

# the Henry George News

PUBLISHED BY HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE • FEBRUARY 1960

## *A Time of Remembering*

JOHN C. LINCOLN, President of the Henry George School  
OTTO K. DORN, Vice-President of the Henry George School  
JOHN S. CODMAN, President of the Boston Henry George School  
LAWSON PURDY, President of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation  
F. A. W. LUCAS, President of the International Union for Land Value  
Taxation and Free Trade  
J. RUPERT MASON, President Emeritus of the International Union  
for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

WE cannot believe that these living lights which were for many years beacons on our pathway, have been extinguished. Somewhere, in other forms, they carry on, having joined the cloud of witnesses who "compass us about."

On January 31st about a hundred friends gathered at the Henry George School in New York to honor these men who meant so much to us all. Tenderness was written in their faces. Love and respect were voiced by those whose brief tributes were clearly understated.

Ezra Cohen, Vice President of the Henry George School, acting as chairman, said each of these personalities was endowed with a social conscience—each made an avocation of helping to broaden and expand Georgist teachings on a world-wide basis. They came from distinctly different backgrounds, and throughout their very successful lives they adopted callings that were entirely unrelated, yet in the area of philosophic thought and human wel-

fare their approach and devotion were identical. Each in his own particular manner helped to make the Henry George School a permanent institution throughout the world.

Leon Caminez showed clearly that he cherished the memory of his San Francisco friend, J. Rupert Mason, who devoted all his energy to bringing about land value taxation without taxing improvements, and who saw that unless we came to this we must lean toward bureaucracy.

Mitchell S. Lurio of Boston, though not present, wrote of his fellow citizens, John S. Codman and Joseph L. Richards, as men who fought an uphill and often discouraging battle. Mr. Codman dean and "sage" of the school, wrote articles and carried on correspondence refining George's concepts, right up to the time of his death at ninety-one.

Lancaster M. Greene brought to the gracious remembrance of all, Otto K. Dorn, who, it turned out, had been

*(Continued on page 16)*

# A Word With You

**J**ESUS taught things about human behavior which are very sound—and which are as good today as when they were uttered. In fact, we seem to be just catching the first glimmerings of what those teachings were all about, now that a scientific study of human behavior is beginning.

There are untold resources within the human being, Jesus knew, if only we can learn how to tap them. In order to do so, we must penetrate the surface; we must not be controlled by superficial considerations; we must overcome our first impulses brought about by thoughtlessness, the force of habit, crusty social customs, and false pride; we must understand that other people really exist, just as we do. If we can accomplish this, our real self can make contact with the real self of others and raise us to much higher levels of being and doing.

The way is really quite simple, and the things Jesus taught are not difficult to do. But the tendency is for people to stay at the superficial level, to do the first things that come into their minds to do, and—such is the force of pride and habit—to continue doing these things even after they get themselves into difficulties.

Henry George taught things about man's economic life which are just as true today as when he wrote. He, too, pointed out a clear and simple way, not difficult to do, but obstructed

by superficial thinking and the force of habit.

George exposed economic fallacies which persist over the years—and probably will tend to persist for a long time, because they are the first impulses of people when confronted with economic problems. They are the surface aspects which need to be penetrated in order to be understood.

What is more obvious than that the employer pays wages to an employee—and that wages come out of the employer's capital? Yet upon analysis it is seen that labor creates its own wages.

Upon seeing (or hearing about) the poverty of the world's masses, how many of our opinion-moulders jump to the conclusion that the world is overpopulated! How few take a second look and a second thought to see what the facts really are!

George, in his review of insufficient remedies, hit upon all the fallacious proposals we have been hearing about (and suffering with) ever since *Progress and Poverty* was written. They, too, are the first impulses of people—the first conclusions jumped to—when no thought is taken.

For this reason, Henry George will always be timely—because superficial thinking will always be with us. And we will always need his reminders when we slip into lazy, heedless habits of thinking and acting in our economic life. —Robert Clancy

---

Vol. 23, No. 3

February, 1960

The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives value to land, therefore the income from land values (rent of land) belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

Publication committee: Ezra Cohen, William S. O'Connor and Lancaster M. Greene, chairman. Editor: Alice Elizabeth Davis. Subscriptions \$2 a year; single copies 20¢. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

# Investing in 1960

by LANCASTER M. GREENE



THE relentless though uneven erosion of dollar buying power has just put jet force behind the drive for growth. Roswell Magill of the Tax Foundation says, "the most important test of every proposal for tax revision is, does it remove or lower some barrier to essential economic growth? If it does not, in my view, it loses priority and importance."

The chorus of economists who demand that government do something about everything—such as Robert Nathan and Professor John Galbraith—demand enough inflation to make five per cent annual growth. Governor Rockefeller now tops them by asking for six per cent growth per year. Inflation in early stages encourages growth for the simple reason that few are aware that they cannot replace the plant they are wearing out, at prices they are getting for their products.

