

the Henry George News

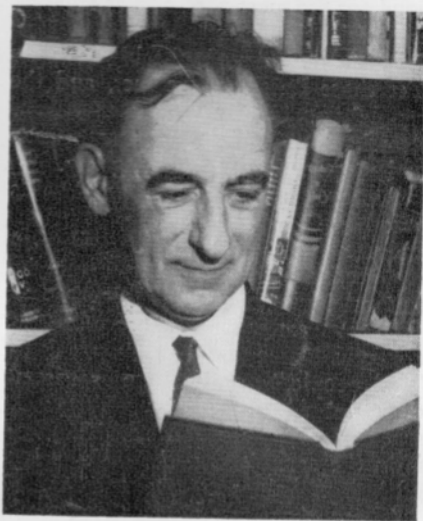
PUBLISHED BY HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. • FEB. 1964

Joseph A. Stockman

THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL has lost its beloved Wang-tzu—Joseph A. Stockman, director of the Philadelphia extension since 1941. A Wang-tzu in Chinese is a "scholar of a man" with feet firmly planted on the ground but with aspirations that ever reach toward heaven. And that was Joe!

In many ways, says his faithful assistant at the school, Lucia Cipolloni, he had the same adventuresome spirit as Henry George. In his youth he worked in a lumber camp in Maine. Next he went to sea in a four-masted schooner. He was shipwrecked off the New England coast in a storm but thoroughly enjoyed the breeches-buoy rescue.

Joe was at his best in a storm. He was by nature optimistic and serene, and if confusion reigned or tempers grew edgy he drove the clouds away with his notoriously sunny disposition. When he was still too young for the army he enlisted and prevailed on his parents to give their consent. Though wounded several times and totally blind for six months, his valor won him the purple heart and other medals which, characteristically, he never mentioned. Always outspoken for fair dealing, he was almost court-martialled on one occasion for defying authorities when he refused to order his men to fight without having eaten for several days owing to a misappropriation



of their food supply. The officers did not pursue the court-martial because of his youth and the boldness of his action.

He had known something of Henry George since his youth through his father's association with Dr. McGlynn's Anti-Poverty League. After his release in 1920 from the 39th Infantry, Fourth Division, he lived in New York City and became acquainted with the Henry George School. Here, in 1940, he found his niche. The following year he and his wife moved to Philadelphia when he was appointed director of the Philadelphia extension

(Continued on page 14)

A Word With You

IS THERE anything more appealing than a three-year-old child? And is there anything more disastrous than a room full of three-year olds?

Why should this be? Why is not the whole, in this case, the sum of the parts?

Or take mankind at large. When I was in the Army in World War II, Germany was the wicked enemy. Yet when we got into Germany, all we saw were ordinary human beings, good for the most part, and as friendly as could be expected.

Russia nowadays is the big menace. Yet those Russians I've met, and the people described by visitors to Russia, also shape up to be pretty decent men and women, hearty and outgoing.

An even more serious problem is posed by China; yet as individuals the Chinese are seen as good, hard-working, polite people, with a wonderful cultural heritage.

What went wrong? We cannot successfully blame the world's woes on "bad people," nor promote as a remedy, "get rid of the bad people," as is still seriously propounded. The key is in the social order—the relationship of human beings to one another.

Those three-year-olds — each one playing by himself, or performing before grown-ups, can be charming. When one of them meets another, there might be a friendly start, but a crisis soon develops over who wants what, and who is encroaching against

whom. It takes a great deal of friendly persuasion before a child understands what he can have and do, and what he can't.

But we never really learn, or finish learning, do we, because we have the same problems as grown-ups. Everybody has a story, and I daresay that nine out of ten will, if you let them, tell you the same story: they are not appreciated, their virtues and talents go unrecognized, they're not getting the good things they deserve; and on the other hand, they have to take a lot more nonsense and bad things than they deserve. In fact, there is a modicum of truth to this epidemic lament, in that our economic system does not reward according to effort—but not knowing where to fix the blame, it becomes a matter of a wife who doesn't understand, a cruel boss, the wicked world.

The process of the three-year-old learning about social relationships is something that has to be carried further into life than it is, and applied. For it is basically a matter of human rights. A social order that neglects or denies basic human rights and essential equality of opportunity, is doomed, no matter how skillfully it is arranged, no matter how impressive its achievements. And it is not a question of "good" or "bad" people, but of finding the right formulas for social relationships.

—Robert Clancy

Vol. 27, No. 2

February, 1964

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 rental value to land, therefore the 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: William S. O'Connor, Arnold A. Weinstein and Lancaster M. Greene, chairman. Editor: Alice Elizabeth Davis. Subscriptions \$1 a year; single copies 10c. Second class postage paid at New York, N. Y.

Brazil—Study in Frustration

by JAMES L. BUSEY

IT IS OFTEN true that one can only begin to understand a region or country by getting away from it, by comparing it with others. A perspective is gained by hindsight.

