and 1910 taxes. Dreamer!"

"This 'dig' given to the very influential Detroit Economic Club," says Robert Benton, Detroit extension director, "is an attempt to turn people away from George with jokes." But maybe it's not such a bad way of picturing prosperity under Henry George's theory at that!

Symptoms of Land Infection

Peter Otway Smithers, Conservative member of the British Parliament, said [St. Louis Star-Times, January 5, 1951]: "The world struggle is above all for people and natural resources."

E Pluribus Unum?

"Jeremiah T. Brosnan, comptroller of Columbia Steel Tank Company, testified today in the income tax evasion trial [Kansas City, Missouri] of George R. Clark, former Jackson county assessor; that payments totaling more than \$9,000 were made to Joseph R. Cusack to obtain lower county tax assessments.

"James H. Hatch, vice president of Union Wire Rope Corporation testified his firm paid Cusack more than \$41,000 from 1944 through 1948 to obtain lower tax assessments. The fees were one half the amount of tax that Cusack saved for the firm, Hatch said."—From St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 16, 1951.

Material to Think With

"The idea of *Commentary*," says Editor [Elliot E.] Cohen, was 'not to tell people what to think but to give them the material to think with . . . We think of ourselves as trying to be the best possible teacher talking to the best possible student . . . Education is slow, but what is faster?'—Time magazine, January 19, 1951.

Raymond Clapper, famous columnist, once said something like this: "Don't underestimate the people's ability to think but don't over estimate their information."

To induce basic and correct premises as starting points from which to think is the goal of education in the science of economics.

A Wildcat and Radium

"A long-lost Ozark's cave, believed to contain valuable radio-active ore, has been located, and digging or blasting to reach it will begin soon," states an item in the St. Louis Globe Democrat of January 17.

Shares of the Radium Spring Mineral Water Company in over-the-counter transactions have gone up from \$1 a share to \$1.25. "Nine days of hunting the cave with electrical resistivity tests proved successful."

The cave, it seems was first found in 1879. Three farmers followed a dog which had chased a wildcat into a cave and emerged some distance away, and saw inside, pillars of glittering crystal. All three became ill and one died later of sores similar to burns. Another farmer got into a quarrel over the title to the cave and sealed it up. Before that however, samples had been tested by Arkansas geologists who believe it may be radium.

"The supreme court ruled that price-cutting in good faith to meet competition is not a violation of the antitrust laws . . . the heart of our national economic policy long has been faith in the value of competition." William E. Clement sent this from the New Orleans Times-Picayune.

## Econo-quiz

By HENRY L. T. TIDEMAN

The question this month is contained in the following letter from Noah D. Alper of St. Louis:

In the November, 1950 News the question is asked in the Econo-quiz Column, "Why cannot a planted crop be accounted capital, defined as wealth in the course of exchange, from planting time until it comes into the possession of the consumer?"

The answer is given, as "Were the question to be affirmatively answered, then in the question before us, rent and interest along with wages would have to be considered as drawn from capital; for they would each be a part of the crop."

I admit being puzzled at this answer and as long as I doubt I shall consider such a planted crop as capital, as wealth not yet in the hands of the consumer. Why would such a concept involve the thought that "rent and interest along with wages" are drawn from capital?

If distribution is made during the growing process by sale, only current values, less speculative possibilities, are involved. If distribution occurs at the time of sale, assuming the crop is such as to meet obligations and not to involve losses due to certain risk elements or poor farming, then capital is replaced, the rent given up, and the net distributed as wages and interest. There is no less capital.

If the net is reinvested there is an increase of capital. The total farm process considered, capital may be shifted to the planted crop from other situations. For current expenses the farmer may borrow on his growing crop in which the capital of others replaces his own. The landowner, the worker and the capital owner, one or different people, may all consider the crop as capital until they make other decisions.

*Answer.* A brief suggestion is offered in reply. As labor produces it, wealth automatically falls into the distributive categories: wages and interest (plus rent, if any). None of it should be treated of as a factor of production until it can be considered as having been graduated from these categories.

To illustrate—part of the growing crop will be an increment of interest originating from the capital used in its production. Such interest is not a return for the use of the crop. I will concede that the crop can become capital. The producer may change the form of his wages by selling the growing crop. Then, having been placed into the course of exchange and giving the buyer the advantage of present over future use—thus commanding interest—the crop becomes capital.

(Continued from Column One)

crofters squatting or Italian peasants entering unused estates, or Pennsylvania miners operating abandoned mines, it does present an opportunity to speak out on behalf of the rights of man and to show society how to correct its mistakes. (If my friend will again peruse our literature, he will surely find something of the sort.)

## The Scientific Method And Economics

(Continued from Page One)

Henry George's great contribution to the scientific advance in the field of economics was his analysis of what may be called the civilization cycle. Although, as one who is trying to apply the modern methods of science, I must concede that any hypothesis is subject to amendment and improvement, I find it difficult to believe that future modifications of Henry George's principal thesis will alter its general nature.

Francis Neilson, as you may recall, wrote an interesting essay, "Henry George, the Scholar." In it he remarked, "... I am more and more impressed with the fact that George reveals in it [*Progress and Poverty*] not only a tenacity of purpose, but a thoroughness of review which covers all the known works of the chief economists who wrote in English during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries."

And it was not only the writings of economists that George reviewed: he must have perused almost innumerable historical volumes and related social studies. It would be hard to find, I think, an author who had so thoroughly searched the accumulated results of man's time-binding efforts in an attempt to ascertain the facts involved in the great scope of his problem.

From time to time we at the Institute receive letters from Henry George enthusiasts, and this question is often asked: "Why, if you are convinced that George's work on the civilization cycle is of fundamental importance, do you not concentrate all your effort on teaching the economic theories he elucidated? why devote any attention to other economic problems?" Some enthusiasts even go so far as to urge, "Because certain economic maladjustments described by Henry George must be corrected if Western civilization is to survive, all other economic problems are of lesser importance and should be ignored until the fundamental maladjustment is corrected."

Our comment regarding such views is that they are not in accordance with the modern methods of science. Precisely why this is so perhaps can be explained most clearly by the use of a simple analogy.