When George Bernard Shaw said "the universal regard for money is the one hopeful fact of our civilization," he was giving a puckish twist to Henry George's statement, "man seeks to satisfy his desires with the least possible exertion." This is the basis for the scientific study of man in society. In a sense this is the motivation which sends the stock market up or down, and influences every aspect of our economic life.

All over the world people have heard of the standard of living in the USA, and many are asking why they should not attain the same level. This is now described as the "revolution in expectations." But why should these

people seek to rise painfully by their own education and efforts? Why not just ask the USA for dams, power plants and other symbols of the good life? Isn't this the attitude of those who prefer foreign aid to freedom of trade, and also of our free spenders of forced contributions, called taxes?

U. S. Budget Director Maurice H. Stans says the U. S. Federal government already owes \$750 billions. The \$290 billion debt does not include \$30 billion accrued for military retirement, \$27.5 billions for civilian retirements, \$25 to \$35 billions for completing the interstate highway, \$8 billions for civil public works now started, \$6 billions committed for public housing, \$4.4 billions for merchant marine subsidies, \$300 billions for veteran pensions, and more billions for farm subsidies, urban renewal and loans to underdeveloped countries. In addition, state, municipal and corporate debts of about \$500 billions, bring the total to \$1 trillion, 250 billions.

Savers of money must seek investment for growth as the hope of retaining the power to purchase in the face of rising debt. But how many companies are growing? In June, 1957, out of 128,487 corporations filing tax returns, only 86,208 (67 per cent) reported a profit; while 42,248, or one out of three, reported a loss. The U. S. Treasury Department published these figures two years later. How then can an individual choose the best of these 86 thousand corporations making a profit?

Less than 1200 of these companies

have been successful long enough (and can show the required minimum of 1500 holders of 100 shares) to qualify for listing on the New York Stock Exchange, where strict standards of accounting and regular reporting to holders are enforced. The Securities and Exchange Commission therefore finds this select group to be of the greatest interest in the investment field. Furthermore, of the 12.5 million share holders of record in 128,407 corporations, 8.5 million of them own the 6 billion shares of stock in the nearly 1200 companies listed on this exchange—now valued in the market at \$250 billion.

Since the various advisory services and investment counsellors concentrate their studies and their investments for clients to this area, the individual may well make all or almost all his investments from the same source.

Among the companies listed on the "big board" are represented the highest priced and ablest managements in the country, utilizing \$250 billions of investors' funds—and this kind of management talent is worth paying for. However, even in this select group not all show improvement or growth each year, managements can make mistakes of judgment and have to be replaced. But investors do not change their investments often—only one billion of the six billion shares on the exchange changed hands in 1959. An investor must therefore select managements carefully, for he may be choosing partners for a lifetime, and his success depends on their character, ability and ambition.

One popular question asked of managements is, how much do you spend on research—what percentage of sales? In 1920 only DuPont was known for its research—\$2 million a year as against \$90 millions being spent now in 36 separate research towns. In 1959, 3.5 billions were spent for civilian research and about \$4 billions for

Lancaster M. Greene is a trustee of the Henry George School and vice president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. He and his brother, Norman, have been investment advisers on Broad Street in New York since 1927. Mr. Greene is a member and trustee of the Society of Friends, a baritone singer in the University Glee Club, an enthusiastic tennis player, and much in demand as a speaker. Using a Polaroid camera, he has snapped hundreds of pictures of business executives and visiting Georgists, which now constitute a formidable collection.

military research. As a result 75 per cent of the products many alert companies are now selling did not exist five years ago. But depreciation and obsolescence are rapid, and more allowance for depreciation of plant is necessary to allow the United States to compete with lower wage countries.

Those who are students of Fundamental Economics in the Henry George School know that depressions or recessions will eventually follow booms, until land value taxation is understood and adopted. Inflation in land prices, or merely holding land (opportunity) idle while waiting for a higher price than builders and producers can afford, ultimately stops growth.

More people own real estate than stocks, but large numbers of them lose money or make little from their land and improvements. Why is this? In the opinion of this observer it is because they manage their own real estate. The do-it-yourself management, as a sideline to a full-time job, is seldom qualified to match the shrewd operators in this field. Even when the real estate investors hire management they do not often get the superior type of managers who are sought, almost regardless of price, by the directors of great industrial corporations.

So there is every reason why investors should choose management teams who have the integrity and ability to



meet difficult conditions and tough competition. Skillful, hard work is required in making selections for investments—it is not easy, and no one can guess right every time. But there are well tested safeguards in the form of questions, which anyone with the time and tenacity can apply for himself. This is the approach of the professional analyst.

