

The Bargophile



"A throat, mouthpiece, spout." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

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COME TO THE PARTY!

A Party to Dedicate the new headquarters of the Henry George School of New Jersey will be held at 149 South Harrison Street, East Orange, Sunday afternoon, November 17th. You and your guests are most cordially invited.

There will be Open House from two to three o'clock. At 3 the program starts consisting of brief greetings, professional entertainment and Dedication Ceremony. A social hour will follow with Dinner at the Hotel Suburban (which adjoins the school - this is not to be a banquet - you order from regular menu and pay accordingly.)

The new headquarters are easily reached via Garden State Parkway - Exit #145 Central Avenue, East Orange. Go right (west) on Central Avenue - about 15 blocks to South Harrison Street - turn right and you may park immediately after turning in parking lot on right. Parking fee 25¢

Public transportation - D.L. & W. RR to Brick Church Station - short walk on South Harrison Street to school.

Public Service busses from Newark (#23 from Penna. RR Station or #24 on Broad Street, via Central Avenue to So. Harrison St. - the school is 1/2 block in from this corner.

From New York City - Public Trans. Bus from Port of Authority - directly to East Orange, Central Ave. & So. Harrison St. Or by RR from Penn Sta. N.Y., or PATH tubes to Penn. Station Newark then by Bus #23 to East Orange.

Come help make this a gala occasion. Meet and dine with friends both those you bring and those you meet here. Come see the fine new headquarters of the school enjoy a delightful program and good dinner.

IMPORTANT! - Reservations **MUST** be made with Henry George School of N.J. for dinner at Suburban Hotel. They need to know in advance for how many to provide. Reserve by mail or by telephone (201) 572 - 0313.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
149 South Harrison Street
East Orange, New Jersey 07018

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IDEAS AND CULTURE

Henry George in PROGRESS AND POVERTY tells us that correct thought will eventually lead to correct action. His logic and clarity in showing that equality of opportunity is achievable only if monopolization of land is abolished is the correct thought that must precede correct action which would result in the collection and use by society of the site value of land and the retrogression of taxes on labor produced value in wealth produced from land or land products.

Almost a century has elapsed since George wrote his famous masterpiece, and, though his ideas (which lay dormant for most of that time after the initial impact on Australia, Denmark, Canada, and a few other countries) are now being brought to light by the sad exigencies of the economic chaos in the world today, the reforms necessary to implement those ideas are still in the future.

Why? Why have not those cogent ideas percolated into the knowingsness of mankind and the needed reforms been adopted? Anthropologists have long studied the various cultures of mankind and have evolved many theories as to the evolution of civilization as we know it today. Sociologists have long debated the influence of environment and heredity upon the growth, mentally and physically, of individuals and society.

Retrospectively, looking back over the time interval since Henry George enunciated his "correct thought" we may theorize, yes, even conclude, that the lethargy in implementing "correct action" lies in the basic assumptions, not seriously questioned by which present day societies think and act. We know that the idea of land "ownership" evolved from feudal concepts wherein all land was deemed to be the common gift to man from Nature or from God. In the earlier periods of feudalism, this concept (land) was deemed to be the property of the sovereign who symbolized the entire society under his domain. The king allotted land to those he could trust to use it to produce the wherewithal of sustaining life. The obligation of the user was to contribute a part of the wealth produced on the land allotted to him to the King (the common treasury) for the benefit of all members of the society. The contribution sometimes consisted of warriors and their sustenance to defend the realm and maintain order, sometimes by the produce of the land to be used for the common good of all.

But with the lapse of time, the concept of the land as a common source of sustenance for all, thus establishing a degree of equality of opportunity, vanished, the usufruct of the land was appropriated by the erstwhile

favorites of the king and all taxes to defray the necessary common expenses of society were shifted to the labor-produced value of products.

We can trace feudalism from the Romans through the Roman provinces to (present day European countries) through English History to the founding of the American Colonies and modern United States of America. The perverted feudalism, the concept of private ownership of land and the ability to monopolize land, is due to centuries of acceptance of the perverted feudalism without questioning its validity. It is ingrained in our accepted assumptions and thus is a buffer to the idea of the true function of land as the necessary factor in wealth production and the idea that monopolization of land is the true cause of disparities of wealth distribution.

