

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY 1111 Broad Street, Newark, N.J. APRIL 1956

Greetings! This is the first issue of the monthly paper that will carry items pertaining to the Henry George School of New Jersey and other things related to economics. May I say at the outset that how we run the paper and the views to be expressed are entirely up to YOU, the reader, so please feel free to drop us a line.

You're probably wondering whence the title? Well, primarily, we expect to be moving shortly to 78 Clinton Avenue and there are two gargoyles on that building. Also if you consult your dictionary you will see that gargoyles originally spouted water. Instead of water, let's hope we spout forth knowledge.

All three of us on the staff; Mrs. Virginia Harvey, Oscar B. Johannsen and myself Robert D. Allen are former students of this school. The first two are very well qualified to assume such duties as can be told by listening to them talk. We are indeed lucky to have such interesting people to serve us. In fact at this moment Mr. Johannsen is writing an article on money. He has read quite a few books and seems to speak as one well versed. Mrs. Harvey has some decided viewpoints, but that's what we need today; people who are not afraid to say what they think and what they think is worth thinking about. Very shortly after meeting her for the first time she lent me some circulars on issues of the times. Yours truly attended a class of our school in Summit. It made quite an impression on me at the time as being very good common sense. The Faculty of the school in N.J. has a great many good people to write for us. They have a storehouse of knowledge and then won't the gargoyle spout? We are indeed lucky to have Dean Goldfinger to write a first article for us. Thank you, sir. My thanks also to Director John T. Tetley for his assistance.

In these troubled times it's good to be able to have some sort of review on current events and problems and their solutions as seen through the eyes of thinking men and women.

It was Sir Bertrand Russell who said in his Sceptical Essays: "It is clear that thought is not free if the profession of certain opinions make it impossible to make a living."

Bob Allen

WHY DO WE FEAR COMMUNISM?

By Alexander M. Goldfinger

When we think of communism, most of us immediately associate the word with the Soviet regime in Russia. Actually, Communism is an idea, an ideology which its disciples have tried to implement with political means in the red dictatorship. In practice, the Soviets have widely departed from the original concept which Karl Marx and Lenin deemed the essence of their philosophy: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need."

The Soviet leaders tried to reach their goal by force and the absolute rule of a dictatorship. Their ideology could not be achieved without forcing people to work and produce and then taking from them their products to be divided according to the needs of themselves and others. The lack of incentive in the producers compelled the use of force by the rulers. In this country, since pioneer days, we have seen the rapid strides made in the production of more and better goods, the raising of standards of living and a better life with each succeeding generation. All these were accomplished with a system of private enterprise under a constitutional form of government which was devoted to the principle that the individual's freedom is the ultimate goal with the state merely a servant of all the people. Yet in recent years, not only among the less informed of our citizenry but among college graduates such as Alger Hiss and Whitaker Chambers, we have observed that the lure of communism is strong for some of our people. The uprooting and investigation of subversion to communist doctrine has grown to huge proportions because apparently we fear the growth of the insidious doctrines held by the planners.

Why should this be? If we are convinced that ideas can be fought only with better ideas, then if our concept of individual liberty is so superior to the concept of the subordination of the individual to the state, we should not fear that ultimately all our people will embrace communism.

Of course, we realize that it is not only communism we fear, but the dominant will of the Soviet rulers to conquer and rule the whole world.

What, then is the basis of our fear as regards communism? Those of us who have studied the works of Karl Marx which were the initial blue-prints outlining the meaning and the manner in which the ideas of the planners could be accomplished, know that many of Marx's precepts have already found their way into our daily

Mark your calendar - Saturday May 19th Annual Dinner Henry George School in N.Y. Theme: World Trade. Your invitation will be mailed later.

life. Most of the New Deal and Fair Deal concepts of the role of paternalism in government, of having the state become responsible for the economic and social welfare of all of its people, resemble closely the Marxian precepts.

Last summer, the writer was in Sweden where the government for the past two generations has owned and operated all public utilities, such as railways, busses telephone and telegraph, water, power plants and in addition the moving picture industry and theatres. A prominent business man in Stockholm, when asked by the writer whether most Swedes are socialists, responded "most Swedes if asked about Socialism would state emphatically that they are opposed to Socialism. In fact, there is no fear in Sweden as there is in America about creeping Socialism." The Swedish businessman then asked, "In America you have had the postal service operated by government for a long time. Do your people regard this as Socialist operation?"

"No", I responded, "Probably not one person in thousands would so regard it."

My Swedish friend replied "In Sweden where government has established old-age pensions, maternity aid, unemployment compensation, maintains homes for orphans, widows and elderly people, furnishes hospital facilities free besides owning and operating all utilities and has done these for so many years, our people regard those conditions as part of their daily life and not as Socialist doctrine. So far as being in favor of the government socializing industry as did the English Labor Party our people are predominantly opposed to such innovations and there is but little sentiment in favor."

