

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

In May 1909, Winston Churchill, in the House of Commons, made one of the best speeches of his career on land value taxation. In Edinburgh, Scotland, the following July, he spoke again on the subject. Both speeches are contained in a pamphlet we have just published, the price of which is ten cents a copy.

Another new pamphlet to be added to our list is "The Land for the People," a speech which Henry George made in Tommebridge, Ireland, in 1889. The price of this pamphlet is five cents.

A third addition to our collection is "A Business Man's Religion," also five cents. This is a reprint of the letter which Joseph Fels wrote in reply to an appeal for funds made by the Dean of a Theological Seminary. It is a dramatic presentation of the Georgeist principle of "justice, not charity."

Through the generous cooperation of the author, we have a limited supply of two more Louis Wallis books which we are able to offer at greatly reduced prices. Both books are bound in cloth. One, selling at twenty-five cents a copy is, "State of War Permanent Unless. . ." Professor Ross of the University of Wisconsin said of this book, "It contains some startling facts which are hardly known in America." The other book, "Sociological Study of the Bible," is a scholarly work of more than three hundred pages. It goes back to the earliest days of civilization to show that the vital religious ideas of Christian society took shape in response to a social pressure as tremendous and compelling as that in which we live today. The price of this book is one dollar a copy.

Last week we had an opportunity to purchase a few dozen copies of "Picking America's Pockets," by David L. Cohn. This book presents a lucid, penetrating and authoritative argument which explodes many of the fallacies which have bedevilled American thought on the tariff question. However, its main interest to us is its wealth of factual information, most of which it is extremely difficult for the average reader to assemble for himself. The book is twenty-five cents a copy.

The question is often asked, "What can I do to spread a knowledge of Henry George?" There are, of course, as many different ways as there are Georgeists and it is up to each one of us to choose the way which can best be utilized in our daily life. Mr. Matthew Van Leeuwen of Franklin, Mass., found that the many contacts he makes through

business and in a social way provided a splendid field for the distribution of literature. Occasionally he gives a book away, but he is of the opinion that if he can sell the book it has a greater value to the one who buys it. The difference between what he pays us for the books purchased in quantities of ten, and what he charges the individual purchasers, creates a small revolving fund for the constant replenishing of his stock. So far he has put about a hundred books into circulation and many hundred pamphlets.

By a similar method and using the contacts she makes through her church work, Miss Adelaide Youngman of Dunellen, N. J., has put a hundred or more books into the hands of likely prospects. An interesting side-light on Miss Youngman's work is a letter she received from a woman minister in Shellong, India, to whom she wrote regarding "Progress and Poverty." This minister, who is in charge of several churches in India and has also organized a boys' school in that country, wrote as follows: "I was delighted to get your letter which reached me in the midst of my Punjab trip. I was interested in your remarks on Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty'—a book for which I have long had a very keen appreciation. I believe he was one of the acutest observers and prophets that the Western world has produced. But, as with most of his fellow-prophets, being despised and rejected, the world has not yet begun to understand and listen to him."

Too numerous to mention are the people fitting this kind of valuable work into the regular pattern of their daily lives. One good friend in Chicago has circulated five hundred books. Henry George's own daughter, Mrs. Anna George de Mille, hardly lets a week go by without putting a book in the hands of someone she has met who has proved responsive to her prefatory talk about her father's philosophy.

This work needs ingenuity and perseverance, but it is rich in its reward. Why not try it?

Henry George School of Social Science

HEADQUARTERS

Commencement exercises took place at the Engineers' Auditorium on May 8. About 500 students graduated from the January session. The guest speaker was Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, who spoke inspiringly on "Education as a Means and as an End." Mrs. Anna George de Mille also addressed the group, and there were four student speakers. Leon Arpin, a member of the faculty, was Chairman.

William Newcomb, co-author of "You and America's Future," believes in the visual method of propagating

Georgeism, and is now engaged in various motion picture projects at the Henry George School. Several outstanding documentary films were presented in the School auditorium, including "The City," "The River," and "The Plough that Broke the Plains." At present Mr. Newcomb is conducting a class in Motion Picture Theory, which meets at the School every Thursday, and which includes lectures by outstanding specialists in this field. Mr. Newcomb and his class are engaged in producing a slide film for the School, and are also working on a short documentary motion picture.