After five months of study and observation in Brazil, only a comparison with other Latin American countries makes vividly clear how hopeless the Brazilian situation really is. More than ever after being in Uruguay, Argentina, Chile and Peru—Brazil seems like an ineffective, amorphous mass of ineptitude, frustration and confusion.

Of course there is the notorious inflation, now reaching up to 100 per cent per year; and there is the idiotic and apparently deliberate attempt by her government to scare off every capital investment, foreign or domestic, that might help to develop her untapped resources. This says nothing of the extraordinary failure of Brazilians to even occupy or use the agrarian lands that are open to them. It is startling that millions of Brazilians seem to prefer vegetating in the stinking slums of the cities to laboring, even as illegal squatters, on the vacant agricultural lands of the countryside.

To my questions as to why so much land between the cities was deserted and unused, I received some very silly answers: "Too many rocks." They should tell that to a New England farmer or Peruvian Indian! "Poor soil." Certainly much better than some of the perpendicular plots in the Andes! "Someone might steal the crops." This problem hasn't prevented some use of the land in Chile, Argentina, Uruguay or Peru. The silliest of all: "No interest in agriculture."

Parts of Brazil suffer from the vestiges of feudalism, from *latifundia* and *minifundia* as do other parts of Latin

America. But the Brazilian problem, hard though it may be to believe, goes even deeper.

In Brazil, there are not only huge *fazendas* and the typical Latin American patterns of land monopoly and consequent inadequate land use and misery, and excluded classes. In much of Brazil there are no clear land titles at all! Vast tracts of land remain unused because no one can be sure of his ownership or of any security of return for his labor. What is no one's is anyone's and no one can feel secure from the ravages of powerful political *chefes* or even of gangs of rural bandits who may not only steal the crops, but also drive the farmer and his family from the land and burn their poor buildings.

In 1962 Chile adopted a land reform program which combines compensated expropriation with something very like the required-use provisions of our Homestead Act of 1862. The Argentine Congress is about to consider measures for land value taxation that seem indistinguishable from the proposals of Henry George. Just this week, the Peruvian Congress passed a measure for general land reform. In other Latin American countries similar measures are on the books and being put into effect.

Not so in Brazil. Chaos in land titles is so great that no two authorities agree as to who owns what, how much, or where. For almost the past year, the Brazilian Congress has debated, and gotten nowhere, on the subject of land reform. Misinformation, selfish interest and social blindness have brought Brazilian land reform to a dead center. Meanwhile, an inept government has decreed that it will expropriate all land within ten kilom-

eters of any highway or railway — an arbitrary, meaningless measure that is irrelevant to any Brazilian need.

And Henry George? I am told by academicians who are acquainted with most of the socially conscious people of São Paulo that in that huge city — population 3,800,000 — there are exactly three Georgists.

Brazil has never heard of Henry George. And a huge land, full of won-

derful people, is going down the drain.

Professor James L. Busey teaches in the Political Science Department at the University of Colorado in Boulder. He is the author of a super-condensation of *Progress and Poverty*, available from The Henry George News, 50 East 69th St., New York 21, N.Y., at 15 cents a copy. This may soon be available in Spanish. Dr. Busey, a specialist on Latin American affairs, sent this report from Lima, Peru on January 22, 1964, especially for readers of HGN.

Jamaica Land Tax Receives Approval

A RESOLUTION was passed in Jamaica, W.I. on December 17th recording the satisfaction of the Association of Local Government Authorities to continue the change-over to the unimproved value of land as the basis of assessment of land taxes, and it is hoped that revaluing of land in St. Elizabeth parish can be resumed some time this year (see January HGN). "Every effort is being made to see revaluation start off on the right basis this time, so it will produce worth-while results," wrote Phillip Wallace, director of the Henry George School in Kingston, Jamaica, "In any case, the principle has been paid a great tribute, being re-introduced after it had been suspended and attacked by the leader of the party in power. It's a step in the right direction, no matter how hesitant and uncertain.

"A policy to force those with 100 or more acres of unused, or partially-unused lands to develop them along 'approved' lines — or face government acquisition for land-settlement purposes, was announced by the Minister of Agriculture, recently.

"A survey is to be undertaken to determine the amount of unused or underused land on each holding, and

a test would be made to determine the potential of such lands, enabling the authorities to say what kind of crop should be grown on each holding — according to soil-types. 'Fair and adequate' compensation would be paid for lands compulsorily acquired for redistribution to farmers.

"Nothing was said about the inevitable extension of government bureaucracy required by these surveys, or the unnecessary governmental interference and dictation with the farmer's freedom of choice of crops in order to have his development-plan 'approved,' nor was there any hint about who'll bear the cost of the plan.

"As for compensation, what is 'fair and adequate,' and what is the basis of assessment, present market-value, or future expected-value, capitalized? No one seems to know or care," said Mr. Wallace.

"Of course, the *only* remedy is to tax the land at its full market value, whether improved or not, and let self-interest force the owner or user to put it to its best use, encouraging him to do so by exempting all improvements. Or is this solution 'impractical' because it works without government controls?"