Does the company have products or services with a market potential for possible big increases in sales for some years—say seven or eight? Is the management determined to continue developing new products or

processes that will still further increase this sales potential as competition increases? Is the amount spent for research high enough in proportion to sales? Is the sales organization above the average? What is the company doing to improve margin? Is the cost analysis good and accounting first rate?

But integrity in management is the *sine qua non*. The importance of this cannot be stressed too strongly. Look for honesty and competence in labor and personnel relations before making yourself a share holder in any company in 1960.

# Value

## —A Short Statement

by ROBERT BENTON

**T**HE possession of some things will avoid labor for the possessor. Some things will avoid more labor than others. Things which will avoid labor will exchange in a certain ratio for other things which will avoid labor.

What is the ratio of their exchange?

First consider the ratio in which they will avoid labor, as a pencil will avoid, say one unit of labor and a pen two.

Then the ratio of exchange for the pencil and the pen will not be one pencil for two pens, but the precise inverse of that ratio—namely two pencils for one pen.

I regard this statement on the ratio of exchange to be the law of value:

*Two things will exchange for each other in a ratio which is the inverse of the ratio in which their possession will avoid labor.*

The purpose of this is to show what determines value, and how valuable things are exchanged for each other. It will also help to explain the instrument used for measuring value.

(The above statement grew out of a keen discussion about value held at the school's annual conference at Rutgers University last summer. Robert Benton, director of the Detroit extension, one of the participants, riding home on the train afterwards, said he "couldn't go to sleep for thinking." There is, of course, much more that could be said on this almost inexhaustible subject, but this aptly paraphrases Henry George's basic tenet.)



# Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

## IS THE AIR THINE, MINE OR OURS?

Walter Lippmann, writer and thinker, based on his present information, came up with the comment in his January 6th column, that there is "hope in non-commercial TV." As a one-time Socialist-plus, now improved to a Socialist-minus, he thinks that what is needed is competition.

Commenting on "the law approach" of Attorney General Rogers, Mr. Lippmann says: "there is more in the laws than that. The rights to use the comparatively few air waves are valuable property. These properties belong to the public, and the intent of the existing law is that licensees to use the air waves are pledged to treat them as a public trust in the public interest."

One is tempted to tell him there is much more to be said about what belongs to the people and what is a public trust.

"The best discussion of this question," he continued, "comes from John Fischer, writing in Harper's Magazine. His thesis is that since the air waves are public property, the government should charge rentals for them. This is quite feasible, since the profits are large. Moreover, rentals could be charged not only in money which would finance the non-commercial company but also in the form of time set aside for it on the commercial networks."

The sales price of air waves shows how little they are considered to be a public trust. Only economic education on a wide scale can reveal the answer to the great property question: what can be mine and thine, and what must be ours.

## AS PIONEERS THEY WORKED HARD

"A Seattle woman found a fortune through the picture window of her home. The window in Mrs. Delia Frolich Whatmore's home commands a sweeping view across Lake Washington and a large hill on the east shore. She has just sold 384 acres there for \$1,430,000. It cost her less than \$3,000."

In 1937, Mrs. Whatmore's son remarked that the country across Lake Washington would be a nice place for a summer home. Looking it over, they bought 160 acres from the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. Later, she paid \$970 for 200 acres of tax-title land, and got the remainder for \$500.

"Then came a floating bridge against the lake. The area was opened to real estate development and in recent years there has been large population growth. The 384 acres will become part of a 1000-acre, 120 million dollar residential and commercial development."

Will the difference between earning and getting wealth, within the law, ever be found out—with economic education as it is?

## BLIGHT AND UPSIDE-DOWN ASSESSMENTS

An examination of buildings in downtown St. Louis shows that at least 75 per cent of them are blight-bitten—most of them severely. About one such property, Director of Public Safety, Joseph P. Sestric, stated, "The city is well aware of the blighting effect this building exerts on this fine section, but nothing legally can be done about it."

"Taxes, more than anything else, will force some redevelopment of that corner," declared a St. Louis attorney, seeking this land for an eastern client. "On the basis of assessed valuation the city's tax collector thinks ten times more about the ground than he does about the empty corner building at Sixth and Washington."

Tax books list the ground at \$228,000 and improvements at only \$21,000 covering 40 running feet of the five-story structure. Another 30-foot adjoining section has ground valued at \$54,000 and improvements at \$17,000. On this assessment basis the corner lot was estimated as being worth \$5,600 a running foot.

And who has the key to this mystery? Not the city officials—not the newspapers. Who, but the Henry George School?

# Isn't One Tax Enough?

by RUSSEL CONKLIN



THE great rent fund remains a huge untapped source of public revenue. It is unearned income. It grows all the time. Why not take it in place of the multitude of taxes on production we now have?