Reason, even the objective reasoning of George will not suffice to make awareness of "land use" rather than "land ownership" the forerunner of needed reform.

Laws will not bring about change unless there is a fundamental change in the ethos of thinking of "land use" rather than "ownership."

Primitive cultures had this ethos as exemplified by the American Indians. The forests to hunt game, the cultivated land to raise produce was considered to belong to the tribe and was not subject to individual dominion or ownership.

There is the apocryphal story of oil being discovered on a modern Indian reservation and the representative of an oil company approaching the tribal chief with an offer to buy the land. The chief replied that it wasn't his land to sell as it was owned by the entire tribe. The oil man suggested that the entire tribe be called to assemble and by democratic vote authorize the sale. The chief then replied that the tribe could not authorize such a sale as the land belonged not alone to those living members of the tribe but to the babies of the generations yet unborn. It has been noted that the democracy in present day Japan was institutionalized by reforms prescribed by General MacArthur and formalized in the political field with elected representatives constituting the government. But centuries of cultural ideals, such as nationalism have not changed and the people are not democratized to the extent of thinking and feeling that democracy entails the individual choice by each one of his personal choices and destiny. In time, as the cultural change occurs necessary to regard the individual as the ultimate concern of society then democracy in its true sense will permeate Japanese Society.

In England, in the eighteenth century, ideas of the worth of the individual percolated among such thinkers as Locke, Paine, and others and gradually those ideas reached the colonies and the spirit of democracy permeated the Declaration of Independence and the prologue to the Constitution and continued extant to the present. Now there is evident a slight trend to thinking that the individual is subordinate to the well being of "society" as if "society" is other than the conglomerate of individuals.

Correct thought must precede correct action, but the thought must be in the cultural pattern of the people. While the false assumption that land "ownership" is the sine-qua-non of individuality and democracy, Henry George's reform to bring about equality of opportunity will rest in the intellectual realm. When the awareness of the proper function of land and land use is predominant in our cultural thinking then, as though the sunlight bursts from the intervening clouds, will site-value taxation and the reasons favoring it become the motive for acceptance.

Meanwhile, we who propagate awareness of this concept are the present-day Lockes and Paines of a more effectual world in which equality of opportunity and justice will prevail.

Alexander W. Goldfinger

SENSE & NONSENSE

At one time, to say something was as "sound as a dollar" was just about the highest praise possible. Today that phrase is used, if at all, only factiously. It may even be superseded by "as sound as the Mark" for the West German Mark is now so highly regarded that the German Government is having difficulty preventing it from rising in price in terms of other currencies.

There would be no problem if currencies were free to fluctuate for then the Mark would automatically adjust itself to the demand and supply of it just as any commodity does. However, IMF rules forbid this, although increases and decreases within certain limits may be made according to a prescribed procedure. And foreign governments are pressuring Germany to raise its official value. In American money the Mark is 25¢. But this is considered a bargain so speculators have been buying their American money into Marks awaiting the day when it will be increased overnight possibly 10 or 20%. All of which increases the pressure on lifting the Mark's price.

Why is the Mark so desirable? Because relative to other countries, Germany is following fairly sound economic policies. If her competitors, as the U.S. and England would also

adopt sound policies, the picture would change considerably. However, it is much easier to get Germany to institute an official re-valuation upward than to practice economy.

Isn't it strange that Germany, the vanquished, is in sounder shape than the U.S. and England, the victors? Maybe the real winner of modern wars is the loser!

Experience is a wonderful thing for it enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

Did you know that it is almost as easy to obtain the use of certain Federal real estate as it is to vote? Most of the land involved came under Federal control due to the Louisiana Purchase, the war with Mexico, and a treaty with Great Britain.

In 1872, California pressured Congress to legalize the claims of the gold miners. The law, though amended is still valid and applies to this land too. Almost anyone can initiate a mining claim by filing a description of it in the local county courthouse. If challenged, all the claimant must do is to prove that it represents a valuable mineral deposit, or that its boundaries have been properly staked and he has spent at least \$100 annually on it. If the claimant makes a strike which satisfies Federal regulations, he can obtain a patent, or full title, for as little as \$2.50 an acre.