Inequality Exploited in Panama

THE dean of the New Jersey Henry George School, Alexander M. Goldfinger, recently returned from a Caribbean cruise, and made the following observations about the crisis in Panama:

"The incidents which recently occurred are better understood after a visual inspection of the disparity between the standard of living by Panamanians living in the Republic of Panama and the Americans living in the Canal Zone. A wire fence on Fourth of July Avenue divides the two zones. On the Panamanian side there are ramshackle dwellings; on the Canal Zone side beautiful homes with well kept grounds and shrubbery, with ample garage or car-port space for automobiles.

"Americans working in the Canal Zone enjoy wages above those paid in continental United States, since a twenty-five per cent bonus is paid for away-from-home service. The Panamanians working in the Canal Zone enjoy standard U.S. wages without the bonus, but these wages are much higher than those prevailing in the Republic. The visual signs of affluence and poverty in such close proximity make it understandable that envy, jealousy and desire for betterment make the Panamanians good listeners to those who would foment disorders or worse when they blandly ascribe this situation to the Americans. When a rosier condition is promised if only the Americans can be driven out, the feelings of unrest can easily be stirred to riotous action.

"But the plight of the Panamanians is not properly the result of the American operation of the Panama Canal. A recent article in U.S. News & World Report states that a U. S. Commission found one per cent of the Panamanian landowners owning 50

per cent of the privately owned land — usually the best land where roads were built. Furthermore the big land-owners were found to be more concerned with their commercial enterprises than with farming and showed little interest in modern farming techniques. About 90 per cent of the farm units were operating without clear land titles. The squatter farmer had no incentive to improve land he did not own, and he could not qualify for financial aid.

"The operation of the canal by the United States pours some 80 million dollars a year into the Panamanian economy, which accounts for about 17 per cent of the nation's income. Thus, in Panama, poverty is the result of the historic system of land monopoly that prevents the efficient utilization of natural resources and results in inequality of opportunity."

A recent letter from John A. Morales, a reader who lives and works in the Canal Zone, also speaks of the contrast referred to by Mr. Goldfinger, and says it has been "skillfully exploited by agitators who conveniently overlook the more shocking contrast with the palatial homes and estates of the rich in their midst."

"The canal administration," he wrote, "increasingly cuts down its work forces and lets out its work to contractors in Panama. Workers involved must pay much higher rents in Panama and the contractor's need for new sites for materials and machinery adds to the demand for land in the two terminal cities of Panama and Colon, where land values are among the highest in the world.

"The U.S. Army's policy of attempting to discourage marriage by lower rank personnel by not providing housing for those who do get married merely forces them to seek high

priced, substandard housing in Panama. In addition they must pay exorbitant 'fees' for residence papers. This results in many G.I. couples living in near poverty in a foreign country and to the detriment of American prestige as economic pressures force undesirable expedients in their way of life. These have been the most pitiful refugees of the January 9th and 10th disturbances.

"Fuller utilization could be made of the zone's area, especially along the west bank, to house the canal's legitimate workers and defenders. However, as in large American cities there are many empty lots in Panama and Colon that would be brought into use if a land value tax were applied.

"The increase of want has been quite evident along with the increase of wealth in Panama as the 'elite' have tended to hoard all excess wealth not lavished on themselves. The civil disturbances they fear and hedge against with numbered accounts in Swiss banks are ironically hastened

by their lack of faith in their own country.

"Their use of the U.S. as a scapegoat for all their troubles must eventually backfire as long as the present unequal distribution of wealth, based on landlordism, is maintained."

In December, 1959, it was pointed out in HGN that most of the difficulties between Panama and the United States were the result of violations of the natural laws of land utilization by both nations.

Mr. and Mrs. Goldfinger noticed that thousands of bags of American grain were unloaded in Colombia as part of the Alliance for Progress program. As this was not in edible form, the government of Colombia sold it to a commercial milling firm and used the proceeds for their own purposes. We who understand the futility of such transactions may be in the minority, the Dean said, but we should be courageous enough to speak out firmly and with conviction in defense of our principles.

ELTA ESSAYS WILL BE IN THE NEWS EACH WEEK

Bertram A. Wilson, president of the Erie Land Tax Association, and W. Wylie Young, its executive director, have reached an important decision regarding their campaign in Erie, Pennsylvania. Interested readers who followed the initial program and contributed to this effort will undoubtedly wish to continue support of this vitally important campaign. Funds are urgently needed, writes Percy Williams, Secretary of the Henry George Foundation, in Pittsburgh. "Success in Erie would give impetus to many smaller towns in the area and would be of tremendous value to the whole movement."

Every Saturday a two-column newspaper space in the News and the Times will contain a "miniature essay" on the LVT proposal for Erie. This will eliminate the present printing costs, the ardors of distribution and the secretarial expense of using the direct mail approach. Wylie Young will write the essays and contribute his services five days a week.