Increased population puts constant pressure on the land—not in the old Malthusian sense—but in ever-increasing rents and royalties for the non-producers. The economics are so simple: Increased population means greater demand for land. The supply cannot be increased. So the price goes up. The community creates this value—the community should take it for public purposes. Set the producers free.

Political freedom without economic freedom is nothing. A hungry man doesn't want to vote. He wants to eat.

If some are escaping taxation, others must be paying for it. If some are paying taxes for others, they are being deprived of what they produce. What a man produces should be his own. Taxes on production rob the producers for the benefit of the non-producers. Justice demands the taking of unearned income for public purposes. Free the producers to produce.

*Monopoly* is a nasty word. It sounds almost as bad as *communism*. If free enterprise is to survive, it must find a middle ground. We must free our system of monopoly of all kinds if we are to save ourselves from communism.

Land is the only thing over which a complete monopoly can be established. Only with legal sanction is

such monopoly possible. Exclusive right to the use of the natural resources of the world can rightfully be exercised by none but the people themselves. Let the country own its natural resources and individuals may keep what they produce. Common property in land can be secured easily and simply by the taking of economic rent.

In a country as rich as ours, poverty is absurd. No man is free who has only the right to vote and is denied the right to work. The earth belongs to the living. Some land in Chicago sells at the rate of \$30,000 a front foot; that's \$13 million an acre. Urban values exceed farm values several times over. Land value taxation would fall most heavily on cities.

Why are some people so eager to see the city grow in population? Could it be that every increase in the city's census coincides with an increase in the price of land in that city? Land in New York City is certainly worth more than land in Podunk. Why? People make land values.

Vast supplies of valuable land are held in cold storage by speculators, just waiting for the price to rise. And the price will rise when the people come.

Income taxes are always subtracted from earnings. Excise taxes are always added to the price of purchases. The consumer who lives by his own earnings is squeezed in the middle.

The reason so many people do not become advocates of just taxes on un-

earned income is that they have received some of the benefits of increased land prices in the past or are hoping to make some of this easy money in the future. This plan hits at the self-interest of too many people. Everybody seems to be a potential land speculator. If you do not believe in taxing unearned income, you probably are scheming now as to how you can get some of it. Many people seem willing to pay this tremendous price of present-day taxes in the hope of getting some of the tax-free windfalls. The trouble is that so many of us never get anything except what we earn by our own labor. But it would be something to get all of that. When anybody escapes his just share of taxes, somebody else must pay it. Are you now paying somebody else's taxes?

Those of us who live by our own earnings should demand that we get all of those earnings and not have some of our just wages used to subsidize the landowners who reap tremendous profits from public improvements. Who do you suppose paid that profit which was earned on land near the freeways? Do you suppose that's where some of your taxes went? When the state condemns land for a new highway, it always pays the top price to the landowner. Some of these land holders just got control of the land when they learned of the proposed road. Whose money are they paying the speculator?

It's high time to take the tax off earnings and production and put it where it belongs: on the unearned income.

*"I leave the sunshine*

*to the*

*flowers . . .*



I leave the moon above, to those in love . . ." so ran a well-known song in the days when you could ride on the streetcar for a nickel.

The way to live without fear of the future, some would say, is to expect the best but prepare for the inevitable. Most people agree that peace of mind results from making a carefully executed will. And what better cause could one endow than the institution which is pointing out steadily year after year, the solution for many of the world's social ills?

Recently someone left a bequest to this school, however, and occasioned inconvenience, which was certainly not desired, because the name and address were not stated in the accepted legal form. Here it is: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Henry George School of Social Science, a New York educational corporation of 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, New York, the sum of \$———(or property, with description), to be used for the general purposes of the School."

If you are one of those readers who prefers joyously to act now and "live it up," you may send us a tender (legal) valentine and make us very happy. Any amount will be gratefully received, but if you send ten or more tax-exempt dollars your Henry George News will come to you as a free gift for one year. Bless you good. We love you, too!

# What Is Behind the News?

## A Panel Discussion of Current Events

**I**N a setting cleverly contrived by Joseph Solá to simulate a "live" television broadcast, a group of Henry George School teachers engaged in a "no-payola" panel discussion on a recent Friday Evening at Eight. Chairman of the evening and moderator of the panel was Sydney Mayers, who welcomed a gratifyingly large audience and introduced the participants, who were Dorothy Sara, Francis Nicosia, and David Sklar. Mr. Mayers explained that the aim of the program was to demonstrate how to apply economic principles to the news of the day, in order to determine not only what is happening—but also why.

Turning to current newspaper columns, the chairman noted that New York City had voted to repeal the unpopular tax on taxicab fares, and asked the panel to comment on the reasons for the repeal. The consensus of the panelists was that primarily the repeal was politically motivated, but more basically the tax had proved to be harmful to the industry. Mr. Sklar pointed out that although there is general opposition to many taxes, here was a case where the city fathers could not withstand the pressure of a unified and articulate body.

