

A Message to Extension Classes of the Henry George School

WITH the rapid growth of our Main School and its thirty-three Extension Classes in fourteen States, it is important that the instructors, and alumni shall be able to share together clear and unified ideas regarding these two organizations—the local Student-Alumni Council, and the national (perhaps sometime international) Henry George Fellowship.

At the Henry George School of Social Science in New York, when we organized in April, 1934, as many of the Extension Classes are doing now—a year later, we called our organization the "Student-Alumni Council of the Henry George School of Social Science."

We drew up a set of By-laws, a copy of which will be sent on request. Our idea of the Student-Alumni Council is this:

That it is a group of students and graduates actively concerning themselves with finding out and supplying the needs of its local school; promoting comradeship amongst the various classes of their school; and seeking "to do any and all things conducive to the best interests of the Henry George School of Social Science." (See Article 11 of the By-laws).

Here is a list of "Suggestions for Activities" which have kept some of the members of our Student-Alumni Council busy this year. Several of these things were done individually by members; for others committees were formed; in some cases, groups worked spontaneously together.

1. Preparing a "Henry George Fellowship Muster-Roll" of the graduates of each class. (This can be done by the "artist" of the class.)
2. Preparing Teaching-Charts, and Posters.
3. Teaching a class in "Progress and Poverty."
4. Procuring, and caring for a bulletin board.
5. Securing speakers and audiences for forums, and procuring and distributing Single Tax pamphlets at these meetings.
6. Planning meetings (some social in nature) to weld the group together. We find a yearly "outing" excellent for promoting fellowship.
7. Securing pupils for existing and future classes.
8. Conducting research work.
9. Printing or mimeographing and distributing results of such research work.
10. Collecting books for reference library; later cataloguing and cross-referencing same.
11. Forming discussion groups.
12. Subscribing for informative periodicals for reading table, such as LAND AND FREEDOM, *No Taxes, Land and Liberty*, "democracy."
13. Keeping a map up to date showing the location of all Henry George classes, now numbering forty-two in fourteen States.

Mr. Chodorov is having a little brochure printed to be placed in the hands of each graduate entitled: "What Am I Going To Do About It?" He believes that the graduate must first "look to his conscience and his abilities

for an answer to this question;" and again, "It is his duty to advance the Educational Programme which, at this moment is the only thing we *can* do."

Having thus, in part at least, explained how local work can be carried on in the centers with the help of such a body as the Student-Alumni Council I feel it is vital that I now turn towards that great dynamic force in this movement:

THE HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP.

The Henry George Fellowship includes all the alumni of all the classes of the Henry George School wherever they are formed, unless they signify when the idea is presented, as suggested in the Manual near the end of the course, that *they do not desire* to belong.

To quote from one of Mr. Chodorov's recent letters: "Let it be a fellowship, a loose organization . . . freely entered into for the advancement of a common ideal . . . Henry George tells us that a free society is the most effective one."

One of the most valuable things that can be done *before you organize* is to gain a thorough understanding of the significance of the Henry George Fellowship. Then will be seen, even clearer, the place and function of such a body as the Student-Alumni Council in the movement.

If we look into the history of the formation of:

1. The Student-Alumni Council of the Henry George School of Social Science and
2. The Henry George Fellowship, it will help in making it evident that *they are distinctly two bodies*, though they can be represented by concentric circles; as indeed we did represent them at the time of their formation. (See design at top of the "Message", sent out in May, 1934. The Student-Alumni Council is there represented as the core of the Henry George School, which is again surrounded by a greater body, the Henry George Fellowship. Three concentric circles.)

The Student-Alumni Council and the Henry George Fellowship differ in aim, scope and organization. They both came into being on the evening of April 19, 1934, at the Henry George School in New York.

I. The Student-Alumni Council was formed to aid the director, Oscar H. Geiger, in the efforts he was making for the School. (Each center, as it grows, will need some such body to aid its director in his work.)

II. The Henry George Fellowship was launched by the students that same evening in response to a dream of Oscar H. Geiger's, with the lofty hope that it might become a nation-wide organization, with its members inspired by the teachings of Henry George, aiding the cause by their interest and effort.

An appeal for a "Fund for Free Scholarships," so that the student body might be enlarged, accompanied its announcement, May 28, 1934. Funds for Free Scholarships began to come in. In June, a month later, Oscar Geiger passed on, but this living memorial of his work, The Henry George Fellowship, survives and is growing steadily.

Its very name serves to inspire its members and to link the groups, uniting them into one body.

In such a great and growing unity there must be strength, strength at last, to make the ideal *real!*

The Henry George Fellowship is distinctly an Educational Fraternity, and has now as its President, Mr. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, who has aided it incalculably in the following ways:

- I. By bringing it before the Henry George Congress in Chicago,

October, 1934, when three resolutions concerning it were adopted. (See LAND AND FREEDOM, Nov.-Dec., 1934.)

