

long since razed. There I met for the first time not only Mr. George but Louis F. Post and Charles O'Connor Hennessy. There is no truer friendship than joint endeavor in a great cause, one which to both of us was akin to religion. For a half century we met constantly not only in Single Tax circles but in business and in social affairs. I count it as one of my greatest privileges that he and his sainted wife were frequent guests at my home. It is fitting therefore that I say a few words on this occasion.

If I were asked to name the outstanding trait of this man I would select his quality of leadership. He displayed this in all the fields of human endeavor that he entered—journalism, finance, politics, literature and in organizations formed to spread the gospel according to Henry George. Physically he was a little man without the commanding presence that of itself often commands respect. Notwithstanding that lack his personality and clarity of expression invariably picked him out in a crowd.

He became a reporter soon after graduating from a public school and before he was thirty became city editor of a great New York City newspaper. But an even wider field soon opened before him. Imbued as he was with the individualistic philosophy of Henry George which stressed voluntary cooperation rather than state socialism, in 1888 he helped found the savings and loan association now known as the Franklin Society for Home Building and Savings. For more than forty years he was its president. It is now one of the leading cooperative bodies in the United States. While he believed that the adoption of the Single Tax would depopulate those breeders of misery, disease and vice—the tenement houses—he was intensely practical and could not wait. So that now through his efforts there are thousands of happy though modest homes in and around this great city. His leadership was soon recognized and he became in turn the head of the Metropolitan, New York State & United States League of Savings & Loan Associations and finally the president of the Savings & Loan Bank.

In politics he also attained honors. While leader of his party in the New Jersey State Senate he became its candidate for United States Senator and failed of election by only a few thousand votes. He was a many-sided man. A financier and a politician is rarely a scholar. He found time amid his activities to be a student of the writings of Lord Francis Bacon, becoming the vice-president of the American Baconian Society. Even his impromptu speeches were models of exquisite English.

But while he was a keen business man and loved his work of building homes for the poor he conceived his real life-work to be a follower of the Prophet of San Francisco. For a half century he used his tongue and his pen in the cause of recovering for the disinherited the land and natural resources that had been made for all and not for a few. Indeed that for him was a religion. Robert Schalkenbach in bequeathing a fund to be used for teaching the philosophy of Henry George was wise in his selection of Hennessy as one of the trustees. He soon became the president and until a few minutes of his death was indefatigable in the work of that Foundation.

He presided at an International Conference of Single Taxers held in Copenhagen, Denmark, ten years ago. I can still see his radiant face as the motion I made for the formation of a permanent body was carried. Elected in 1926 as the first president of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, in 1929 he was re-elected in Edinburgh, but declined re-election at the meeting in London this year, becoming honorary president.

Being intensely human, of course he appreciated the honors that came to him in finance, politics and the Henry George movement. But he shunned praise of his work and speeches. Applicable to him was the letter written by Henry George to Frances M. Milne, a California poetess: "Praise is the deadliest poison that can be offered to the human soul. Were I ever to accept it my power would soon be gone. What power I have comes from the fact that I know my own weakness; and when duty lay on me have neither feared blame nor sought praise."

I often marveled that Hennessy attained a half dozen years more than the psalmist's 70. I recall when, ill and frail in the early nineties, he took ship for Europe. A half dozen of us saw him off. As we waved him goodbye and left the dock one said "that is the last we will see of Charlie." Thereafter he had many diseases and operations, any one of which would have been fatal to an ordinary man. Indeed, once he was obliged to withdraw as a gubernatorial candidate because of illness. I believe that what kept him alive for almost fourscore years was his indomitable will that he must live for the sake of what I have called his religion—the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Two years ago in this hall he made a most moving address at the funeral of Oscar Geiger. I will quote a paragraph, first taking the liberty of substituting his name for that of Geiger:

"Charles O'Connor Hennessy's greatest attainment was as a teacher of the truths of political economy as Henry George had revealed them in his immortal writings; truths which are now of the most vital concern to humanity; portentous truths which have been imperceived or neglected or distorted by most of the teaching professors of our time. It was Charles O'Connor Hennessy's part to saturate his fine mind with George's philosophy and economic teachings, and reveal them persuasively and convincingly to the minds of others."

And so this man, small of stature and with a frail physique, stands before us as a colossus. Builder of homes for the poor, tribune of the people and preacher of the only philosophy that can save civilization, we salute you!

## Correspondence Course of the Henry George School

THE most recent development in the educational programme of the Henry George School of Social Science is a Correspondence Course. At this writing thousands of circulars offering this ten-lesson course in "Progress and Poverty" are being mailed to all parts of the country. This course is based upon the same technique that has been used so successfully in class room work, and the question sheets are based upon the questions used in the revised Teachers Manual.