The first newspaper copy, reaching into possibly 80,000 homes, announces: "an all-out educational campaign for 1964," since the ELTA board is "more convinced than ever that Erie should take advantage of the new law which permits Third Class Cities in Pennsylvania to levy a greater part of the real estate tax against land value tax rather than against the combined value of land and buildings . . . "Rich in moral and spiritual overtones," the plan is "crying for recognition in every country in the world," and could "become the wave of the future on the tax fronts of America and the free world." The ELTA headquarters are at 2217 Peninsula Drive, Erie, Pennsylvania.

Assignment in Peru

by PETER PATSAKOS

THE telephone rang. Peru calling. Could the Henry George School send someone to teach economics in Spanish at a university in Arequipa? That's how it began.

Staff members at New York headquarters were a bit incredulous, and at times, even after the first visit of Nicholas Reynoso, director of PACE, the Peruvian American Cultural Exchange, there were strong doubts as to whether this teaching assignment would actually be carried out.

However, on the 20th of June I arrived in Arequipa, the second largest city in the country, to teach at Santa Maria, a Catholic university. I was permitted to stay with a native family who made me feel welcome and treated me as one of their own. The director of the university greeted me with sincerity and warmth. It was arranged that I should teach five days a week, from late June until the first week of December, to a little more than 100 of the second year students.

Despite my brief acquaintance with the language and the country, the course was well received. At first students hesitated to join in the discussions, as the Socratic question and answer approach was new to them. After a while, however, some of them said they preferred this to the lecture method which had become the accustomed pattern. Especially gratifying was the fact that students appreciated a philosophy that could effectively counter the Marxist concepts dominating the curriculum at Arequipa's only other university. Among the students at least 15 were exceptional, and a few announced their intention of majoring in economics as a result of their exposure to the Henry George philosophy.

Santa Maria is only two years old. It is supported by tuition fees comparable with those in other private universities, and by contributions from business firms and foundations. Father Robert Morris, the director, and those assisting him, plan to make it a model Peruvian university. There are about 400 students, mostly from what would be considered the middle class. The enrollment is about equally divided between boys and girls.

The national universities in Peru have "co-government" which gives the student body a large amount of influence in determining school policy. This system in some instances resulted in strikes and violent political demonstrations which had no relation to the academic program. Therefore the authorities at Santa Maria have rejected co-government.

Some Peruvians criticize the American aid program claiming that most of the money goes to those who "have" and very little to those who "have not." The Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps are accepted with mixed feelings. The latter was looked upon at first with skepticism, but since its members accept the same living conditions as the lowest native social-economic groups, it has helped to establish good will. Alliance for Progress funds for housing projects and other works are made available by low-interest loans through the semi-private Board of Industrial Development.

Peru has a small but powerful landed class which controls most of the nation's industry and commerce. President Belaude is trying to improve social and economic conditions and to decentralize the country by allowing the cities to elect their mayors and other officials, instead of having them

appointed from Lima. His projected agrarian reform program of purchasing and redistributing land, does not deal with the problem in a fundamental manner, but it is hoped that it will prove effective in avoiding an explosion. This would be paid for with bonds, and will apply only to unused or poorly used lands. Peasants are continuing to invade the large landholdings, and if a palliative is not offered the nation may fall into the hands of extremists.

An encouraging sign is that the Christian Democrat party has introduced a bill to increase the taxes on unused or underused sites in the cities. While this is not as desirable as land value taxation, it seems to indicate awareness of the part a tax reform could play in improving the economy.

All such subjects were discussed with enthusiasm in my classes. Our textbooks were *Progress and Poverty*, *Protection or Free Trade* and *The Science of Political Economy* by Henry George. In addition I used *Agrarian Reform in America* by C. P. Carranza, an Argentine Georgist. All these books were in Spanish. Since this economics class was mandatory for all second year students, there were a number who attended as a matter of course;

however, all were required to take an examination each week.

Peru is an interesting country to visit. The scenery around Arequipa is beautiful, with lofty snow-capped El Misti in the distance and fertile valleys within easy reach. The natives will often go out of their way to help a stranger. Tourists find the food delicious, fresh and inviting, without preservatives of any kind.

Latin America may be the next "emerging area"—and let me emphasize that one should not generalize about these countries. While they have much in common with each other, there are also great differences, for instance, between Argentina and Bolivia, and between Ecuador and Costa Rica.

The urgency most often expressed is the same as that found elsewhere in the world — improvement of the living standard. Those of us who understand Henry George's philosophy of freedom know the answer, and should do all we can to expound it to the many who must "have right thought before right action can follow." I hope I left a few seeds in Arequipa that will grow and multiply.

Peter Patsakos is now assistant director at the Henry George School succeeding Laurence Kobak who left to take a commercial position.



In Spanish it's *Progreso y Miseria*

The new Spanish language *Progress and Poverty* has just been published by Fomenta de Cultura, Valencia, Spain, in cooperation with the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York. This complete and unabridged 590-page edition was translated by the Spanish Georgist leader, Baldomero Argente, and is in large, clear type. It includes a preface by Mr. Argente and a useful index. Cloth bound copies are \$3.50 and paperbacks, planned especially for student use, are \$2, both available from the Henry George School, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y.

Why Not Give It Back to the Indians?