The panel also discussed the proposed rise in the federal tax on gasoline, and showed how the rise would tend to cut down the demand for motor fuel, citing the increasing use of smaller automobiles. Mr. Nicosia noted that if you raise taxes high enough you are bound to hold down inflation, but it certainly will discourage the auto market, killing the goose

that laid the egg. However, Miss Sara observed that while unit fuel usage might be curtailed, greater production and increased demand for motor vehicles would probably tend to maintain the level of consumption.

The subject of the so-called "population explosion," which is now receiving so much publicity, was discussed by the panel. Mr. Sklar dismissed the ubiquitous claim of over-population as merely a revival of Malthusianism, and said that in his opinion this was only an illogical effort to find an excuse for the prevalence of poverty. Miss Sara remarked that the natural resources of the world had barely been scratched, and many times the present population of the world could easily be supported were it not for the maldistribution of wealth. While agreeing in principle from an economic viewpoint, Mr. Nicosia commented that to see abject poverty with one's own eyes is one of the most frightening of human experiences. In general, the panel was in accord with an editorial from Barton's Weekly, which concluded: "The crying need in the world is not for fewer lives; it is for more opportunities of making a living."

In discussing the "invasion" of Switzerland by many American business firms, the panel brought out that some reasons for the flight of these companies to Geneva and other Swiss cities were economic and political security, less restriction regarding finance and banking, and (last but not least) the considerable tax advantages to be found in that country. All agreed that the primary attractions to the Ameri-

can businessman, to encourage such a move, must be more benefits and bigger profits.

Mention of the recent move in Indonesia to impose ceilings on prices to curb sharp increases prompted the panel to observe, quite unanimously, that prices can be established only on a market. Miss Sara cited past experience to show that price ceilings artificially set simply moved the effective market under the table, behind the door or to some other "black" area. Mr. Sklar, drawing on his experience as a real estate analyst, stated that rent control in urban territories resulted in depressing the quality and value of rent-controlled properties, and in due time created vast slums. At the same time, he pointed out, removing rent controls in itself would not be sufficient to wipe out slums; and the only way to remedy the blight would be to

collect full economic rent publicly, which would compel complete, proper and efficient use of productive land sites.

Several other topics were discussed, and while there was agreement on fundamental principles, each panelist offered personal and individual opinions on the various subjects. The discussion succeeded in making it quite clear that political economy, far from being "dismal," can be extremely vital and stimulating if thoughtfully applied to selected news events found in every Metropolitan newspaper. Following the panel's comments, the audience took part in a lively question-and-answer period, indicating that they had found the program interesting and enjoyable. This unrehearsed program having proved so successful, it is hoped that more such discussions of timely topics can be arranged in the future.



### WHAT CONTROLS LAND VALUES?

A round-table discussion on inflation and "tight money" held last fall appeared to reach the conclusion that these affected housing first among all major industries. The consensus of opinion was that tight money does not really control inflation—above all, it does not control skyrocketing land values due to land speculation. Only one effective measure was indicated for controlling land values—shifting the burden of taxation from houses to land.

This subject was discussed at the instigation of House & Home, leading magazine in the home building field, and a report was published in the January, 1960 issue.

Pierpont I. Prentice, editor and publisher of House & Home, newly elected to the Robert Schalkenbach board, has recently been elected a director of the Lincoln Foundation.

### FREEDOM PAPERS

The People's National party of Jamaica "proudly presents the result of land valuation on the unimproved value in the parishes of St. Catherine and St. Ann." In these two areas there are 75,000 taxpayers. Among these, 53,000 have had their land valued at £100 or under and will now pay only four shillings a year in taxes. Most of the 9,000 who have had their land valued at under £1,000 are also paying less than before.

Only 2,000 out of 75,000 have properties valued at over £1,000 and most of these will pay higher taxes, but they were paying far less before than they ought to have paid. So 72,877 persons out of 75,000 are singing the praises of the government which instituted the land value taxation reform. These people are waving their new valuation notices and calling them "freedom papers."



# New Acquaintance Notes

by JOSEPH L. SOLÁ

HAVING been presented with the opportunity of introducing myself as a four-months-old member of the Henry George School staff, I am suddenly aware of having been, initially at least, an outsider, but I partially made up for this by becoming a student soon after my arrival. In fact my curiosity got the better of me and by the end of the first fortnight I had read through the entire Teachers' Manual for the first course and started looking into the next two.

I also gave *Progress and Poverty* a first reading, scanned much of the introductory literature available to students and visitors, and asked many questions. Even after completing the basic course I would not dare to suggest that I had absorbed all 565 pages plus preface and glossary of the "75th Anniversary Edition." However, my persistent habit of inquiring and my penchant for exploring, have convinced me that here is a school with a rich background in the truly American tradition.