A little more than 300 years ago William Harvey was experimenting on the circulation of blood in animals and men and the functioning of the heart, arteries, etc. His work stands out as one of the great landmarks of the scientific advance in the science of human health. Now we can imagine that Harvey's more enthusiastic disciples may well have been greatly impressed by the fundamental importance of this work. For all we know, many may have urged that all medical research be concentrated in this field. They might well have argued that the correction of maladjustments of the heart and circulation was vital to human health, that no man could survive if his heart failed or the circulation of his blood were impeded and that, therefore, all other health problems were relatively unimportant.

If the urgings of such enthusiasts had been heeded, the science of medicine might have developed differently. Bacteria might not yet have been discovered in all probability. If you were ill of a heart ailment, the doctors might know how to cure you, but you might die of pneumonia while they were curing your heart.

However, Henry George enthusiasts may question the validity of this analogy. Anal-

gies are sometimes misleading, of course. Few men have been more keenly aware of the danger of using analogies than Henry George himself; yet few men have ever used them more effectively. Is the analogy used valid in this instance?

The analogy used is pertinent because the economic activities of men do have other serious maladjustments than that so well analyzed by Henry George. For example, an economic system can be destroyed by inflation as completely and far more rapidly than economic systems have been destroyed by monopoly privilege. You today are living in an economic society that, if not actually being destroyed by inflation, is too near the precipice of a run-away inflation for the peace of mind of those who know where we are. For those who question whether inflation is as potent a destroyer of economic systems as pneumonia has been of men, Lenin's use of inflation during the Russian Revolution, the effects of inflation in destroying the stable middle class of Germany, thereby facilitating Hitler's rise to power, and the effects of inflation in France during the past three decades, should be enlightening.

Inflation happens to be especially important for another reason. In small doses, inflation can and frequently has made possible boom prosperity. At such times the inexorable operation of the economic laws analyzed by Henry George is temporarily concealed. Who will believe during such periods as the boom decade of the 1920's or the boom of the past five years that our civilization is doomed to self-destruction unless fundamental maladjustments are corrected? Inflation draws a veil over the facts of economic life so eloquently described by Henry George: And even worse, from the point of view of those interested in seeing George's basic remedy applied, during the depressions that follow each inflationary boom, far more desperate measures than those advocated by Henry George receive popular support. The experience of several nations indicates that adoption of the more desperate measures not only effectively blocks consideration of sound proposals but also inhibits the scientific approach to economic problems without which all hope for enlightened reforms must be abandoned.

Economics is but an infant science today. By far the most of the nation's economists lack even the elementary mathematics and language tools essential for any social scientists. The Social Science Research Council, in its report "The Recruitment, Selection, and Training of Social Scientists," has pointed out some of the major deficiencies in the current training of social scientists. For example, "Verbal facility, rather than a scientific attitude and mastery of scientific principles and techniques, is too generally the criterion of achievement," and, "To attempt to turn more mathematically illiterate scholars into fields already overcrowded with intellects of similar constitution does not appear to be a profitable venture."

You who are interested in Henry George's work may often have wondered why his ideas have not gained wider acceptance in academic circles. Some see sinister forces at work intimidating the academic minds, but I think a simple explanation is available. As the Social Science Research Council has indirectly pointed out, most economists lack the training that would enable them to judge the quality of scientific work when they see it; they have no recourse but to continue parroting the accepted authorities of their student days.

Colonel E. C. Harwood, director of the American Institute for Economic Research, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, is the new "voice in the wilderness" of economics.

In search of a non-self-contradictory theory, his economic studies led to his appreciation of Henry George's books, which he first read a quarter of a century ago when on duty in Hawaii.

These economic principles, he felt, were the only ones which could stand under the severe scrutiny of the scientific method, or of logic, the theory of inquiry, as it has been so well described by John Dewey, who is the honorary president of the Henry George School of Social Science.

This method does not pretend to reach a final goal, but expects always to push on into the unknown. Specific features of the scientific method are stated here in an excerpt from an address by Colonel Harwood at the New York school in February.

Publications from Great Barrington are already well known. The Institute has as one of its primary aims the training of economists for scientific research.

We at the Institute therefore have concluded that attention should be concentrated on the training of economic scientists. We regard an understanding of Henry George's work as essential for an economist as is an understanding of William Harvey's work to every physician. But the vitally important thing, as we see it, is to develop economic scientists.

To those who like their economics according to Henry George, I would bring one message. I quote in part from *Progress and Poverty*: "Only in broken gleams and partial light has the sun of Liberty yet beamed upon men, but all progress has she called forth . . . She is to virtue what light is to color; to wealth what sunshine is to grain; to knowledge what eyes are to sight. She is the genius of invention . . . Where Liberty rises, there knowledge expands, invention multiplies human powers, and in strength and spirit the freer nation rises among her neighbors . . . Liberty calls to us again. We must follow her further: we must trust her fully."

And how, I now ask you, shall we follow Liberty, how find the way? Is there anyone here so naive that he thinks the road is short, that the door is wide open, and that someone already knows the way? If so, just look again at the time-binding efforts of man. Isn't the verdict of all history as plain as a pike staff? Isn't it that the road is long and difficult to follow, that no man has as yet been able to demonstrate that he knows the way?

But it is not all darkness ahead. The light of liberty has enabled the plodding feet of men to find a road to progress. Better yet, however, it has enabled men to devise a means of tracing that road into the future. That means is the scientific method, which in itself is a developing or evolving means of conducting successful inquiry.

This, if you will but look closely, you will see is the crowning achievement of man the time binder. At long last, after dark centuries extending much further back than we can see, man has found not his goal, not even a sure and easy route to his goal, but the road of reasonably assured progress in the future.

## Assessing the Forest By JOSEPH F. RICHARDS

THE last year has brought out in The Henry George News a variety of views regarding the application of Henry George's remedy. The important point to be remembered is that the simplest methods applicable in any given set of circumstances are the best.

Henry George and his followers are pretty well agreed that security of tenure of natural resources is a privilege conferred by civilization and its governments. They are agreed that the publicly produced value of security of tenure should be collected into the public treasury and used to maintain and build up that value. Their principal disagreement is over the methods of collecting natural resource values from different types of natural resources.

