

THE ST. LOUIS GEORGIST

NEWS OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF ST. LOUIS

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MAY 1955

WHAT PART DOES LAND PLAY IN "THE GREAT RELIGIONS"

Dr. Huston Smith's lectures on "The Religions of Man"—now appearing on Station KETC, and LIFE'S series on "The World's Great Religions"—appearing currently—makes it timely to inquire, "What part does Land play in The Great Religions?"

I am indebted to Miss Athene Ruth Stewart, graduate of the Henry George School for this remarkable selection from the "Vishnu Purana" Book IV, Chapter XXIV which appears in her short anthology "An Introduction to the Hindu Literature." I quote it with her permission:

"The Earth Laughs"

"I have now given you a summary account of the sovereigns of the earth: to recapitulate the whole would be impossible even in a hundred lives.

These and other kinds, who, blinded with deceptive notions

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"AN EVENT LONG OVERDUE"

(to Quote Mr. Robert Clancy in the April Henry George News)

The event was the release on April 21st, of the book entitled—"Henry George"—by Charles Albro Barker, professor of history at Johns Hopkins University. Professor Barker himself notes it as surprising that for so long the job of presenting a life size Henry George through the printed page has remained undone for so long.

Mr. Clancy should indeed know whereof he speaks, and his estimate of the book—despite some points with which he must take issue, as would all Georgists—is, therefore, passed on to you in our recommendation of it to you as "must" reading. Says Mr. Clancy:

"Yes, HENRY GEORGE, by Charles Barker is a once-in-a-lifetime affair. I don't see how it could miss opening the eyes of the academic world to the importance of Henry George — an event long overdue."

NOTE: WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TWO COPIES OF PROFESSOR BARKER'S BOOK "HENRY GEORGE" HAVE BEEN PURCHASED... ONE BY MR. NOAH ALPER, AND ONE BY THE WOMAN'S CLUB — FOR CIRCULATION! IF YOU WISH TO GET ON THE LENDING LIST FOR THIS REMARKABLE BOOK, CALL GA 1-5630.

NOTES OF INTEREST.....

Henry George was the "Man of the Year" on the April 19th NBC television program by that name. Agnes DeMille, well known granddaughter of Henry George, and Prof. Broadus Mitchell spoke. Also, Prof. Chas. A. Barker, by way of introducing his new book "Henry George" was interviewed April 26th, on two New York radio programs.

AFROPOS of RADIO: the Henry George Woman's Club has been assured by the Federation of Woman's Clubs that there will be more and better radio time available next year for the use of club women in presenting their work. The Club is anticipating with great interest its possible share of that time.

A little news sheet called "Fifty East" presenting items of interest concerning the New York School, notes in re "Volunteers" that 185 hours have been donated by volunteers over a six weeks period.

And so the School's work is carried on here, there and everywhere by volunteers. We wonder just how many hours of volunteer work were contributed by Georgists in the present school term mailing. Anyhow, more volunteers for more work are still needed. Why not notify the School how much time YOU can give to its work? You'll be most welcome.

SPEAKING OF VOLUNTEERS

.....a goodly number of them will be behind the School's annual drive for funds to support its PROGRESS & PRESERVATION PLAN which will have its "kick-off" May 18.

This is one OPERATION GEORGIST in which every graduate and friend of the School can have a part. Include it as the most worthy among those contributions for which you yearly take deductions. Spare the solicitors their sales talk by deciding at once on the very most you can afford to give.

The spring term classes now in their fourth week are again considerably below the attendance mark for which the School had hoped. The teachers report, however, an above average mark among students in ability and enthusiasm.

Georgists should, therefore, take courage from the old adage:--
"The mills of the gods grind slow but they grind exceedingly fine."

--(It's faith in something & enthusiasm for something that makes life worth looking at.)--

STRAWS IN THE WIND!

Mr. Noah D. Alper addressed the Methodist Men at Salem Methodist Church, April 11th, on the subject: "Tid God Forget?" and on April 17, the Real Property Owners on "People Decay and Taxes," at the Roosevelt Hotel

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of individual occupation, have indulged the feeling that suggests...

... "This earth is mine—it is my son's—it belongs to my dynasty" '....have all passed away.

So, many who reigned before them, many who succeeded them, and many who are yet to come, have ceased, or will cease to be.

Earth laughs, as if smiling with autumnal flowers, to behold her kings unable to effect the subjugation of themselves

I will repeat to you, Maitreya, the stanzas that were chanted by Earth, and which the Muni Asita communicated to Janaka, whose banner was virtue:

"How great is the folly of princes, who are endowed with the faculty of reason, to cherish the confidence of ambition, when they themselves are but foam upon the wave! Before they have subdued themselves, they seek to reduce their ministers, their servants, their subjects, under their authority; they then endeavor to overcome their foes. 'Thus,' say they, 'will we conquer the ocean-circled earth,' and, intent upon their project, behold not death, which is not far off.

But what mighty matter is the subjugation of the sea-girt earth to one who can subdue himself?

Emancipation from existence is the fruit of self-control.

Is it through infatuation that kings desire to possess me, whom their predecessors have been forced to leave, whom their fathers have not retained?

Beguiled by the selfish love of sway, fathers contend with sons, and brothers with brothers, for my possession.

Foolishness has been the character of every kind who has boasted 'All this earth is mine—everything is mine—it will be in my house forever'; for he is dead.

How is it possible for such vain desires to survive in the hearts of his descendents, who have seen their progenitor, absorbed by the thirst of dominion, compelled to relinquish me, whom he called his own, and thread the path of dissolution?

When I hear a king sending word to another, by his ambassador, 'This earth is mine; immediately resign (your pretensions to) it,' I am moved to violent laughter (at first); but it soon subsides, in pity for the infatuated fool."

HENRY GEORGE holds with the author of this statement that, "The earth is the tomb of the dead empires, no less than of dead men." But he would emancipate man not from existence, but through granting them equal rights to the land: —

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"The equal right of all men to the use of land is as clear as their equal right to breathe the air—it is a right proclaimed by the fact of their existence. For we cannot suppose that some men have a right to be in the world and others no right....There is on earth no power which can rightfully make a grant of exclusive ownership in land. If all existing men were to unite to grant away their equal rights, they could not grant away the right of those who follow them. For what are we but tenants for a day?...."

Has religion adequately evaluated man's right to the land? If

injustice exists at this basic level can it be corrected at a higher level? Rather will not injustice here affect every level? George observes: "It was not nobility that gave land but the possession of land that gave nobility....The simple principle of the ownership of the soil produced, on the one side the lord, on the other the vassal—the one having all rights, the other none."

This being true, how can religion remedy this type of theft? I would say by first recognizing the real and important problem involved here. Second, by eliminating the ambiguity which now conceals and distorts it.

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"There is no adequate defense, except stupidity, against the impact of a new idea."

—Percy W. Bridgman

Mr. Robert Clancy
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