As a part of my "acquaintance tour" I took a walk over to the Mall in nearby Central Park to see the Henry George tree. Some say it is hard to direct strangers to this tree, but for those who would relish a brisk walk these frosty days it can be easily found by locating one's self in front of a statue of two eagles at the rear of the Mall, and then heading south along a foot path. From this point it is the eleventh tree on the right of the path—and though only fourteen years old, this sturdy white oak selected by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, makes a fine showing in the company of other trees dedicated to distinguished Americans.

Joseph L. Solá, Director Clancy's new assistant, is already on the teaching staff, offering an advanced course on *The Economic History of the United States*. He is a graduate of New York University and a Reserve Infantry officer, and has his own advertising business. A history-loving American, he has traveled widely in the states, and speaks Spanish in addition to English.

In a sense one could say that the spirit of these people has been kept alive for us in these living memorials. On the same side is a tree planted by the Companions of the Forests of America in honor of Annie E. Poth, humanitarian; and on the opposite side is one honoring Sergeant Joyce Kilmer, author of the poem "Trees," who lost his life in World War I. Henry George's tree, younger and jauntier than some, is a beautiful symbol of a great life.

Reflecting on him as I strolled back to headquarters, I thought of his role in pioneering for freedom in a world that is now losing many individual freedoms. By introducing the secret ballot in New York, he insured every citizen's choice, protecting it from censorship by selfish interests. When we compare this with election procedures in Communist countries we realize in small measure, the kingly stature of this man who was only five feet two inches tall.

Naturally I was impressed by Henry George's outstanding economic tenet of land value taxation as a basic tax reform, with which all readers of HGN are familiar. Our history reveals many instances where a community, in order to encourage new settlers, gave land away by the hundreds and thousands of acres, only to find

that when it was needed the price tag was prohibitive. George's prophecies regarding the development of this country from 1880 to the present have steadily and grimly proven to be true. Had his warnings been heeded this might be today the citadel of freedom it once promised to be. Certainly those historians who overlook or minimize the contribution of such a realistic American do a disservice to their readers.

Fortunately we have fitting and continuous memorials, not only to Henry George but to one of his most loyal students, Oscar H. Geiger, whose sacrifice made possible the Henry George School. Here students and teachers from all walks of life and many levels of society enjoy the fruits of the free and factual study of Henry George. Wherever these two great souls are now, they must be glad to know that their teachings have lived after them. They were buried in opposite parts of greater New York—the city with a very heterogeneous population—where they made their homes. Henry George's grave is in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, and Oscar Geiger's is in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx.

It may not be generally known that one of the best repositories in the country for research material is the New York Public Library at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue. Since I spend a good deal of time on 42nd Street I can often drop in to enjoy the quiet atmosphere of this fine building. Here the manuscript room proudly preserves for posterity, and for present-day researchers, valuable books, papers, pictures and letters from the family of Henry George. Thus, though he himself is gone from our sight, his influence lives on, not only in busy New York but in many other cities in the U.S., Canada and other countries where people who never heard of Henry

George before are "getting acquainted" and learning of the ideal social philosophy which was his heritage to a troubled world.

One of my duties is to arrange film programs for Fridays at Eight, a forum series of the type originated by Oscar Geiger and revived by one of his best known pupils, Robert Clancy, director of the Henry George School. They are devoted to lectures, discussions and films covering a wide variety of subjects.

These programs are held in a room which in itself is worth a trip to the school. The ceiling of costly gold leaf in intricate design is not unlike such treasures as tourists go abroad to see. The wood paneling in this room and the pleasant dining room on the same floor, has impressed many a discerning visitor. But the architectural feature that causes the most palpitation is the handsome staircase from the first floor to the fifth (publication offices of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and HGN).

The stairway is so elegant that I use it much more than the elevator which is an early vintage residential "lift" and therefore not very rapid. On the first weeks of each new term volunteers are asked to "operate" the elevator or tell new students to put plenty of pressure on the buttons and give it time.

The library on the third floor, well stocked with books on economics, philosophy and history, is an ideal retreat for the student in search of reference material, particularly anything pertaining to the Georgist movement. This building on fashionable E. 69th Street, one of the most expensive neighborhoods in New York, was built as a home, and now, as the home of the Henry George School, it continues to lure new students and visitors, inviting, study relaxation and friendly discussion.

# Eureka!

by JAMES PETERSON

**T**AXES, taxes, taxes! Like the weather, taxes are something people are always talking about but, unlike the weather, the ridiculously high, unnecessary and unfair taxation we have today can-and-should-be lessened if not completely removed!