The three principal types of natural resource rights are surface rights, water rights, and mining rights. Surface rights and water rights are continuing rights, they can be assessed periodically either as rents or capital values as they have been for centuries. Mining rights are quite different, because, on the one hand, they are difficult to appraise at any time and, on the other, they decrease as the non-replaceable resources become exhausted, unlike the recurrent products of the soil and the flow of water and commerce. Consequently, assessment of the values of non-replaceable resources has to be done upon the estimated value in the earth at the time of removal. Publicly collected royalties or severance taxes constitute the practical recourse for converting the value of mining rights into public revenue.

Growing timber is a reproducible natural resource. It produces rent the same as any other crop. It also adds value to the sites where it grows, which do not come from the sale value of the crop itself. The time it takes for each tree in the crop to mature is what has puzzled economists.

Foresters, however, know that forest lands whose growing stocks are regulated to yield crops annually produce annually the values with which to pay the rent of the forest sites. This type of regulation produces the greatest volume of wood and the best maintenance of forest improvements, such as roads culverts, etc., and the best watershed protection. The collection annually of the site value promotes this type of regulation upon privately held sites.

The alleged desirability of severance taxes from timber is based upon the mistaken idea that clear cutting of evenaged stands of single species are exposed to forest epidemics and exhaustion and toxication of the soil against the occupation of the occupying species, that seldom affect the unevenaged mixed stands that produce annual crops of different species, whose products can be sorted at the sawmill or at the roadside. The severance tax also gets support by analogy from the fact that publicly owned timber is paid for by the operator at the time it is cut. The operator also has to post a bond for prompt payment and is liable to cancellation of his timber sale contract for cause upon violation of its terms. A sale and an assessment are not the same. The operator upon public land buys when he has a market. The private owner of timbered land has to pay for a publicly made value which he enjoys continuously.

The regulated forest has two values. It has a capital value for producing more timber. And, it has a wrecking value for immediate clear cut-

ting and marketing of the forest growing stock. The latter value is about three times the former.

The tax laws provide that property shall be assessed at its fair market value. The fair market value is three times capital value.

Provided assessors have and use judgment, as they swear to do when taking office, and assess standing timber and the rent of the site somewhat below their capital values, things work out so that forest resources are not forced onto the market by taxation. Fortunately, this is normally the case. However, many cases have occurred and more can occur in which assessments exceed even the fair market value of the standing timber. Taxation of the forest growing stock begins to cause uneconomic marketing of standing timber at assessment levels but little above its capital value. The damage from taxation increases as the excess of assessment over capital value grows greater. Anyone who has seen the results of attempts to assess growing timber at fair market value can vouch for this.

One of the best statements on this subject for the students of Henry George to remember, is quoted from a textbook entitled *Forest Valuation* by Filibert Roth, dean of the University of Michigan Forestry School in 1916:

"Of late the application of the single tax has strongly been advocated for forests as well as other real estate. The single tax is well suited to forestry; it would stimulate the accumulation of a good growing stock and the making of improvements, roads, proper division, etc., and so put a premium on good forestry. The action of the single tax in forestry is exactly the same as in farming, where it stimulates building and keeping plenty of live stock, while the present form, the property tax, in a way penalizes the good farmer with fine buildings and plenty of stock and machinery. But in no case should the crop of timber and land be taxed together, as has at times been advocated by single taxers . . . A yield tax is inconvenient . . . This leads to exemption for domestic use. . . . But it is hard to set limits in these exemptions. They lead to confusion and bad practice. With large owners it becomes necessary to take the word of the owner, it pries into his affairs, and has all the objections commonly claimed for income taxes. The local tax official has added a great deal to his labor and where the matter is left optional it involves inspection of state foresters who lack help, money, and experience.

"For a regulated forest property there is no occasion to use a yield tax; it can be assessed as easily as a farm and taxed in exactly the same way."

After he retired from the university staff, Professor Roth came out more strongly for the collection of the economic rent of forest lands and the exemption of standing timber.

Our Continental army marched to the strains of "Yankee Doodle," the French Sans-culottes sang the "Marseillaise" and the Confederates gave the Rebel Yell when they heard "Dixie." Communists cheer themselves with the "Internationale" and the Nazis stood at attention when they heard the "Horst Wessel Song."

Why don't Georgists sing "Doing What Comes Naturally"?

—MARSHALL CRANE

## Easter



WE ALL know the story. A village carpenter went out to preach the gospel of the lowly and oppressed, to teach men the value of the individual soul, brotherhood and the equality of all before the Creator. It was not a new philosophy. A little of what he said has been passed down to us, and we find that the words which we treasure most are very frequently quotation from the Hebrew psalmists and prophets, and from the early rabbinic germs of the Talmud.

The words and phrases were old and familiar but they did not tell an old story to his listeners. For this carpenter was no theological dilettante, juggling doctrinal points as he reclined at table. He was no schoolman. He had studied poverty and oppression the hard way. The words were facts, not just ideas to him. The suffering of others was his own pain. And he had the supreme gift of clothing the truth in words that were personally and urgently significant to those who heard him.

And surely it is not improper in this connection to recall another life, one which in many ways follows the pattern which we remember so particularly at Easter time.

## Political Action

THE Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania was organized in January by representatives of various sections of the state, with Percy I. Williams, former chief assessor of Pittsburgh serving as executive director. Members of the Organization's Committee include George I. Hellick, Easton; Robert D. Towne, Ambler; Craig Devine and Rev. Walter J. Marshfield, Erie; F. J. Dickerson, Beaver Falls; Ernest C. Kooser, Somerset; Michael J. Boyle, Johnstown; Henry H. Wilson and Charles R. Ecker, Beaver; and Walter R. Demmler, Robert C. Bowers and William E. Schoyer of Pittsburgh.