At last there is genuine concern about the ugliness that is spreading over the United States in what Eric Sevareid feels is "surely the cultural crime of the century." Commenting on Peter Blake's book *God's Own Junkyard*, he states, "there is a fundamental moral and, therefore, ought to be a fundamental legal difference between ugly movies, ugly TV commercials, ugly music, ugly books and ugly buildings, highways and streets. The former can be avoided; we have a choice. The latter cannot be avoided; we have no choice at all." Other important books, like the one mentioned last month, by Secretary of the Interior Udall, *The Quiet Crisis*, are calling attention to the "crashing vulgarity in the cities and dreary uniformity in the suburbs."

If the citizens cannot be made to see the virtues of land value taxation as a proven and workable method of avoiding the unsightly sprawl, then why not start over and give the land back to the Indians? Thanks to Leoane Anderson, extension director in Denver, who furnishes us with selective clippings, we have a copy of the Denver Post with an interesting revelation about a 1887 law, long obscured and hidden but recently discovered by Amos A. Hopkins-Dukes, a Kiowa Indian.

Mr. Hopkins-Dukes, now 34, college educated and a former marine, is the grandson of a Kiowa chief. He recalls that his grandmother used to say the Indians would some day get back the land that was rightfully theirs

by treaty. After much search this persevering grandson found a record of the treaty which provided that any Indian man, woman or child could seek and be granted without cost, up to 160 acres of federal land unless it was "otherwise appropriated." He has laid claim to 160 acres of federal grazing land in Western Colorado, but the Bureau of Land Management often finds convenient dodges for dealing with smart Indians, such as the claim that the land is not suitable for grazing or is more valuable for the timber than for agricultural purposes.

One ranch expert concedes that "the treatment of the Indian was outrageous throughout American history," but he says the rights of the present users should be considered before allotments are made. The sheep and wool industry is in trouble now, according to one wool grower, and taking their public lands away would be disastrous.

"The march on Washington may be the right way for the Negro people but not for us," said Mr. Hopkins-Dukes. Court action will drag on for years no doubt, but he is patient. Though an American by birth, he does not claim citizenship. He says the Supreme Court ruled that Indian tribes retain all the powers of nations, and the Kiowa nation has not given up much of its power. It did, however, unwittingly give up its land. Indians believe that the land belongs to all and should not be privately owned but should be used wisely and preserved for future generations. That is quite different from the present motivation.

Taxes on semi-occupied plots in Tel Aviv have been raised 100 per cent. There are high taxes on "explored" urban property to encourage owners to develop them. Some owners had evaded the penalty by retaining parcels as junk yards, etc. "The new increase will nip this kind of invasion." — From a Zionist new letter.

VIEWS THE NEWS

The recent declaration of "War Against Poverty," proclaimed in Washington and echoed in many states and cities, demonstrates a forthright admission of its existence and a commendable desire to eradicate it, but we are regretfully dubious that the means proposed to wage this noble campaign will be effective. Instead of reviving the costly government-sponsored "pump-priming" programs which have proved sadly unavailing in the past, it would be better to war on poverty by attacking its basic causes: land speculation, the private collection of economic rent and the taxation of production.

* * * * *

Notwithstanding fervent avowals of antipathy for communism and its adherents, the U. S. A. is selling wheat to the Soviet Union, Britain is selling buses to Cuba, and other Western allies are carrying on a thriving business with the Eastern bloc. Some might cynically observe that "when business comes in the door, ethics fly out the window," but this column is more philosophical, we have an idea that trade transcends politics — and even an Iron Curtain cannot separate willing sellers from willing buyers.

* * * * *

The federal government has agreed to pay 36,000 living West Coast Indians \$29,200,000 as compensation for tribal lands claimed to have been seized by white men during the gold rush over 100 years ago — the highest settlement of its kind on record. Our red-skinned natives seem to have learned at least one thing from the appropriators of their hunting grounds: the ever increasing value of land.

The Wall Street Journal reports continued expansion in the field of door-to-door selling, citing numerous cases of large firms' distributing their products widely through itinerant sales agents. A variety of cogent reasons are offered to explain the growth of this type of retailing, but one aspect of it is not mentioned by the Journal, the intriguing fact that the bell-ringers pay no rent for their business premises — and now who dares assert there is no longer a Margin of Production?

* * * * *

The U. S. Department of Justice has instituted suit against one of the nation's largest cosmetic manufacturers, charging conspiracy to fix retail prices, thereby denying consumers the benefits of free competition. On the other hand, this same producer (like countless others) must comply with so-called "fair trade" laws that *prohibit* deviation from established retail costs — an excellent example of "Damned if you do and damned if you don't!"

* * * * *

According to The New York Times, Dr. Oscar Gestido, a high-ranking Uruguayan political leader, has declared that his country's present troubles are due more to moral and spiritual failings than to economic faults — and after due contemplation, we find some validity in this opinion. While we believe the ills of Uruguay can no doubt be remedied by economic reform, the only efficacious reform would be that based on the highest moral principles, i.e.: a free economy founded on a system of land value taxation.