How many of you reading this have said to yourselves or to someone else when you have received your pay envelope or check, "Oh, my God! Look at that tax taken out of my pay"? Everyone who earns an income feels the tax pinch but the common laborer, that is, anyone who exerts his energy in the production of a commodity or, let us include even those who render services, however, excluding those "professional" people who may have means of off-setting or shifting the tax—these people feel it most.

We have federal taxes, state taxes and municipal taxes. From the moment we are born and all during our lifetime until death—no!—even after death, we are taxed. Almost all of us pay taxes. We grumble, yell, complain, but however, we still pay. Some of us pacify ourselves by saying taxes are necessary for the stability and maintenance of our country. This is a black lie! We absolutely do not need taxation to the degree which it is applied, if we need it at all.

We all know that taxes breed liars, crooks and thieves, and make basically honest and decent citizens the victims of "guilt complexes" because they have chosen, not what conscience tells them is right and just, but instead have done what circumstances demand. I was about to say that our present system of taxation is for the birds but, I am certain, that if our system of taxation could be so imposed, the

James Peterson is a new Henry George School student in Brooklyn. Though he never wrote anything for publication before, he read *Progress and Poverty* and then felt an uncontrollable desire to "let people know." His first article was sent to his union paper, but he feels he did not convey enough of Henry George's philosophy, so he will keep trying. "Eureka," in a somewhat longer version, was used as the editorial in the December-January issue of *The Amalgamated Foundry Worker's Bulletin* which reaches nearly all the United States and Canada.

birds would immediately, swiftly fly to some place in the world where the taxation was more to their liking.

Ever since I can remember I was concerned about the "tax" situation. I often wondered too, why there had to be so much heartache, misery, trouble and poverty in the world. Although I thought about these things I never could find any answer. Also; I am not the most religious guy in this world but I do believe in God. I often said to myself, "If there is a God, and He is good and kind and fair, how can He let so many people in this world suffer without helping them?" Then one day it happened! I had found the answer. I read a book named *Progress and Poverty*, and I said eureka!

Because of the limited space I can not explain the feeling that raced through me. Here, in this magnificent book I found not only the answer to the cause of industrial depressions, poverty, misery and heartache but, an idea of taxation dug out of the files of history which exposes our present-day system of taxation for what it is: an ever increasing cancer that lives off wages of the poor while the unaffected rich get richer!

Of course at this point you must be

wondering how could we possibly eliminate our present system of taxation or at least 90 per cent of our taxation and still maintain all that we do in the United States plus what we do abroad. Here is the idea. Eliminate all or as many of the taxes we now have to cope with as possible, and substitute just one tax, just a single tax! Apply a tax to the *value of land*, irrespective of improvements and 90 per cent of our social problems are solved.

Questions will come into your mind like, "if this idea is so good why hasn't it been done before," and, "What about the people who OWN the LAND upon which the tax will fall," or, "even if this tax on the VALUE of land could be legally applied where would all the money collected go and again would we collect enough tax this way to meet all our expenses"?

The reason we have industrial depressions, low wages, low interest, unemployment, poverty, misery and enormously high rent is because of *land monopolizers*—people who hold land out of use until the value of land goes sky high, then, either they sell their land at an enormous profit, or they rent or lease it at rates that are so high that the entire country is ultimately adversely affected. Hard to believe? Just stop and think about it! Is there any land in your community not being used? Why??

I contend that the answer to our tax problem is contained in the book *Progress and Poverty*, published by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York. I emphatically recommend its purchase and I am certain you'll cherish it always.

## *Hall of Fame Elections*

This year, besides a Presidential election, there will be an election of prominent Americans of the past to the Hall of Fame. The name of Henry George has been placed in nomination. It would help if you would write a letter endorsing his nomination and telling why you think George should be elected. Send your letter to the Hall of Fame, 53 Washington Square South, New York 12, N.Y.

Henry George was born in Philadelphia on September 2, 1839 and died in New York on October 29, 1897. This information is requested on the form.

### DETROIT CONFERENCE—1960 MODEL

The 18th Annual Conference of the Henry George School of Social Science will be held in Detroit, Michigan from Wednesday, July 6th to Sunday, July 10th, at the Pick-Shelby Hotel. There will be an interesting program, fragments of which will leak out gradually in HGN. Put a circle right now around the dates on your calendar and around Detroit on your big U.S. map, and make your plans to be there.

### NEW YORK ELECTS NEW TRUSTEE

Levi E. (Lee) Bottens, a New York attorney in charge of the Certified Life Underwriter Training Council with headquarters in Washington, D.C., has been elected to the board of trustees of the Henry George School. He took the courses in Fundamental Economics and Science of Political Economy in 1954, after having been indoctrinated informally over the luncheon table by Lancaster M. Greene. The following two years he taught the basic course at New York headquarters. He will teach a class in Fundamental Economics in Silver Spring, Maryland, next month.