So it's still possible to get access to some land easily, but it may not be long as the Interior Department and conservationists are trying to change the law. In the meantime, some people are actually spending a lot of money improving the tracts they have staked out even though they know if at any time they don't satisfy the regulations, they may be dispossessed, their improvements seized without compensation, and even rent may be charged them for the period they occupied the land.

Some doubt if people will improve land if the community would only grant a short term lease. Here are examples of improvements on land which people not only do not own, but on which they may be assessed if subsequently it is determined that they have not met all the rules governing the use of the land.

Eviction Notice: The line of lease resistance.

AFTERNOON PROGRAMS

Birthday Party - refreshments for one of group at October meeting. Another to be celebrated on November 12th. It will not be a surprise this time but there will be refreshments. Come and bring a friend - 1:30 p.m. Tues, Nov. 12th. All welcome.

THE ELECTION AFTERMATH

About the time this reaches the reader, the Election will have been held. With the dying down of the oratory, and the excitement, possibly the people will once again begin to reassess their position.

The past quarter has been a surprise to most economists. It was generally expected that business would have slowed down due to the impact of the 10% surtax, at least near the end of the quarter. However, with the exception of a few industries, notably steel, business has been remarkably good. It was expected that steel would fall off once the labor situation had been resolved as the steel consumers had stockpiled so much steel in anticipation of a strike. But it was also thought that the economy generally would be depressed.

Present day economists love to indulge in guessing what the Gross National Product would be, and most of them were surprised that it was so high. It was at an annual-rate rise of \$17.9 billion, for the third quarter, which if continued would make the annual rate a record of \$870.9 billion.

The stock market has been increasing steadily and now is within striking distance of 1000 on the Dow-Jones average. This was not expected, as the stock market is supposed to be a leading indicator, that is, it is supposed to give a clue in advance as to how business will be. With everyone expecting that the increased taxes would cause a slowdown in business, it was reasonable to expect the stock market to anticipate the slow down by dropping.

The big question is why is business so good, why is the stock market so good, why are people increasing their installment debts when the outlook should be bad?

No one can say for certain. However one prominent business paper noted that it appears that at least some of the people are adopting the attitude to "buy it today, tomorrow it will cost more". That is, they are losing confidence in the paper dollar. As a matter of fact, they are confident that it will continue to lose its purchasing power so they are willing to go more into debt, expecting to pay off their debt with cheaper money.

It may well be that the money managers have done such a poor job, that their constant increase in the quantity of so-called money has finally reached a point where people are beginning to run from the dollar. Certainly, it seems that in the long run the dollar will continue to lose its purchasing power, as practically all the currencies of the world have done at one time or another.

However, will the election aftermath be one of boom or will it be one of deflation? The reader's guess is as good as anyone's for no one can see into the future. However, it would appear that if a more conservative congress and president is elected that certainly in the early stages of their control, they would institute measures to stop the inflation. Politics makes it wisest to adopt whatever unpopular remedies are necessary right after the election. In that way, the blame can be placed on the preceding regime, claiming their excesses necessitated reforms which may hurt. Also, by the time the next election rolls around the austerity imposed may have been forgotten.

So, it would appear that the aftermath of the election would be a deflationary one if a relatively conservative congress is put into office. This could be negated by the people still running away from the dollar, but as jobs are lost, and it appears that some attempts are being made to stop the inflation, the people may decide "to save today, tomorrow things will be cheaper."

Of course, no administration, conservative or not, will permit any deflation to run its course. If it hurts too much, measures will be adopted to inflate again. But any such inflation may really start a run from the dollar with consequences no one can foresee.

Oscar B. Johannsen

SALT OF THE EARTH

One difficulty with today's society is that most of our views are too weak to be reflected.

1st Father: How is your son at college? Has he decided what he's going to be yet?

2nd Father: (Wearily) Yes, he would like very much to become a sophomore.

Husband: (Exasperated) Why are you always wishing for something you haven't got?

Wife: Because it would be perfectly silly to wish for something I already have.

Automation didn't eliminate red tape; it just perforated it.

It so often happens that one unsolved problem leads to another. Could this be because mystery loves company?

According to the polls, The "Uncides" still control the nation's future.

Minister to Congregation: And I would like to remind you good people that the cost of salvation has gone up, too.