As the first step, the League decided to sponsor state legislation providing for home rule taxation for all of the 47 cities of the third class, with populations ranging from 10,000 to 125,000. The bill has just been introduced in the State Senate by Senator B. B. McGinnis of Allegheny County. It would give the city councils of all such cities full power to assess land and buildings separately and to fix whatever differential rates are desired for land and buildings. Under this proposed legislation, any city council could adopt the Pittsburgh-Scranton Graded Tax Plan, take a moderate step in that direction, or practically eliminate taxes on improvements, according to public sentiment.

Recently Percy R. Williams and city councilman Demmler of Pittsburgh have conferred with the mayors and other officials in Erie, New Castle, Sharon, Easton, Johnstown, Beaver Falls and Uniontown. The reaction has been uniformly favorable so far as the question of permissive legislation is concerned and there is considerable interest in the proposal to shift the municipal tax burden from improvements to land values.

## MARSHALL CRANE

For again a young man from the outlying sections went to the big city, as young men will, and again all was not well there. Once more patriotic pride and the love of national traditions received a rude blow. They only increased his horror at the awful poverty and destitution of the underprivileged. Once again a heart cried out in protest at seeing such conditions accepted as the natural order of society.

He returned home, sick at heart, to dedicate his life to the cause of the weary and heavy laden. It was many years later, and his hair had become gray in the service of his fellow men, when his career came to an end. Again we find the bearer of a great message facing with cheer and calmness a death which he could have postponed, had he been willing to relax his efforts for the cause which had become life itself to him. Henry George died, as he had lived, for the cause of justice.

"The life of sacrifice is not a popular one. It does not pay." But who can estimate what we owe to the handful of great souls who have chosen this harder path!

Easter has its own special significance, but it is also a most appropriate day to remember those too often forgotten creditors, of all races and creeds, the blessed few who, like the Carpenter of Nazareth, have given themselves to the life that "does not pay."

## We Progress Backwards

From an editorial in *The Wall Street Journal*  
January 29, 1951

AND SO, for better or for worse, we are going back to the days of O.P.A.

This newspaper believes that both the economy as a whole and the people as individuals will find that it is for the worse. Our reasons for believing so have been set forth many times.

First, price control seriously impairs, if it does not destroy, the pricing mechanism by which the productive system operates and through which it adjusts itself to new and ever-changing conditions. The result is to freeze the economy into its present mold. And we do not believe that a frozen economy is a healthy one.

Second, price control defeats its own purpose. The argument for it is that under inflation people—the "poorer" people—cannot buy the type of food, clothes and the like that they wish because the price climbs too high for them. Price control is to help the housewife. But the result, for predictable reasons, is that people under price control still cannot buy the type of food, clothes and the like that they wish.

The goods move over into the black market at even higher premium prices; or, if the law is sufficiently stern, they disappear entirely; or, if the ceilings keep pace with dollar depreciation, the regular prices go up anyway. But in any event, housewives—unless they are married to influential officials—can't get the goods at the good old price.

Thirdly, the difficulties are compounded because the relationship between prices of millions of items is so hopelessly complex that the administration of price control, even if it were sound otherwise, becomes sheer chaos.

## A Name for Baby By ROBERT CLANCY

MARSHALL CRANE'S article, "What's in a Name?" in the February Henry George News, brings it home that we are still not sure of what we shall name the major reform proposed by Henry George (or what we shall name ourselves—we who recommend this reform).

It seems anomalous that the baby hasn't been named yet, especially as the baby is seventy-odd years old. Of course, it has been named the "single tax," but as suggested by Mr. Crane, dissatisfaction with this name has given rise to an "it-must-be-baptized-again" movement.

Well, I for one have concluded that the name *single tax* fills the bill; and I'd like to answer the following objections which I have heard and, till now, agreed with.

"Single Tax" does not express our philosophy. Of course it doesn't. I do not believe it should be used as a synonym for the entire philosophy of Henry George, but simply as a convenient name for George's specific proposal, when it must be referred to. A name of one or two words, no matter what, is going to have severe limitations. Let us stop looking for a mere title

## The Mails

By LUCIUS BEEBE

AMIDST the almost universal dissatisfaction with the conduct of its affairs by the government's Post Office, it would seem no impropriety to point out that before the mails became a government monopoly conducted for the general inconvenience at great annual deficit it was conducted to substantial profit and the general satisfaction of patrons by private capital and enterprise.

Long after the coming of the railroads in the '30's the mails were still conveyed, reliably, swiftly and in some cases with great daring and imagination, by private firms and individuals. They only became a government monopoly at the insistence of incompetent politicians who were rewarded with postmasters' jobs and whose service could in no way measure up to the efficiency and excellence of the private mails. In the Far West, notably in California, the public which wanted the best patronized the private mails conducted by the firm of Wells Fargo as late as the '90s whenever dispatch and reliability were required. Wells Fargo made money in its mail department and was highly esteemed and respected by Western merchants and other citizens until the local postmasters who were being beaten to a frazzle in their own highly subsidized business screamed to Congress for help and outlawed the private mail.

Outside of the military there is scarcely a function of the Federal government that could not be more effectively discharged by private initiative, and yet there are champions of government medicine, government electricity and government insurance policies of many sorts.

Whenever these measures are suggested it might be well to remember the Post Office which, from a well ordered and efficient private business, reduced the mails to the sorry farrago of poor service and politics they now represent. The writer for one would be glad to pay five cents or even a bit more to have his urgent mail delivered within the limits of the city in which it is posted within, say, a week's time.

that contains all necessary explanations, demonstrations and inspirations.

*But it isn't a tax at all. Why call it a tax, single or otherwise?*

A tax is "a rate or duty on income or property." The public collection of rent is certainly a levy against a special form of income. And the particular method proposed by Henry George involves the instrumentality of taxation. If it is this method that is in dispute, then it is not simply a question of looking for a new name but of examining the method. As for George's own proposal, it is perfectly fair to refer to it as the single tax.

*The "single tax" is a label that has been scoffed at.*

Who have scoffed at the "single tax?" 1, The uninformed. 2, The vaguely informed. 3, The well informed who knew pretty well what they were scoffing at.

As for the No. 1 group, let us inform them. When the No. 2 group says quizzically, "Henry George, oh, the single tax," why need we blush and say, "No, no, it isn't that . . . at least it's a misnomer . . . anyway it's more than that . . ." Why not say, "Yes, the single tax was proposed by Henry George," and take the consequences? Who ever heard of a single taxer losing an argument anyway? As for the No. 3 group, what good would a change of name do?