II. By securing the services of Mr. John Lawrence Monroe as Field Director to establish classes in the leading cities of the United States.

The graduates of these classes are already swelling the ranks of the Fellowship.

As these classes, which now number forty-two, increase, it will be necessary to provide a paid secretary-treasurer; and it may be thought wise, also, to add another field director to keep the groups in touch with each other, or to work in new territory.

This will need funds.

Surely we shall not have to lack these!

I believe that every new class of graduates—members of the Henry George Fellowship—as soon as they realize the glorious and noble task before them, will respond to an appeal for a gift of money to be used in this Extension Work, "that others may see the star they see." They will realize that *they* see it, because *others* who saw it made it possible for them to see it through their efforts. Though this must remain entirely optional with the various directors for the present, I feel that some Henry George Fellowship groups will soon respond in this way.

In thus heeding the words of the rallying call of the Henry George Fellowship—"Let Us Move Forward Together!"—they will prove their kinship with those who "trust Liberty and follow her," so that "the dangers that now threaten" may disappear.

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Washington Welcomes Judge Ralston

UNDISMAYED by a downpour of rain, about two dozen Single Taxers gathered at the home of Mr. Walter I. Swanton and his two daughters, Lucy and Edith, 1464 Belmont Street Northwest, Washington, D. C., on Monday evening, April 29, to greet Mr. and Mrs. Jackson H. Ralston on the last evening of their brief visit in the Nation's Capitol.

Asked to tell of conditions in California, Mr. Ralston gave an interesting and enlightening account of the efforts made during the fall of 1934 to get the requisite 116,000 signatures to an initiative petition calling for an amendment to the State constitution providing for land value taxation. The required number of signatures was not obtained in time for the election, but may be used in bringing up the amendment at the next national election, and the narrow margin by which they failed to get the measure on to the ballot last time has inspired the workers with hope of success next year, despite the forces against them, which include Governor Merriam, who will not call a special session of the legislature for fear the amendment will pass; William Randolph Hearst and other land speculators whose thousands of unused acres would be menaced; the newspapers, always subservient to the money interests; the bankers and insurance companies who fear possible depreciation in the value of mortgage holdings; and the school teachers, who have been carefully instructed that their salaries depend upon the continuation of the sales tax.

Mr. Ralston impressed upon his hearers the fact that if they wanted to do something for the cause, now was the accepted time, and urged all who could afford to do so, to send contributions to 83 McAllister Street, San Francisco, Calif., care of the Single Tax Relief Campaign Committee, which is conducting an intensive campaign of education in that State. Judson King, Executive Secretary of the National Popular Government League, promptly responded with an offer of ten dollars as a beginning, and Mrs. Marie H. Heath, President of the Woman's Single Tax Club of the District of Columbia, stated that at their next annual meeting the following Monday evening, a committee would be appointed to see what they could do to help. Mr. Charles G. Baldwin, President of the Maryland Tax Reform Association, Representative Theodore L. Moritz of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Henry S. Julian, Special Attorney of the Department of Justice, were among those who joined in the discussion which followed.

Mrs. Jessie Lane Keeley extended an invitation to all present to meet at her home in Riverdale, Maryland, on Sunday, June 9, for the annual "family reunion" of Single Taxers, but wished it understood that no lunches were to be brought this time as this was to be her treat, by way of celebrating her retirement from the government service the latter part of May.

Refreshments were served, after which the guests bade Mr. and Mrs. Ralston good bye, with best wishes for the campaign which is being waged in California for the only permanent cure for economic depressions.—GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

New York to Entertain Tenth Annual Henry George Congress

THE executive committee of the Henry George Foundation, after a canvass of its Board of Directors, has selected New York City as the place of meeting for the Tenth Annual Henry George Congress, and it is planned to meet during the first week in October.

The programme this year will be distinctly different in type from those of recent years and much of the time will be devoted to informal conferences and round-table discussions. In view of the remarkable growth of the Henry George School of Social Science and its extension branches in various parts of the country, it is expected that there will be a large representation this year of the younger element and special provision will be made for featuring reports and discussions dealing with this important new development in educational work.

The Second Annual Henry George Congress was held in New York City in 1927 and proved quite successful. As it is now several years since the East has had a Henry George Congress, a large and representative gathering is anticipated and no effort will be spared to make this year's convention of profit to all attending.

NOAH WEBSTER wrote in 1787 in his *Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution Proposed at the late Convention at Philadelphia*, controverting Montesquieu's notion that virtue constituted the basis of government and stated that "A general and tolerably equal distribution of landed property is the whole basis of national freedom."