Bridging the Sound

Building plans go higher, bridges stretch farther, highways leap dizzily over once tranquil fields, and costs in hundreds of millions have become commonplace. Two building towers are being planned for New York City by the Port Authority, to be the tallest in the world—110 stories offering "16 acres of city real estate" by 1970. Construction cost alone is estimated at \$350 million.

Ethel Stannard of Connecticut sent word of an emotion charged bridge plan connecting Orient Point at the northern tip of Long Island, with Fishers Island in the Sound, and touching both Connecticut and Rhode Island, making a tri-state connection. The cost, \$260 million, would be taken care of in "self liquidating tolls" of \$3 for passenger cars and \$5 for commercial vehicles.

Any motorist who has waited uncertainly for the infrequent Orient Point ferry from Long Island to Connecticut, would cheer for such a bridge, but New England residents foresee with understandable horror the destruction of secluded summer resorts and the natural beauty of the shore line. Mayors of Groton and New London oppose it as a monstrosity.

New York senators and other politicians are for it, however, claiming there is an economic need for such a bridge in Long Island and Rhode Island.

Ethel Stannard wrote letters to the press opposing the structure on aesthetic grounds. But she also pointed out what would happen to land values in the bridge area and asked, "will those values be recovered to pay for the questionable project? Or could it be just one more gouging of taxpayers for the eventual unearned enrichment of privileged speculators?"

It is significant, wrote Mrs. Stannard, that one of the most enthusiastic supporters is a Long Island real estate broker, "that the New York Department of Commerce and Industrial Development is studying development of industrial parks in Long Island and that the Suffolk County planning director says the bridge would require a new superhighway running the whole length of Long Island."

Mrs. Ethel Stannard is relaxing a bit in her letter writing at present while she recovers from an illness at the home of her son E. Malcolm Stannard, Whitney Road, Columbia, Connecticut. So many enjoyed "A Square Mile of Victory" in the October HGN that they might like to write and cheer her on.

"Perhaps we Connecticut Yankees and our vote-mindful legislators in Hartford and Washington are so blind that we are going to be taken for this kind of a tax-ride," she wrote, "but I hardly think so."

Are you a Supporting (\$50) or Sustaining (\$100) member of the Henry George School, or a patron at \$1000? Perhaps you are an extension director, a teacher, or a generous volunteer worker who has given 25 hours or more to helping at the school. Then you are entitled to wear the insignia of the famous Henry George School (HGS) in your lapel — this is a small enameled pin which can only be earned — it can't be bought.

If you are a member in the popular \$10 class, you receive The Henry George News 12 times a year, and if you like it as well as we hope you do, you often see things in it you would like to clip for your friends. But you want to keep your copies yourself. So just order a subscription for that friend — only \$1 a year for 12 issues.

Noah D. Alper's Brief Cases

PRICES DOWN — PRICES UP

The Lincoln Electric Company in Cleveland, Ohio, founded by John C. Lincoln, former president of the Henry George School, announced that it had reduced prices of its polyphase, squirrel cage induction motors by an average of 9.3 per cent on all motor types and sizes. This was reported in The Wall Street Journal with the explanation that they were able to lower prices without sacrificing quality because their unique incentive approach enabled them to reduce production costs and concentrate on manufacturing standard motors in sizes used by industry in large volume.

The same journal reported, in contrast to the above, that "a major factor in higher furniture prices," according to industry executives, "was the increase in the federal minimum wage last September to \$1.25 from \$1.15 in most industries." Southern producers had adjusted their wage scales upward about 5 per cent in the past six months due to the pressure from the increase.

WALLED-OUT PROGRESS

A small group of northern Virginia landowners has thrown a legal block in the way of early completion of the giant \$350,000,000 oil pipe line from Houston, Texas to the New York area, according to the State Corporation Commission. The landowners in Fairfax County, southeast of Washington, have turned down bids for right of way across their property and opposed condemnation proceedings in court on the ground that the Colonial Pipeline Company has no right of eminent domain under Virginia law.

"NOT GOING TO BE FOR THAT"

"If there are some people who think they're going to move this thing forward with federal money they have a right to be skeptical, because I'm not going to be for that," said a Missouri congressman about the Meramec Basin development. "This will enhance real estate values considerably, and the real estate is the tax base. Some of that increased value of the land should go over to help pay for the basic facilities such as dams that bring about these improvements. (From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat)

OIL PROFITS BOW TO REAL ESTATE

The Christiana Oil Corporation of Beverly Hills, according to a report in The New York Times, turned its "red-operations into a profit" in the year ending June 30th, principally through its real estate activities. Operating revenues rose to a record \$11,077,336 from only \$386,442 of revenues in the year ending June 30, 1962. "After providing \$1,400,000 for taxes, the net profit amounted to \$962,127, equal to 43 cents a share on 2,243,605 shares outstanding. This contrasts with the net loss of \$186,222 incurred in the previous fiscal year."

