

# FOUNDATION NEWS

MARCH 1950

## A CALL TO ACTION

A Statement by Hon. Charles R. Eckert,  
President, Henry George Foundation

My dear Single Taxer:

There has been no period in the history of the American Republic when a greater need existed for the application of sound economic principles and the promotion of wise political action in our social and political affairs than now. The time is ripe for a new birth of Freedom. Momentous changes are impending. The unrest and turmoil throughout the world are but the birth pangs of a new era. What this era shall be is for us—the people—to determine.



CHARLES R. ECKERT

It ought to be an order of wider freedom and deeper justice; an order in harmony with the eternal laws of freedom and right, but it may be an order of less freedom and more tyranny, depending upon the wisdom or folly of those who guide and direct the Wave of the Future. There is no group of citizens better equipped mentally, morally and spiritually to guide and direct the course of events that will mould the social and political affairs of the future, than the followers of Henry George.

The message of "Progress and Poverty" was proclaimed to the world in 1879. "Progress and Poverty" gave birth to a movement that stirred the political and economic thinking in all regions of the earth. Many outstanding men and women in all parts of the civilized world were moved by its logic and inspiring message to join the movement that was destined to become the most far reaching, the most fundamental, the most inspiring crusade for freedom and social justice in the history of civilization. To it they gave their full measure of devotion. We pause to honor their memory and to draw new courage and inspiration from their devoted lives. Their unselfish labors and sacrifices prepared the soil and developed an atmosphere for the growth of freedom and social justice that is eagerly awaiting the Sower and the Harvester. To sow the good seed, the pregnant seed, the fruitful seed is the task of the present and succeeding generations of Single Taxers. The harvest in God's own time will be fruitful and rewarding.

"There is a vineyard in which there is the Master's work to do." In this vineyard the sowing of the seed is our task, so the Henry George Foundation is calling on all Single Taxers and lovers of freedom and social justice everywhere to join the campaign outlined in the ensuing pages.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

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## HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

# Graded Tax League Being Organized in Pennsylvania

As all Georgists know, the cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton have been operating for many years under the Graded Tax Plan which embodies essential features of the Single Tax. But what is not so widely known is the fact that Pennsylvania laws prevent extension of the Graded Tax Plan to cities of the third class in the state.

In order to campaign for modification of the state law so that further efforts can be made to extend the Graded Tax Plan to all Pennsylvania cities, the Henry George Foundation is organizing the Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania. This organization, now well under way, will contact state and city officials, civic leaders, as well as home builders and home owners.

Prospects for the success of this program are bright. The Graded Tax Plan has already been strongly endorsed by the Pennsylvania League of Third Class Cities. It has also substantial newspaper support in various parts of the state.

The Graded Tax Plan has established the merits of the principle of shifting tax levies from improvements to land values, but opposing interests have prevented a full application of the Single Tax proposal. In this connection, the Henry George Foundation has undertaken an intensive study of the effects of the Graded Tax Plan in Pittsburgh in order to have up-to-date facts to use in pressing for a further shift in the tax.

## A CALL TO ACTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"Look around today.

"Lo! here, now, in our civilized society, the old allegories yet have a meaning, the old myths are still true. Into the Valley of the Shadow of Death yet often leads the path of duty, through the streets of Vanity Fair walks Christian and Faithful, and on Greatheart's armor ring the clanging blows. Ormuzd still fights with Ahriman—the Prince of Light with the Powers of Darkness. He who will hear, to him the clarions of the battle call.

"How they call, and call, and call, till the heart swells that hears them! Strong soul and high endeavor, the world needs them now."

## FOUNDATION NEWS

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**HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION of AMERICA**

417 Grant Street, Pittsburgh 19, Pa.

**Hon. Charles R. Eckert, President**

**Percy R. Williams, Secretary**

# HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION ORGANIZING A NEW NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ADVANCE THE GEORGIST REFORM

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## *Comprehensive Program Planned to Arouse Public Interest in Housing Problem and Related Issues*

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A new plan of action designed to make the Georgist program a practical issue in cities, towns and villages throughout the United States has been launched by the Henry George Foundation of America. The plan was adopted by the Foundation after months of preparatory efforts in which numerous Georgists participated.

