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A FINAL ARGUMENT FOR THE NECESSITY OF A PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS FOR ECONOMICS

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Based Upon an Analogy of the Revolution of Other Ancient Sciences Through the Discovery of Underlying Truths and the Rapid Maturity of Modern Sciences, with their Imposed Industrial Structures, When Based Upon Scientific Truths.—This Article Contains Much That Should Interest Both the Read and the Unread.—Economics the Only Ancient Science Not Yet Placed Upon a Scientific Basis.

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In another article the editor has told of his long insistence that *economics* has an underlying philosophical basis, and of the necessity of its recognition and the conforming thereto of the production and consumption programs of the world. The same article bears the announcement of a task completed and of release from a ministry that has largely engaged my interest and has consumed much of my intellectual vigor for eight or ten years. It remains only to fortify my long insistence upon the existence of fundamental truths, the necessity for their compiling, and of the necessity to launch any true economic reform from that depth of underlying truth.

The new-deal programs were compared in the September 1 issue of the Voice with what I deem some of the fundamentals, which were designated as *economic axioms*. The failure of a number of the new-deal launchings to conform thereto doubtless seems a trifle to most readers. And, of course, the failure of several enterprises in the new-deal program to sustain the test of fundamental truth is of comparative unimportance, in view of the utter failure of the basic practices of world economy, as demonstrated in the industrial, distributive, and consumptive processes. Apparently meaningless perhaps to many reads are those "axioms"; yet their acceptance could but revolutionize the economic science as the discovery and acceptance of ever-existing, but formerly unrecognized, basic truths, have revolutionized other sciences and philosophies which, like economics, had, before the acceptance of discovered basic truth, just "grew up," like Topsy.

No Redemptive Scheme Urged.

You will take note that I, unlike those who have launched programs for the banishment of poverty, have not urged any scheme of redemption but have only insisted that *any program launched shall be conceived in view of eternal truths*. I know, and you know if you have really got a concept of the first "axiom" and its colliary, that the acceptance of that one comprehensive economic truth and the basing of economic and social organization upon it would revolutionize the economic and social world. Only acceptance of the truth have I pleaded for. Yet, if accepted by the masses, there are plenty of those like the silversmiths of Ephesus when Paul was conceived as turning the world upside down and about to destroy their profitable trade in the images of Diana would be greatly disturbed and if possible incite to riot. For still in this world of 1935, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians."

I appeal only for the revolution of economics upon the basis of fundamental truths, just as other age-old sciences and philosophies have been revolutionized. And in order to show the readers in this final appeal for a recognition of the existence of such truth and of the necessity for all economic processes and policies to be conformed thereto, I shall, in the following paragraphs, cite the difficulties of the discoverers of the basic truths which revolutionized other primeval sciences and philosophies in securing their acceptance, and of the revolutionizing effect of their final acceptance. I shall first take *astronomy* as a very effective illustration, and follow immediately with *medicine*, lest those who can only abide the practical lose patience.

2100 Years from Thales to Columbus

Astronomy is just about as old as the art of getting a living. Its development began in the dawn of human existence. The first registered

An-Ending And A Beginning

This issue of the Voice makes the ending of one phase of its publication and the beginning of another.

The article on this page and the one beginning on Page 5 should be read through and through despite their length. The latter article grows pretty warm towards the close. Every line in the paper should be interesting to any sensible man.

truth was probably the fact that the sun rises in the east after every period of darkness. Like Topsy, astronomy "grew up" for ages, the basis of its development being altogether that of human experiences and unguided observation. After many milleniums of growth through more or less intelligent observation on the plains of Chaldea, in Egypt, perhaps in China and other lands, the amassed data reached Greece. In that land of intellectuality came the first glimpse of the hidden truths of astronomy, the first hewing out of a stone for the foundation of astronomy as a science. It was away back in 640 B. C. when Ezekiel was prophesying, that Thales, a Greek astronomer, conceived and enuniated the idea of the sphericity of the earth—by the way, a rather practical matter, yet one that was not sufficiently accepted as truth for more than 2100 years, or until Columbus's day; and even I have known a man or two who still did not believe the earth is round, and a late leader in Zion City made that a part of his creed.