But my Swedish friend also remarked that were it not for the war profits, (Sweden was neutral in World War II and sold goods to all belligerents) the cost of paying for all government services would be so great as to bankrupt his country. Unless this trend is reversed Sweden will encounter much difficulty in the years ahead.

Many people in the United States also view with alarm the rising government debt caused by the growing paternalism of our government services, and fear that this tendency will increase rather than diminish.

Thus our fear for "creeping socialism" and the control over individual lives which more socialism will bring.

What can we do to offset this tendency? Imprisoning the known Communists will have the same overall result as trying to push back incoming waves of the ocean with one's bare hands. To realize fully the dangers which threaten us from Socialism only a knowledge of cause and effect; of our present system of private enterprise with cycles of booms and busts, poverty amidst plenty and the spectre of involuntary unemployment will help.

We in the Henry George School, with its many extensions, are doing our share to spread this knowledge, and we believe that "from correct thought will come correct action." We are doing what lies in our power to make the tomorrow happy days for our progeny.

"The Farm Problem" is the subject for Panel Discussion on Friday April 13th at the School at 8 p.m. Panel will consist of Richard G. Ford, Extension Agent in Farm and Home Development, College of Agriculture; R. S. Harman, County Extension Service, a real farmer, Mrs. Virginia Harvey, representing the consumer and this should make for an enjoyable and informative event. You and your friends are most cordially invited to attend. If you cannot attend, why not tell your friends about it so they may be here?

To provide varied programs for these monthly Alumni Nights, and in accordance with survey made, the following events are scheduled:

May 11th - Symposium - "Private Education for All". Speakers: Oscar B. Johansen, A. D. Goldfinger and Dr. Thompson B. Grant, Headmaster Carteret School.

June 8th - Current Events Forum - topic "Federal Aid to Schools". Resource persons will be present to provide facts.

The "Money & Credit" group now studying at the school visited the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for a guided tour through the bank and The Chase-Mannhattan Money collection. Two films, one on the Federal Reserve System and one on Inflation and Deflation helped to make the course interesting and informative. This course is open to anyone and you will do your friends a favor by informing them it will be repeated this fall. Have them make a reservation at the school office.

The World's Condition.

Like an injured child with tears streaming down frightened eyes, The child known as earth, still sets his ideals as high as the skies.

The teachings of Christ, Socrates, Plato and unnumbered more Have given him book learning, and yet he must implore

The Lord to teach him how to live in accord one with another - To act harmoniously within, realizing he is, everyone's brother.

Robert D. Allen

"THE GARGOYLE"

Published monthly for friends of the Henry George School of New Jersey. Editor-in-Chief.....Robert D. Allen Associate EditorsVirginia HarveyOscar B. Johansen

Plan now for July 4th - 8th.

Annual Conference - Henry George Schools

Philadelphia and Harcum Junior College, Bryn Mawr.

Philosophic aspects and questions of practical applications.

Last spring, as many of you recall, we enjoyed a very sociable reception preceding our 20th Anniversary dinner. We were happy to see many of those who come out only occasionally.

To mention a surprising incident, among those were a couple we had not seen for a long time; Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Melander. They had attended the basic course a few years ago, and ever since had been serious adherents of our School's principles. They were both astounded when they saw a friend of long standing. Neither they, nor the friend, although having shared in other activities had ever known that they were all students at the Henry George School. Hence, their surprise. Their friend was Miss Aida L. Chamberlin. As many of us know, it was she who first tossed out an idea, by asking, "Why don't we start a Henry George School here in New Jersey?" The idea was subsequently acted upon and soon the New Jersey School was a reality. I tell this little incident to show that you never know how many of your friends you may meet here at the school during programs or social gatherings.

We do know, for a certainty, that those of us who have made the School our "headquarters" have hundreds of friends and adherents of the School all through Northern New Jersey. We all have so very much in common; we have shared big ideas in our small groups at some time in the last twenty years. And we have a yen to see and talk with these many friends again. We would like so much to draw closer together in actual presence; and stimulate and further clarify those same ideas. They are something to hold fast to in what is often the bewildering world of today. And so, while we are also making new friends, we are planning many opportunities to see our old friends in the interesting programs that we have for the immediate future.

Aside from our central cohesive ideas, may I state that without doubt those who share them are interested to know more personally.

As an illustration, and with apologies to Mr. and Mrs. Melander, I'm sure they won't mind if I present them as "interesting people."

Shortly after their marriage, they came to live in Arlington from Stockholm. They are fun to know, for they are interested in everything. Their home is strongly Swedish in character; with its colorful Swedish embroideries and heirlooms. Since they are clever with many handicrafts, there are hand wrought copper pieces and handsome hand made furniture. I have my eye on a little copper coffee pot that Mr. Melander made. His wife does beautiful oil paintings and is famous among her friends for her cookery. She also indulges in the old European art of decoupage. They like good books and music with a weakness for the standard operas.