IN LIFE AND DEATH

"One of the greatest problems about dying these days is that it is almost as hard to find a grave as it is to find somewhere to live," wrote Monica Dehn in an article in England's New Society magazine, and noted in the California Homeowner magazine. The basic funeral charge, is \$102, but this doesn't cover the cost of the essential of every funeral, the grave, which can cost as much as \$225 in parts of London, the author stated. "Churchyards are as crowded as the underground at rush hour, and in many cities space for graveyards can be found now only on the far outskirts. "Cremation is cheaper. The high cost and artificial shortage of land is seen to be felt not only during life, but also after it."

The "Absurdly Simple" Remedy

"WE may need a tax cut, but what we need even more is a drastic revision of our whole ramshackle tax structure," wrote Robert M. Hutchins in his syndicated column.

He said the real property tax — main support of local, municipal and county government — promoted nearly every unsound public policy that could be imagined, encouraged land speculation, and thwarted urban rehabilitation. The more a man puts into his land, he noted, the more he is taxed. The man whose property runs down pays lower taxes, and this is one cause of urban blight.

The speculator drives prospective buyers far from the center of town in search of cheaper land, and this results in urban sprawl. By forcing up the price of land the speculator forces builders into the smallest possible area, and that is one cause of suburban slums.

So the present tax system practically forces the buyer of land to become a speculator. If he improves his land the property tax goes up, and if he re-

ceives revenue from it both his property tax and income tax will rise. If he does nothing, but sells at a profit, he will pay a smaller property tax and his profit will be taxed merely as capital gain. This profit, however, resulted from the growth of population and development of the community, and as the author makes clear, he did not produce it but "he sits on the land" until someone who needs it can pay his price.

"The remedy is absurdly simple," wrote Dr. Hutchins. It is to take the tax off the improvements and put it on the land. The owner would then be taxed on what the community had done for him in raising the value of his land. He would not be punished for what he had done to build up the community by using his land.

"If the tax were on the land and not on the improvements, the incentive to gamble in land would be removed. We might then hope for sound utilization of our living and working space, a commodity that is getting scarcer every day."

Message to the President

In its April 1961 issue, House & Home published an Open Letter to the President. This was shortly after President Kennedy had taken office and had given his Housing Message. In its letter, House & Home pointed to the high cost of land in cities as "The No. 1 reason (and perhaps the only reason) why private enterprise cannot meet the need for good low-income housing and good middle-income housing in big cities."

In the January 1964 issue, House & Home leads off with "An Open Letter to the new President of the United States," Lyndon B. Johnson. Reject-

ing the "cheap money" solution to the housing problem as inflating the price of land, the letter makes two recommendations—"strenuous efforts to solve the (federal building) code muddle"; and: "*A land policy—federal and local—that makes sense for today.*" HHF Administrator Weaver has recognized this need. Land costs too much because land is usually underassessed and undertaxed. This promotes slums, land speculation, and urban sprawl. The federal government abets this by letting land speculators deduct their costs from ordinary income taxes, then cash in their profits as capital gains."

Joseph A. Stockman

(Continued from page 1)

of the Henry George School. There he served faithfully to the end.

A British uncle had taught him Chinese, and many a pleasurable evening will be recalled by fellow Georgists who knew him when he could be prevailed on to give pictorial explanations of Chinese word-meanings in their warm human context.

Things Chinese delighted him. From the East he had borrowed much of his patience, gentleness, humor and forbearance. In his letters he often employed quaint Oriental phrases redolent of classical writings. He exemplified the philosophy that being a part of nature one should not try to dominate her but should cooperate with her. Sometimes when he seemed to be proceeding with exasperating deliberation he would explain that in some cases it was necessary to take two steps back to take one forward.

Mr. Stockman, like Henry George, was practically self taught, and like him too, his alert mind took in a broad canvas. His father and mother endowed him with moral integrity, never to be shaken — and in turn he and his wife became the envied parents of a wise and devoted daughter, now married, and a son who a few years ago was plied with a most amazing array of coveted college scholarships and is now in his third year at Drexel University taking an engineering course.

Joseph Stockman taught adult education classes at two high schools, and was a member of the Educational Council of Philadelphia and the Washington Square Association. He lived at Trevoise in suburban Phila-

delphia, and was a charter member and officer of his local civic association. On weekends he was a volunteer baseball coach.

Joe never missed an annual conference held by the Henry George School until illness prevented his attendance at Toronto in 1963. He always had to travel the least expensive way, but this he did with great and cheerful grace, though it often meant riding in buses for one or more nights and days. He also lent his smiling presence at all annual banquets of the school in New York and at many headquarters meetings. For months he fought his final enemy with strong determination until at last on January 14th he accepted his discharge with stoical dignity. In his will he gave permission for his body to be used for medical research, following which, burial will be in Mount Peace Cemetery.

Scores of tributes and reminiscences have been received at New York headquarters from the many friends of this dear director, who, as recalled in *The Gargoyle*, often referred to himself as the "Misdirector."