2100 Years From Pythagoras to Galileo

Forty years after the startling enuniation of Thales, Pythagoras, another Greek, enuniated the truth that the sun is the center of the planetary system and that the earth revolves about it. However, not even his successors supported the truth revealed by Pythagoras.

Members of the Alexandrian school discovered a number of facts and attempted to formulate a system of *science*. Erastothones came close to figuring out the obliquity of the ecliptic and the size of the earth. Hipparchus, about 100 years before the birth of Christ, discovered the procession of the equinoxes and a number of other important truths. Ptolemy, about 230 years after Christ's birth, undertook to formulate a system which would include all the known phenomena, and in doing so eclipsed for hundreds of years the truth enuniated by Pythagoras, that the sun is the center of the planetary system and that the earth revolves around it. Ptolemy, with the limited knowledge then existing, couldn't make all things fit into a system (a science) if the Pythagorean truth should be accepted. Accordingly he discards the greatest discovery of the ages and proposes again the earth as the center of the heavens, with all the heavens revolving about it. Here comes in that matter of the "music of the spheres," about which somebody was asking a few years ago in the papers. To enable all the heavenly bodies, evidently traveling at different paces, to circle the earth each day, he conceived the heavens as consisting of a set of great hollow transparent spheres in which the vari-motined heavenly bodies were set as jewels. All the fixed stars were in one sphere; the sun in another, the moon and each planet in its own particular sphere, and those spheres moved so harmoniously that they created a delightful music—"the music of the spheres," Miss Nell Battle Lewis, for you, I seem to recall as the inquirer referred to. Thus what progress had been made was largely lost—save the experimen-

tal. The Ptolemaic system swayed the astronomical world for many centuries.

The Arabs, 1200 years ago, began observations, but no scientific foundation was discovered by them. Again, about 700 years ago, the study of astronomy returned to western Europe. In time there arose the blazing star Copernicus who exploded the Ptolemaic system and enuniated a more perfect form of the Pythagorean system, with the sun in the center and the planets, including the earth, revolving around it. That was during the life of our friend Columbus.

Time moves on. The telescope is invented, Galileo, as late as the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine, Florida, and Sante Fe, New Mexico, and after the birth of Virginia Dare, and after the settlement at Jamestown, came upon the scene. His discoveries were important, but all important was his enuniation of the non-accepted Pythagorean and Copernican doctrine of the sun's being the center of things and the earth and the other planets as revolving around it. Did the world swallow the thrice enuniated truth? The pope was the master of the world in that day. He threatened an interdict from water and bread and eternal damnation if the heretical fool didn't retract his heresy. Poor fellow! He retracted. Yet the fundamental truth first announced 2100 years before by Pythagoras did, despite the pope's closed mind and his then-esteemed deadly decree, find reception—but just the other day, when the territory of the present United States was dotted over with Spanish, English, and French colonies.

Thus the foundation of astronomy was ultimately laid and it was permitted to become a *science*. Development was no longer hampered, but orderly, and intelligently conceived. Advance after advance has been made, and Einstein is still delving into its underlying principles, having extended his studies into the realm of *relativity*. But no advance at all could be made till the Copernican foundation was accepted. It was only in the same period that Columbus accepted the doctrine of the sphericity of the earth and proved it.

Now, consider a moment that *Economics* has merely "grew up" during all the ages through which astronomy underwent the throes attending a new birth, and not even one effort has been registered to discover the fundamental and revolutionizing truths!

How Medicine "Grew Up."

The beginnings of medicine were possibly as early as those of astronomy. Certainly primeval man should be credited with having as much intelligence and regard for his health as the dog, and we know that the dog readily chooses for certain ills the curative grass or herb, the experience of his prototypes discovered. Thus we may assume that man had utilized many remedial herbs before the day of Aesculapius, the traditional founder of the medicinal art. And down through the ages the science of medicine "grew up." The experimental increments, in the very nature of the case, were more definite than those of astronomy. A cure for the belly-ache is more readily checked than a theory about the movements of heavenly bodies. Yet no morning star of promise to the bedwarfed science arose till the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, which occurred just before Columbus believed the 2100-year old theory of the earth's sphericity and of the solar system! In course of time,

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