*We ought to avoid a name that suggests an "ism."*

In these days it is difficult to keep from being labelled an "ist" of some sort, no matter what you propose—even if you propose nothing. Certainly most of us discuss George's proposal. Why not under the heading of "single tax"? As for what the *proponent* is, or what the philosophy and economics behind the single tax are, "Georgist" and "Georgean" already seem to be in currency. However, it is up to each individual to adopt whatever label suits him best.

*Henry George himself did not approve of the name "single tax."*

It is true that George did not so name his reform in *Progress and Poverty*. Indeed, he did not name it at all in that book. But as it became more widely discussed as the single tax, George did adopt it. Following is an excerpt from a speech by George in Scotland, 1889:

"Our experience in the United States is this, that the adoption of the name 'Single Tax' has been extremely useful, because it shows clearly our *method*. We were constantly met there by people who pretend to, or do, misunderstand our purpose, and who were continually asking us, 'How do you propose to divide the land up equally and then keep it divided?' Now the Single Tax allows of no such misinterpretation. The Single Tax does away, too, with the idea that we propose to take land formally and rent it out, and there are, to my mind, many serious objections to that course. The advantage of the term, the 'Single Tax' is that it shows precisely the road on which we wish to move, and that is just now the most important thing. The feeling that private ownership of land is unjust, is now widely spread and people are aroused to the truth that all men have equal rights to the land. The difficulty with them is to know how men are to gain those equal rights. The title 'Single Tax' has therefore the great advantage of pointing out very clearly the way. The newspapers cannot say, 'Those Single Tax men propose to divide land up.' They cannot say, 'Single Tax men propose to put land up at auction.' Of course 'The Single Tax' is not a full name. It does not express our *aim*; it only expresses our *method*." Neither fully does "Land Restoration." Our true title, if we wished to express what we really are, would be, "Justice Men" or "Liberty Men."

## BOOKS

WHAT PRIVATE ENTERPRISE CAN DO.  
By Charles Johnson Post. American Association for Scientific Taxation, Bayside, L. I., New York. 1950. 29 pp. \$1.

This factual study has been produced with care and research into the somewhat neglected field of specific effects in taxation. Its official statistics are apt and effective. It deals with the ten years preceding and following the passage by New York State of the Housing Tax Exemption law. They are striking. This law exempted a dwelling, or apartment, from taxation to an amount not exceeding \$1.00 per room, or not more than \$5,000 for a dwelling or apartment, provided the tenement had not more than one store on the ground floor.

This study and analysis shows a sudden and enormous increase in building throughout all the five boroughs of New York City. It develops, in three separate chapters, the relation between taxes and the economic prosperity of the businessman, wage-earner and farmer, indicating that if such a speculative choice is to be made, the farmer is the chief sufferer. These chapters show the relationship between taxation and business prosperity — that prosperity itself is dependent upon our national wealth-production. Thus, by taxing wealth-production, we are unscientifically and heavily taxing the production of wealth itself, upon which alone economic prosperity can thrive.

But the name of Henry George is never mentioned! It might be doubtful if such a concept were within the author's mind. No reference is made to the tremendous social philosophy of which Henry George was the inspired creator. It is merely a treatise, shrewd and factual, upon the effects of taxation and its exemptions. This book is not advocating or urging a social philosophy, its emphasis is purely on a realistic scheme of taxation. In this it is, perhaps, a disappointment. The glowing tribute to the vast social philosophy for which Henry George so earnestly fought finds no echo within these pages. The author is entranced by realism. He is not a dreamer and it often reads as if the writer regarded the supreme ideals of social-economics as no more than a mere method of taxation.

One of the author's most interesting phases is his use of the per capita method of computing the economic prosperity that flowed during the period of that law. "In using a per capita figure," he writes, "care must be used; per capita figures are known to be deceitful, thus: I have \$1.00, you have \$1,000.00 Thus our per capita wealth is \$500.50. The arithmetic is correct but the per capita has become nonsense."

The per capita expenditure for the ten-year period preceding and following the 1920 enactment of the Smith tax-exemption law on dwellings is shown. Also the gross amount — and they are astronomical figures. The wages earned by wage-earners in erecting the buildings are indicated to be spectacular in increase and volume. Perhaps the most arresting feature is the comparison of New York with 21 other chief cities from 1910 to 1929 which shows the significant stimulation of building erection and prosperity in which New York City (from being almost the lowest) rushed to the top following that law. Yet this is not a mere book of dry statistics. Quite the contrary. The statistics are never obtrusive and are used to point their own moral. The economic argument, entirely aside from the

statistics, is *admirable* — though always in and on the purely pragmatic business-and-profit plane. But it is a book worth scrutiny by idealists too. It will give them facts to support their arguments and aspirations. —C. J. P.

THE NINETEEN FIFTIES. By Edwin G. Nourse, New York. Henry Holt & Co. 1951. 184 pp. \$2.

*The Nineteen Fifties Come First* is a rational plea for economic stability by the former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors to the president. It is an enigma for Georgists because . . . in the words of the late-great Minnie Maddern Fiske . . . Dr. Nourse "has a firm, firm touch on the wrong note."

The firm touch and the wrong note are hard to reconcile.

Dr. Nourse is the man who resigned from the Council when he found that, "under existing circumstances," it could not operate as a "professional and non-political agency," but he didn't just quit in a tizzy because the other boys wouldn't go by his rules. It is a thoroughly reasonable volume. There is no rancor and none of the Potomac petulance frequently found in books written within earshot of the Washington ruckus.

"While the social scientist cannot be as dogmatic as the natural scientist about what will happen," he says, "he can have illuminating and helpful insights as to what may happen."

A more unusual quote, in this hour when the man who wants to study the military budget is *ipso facto* guilty of treason, is this: "National security is an intergrated whole, in which economic soundness is just as important as military force . . . National security rests on the dollar, the government bond, and the price index just as much as it does on the tank, the atom bomb, and the radar net."

There is some petit-point, and an occasional slap on the wrist for those selfish people who won't do what they should, but on the whole the author exhibits a rare and valuable sense of fairness.

Dr. Nourse, however, is like the rabbit hunter who sees only the ones that are running. He cites agriculture, labor and business as the dynamic elements in our economy, and ignores the role of land.

A balanced budget — which he wants — is difficult because of their growing tendency to use government as a crowbar and in Dr. Nourse's opinion the reason for the trend is the "deep-seated human craving for personal security."

He fails entirely to see that the three contributory groups, who are standing up waving their arms, are being robbed by a non-contributory group, sitting down in the corner. He fails, therefore, to give his threesome credit for a "deep-seated craving to hang on to what they create."

The book's shortcomings, which are apparent to those of us who think land-equity a vital, ethical and economic principal, are not the result of bias.

Dr. Nourse fails to see what we would have him see but there's reason to believe it isn't just because he won't open his eyes. The book is enigmatic, in my opinion, because its shortcomings leave me wondering how much they reflect on Dr. Nourse and how much on our ability to speak our piece.

—RICHARD NOYES

## John C. Lincoln Says —

IF WE assume that all men of all generations are equally entitled to the use of the earth (is any other position tenable?), there can be no morally defensible right to private property in land. Yet mankind has learned from experience that the best results are obtained only when the user is assured of complete and continuous possession of his land. To nationalize land, for the government to take it over and rent it out, would entail needless difficulties, to say nothing of a giant bureaucracy in which opportunities for graft, favoritism and corruption in general would be virtually unlimited. Equality of opportunity in the use of land may be achieved by the annual collection by government agencies of the rental value of all land privately held, whether it be in use or not, and the employment of such funds in meeting the public expense. Thus no man would be deprived of his land, nor would his title be disturbed, so long as he paid his ground rent, just as now he retains possession of his home and other improvements on his land only so long as he pays his taxes. In many parts of the country land values are now taxed at the same rate as improvements. I propose merely that the public appropriation of ground rent be increased to approximately 100 per cent, and that taxes on improvements and other products of labor and capital be reduced accordingly.

—From the January Lincoln Letter

ECONOMIC DOCTRINES. By Frank Neff, New York. McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc. 1950. 532 pp. \$4.50.

*Economic Doctrines* by Frank A. Neff of the University of Wichita is a well ordered, though not complete, resume of economic thinking from the Golden Age of Greece up to, and through, the totalitarian ideologies of Fascism, Nazism and Sovietism.

Students of the evolution in economic thinking will find this book richly endowed with an understanding of the historical events which prompted the development of new concepts and from time to time led to a restatement of classical economic philosophy.

In his introduction, Dr. Neff, probably without meaning to, damns this science by saying: "Idealists emphasize the importance of social institutions and consequently a restricted sphere is allotted to individualism. The individual is held subordinate to society and the idealistic principles of morality and duty are stressed in spite of material limitations. By the idealist the *laissez-faire* principle is given a severely restricted role. What is good for man and what he actually needs may, under the doctrine of idealism, have to be determined by the state and provided for him through its intervention. It follows that the state may have to decide what is economic overproduction and underconsumption. Thus in times of economic stress, the theory of a planned economy obtrudes.

"According to this view, a slump below an ideal standard of living calls for a managed productive economy and a stimulus to consumption through state intervention. The materialists with their belief in the unlimited expansion of human wants, in theory conclude that overproduction is impossible. For them abundance of goods betokens economic well being."

I think a science which offers this as its ultimate form is dismal and incomplete.

—ROBERT HUFF

## Letters

## PLAIN TALK by Jerome Joachim

To the Editor:

The February issue features an excellent article by Klaus L. Hansen, and the article "What's In a Name" by Marshall Crane is mighty good. I will add my name in favor of a new title for the Georgist movement and think none could be better than the one he suggests, "Tax Reform." Everyone is against present taxes so there is little objection to the title, and it perfectly describes what we have in mind. I think I shall try the idea on my trip [to Mexico]. I am no longer a Georgist—from now on I am a Tax Reformer. Maybe we ought to change the name of the paper to the Tax Reform News.

—HOWARD L. FREEMAN  
Union, New York

To the Editor:

I wish to refer to the first question of Harold S. Buttenheim answered by A. G. Huie in the January News, which has to do with land values and whether they would cover totals of municipal, county and school district expenditures.

It may interest readers to know that in the Colony of Arden, which collects as nearly as under present conditions it can, the annual rental value of land—it has sufficed not only for better public services than any comparable community of its size, but for all the state and county taxes, including school tax, imposed on improvements. I doubt if it could pay income taxes, sales taxes, etc. and still survive, even if it did collect the full rental value. This the trustees have not been able to do, since the people constantly vote for a board of assessors who they hope will keep the rents down. Residents are glad of course, to be relieved of taxes on their improvements, but they have a hang-over from the economic conditions they experienced before coming here. They feel that the "rents" may go up to an unheard-of price if they do not put "control" on the trustees.

—KATHERINE F. ROSS  
Arden, Delaware

To the Editor:

I do not recall reading Messrs. Tucker and Brown's responses to Harold Buttenheim's questions, but I have just read those of Mr. Huie in recent issues of the News. Mr. Huie complains that Messrs. Tucker and Brown are not readily understandable by the man in the street, I do not think Mr. Huie is as understandable as he could be, and would offer the following answers:\*

*First Question.* Begin to collect it and find out. Rental is public property no matter what its amount. If it does not suffice to meet public needs, some tax levy can be added.

*Second Question.* The best answer is, How would something that abates a thing stimulate it?

*Third Question.* People will pay rent for desirable location in the midst of the public. They will pay 100 per cent of what they are willing to pay—to anyone—to the public.

*Fourth Question.* Nobody will abandon land he can occupy at the rent he offers.

*Fifth Question.* The raw value of oil, coal and trees is publicly created. It certainly is not privately created. It is therefore public property. The public should collect 100 per cent of

I made a startling discovery last week. I learned that I am a radical. My Communist acquaintances have frequently called me a "Violent Reactionary," a "Tool of the Capitalistic Classes" and similar names they hoped would insult me, but it hadn't previously occurred to me that the thinking of many people had reached the point where the measures I advocated were so far from what is now commonplace that I could be classed as a radical.