Classes at headquarters will continue through the summer, including the course in "The Science of Political Economy."

EXTENSIONS

"Sumer is i-cumen in," and the various Extensions of the School are rounding out their Spring semester.

The Chicago School, largest Extension outside of New York, held its annual banquet May 12. Hon. Francis Neilson was guest of honor. The occasion was a celebration of seven years of School work in the Windy City. Hon. Max M. Korshak, School's treasurer, reported that 639 students had completed the basic course during the past year, bringing the total to 2160 since the first Chicago class in 1934. Sixty teachers, 300 secretaries, and 500 financial contributors have made this work possible. The budget of \$5000 for the coming year was met in good part by spontaneous contributions at the banquet, totalling \$1339.

Edwin Ross, Philadelphia Field Director, writes: "The first step in the organizational part of the work here is now complete. A Trust has been formed and duly recorded with the following persons named as Trustees: Julian P. Hickok, President; Samuel L. Green, Vice President; Burton N. Jones, Secretary and Treasurer; Lucia M. Cipolloni, Anna H. Ross, Henry George III, Francis Fee, Ernest Schneider, Harold Sudell, and Charles B. Scheerbaum. Our first objective will be a fund-raising campaign, to enable us to appeal to a very much greater number of prospective students for the Fall term, and to secure office space." Philadelphia's commencement exercises were held June 5, at the Central Y. M. C. A. About 125 graduates and friends attended.

In St. Louis, Mo., five classes are nearing completion. This term will end the second year of the St. Louis School, during which time 300 students will have been exposed to the philosophy of Henry George. In addition to classes, Forum Meetings for graduates are conducted with a view to clarifying understanding of the economics studied in class. The St. Louis School work and fund-raising is carried on for the most part by graduates.

In various parts of New Jersey, seventeen classes of the Spring session have been completed. Graduation exercises were held April 25. There were about 100 graduates. A

teachers' training course will be conducted during the Summer to prepare teachers for the coming Fall term. New Jersey also has its own Speakers' Bureau, conducted by Mr. Donald Richardson.

The Boston Extension is operating under the auspices of the newly formed Henry George Institute of New England. Enrollments of the Spring classes totalled 229. The Institute is now well under way and much progress has been made in the coordination of the many activities. A Speakers Bureau is active, under the management of Mrs. Grace Dahl, in securing many engagements for Georgeist lecturers. A monthly news bulletin is being published by the Institute, offering news of the work; its current issue carries an "Honor Roll of Workers." The "muster roll" does not fall on deaf ears in Boston!

Henry George Committee for Legislative Action

Over a thousand copies of "A Legislative Framework for the Philosophy of Henry George" are now being distributed to legislators throughout the country—U. S. Senators and Representatives, Governors of States and Territories, State Senators and Assemblymen, and Mayors of leading cities. A card is enclosed with the Framework, which reads: "Dear Legislator: There is an untapped source of revenue which, if taken, would go far towards meeting governmental needs in the present emergency. May we earnestly suggest that you give your attention to the enclosed framework of laws."

The Framework has been introduced at a meeting of the Civil Service Forum of New York City, by Mr. Charles A. Kee. The Forum is an influential civic organization. If the Forum recommends the Framework, it will carry much weight with the legislators.

Many testimonials on the Framework have been received, and proposals to make practical use of it are under way.

William Allen White has written: "You have framed a most interesting legislative program for the single tax philosophy. I should say that it could not be improved upon. But I should also say that we should go one step at a time."

William Jay Schieffelin wrote to Mr. Harry Maguire, of the Framework Committee, as follows: "The 'Legislative Framework' is well thought out. I am referring it to our Committee on Legislation. I do not think the legislature would adopt it, because the great argument in support of the Single Tax, namely, the 'unfair unearned increment', has vanished."

Mr. Maguire has replied to Mr. Schieffelin as follows: "You may be correct in saying that there has been no unearned increment in land for several years. There never is after a panic. There always is an unearned increment before a panic and it is the chief cause of it. New York City assesses land at 7 billion dollars, which means that its owners re-