One of the central objectives in the plan is to focus attention on the housing shortage and relate it to the basic social and economic injustice from which it stems—the taxation of improvements and the failure of the community to tax land values properly. The prevailing high taxes on homes and on all types of improvements, together with the speculatively high prices of urban land, constitute the chief obstacles to the construction of more and better homes. This situation provides an excellent opportunity to gain the attention of the public and to stimulate interest in the Georgist solution to the problem.

Since the housing problem is already a matter of political controversy, it is particularly appropriate at this time to inaugurate a vigorous campaign on behalf of the Georgist program, for under present circumstances the concrete value of the Henry George proposal will be more readily understood and more widely accepted as a political issue.

Ultimately, the Single Tax idea can be made a reality only through legislative action that results from political agitation. Facing this fact realistically, the Henry George Foundation plans to propound the Georgist solution as a non-partisan political issue that should be espoused by all political parties.

The action plan of the Foundation embraces a broad program which combines educational and organizational activities, and the enlistment of political support for the Single Tax. In addition to the first step of bringing enlightenment on the housing problem, the Foundation program will include lecture activities aimed at educating the public on the need for a free market economy, as opposed to the present trend toward collectivism. Emphasis will be placed on the role that the Georgist proposal can play in assuring freedom of the individual and a free economy.

All Georgists are asked to cooperate in this program. Though efforts will be concentrated in a few selected places for the next few months, plans call for rapid expansion which will require leadership in every community. It is therefore urgent that Georgists everywhere contact the Henry George Foundation at once so that the necessary preparatory work can be started.

## CAMPAIGNS TO BE LAUNCHED IN PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE, COLORADO

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The scope of the new campaign being sponsored by the Henry George Foundation is indicated by the program now under way. Three states will be the immediate focus of aggressive efforts: Pennsylvania, Delaware and Colorado. These have been selected because each of them has a long record of exposure to the Single Tax and are therefore considered to be the states most "vulnerable" to further efforts.

Some details of the prospects in Pennsylvania are outlined elsewhere in this issue of Foundation News. Delaware is another state that has proved to be favorable to Georgist propaganda, an aggressive campaign having been waged there as far back as 1896. The city of Wilmington, home of Henry George III, will receive special attention.

Long-time Georgists will recall that Colorado has also given a good deal of encouragement to Single Tax efforts. As long ago as 1913, in Pueblo, a sensational victory was achieved, but unfortunately this political triumph was reversed before the benefits of the Single Tax could become effective. A determined effort will now be made to restore the gains previously made and to expand them to the entire state of Colorado.



## POLITICAL PROGRAM ADVOCATED BY HENRY GEORGE

"The political art, like the military art, consists in massing the greatest force against the point of least resistance.

"And to bring a principle most quickly and effectively into practical politics, the measure which presents it should be so moderate as (while involving the principle) to secure the largest support and excite the least resistance.

"For whether the first step be long or short is of little consequence. When a start is once made in the right direction, progress is a mere matter of keeping on.

"It is in this way that great questions always enter the phase of political action.

"In the United States, the most direct way is through local taxation, since that is already to some extent levied upon land values. And that is doubtless the way in which the final and decisive advance will be made."

—Henry George.

# MONEY IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!

A volunteer staff is already hard at work putting the program of the Henry George Foundation into effect. The funds necessary for the preliminary expenses, printing and mailing of literature and many incidentals, were contributed by a small group.

It will take a full-time staff and much greater funds to get the new action plan into full operation. The help of every Georgist is needed at once.

Georgists who have long wished for a large-scale national campaign now have an opportunity to make their hopes come true. The Trustees of the Henry George Foundation have carefully considered numerous suggestions and have obtained the advice and help of many Georgists professionally experienced in politics and modern publicity methods. The plan that was finally adopted is a sound and practical one that has every promise of re-establishing the Single Tax as a major issue in social reform in the United States.

But this plan can succeed only if it has the cooperation of all Georgists. The program for intensive action in various cities and states and for expansion on a national scale will be pushed ahead as fast as the required money is available.

Send your contribution at once—and make it as generous as you can!

## DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

Wherever you live, you can help right now in this revitalized Georgist campaign.

There is much to be done in preparation for intensive activity in your community, wherever it is. Specific information on what you can do will be sent to you by the headquarters of the Henry George Foundation if you will write and indicate your willingness to participate in building this new campaign.

Write to

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