The resignation of Dr. Geoffrey W. Esty of Princeton, New Jersey, long a valued member of the board of trustees of the Henry George School in New York, has been accepted with regret. He is president of the New Jersey Henry George School.



# The Henry George School in the News



TORONTO'S Friday at Eight audience recently had as its guest Senator Arthur Roebuck, a long-time Georgist, who spoke disparagingly of a proposed Canadian Bill of Rights, now under discussion. "While all right in principle it makes no mention of economic rights," he said. "No man can live unless he has access to the resources necessary for the sustenance of life, to the land and the air he breathes and the water that he uses. I find nothing of this kind in the Bill of Rights." The Senator was introduced by David E. Farmer.

Other speakers were City of Toronto Controller Dennison, Art Adamthwaite and Harry Pollard, Toronto extension director, all of whom touched upon the work of the Alumni Group and its hopes for the future. Alderman Mrs. May Birchard said she wished some Georgist in Toronto would run for city office, and said she would go out and campaign for him giving all the support she could in council.

In the photograph above Ernest J. Farmer, editor of the *Square Deal*, is shown handing over to the president of the Alumni Group, Ernie Bowser (left), the records of the Henry George Society, representing the formal amalgamation of the two.

NEW JERSEY headquarters at Newark report interest in a course they are offering for the second time in securities and investments, sponsored by the New York Stock Exchange. Several students from the first course are now taking Fundamental Economics.

Chauncey O. Reinhart of Roselle, New Jersey was recently elected a trustee of the New Jersey Henry George School.

Dr. Herman A. Lazaar, a faculty member, will discuss *Theory of Political Economy* by Jevons on February 8th, and a film depicting life in "The Golden Twenties" will be shown.

SAN FRANCISCO school friends now gather at new and enlarged quarters at 833 Market Street, freshly painted and furnished with the help of willing friendly hands of many people who worked and are still working to complete the new office and classroom.

BERKELEY students met for an informal dinner on January 8th to hear Dr. Glenn E. Hoover give an inspiring completion address. Professor Hoover's "Freedom vs. Power" delivered at the 15th annual conference last summer has been published in *Vital Speeches of the Day*, October 15th issue.

BAY AREA classes began the week of January 25th with the following discussion leaders: Stanley Franklin, Nancy Standring, Charles MacSwan, Carroll Blake, Max Pausch, Arthur Linahan, Elmer Weden, Theodore Hiatt, George Lachner, Joseph Marks and Robert Tideman. A course in the Fundamentals of Money opened on January 28th with Robert DeFremery in charge.

# A Time of Remembering

(Continued from page 1)

the one who started him on a 17-year stretch of teaching in the Henry George School, and started Ezra Cohen on the same trail. Such was his understanding that he could see in others values totally unsuspected by themselves. Mr. Greene spoke of him as inspiring, remarkable and extremely gentle—a man who knew what he thought and was able to influence many because of his respect for others.

Albert Pleydell, who met Lawson Purdy when he was a very little boy, recalled him as one of the finest friends anybody ever had, a man with faith in Henry George, and in the City of New York as potentially a wonderful place in which to live. Mr. Pleydell, who is now heading an important tax advisory committee, believes the emphasis placed by Lawson Purdy on the separation of land and improvements on the tax rolls of New York, is bearing fruit as evidenced by increased nation-wide interest, and feels we are only two steps away from land value taxation.

Miss V. G. Peterson was very appropriately chosen to recount the memorable lecture tour in this country of the Honorable F. A. W. Lucas in 1955—a man who was "light and a power." He initiated many reforms in Transvaal, S. Africa, where he was a Supreme Court Justice. Under his influence land value taxation became well established by virtue of an ordinance he introduced which was similar to the Third Class City Act passed in Pennsylvania.

Charles R. Eckert, who until his death a few months ago (at 91) was

president of the Henry George Foundation credited with effecting this legislation, was another honored, lifelong Georgist.

Speaking finally for our late president, John Cromwell Lincoln, Raymond W. Moley referred to him as "one of the great geniuses this country has produced." The speaker revealed the pleasant surprise that he is writing a book about Mr. Lincoln, so the fascinating details hinted at in his talk about his many inventions, will be withheld until its publication.

He said Mr. Lincoln believed there was a moral order in the world, that force should not be used, and that natural law should prevail. It was his conviction that if you got people primarily interested in justice "George would come later."

As we listened and recalled fond memories of these six men, we were also remembering other men and women in unofficial capacities, equally faithful, who have gone. How comforting it would be if we could think our movement, not the poorer for their loss, but stronger, because they are unaffected by the limitations of space and time.

We know at least two of these men believed implicitly in the continuance of life—perhaps all, in varying degrees, held the same belief. Dr. Wernher VonBraun of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, expressed this faith in God and immortality when he said, "everything science has taught me—and continues to teach me—strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace."