

SCHOOL NOTES

Toronto

AIRPORT LAND USE IS METRO ISSUE

One of the more controversial land development issues shaping up in Metro Toronto concerns the large but underused Downsview Airport. Although the area comprises some 1500 acres, only 264 have been publicly discussed regarding possible future usages. Currently, the De Havilland Manufacturing Company uses the airport for test take-offs and landings of five planes, when the airport could easily take larger planes, like the DC-10.

As owner, the Federal Government pays grants in lieu of taxes to the city of North York (Metro Toronto) tax department. These fall short of the estimated revenue that could be generated even with the present tax system if the land were rezoned and redeveloped for alternative uses. Unfortunately, the government seems to have no intention of releasing the land, fearing complicated clashes over redevelopment procedures, and cites an archaic 19th century law that obliges the government to maintain an operational "militia" base within twenty miles of a major city center (presumably designed for a day's march so the Redcoats could quell a native uprising?)

The School of Economic Science is taking the position that, logically, the land should be leased by the government and taxed by the city according to its incremental land value, and zoned according to a pre-designed plan. This directly follows a plan indicated by the Dutch Georgist J. J. Pot, for use in newly developed communities in the Netherlands. Although it is not in total accord with private sale and ownership plans favored by some Georgist planners, nevertheless, it does alleviate the problems and delays that might be caused by the added complications of private sales and developments.

The School intends to support and promote ways to bring this land into production, while realizing the highest, best, and most favored methods of usage. We intend to publish a position paper, promote local dialogue via Tim Fielding's talk show on a community network, and involve senior secondary school and university economics and urban studies students in our investigative feasibility studies. Tim Fielding and Mike Foster have sent letters to the editors of the **Toronto Star**, in March, 1979, in which they suggested schemes of redevelopment which would yield a more equitable tax return and better land use for the community.

Santa Domingo

HURRICANE DAVID HITS HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

The Henry George School in Santa Domingo, the Dominican Republic, is resuming classes at its downtown headquarters, which sustained severe damage due to Hurricane David.

Lucy de Silfa, founder-director of the school, reported, after restoration of communications with the island, that students and staff are all pitching in with repairs. High winds have blown off doors and heavy rains poured through the second-story offices and classrooms "like a river", she said. The school is located in the old colonial section of downtown Santa Domingo, in a Spanish-style building, surrounding a courtyard. Efforts have been underway to restore the landmark building, but now much of the capital city is still trying to recover from the worst natural disaster in its modern history.

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1980 CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK

"The Appletons in New York brought out the first regular market edition in January, 1880."

Henry George, Jr.

How fitting that New York City will be the host for the Joint Georgist Conference to be held in July, 1980. Just as San Francisco was an excellent choice for the Centennial Conference, we expect New York will be a popular choice for an international gathering of Georgists.

By Spring, 1980, The Henry George School of New York will be located at 5 E. 55th Street, with modern facilities available, such as a full-size auditorium, library, and bookstore, on one of the busiest streets in midtown Manhattan. There is no better way to "break-in" our new school than to hold the conference there. Since the school will be close to Grand Central, and Port Authority, the accessibility factor will be important in attracting a large group of people.

We are currently in the planning stages, and would welcome ideas, comments, and suggestions from our readers, so we can schedule accordingly. What should the main theme of the conference be? Who would make good keynote speakers for the luncheons and banquets? What issues should receive the most time on the agendas? What activities should be scheduled daily?

We will publish selected letters as they come in. Help make this event as successful as San Francisco, '79. Please address all correspondence to:

"The Henry George News"
50 East 69th Street
New York NY 10021
Attn: Louise R. Pulini