I suppose the reason I was so startled was because I suddenly realized that the concepts I espouse are at great variance with those which have come to be popularly accepted in the last 15 years.

A *Beacon*\* reader called on the day of my discovery to inquire as to the rights of landlords with respect to their tenants. Somehow I accidentally indicated that I felt a man who had toiled and sacrificed sufficiently to cause a building to be erected—where none would have existed except for his efforts—had a lot of rights infinitely greater than the rights of those whose only claims were based on the fact that they needed a place to live.

Almost instantly this reader informed me that I was un-American; that in America we had laws which gave tenants as many rights as landlords had with respect to the buildings which the landlords had erected and that my views were Communistic.

When I asked this reader how he defined communism I got a click which indicated that he had hung up on me.

It was then I realized that this nation is already so far down what Friedrich A. Hayek

\**Jerome Joachim is the publisher of the Berwyn Beacon, a weekly newspaper in Berwyn, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.*



called the *Road To Serfdom* that thousands of people actually believe that property rights are based on needs and not on work.

There was a time when a man who wanted a house knew that he could have one only if he built it or gave up surpluses which he had produced in excess of his other needs sufficiently great to compensate the man who had already built one.

Now many people have discovered that if you have failed to make the necessary sacrifices yourself you can get about what you need by being a member of a majority group. If the number of people who need houses is greater than the number who have erected houses for rent, the politicians, in an effort to get your vote, will confiscate enough of the property rights owned by those who did save to give you what you want on your own terms. That such a system will prevent men from ever building houses for rent and will eventually work even a greater hardship on those who do not make provision for their own needs concerns these politicians not, for by the time these problems appear they will have devised other ways to get the majority vote.

Webster defines the word "thief" as one who takes the property of another by force in an illegal manner. When I use the word I include all forceful taking whether it has been legalized or not.

Using the word as I define it, I think we are fast becoming a nation of legalized thieves. By law we are making theft not only safe but even respectable. The "Robber Barons" of the Nineties often did the same thing but never in history has the practice been so widespread with so many people involved.

this undeveloped value, leaving the returns from exploration, development and human effort in the hands of those who create them.

*Sixth Question.* They should be assessed the rental they would yield.

*Seventh Question.* To be correct, the phrase should be: There can be no just title to the value of an exclusive possession of the soil. Thus corrected, the answer is: Yes, for city, state and nation. For nations (internationally), it would be fine if the world were advanced that far.

*Eighth Question.* A tax cannot be levied on land values. Land has a rental value. Part of it is publicly collected. What is left is privately collected. The more the public collects, the less there is left. If the public took all (as it should) none would be left. As "land value" is capitalization of "what is left"—land value disappears as a private asset.

—JOSEPH S. THOMPSON  
San Francisco

\*[Mr. Buttenheim's eight controversial questions appeared in the News first in December, 1949. They were repeated in the February, March and April issues in 1950 with the answers of Gilbert M. Tucker and Harry Gunnison Brown. The full text was published again in January and February this year with A. G. Huie's answers. We refer you to these issues rather than repeat them a fourth time.]

### The Americans Assess Everything

**T**O THROW light on the much discussed present status of Western Canada which still bears evidence of early tax reforms along Henry George lines, *The American City Magazine*, edited by Harold S. Buttenheim, has published in its February issue, statements from city officials in four Alberta and Saskatchewan cities. Land and improvements are assessed separately in both provinces, with land being assessed at 100 per cent and improvements, in most cases, at 60 per cent.

In Regina, Saskatchewan, the present assessment on buildings is only 30 per cent. Regarding this, R. B. Wells, who is Tax Assessor and Tax Collector of Regina, commented as follows:

"I am all for our present 30 per cent assessment on buildings. It is a compromise between the 'single taxers' and the Americans who assess everything a fellow owns at 100 per cent."

Mr. Buttenheim, anticipating requests from *American City* readers for reprints of this article, has arranged to provide them upon request and graciously extends his offer to Henry George News readers as well. Unless the reprints are ordered in quantities, no charge will be made. Write to the editor of *The American City*, 470 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

### San Francisco

Enrollment this winter is 186 in 11 classes, which range in size from 11 to 28. Nineteen advanced students are enrolled in two classes in *Principles of International Trade*.

Welcomed to the faculty this term were Mr. C. K. Sutcliffe and George Amberg, both of Berkeley. Mr. Sutcliffe is one of the school's old friends. Mr. Amberg is a graduate of last spring.

The planning committee for the next term, consisting of Earl Hanson, George Amberg, Halina Koninski and Ben Smith, is meeting at headquarters every Wednesday to lay plans for further growth. The committee reports that the promotional cost per student dropped from \$8.87 in the fall term to \$3.83 this winter.

In four successive terms conducted in the Bay Area, the enrollment has grown from 15 to 42 to 103 to 186.

### Los Angeles

D. K. Shroff of Pakistan, a recent graduate, gave interesting comments on the new republic of Pakistan, at the S. A. G. E. meeting at the Truehart residence in January. He read from the preamble to their constitution, which contained beautiful-sounding principles, but, as he said, "nothing more." He has the distinction of being the first Pakistani national admitted to the United States, but his great desire is to become a citizen. The S. A. G. E. president, William R. Blumenthal, reviewed *Looking Backward* by Edward Bellamy, contrasting it with the writings of Henry George.

Lewis F. Scott of Chicago gave an inspirational account of the developments of the Chicago Commerce and Industry program at Los Angeles headquarters. A discussion followed about future plans for the local program.

### San Diego

"We cannot bargain for peace—it must be actual," said Jack E. Addington at a recent Alumni Association meeting when he spoke on "Forty Acres and a Mule." Mr. Addington of La Jolla is a popular and convincing speaker in San Diego and environs. Formerly a student of the law, he is now minister and director of the Church of Religious Science.