Since 1957 he was the beneficent curator and guiding spirit of the birthplace of Henry George at 413 South 10th Street, Philadelphia, which will continue to be the headquarters of the extension, with Lucia Cipolloni as voluntary secretary. A meeting will be held there on February 9th in thankfulness for a treasured life. It will be strange in the little house that he brooded over so affectionately, to find that this time Joe is invisible — but he will surely be there. You could always count on Joe. He was a good man, wise and kind, and his spirit lives.

The International Conference, from August 30th to September 5th, sponsored by the Henry George School and the International Union for Land Value Taxation, will be held at the Henry Hudson Hotel, 353 West 57th Street, in New York. With World's Fair reservations at a premium, visitors should make plans now.

The Henry George School in News

LOS ANGELES will tackle "The Economics of Money" on February 7th with a debate in which a knowledgeable panel will interrogate three monetary specialists: Dr. Herbert Bab, Frank Billie and Robert de Fremery. "Keeper of the Peace" will be Harry Pollard, director, at extension headquarters, 577 North Vermont Avenue.

Robert de Fremery, a prominent lecturer in banking and money subjects, will head a one-day seminar on money on February 8th for teachers and graduates only.

ST. LOUIS students receive a bulletin edited by Noah D. Alper, director, and in the latest one there were more fascinating sidelights on William Marion Reedy, an editor of the last century who was often known to defend men he himself had attacked. He was bitterly critical of Henry George for what he termed his socialism. After George's death however, this indulgent comment appeared in Reedy's *Mirror*: "A world of 'free seas and free land' where unused natural resources would be taken out of private hands by taxation, would remove restrictions on opportunity both for individuals and for nations. Such was the contention of Henry George."

OHIO friends in Lakewood will be glad to know that two classes in Fundamental Economics are in progress, having started at the end of January, in the Emerson and Harding high schools, on Monday and Thursday evenings, respectively. Ivan Dailey, the instructor, also keeps a watchful eye on the local newspapers for items of Georgist interest. Verlin D. Gordon of Cleveland is the Ohio director.

SYRACUSE graduates had a gay party on January 30th, and earlier in the month the Alumni Group met happily at the home of Bette Breese

for a "work session." Bette served a casserole dish and salad for dinner, then everybody stapled posters and got them ready for the new classes. Emanuel Choper is giving the Economic Science Course at the State Office Building, and the basic course will be given at three places. Bette stayed up all one night because she was working against a deadline for getting class locations into two local publications.

The October HGN with an article about Ethel Stannard's one-woman campaign, "A Square Mile of Victory," was given out to students of the fall term right after the seventh lesson, and they found the association of ideas helpful. The subscriptions to HGN are always wonderfully welcome and it is heartening to find that the new lower price of \$1 a year is easier to meet. The cooperation of extension directors and teachers who endorse HGN is greatly appreciated.

NEW YORK'S newest trustee is Bill Davidson, vice-president of Employers Temporary Service. He has taught classes for several years in Plainfield, New Jersey, where he lives.

Despite a blizzard on opening night, all classes are in full swing. The basic course is being offered in three languages — English, French and Spanish.

On January 4th a Members and Faculty Dinner was held at 50 East 69th Street headquarters, to greet Peter Patsakos on his return from Peru (see page 7). At that meeting HGS pins were distributed to teachers (see page 11).

Friday at Eight features include a talk on February 14th by Benjamin H. Freedman on Middle East Tensions, and on February 28th Peter Patsakos will show slides of Peru. Films will be shown on February 7th and 21st.

107 Finds New Patron in England

Mr. T. A. Ende of London has published, at his own expense, "Taxation and Rating in the Twentieth Century" a booklet "intended as an appeal to all factions to replace an archaic, complicated, confiscatory, deterrent and inflationary system of rating and taxation with one which is fair, simple, economic, stimulating to industry and commerce, non-confiscatory and anti-inflationary."

He wished to explain briefly the theory behind Henry George's proposal for the taxation of land values, and he sent a copy to the 1,575 members of both houses of Parliament. Some 2000 county councilmen and borough officials in the Greater London area, and 15,000 local government officials throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will also receive copies. Another 5000 will be circulated among professional people, representatives of the press, etc. The Henry George School in London is making copies available to readers of Land & Liberty, and probably the author, in his great generosity, would furnish a copy to U.S.

Georgists upon request while the supply lasts.

In this eight-page exposition Mr. Ende outlines Henry George's proposal as an alternative to what now appears to be the inevitable "sovietization of Great Britain," and defends an economy based on the principle of free enterprise backed by the profit motive, as taught in London's Henry George School.

Tables and definitions precede a short statement of "Henry George's Aim," as reported by The New York Times on October 22, 1882 after a talk by Mr. George at Delmonico's Restaurant, and proceeds with a concise discussion of the source of wages and capital — rent, wages and inflation — and the practical effects of a tax on land values in various countries.

Mr. T. A. Ende spent 36 years in a landed property profession. He lives at Langfullen Court, No. 1 Adolphus Road, Finsbury Park N. 4, London, England. This information is for any eager reader who wishes to request a copy of the booklet.

A fourth grader described the world as a "big ball which revolves on its taxes."

Mr. Robert Clancy,
33-53 82nd St.,
Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.