I offer this little thumbnail sketch, with others in mind for the future, with the thought that our interests need not be wholly concerned with our regenerative principles. We can also benefit by the exchange of some of our lesser activities and hobbies.

I say again without losing sight of our main objective - What do you all think? Shall we try it for our mutual instruction pleasure and astonishment?

Virginia Harvey

"An Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII"
by Henry George

If you have any friends who find the reading of "Economics Simplified" too dry or Henry George's Progress and Poverty too long, or if you wish to refresh your own understanding, by all means obtain a copy of his "Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII", published in the "Land Question, etc."

It will give your friends a taste of what Henry George has in store for them; it will re-awaken in you a desire to further your own knowledge, and it will give you a better understanding of our modern life today.

For in this remarkable letter, Henry George gives you his whole philosophy succinctly and yet with such beauty of style and sincerity of purpose that the reading of it will be a memorable one. As you read, you will be struck by the deep religious fervor which animated him; you will begin to appreciate that here was an individual who had dedicated himself to helping man discover the key that opened the door to God's bounty.

The letter is not abstract. It is simple to read and easy to understand. Though it is sixty-five years old, it is pertinent today for it contains his clear recognition of the fact that God's laws do not change though the applications may alter with different conditions. "The same principles of right and wrong that hold when men are few and industry is rude also hold amid teeming populations and complex industries."

And the letter was actually written for you, as he says, "I have written this letter not alone for your holiness, but for all whom I may hope to reach."

Today, when there is such a growing revival of interest in religious values, this letter is particularly timely, for in effect he points out that our economic problems are actually religious questions that can be settled only on the basis of moral right; and that the first and clearest of rights is the equal right to the use of the physical basis of all life." OBJ

This book may be borrowed from your school library, or purchased at office.

Students ---- Students -- & More Students

Money is something few of us have, but all of us do have some friends. And these friends of ours deserve all the thoughtfulness and consideration from us that we expect from them.

What could be a better way of showing your friendship than by acquainting them with the philosophy of Henry George?

If you have given only the slightest attention and thought to the great truths he annunciated, your life has been enriched. Surely your friends have a right to look to you for a little help in acquiring this same enrichment.

And the best way you can do it? Simple. Urge them to become students and keep urging them. We'll do our part to help you. Sit right down now and send us a note listing those friends of yours you will urge and you know will thank you for the opportunity to study this great philosophy. We'll contact them and arrange the classes.

Students are the reason this school exists. Just think, if all the graduates of our School would send in a note giving us just one name we would be filled to overflowing. We are willing to take that chance so,

Don't Delay. Do it Now. At least one student.

How Fleeting is Fame Based on Power.

The present intensive efforts of the Communist leaders in Soviet Russia to desanctify Stalin--now that he is safely dead--indicates how fleeting fame is which is built on ruthless power. The politicians and rulers that lived in the days when that inimitable Gadfly--Socrates--strode thru the streets of Athens, are forgotten. Socrates, who did not even have enough power to save his own life, lives on to delight and to educate his fellow man to this very day.

It is not too much to say that even the names of such power-crazed madmen as Alexander the Great, and Julius Cesare will someday be remembered only in connection with the works of the philosophers, poets, and thinkers of their day.

When the name of Stalin will have been effaced from the pages of history, those leaders of thought as Thomas Paine, Thomas Jefferson, Henry George or Mahatma Gandhi will still be remembered for their leadership is founded on the great fundamental principle of love of one's fellowman. OBU

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School Personalities
By Virginia Harvey

Robert A. Hayward, our genial Assistant to the Director is a youngster of 85, a retired Sea Captain. He is at the school office every day and most every night. He volunteers his services and in addition is a contributor (financially) to its support. "Uncle Bob" is modest and would raise Cain if he knew this sketch was going to appear. He will be after my skin when he reads it, but I believe in giving credit where credit is due and want him and the rest of you to know that we very much appreciate him. On two occasions he left us for the winter and went to Arizona. He has threatened to go to Florida to stay and enjoy the sunshine all year. Of course we would like him to do what he wishes, but we sure would miss him.

Salt of the Earth.

One of the worst effects of inflation are the stuffed shirts who arise who tell the people they know how to cure it, and then merely add more paper to the inflation blaze.

Inflation is the not so gentle art of dividing up a dollar without the aid of a pair of scissors.

Tax Collector: Pay your taxes with a smile.

Poor Citizen: I'd love to, but you insist on cash.

Everyone believes there are two sides to every question -- his side and the wrong side.

There are several good five-cent cigars on the market, but they are sold at higher prices.

Definitions:

Economist: One who knows or should know why he can't make a living.

Economy: A way of spending money without getting any fun out of it.

Egotist: A person of low taste, more interested in himself than in me

Well folks, what about it? How do you like --

"The Cargoyle"?

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