The course should greatly accelerate the educational programme of the school. Fortunately sufficient funds have been contributed by a friend of the movement to assure the plans of the correspondence department for at least a year. This course is given free, as are all the courses of the school.

It can be readily seen how vast and momentous this new method of teaching "Progress and Poverty" can become. There are no limitations of time or space to contend with. Students can start any time, can work as fast as they like, and there is no problem of finding class room space or of developing teachers. The staff of the correspondence division will consist of graduates of the school for whom classes have not yet been organized, or who, although thoroughly prepared, are timid about teaching. This will open up plenty of opportunity for active work among graduates who are anxious to "do something about it." The staff will be under the direction of Mr. Frank Chodorov.

The correspondence course should also help in the

development of classes. It is recognized that classes are more effective, because of the opportunity for discussion which they afford, and because of that development of associations which is necessary for the progress of the movement. If two or more enrollments are received from a town in which there is no class, it will be the object of the correspondence division to make these students known to one another for the purpose of their discussing the questions among themselves, and of eventually organizing a local class.

Every friend of the movement is requested to send names of people who might or should be interested in taking the course. Names, names, names—that's what the correspondence division asks for. It costs money to get names, and money is not too plentiful. Therefore, names that are sent in amount to a valuable contribution. School teachers, newspaper men, business men, ministers, lawyers, doctors—anybody with intelligence enough to read "Progress and Poverty"—all are good prospects for the correspondence course. We urge every reader of LAND AND FREEDOM to send at once a long list of names and addresses of people to whom the correspondence course should be offered. Send these lists to Correspondence Division, Henry George School of Social Science, 211 West 79th Street, New York.

## The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation Report

THESE last weeks have been busy ones for the Schalkenbach Foundation. The Christmas Campaign was successful. People all over the country responded to our suggestion: "Make this a Georgeist Christmas." The books went gaily wrapped, and the office took on the air that accompanies such Yuletide festivities.

Two gift orders of books went to members of Congress, and one to a member of the Legislature in a nearby state. A generous lady in California accompanied her check for a complete set of Henry George's works with the hopeful remark, "I am trying to convert my Congress man."

We have been fortunately free this year from the "after Christmas" lull that is sometimes experienced. Among the many orders received, we were especially interested in one for several books which came from an association of merchants and manufacturers in Mississippi, and another from a well known Congressman for five copies of "Progress and Poverty" to be shipped to Washington.

An interesting suggestion was made in a recent letter from a city in northern New York. Talking of Single Tax, the writer said: "I truly believe that the best way to present the subject is on the screen. I have heard many speakers on Single Tax, but I have yet to see fifty per cent of any audience grasp the import of the thing

in listening to a speaker. But if that same speaker were to show the principle of Single Tax in dramatic form, a story, if you please, on the screen, for fifteen minutes, and then give his talk, the interest and agitation would be tremendous."

Some years ago John Wilson Bengough employed this idea of visual education, illustrating his lectures with amusing chalk sketches which he made, as he went along, upon an easel covered with drawing paper. This is called "chalk talking." Our "Up-to-date Primer" contains a collection of these amusingly clever illustrations.

Another friend tells us, with his order for books: "You may be interested to know that my desk is honored by the presence of one of your fine colored pictures of Henry George." This is only one of the many comments we receive from people who have purchased this beautiful reproduction of the famous oil painting by Harry Thurston See.

There has been a lively activity among the bookdealers in recent weeks. Our suggestions that they lay in a stock of Georgeist books meets a growing response, and, occasionally, a dealer will tell us that he is featuring the books in a special window display. It would be a great help if, when such displays appear, the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM in that locality would take occasion to comment and congratulate the dealer. Everybody appreciates a "pat on the back" and we have found bookdealers to be no exception to this rule.

And now for our foreign contacts:

From Shanghai, last week, in the stilted phraseology of the foreigner unaccustomed to our language, came an order for "Progress and Poverty."

From Mexico, from one who only recently became acquainted with the Foundation: "I am glad to learn that the great and good work is being carried forward in the interests of the Georgeist Crusade."

From British Honduras: "Have opened the way for a favorable reception of any Henry George literature—especially 'Progress and Poverty'—to several governmental executives. The most boldfaced system of land monopoly obtains here. This is truly a White Man's country, and, in time I believe many whites will settle here to cultivate the soil. It is really a semi-tropical climate in the tropical zone. Four months of the year one needs several woolen blankets at night. All semi-tropical, as well as tropical, fruits and vegetables will grow here most easily and luxuriantly. However, there is no doubt about the curse of Land Monopoly. Some of the people are fully alive to this evil and they have a clumsy system of taxing unused land more than land that is put to use. However, inasmuch as a powerful politician in England owns large parcels of very valuable land, the local government feels compelled to go carefully on Land Value taxation."

—V. G. PETERSON, Acting Secretary.