

To the Editor:

At present two schools of thought dominate the Georgist scene, although they by no means represent the heart of George's teachings.

The Chimericalists view the philosophy as a simple tax reform movement leading softly and without conflict to a new mode of life in America. These optimists feel that a perpetual equilibrium may transpire as a result of the George basic tax. They picture limitless opportunity and prosperity—a world leaving nothing to be desired by any man willing and able to work.

The Moss Mantle sect stand on less firm ground. They believe that with a George basic tax, corporation taxes will disappear, wide open laissez faire will become the rule of trade, money and luxury will reward the clever, no government restrictions will hamper the ingenious.

Both of these groups are infantile in their unreal dreams. They think of "prosperity" as springing from things external. They will not recognize the fundamental nature of man as a child of conflict—conflict with the environment, with tradition, with the inner self—the conflict that is never resolved or even staticized except in death.

We do ourselves a disservice when we attempt to transmute superficialities into realities via *Progress and Poverty*. This work is only a direction signal in an ever changing economic complex. A solitary application of the single tax mustard plaster will not solve the economic problems that plague mankind. It is a helpful therapy, not a cure-all.

Ours is a technicalized machine age characterized by extensive subdivision of labor. In this machine pattern we gladly accept the benefits of communism in our police and fire department services. We sanction the socialism of state forest preserves, port authorities and nuclear energy research establishments. We also hail the initiative of Henry Ford, Henry Kaiser, et al.

Few Georgists believe that the consuming public as such should not be represented in government councils. Few believe that abolition of unions would do other than depress wages critically. Most will admit that organized capital, labor, the consuming public and government as administrator and public purchaser are the four primary groups that control our destinies. If we accept these concepts we believe in what is known as a "mixed economy." If we reject them we believe in an obfuscated anarchism.

There are many imperfections in a mixed economy that change for better or worse as time passes. We should, however, be practical enough to recognize the idea of continual change as a prime dominant of democracy. I believe that it is necessary for Georgists to approach contemporary problems from this enlarged, flexible and tolerant viewpoint and reject the provincial ivory-towerism that has stultified the movement with its dull weight for many years.

Our great fight in Georgism then is not *against* "socialism" but *for* the enactment of the George basic tax into law. This is where the effort and elbow grease are needed. I believe that all Georgists should be members of a strong central monolithic organization and promote actively the idea of the single tax.

Time is now very short. When are we going to get to work in a world over which the dark wings of tragedy loom large?

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