### Ohio

Constance and John Dalie of Springfield invited students and other friends to their home to plan winter term classes. The group, which included Gwen Speelman, Ruth Williams, Mrs. C. B. Tilton, Mrs. L. H. Cooke, Vaughn Peele, Richard Wiley, Dennie Bowen, Lewis Bookwalter, Gwen Young and Ray Cozad, the treasurer, generously pledged financial support for class promotion.

John T. Blankenship, Henry George and John Kiley of Dayton are in charge of publicity and arrangements for the Dayton area. These enthusiasts are graduates of Mildred Loomis' fall term class.

### Detroit

Robert Benton, newest director, keeps working so quietly and effectively, that sometimes we forget to mention him. Dale McIntyre who conducts a program on WJR called "Topic for Today" interviewed him concerning the school's purpose and class schedule in a seven-minute program on the air. By that time fourteen students had enrolled for the winter session and more enrollments were expected as a result of the radio announcement.

Robert Smith, whose office has become the headquarters for the new extension, acquired a series of six films on "Land of the Free," from Ross-Roy, Inc. These will be shown to Henry George friends and others.

### Philadelphia

"Am due in Chicago March 20 to annoy the nice ladies of Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs under auspices of Henry George Women's Club. God bless the ladies. When we do get H. G. over, methinks the ladies will do it. Hon. ancestors still right—Man no damn good without woman." This gem was lifted from one of those characteristic pidgin-English letters by Joe Stockman, tong leader of Philadelphia. It wasn't intended for publication, but we can't resist giving you a few more sentences.

"Some of our grads try to influence new Philadelphia city charter. Of course, get nowhere. Principles must be understood first, then action will follow as matter of course. War production is on with a bang. Cutting into classes. But we still go on and influence. Slow but sure. Maybe so Philadelphia be first over the top with H. G. Ancestors say, Fools plan and wise men dream."

### Chicago

From his dream of building a better blow torch in his Navy days, 31-year-old Louis A. Falligant went to work in post-war Chicago and found—trouble. How he met the trouble "head-on," developed a new product and found his market in 1950, is a brand-new success story—and one that illustrates the delicacy and precision with which the free market operates! This was the story Mr. Falligant, president of Pressure Products Corporation, brought to the Commerce and Industry luncheon of the school on February 14.

Lancaster M. Greene of New York, will join three Chicago investment authorities in a discussion of how to encourage investment capital at the next Commerce and Industry luncheon on March 14. Alexander M. Goldfinger of Newark, New Jersey, spoke on "Liberty and the Free Market," in February.

### St. Louis

This extension is developing a program of re-education and reselling directed toward graduates under the guidance of the new Advisory Board with Warren White as chairman.

At the first meeting two films entitled "A Lesson in Americanism" were shown by Mr. White, followed by a panel discussion on "Deficit Financing." Roy J. Hansen from the Real Estate Department of the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation; B. M. Nevins, Deputy Assessor, City of St. Louis; and C. C. Case, Supervisor of Supplies, General Insurance Co. of America; comprised the panel. Edward Strieff of Famous-Barr acted as chairman. A *brux* session followed and insured maximum audience participation.

A public speaking section will be organized soon in St. Louis. At a Hotel DeSoto meeting in February, Francis Becker, Mrs. Cora Rockwell and Albert Stengel gave short talks which show promise for the future program.

### New Jersey

Copies of "A Sales Manual in Miniature" by Noah D. Alper, St. Louis director, were given to faculty members in Newark for examination and evaluation. This concerns itself with various "sales" approaches with a view to creating an interest in the Henry George studies. Copies of the manual may be obtained from Noah D. Alper, Room 765, 818 Olive Street, St. Louis 1, Missouri.

Newark's unique contribution to the expanding Georgist curriculum, an advanced course in economic philosophy, has been copied by Boston, where the ten lesson series began with the Physiocrats. Maybe this idea is so good it will become a habit.

### Boston

The appeal throughout the winter campaign was to the prospective student's intelligence and interest in economic and social questions, with "downright discouragement of any but the really interested ones." The great majority of the 170 students are business and professional people, mostly in their 30's, with a preponderance of men—in, adds Lidia Alkalay, "this woman's town."

The Friday night lectures referred to above, began with a talk by Paul Winsor, Jr. on the Physiocrats and the *laissez-faire*, which it seems, created a discussion in the audience on *milk*. Archie Matteson spoke at the following session on "The Precursors of Henry George," concentrating mostly on Thomas Spence. The talk was enlivened by blackboard demonstrations of Spence's phonetic spelling.

Sanford Parkas, Boston's director, spoke next on *The Science of Political Economy*. Though unaware of the fact that many visitors were in the audience, he did such a good job of unintentional selling that a number of enrollments were received for the next term.

The next subject, "Democracy—Socialism—Communism—Georgism" was discussed by Edmund A. Opitz. West Coast readers should welcome Miss Alkalay's comment on this speaker: "Rev. Opitz will soon be leaving for California, where he can be expected to start teaching George on his own, without as much as telling anybody about it—as he did in these parts prior to being discovered by this extension."

### Ottawa

The recent course in Fundamental Economics held at the home of H. G. Barber, the Ottawa secretary, closed with an extra session to consider the taxation of land values as a means of raising the revenue of the City of Ottawa—how it could be applied and how it would benefit the city. Nine out of the ten beginning students finished the course and have begun the second covering *Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems*.

### New York

About 70 advanced students and instructors are enjoying Professor Harry Gunnison Brown's course on Fiscal Policy and Taxation.

Another new course is a seminar on philosophy by Robert Clancy for continuation students of his "Philosophy of Oscar Geiger" course. The textbook is *Readings in Philosophy*.

Dr. L. M. Birkhead, Friends of Democracy director, will sound a warning against "Witch-hunting" at the New York school on March 2, at 8 P. M. On March 16, Robert Clancy will give his long awaited talk on "Justice in the Bible." Documentary films will be featured on March 9 and 30. No program on Good Friday.

S.A.G.E. recently celebrated an impressive list of newly married member-couples. The new Mr.-and-Mrs. names include: Blitz, Cooney, Huff, Mars and Sager. Robert Huff, an instructor, recently enlisted in the Army. S.A.G.E. announces a Spring Dance on March 17 at 9 P. M. at 50 East 69th Street. Admission \$1.25.





