

THE NEW STANDARD

OFFICIAL BULLETIN, NEW YORK CHAPTER, HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP

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October, 1936

One Dollar a Year

FELLOWSHIP TO SPONSOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

A Halloween party on Saturday Oct. 31 is the second event on the program of the new Social Committee, designed to intrigue the seasonal urge of the Chapters membership for the coming Winter season.

Miss Stella Hoffman heading the Committee, is being assisted by the Misses Dostal, Breese, and Peirsol; and by Mr. Demianof, and Mr. Cardozo. Preparations for the party include games, home-made delicacies, and dancing. It will start at 8; tickets are available at the school upon personal or mailed application, or can be bought at the door that evening.

"Upon the success of this party," said Miss Hoffman, "depends the future social activities of the Fellowship. Therefore we expect every member to show his true Georgist spirit by attending, and bringing his friends." Miss Hoffman said regular monthly dances would be held if sufficient interest was shown. Dancing classes for beginners are also in the offing.

MAYOR McNAIR RESIGNS

Mayor William N. McNair submitted his resignation to the City Clerk to be effective immediately. Shortly thereafter Cornelius D. Scully, President of the City Council was designated as Acting Mayor for the year and three months of Mayor McNair's unexpired term. Mr. Scully is a member of the Board of Directors of the Henry George Foundation.

The crisis in the affairs of the city government was precipitated by the failure of the Mayor and the City Council to agree on the appointment of a city treasurer. Mayor McNair resigned in order to permit the payroll to be met. He walked out of the City Hall to return to the little law office from which he emerged three years ago to become the city's chief executive.

A late report has just disclosed that efforts to save the City of Pittsburgh a huge sum of money by surcharging the City Treasurer's bonding company for \$300,000 in unrenewed tax liens cost him his position as mayor.

Large properties in the downtown district held out of use by land speculators and large estates, he declared, have been going along for twelve years and more without paying any taxes. It was his purpose to make these sites available to business at reasonable rates. He says that his attempt to tax unproductive land and remove some of the burdens from industry and the small home owner produced a crisis in the city government that resulted in his resignation on October 6.

FELLOWSHIP HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF SEASON

On Tuesday night of Sept. 22, the first regular meeting of the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship in its new season was called to order by Arthur Vetterman, temporary president, for the ostensible purpose of electing permanent officers of the organization.

After disposing of a few routine business matters, election of officers was held. Mr. Arthur H. Vetterman was unanimously elected president to hold office for one year. Election of vice-president and secretary-treasurer then followed, with Mr. Will Lissner and Miss Joan F. McNally respectively winning the two posts. These two officers were also elected by unanimous vote. Due to pressure of personal business, Mr. Bingham, previous vice-president, declared himself not a candidate for re-election. Mr. Vetterman's first official act was to abolish all committee-men and heads of committees. This was done with the help of suggestions from the general membership.

Mr. Vetterman in a brief acceptance speech stated that "A critical period in the life of the Fellowship is at hand. In the next six months the Chapter will either go forward with tremendous strides, or become another has-been in the already too-long list of dead efforts in the Georgist Movement.

"It is our duty and privilege," he continued, "to carry over to the people of New York, the message that Henry George left to posterity over a half decade ago. This message has been neglected and maltreated through all these years. We are in at the beginning of a new phase in Georgism. It is our business to be successful in this effort as so many before us have been unfruitful. This we can accomplish only by the usual methods of hard and sincere work. We have a great truth for the world. Let's not squander our time in petty differences and discussions, but rather keep in mind the general welfare and settle our eye on the main issue - namely that of putting Single Tax before the eyes of this City and Nation - and work devotedly for the Great Cause.

"This election has been held," the president went on, "mainly to effect a re-organization of the executive council. Some of our Committees have been functioning well, while many have been practically dead. This has been due to a variety of causes. Not the least has been the inability of committee men and heads to devote enough time to their job because of

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GOAL OF 500 MEMBERS SOUGHT

More than 500 persons have been contacted by card and circular letter announcing the new fall activities of the Fellowship, as the first step in the newly formed membership committee's program to boost the chapters enrollment to 500 within the next 6 months.

The committee headed by Earl Jones, is working in co-operation with the social committee, and sent out cards announcing a halloween party, and the letter calling attention to the various fields of creative effort open to all members through the organization numerous committees. Both committees held a successful joint meeting on Tuesday night, Oct. 6, and will meet every Tuesday thereafter.

CHODOROV PRAISES TEACHER S-IN-TRAINING

"Exceptionally intelligent", was the way Frank Chodorov enthusiastically described his new teachers-in-training, when questioned by a New Standard reporter recently.

"I feel," said Chodorov, "that we have in this group of close to two score ardent Georgist students, the makings of some excellent teachers to carry forward the doctrine of the School." Classes are held every Monday and Wednesday night from 7:30 to 9:30 and as this goes to press, are holding their fourth session of the term.

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMMITTEE

Francis Cardozo, new chairman of the Public Speaking committee, has called the first meeting for Mon. Oct. 21, at 8 P.M.

Three debates were staged last season, in the attempt to develop speaking ability, as well as clear presentation of the Georgist position on current social problems. The committee will follow through on the same plan that was successfully used before the summer, and is urging all members of the Fellowship interested in public speaking to be present.

TEACHER'S TESTING REVISED MANUAL

The Manual Revision Committee of the Henry George School of Social Science, issued a notice to all teachers asking for suggestions on the new Teachers Manual being prepared for publication at the end of the present school term. Frank Chodorov, chairman of the committee and John Lawrence Monroe, acting secretary, have been re-phrasing questions for the first ten weeks course in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy.

The aim is to formulate questions that will be suggestive of the desired answers. Stimulating thought rather than memory to follow the reasoning of Henry George, and to arrive at a proper understanding of these answers, should the student be unable to read the class assignments from week to week. The committee asked the co-operation of all teachers in this by noting the students reaction to these questions, and their own reaction to the possibilities of each lesson.

All notes, criticisms and ideas are to be submitted to Mr. Monroe at National Headquarters, immediate responses are necessary.

TIBBET'S BROOK HIKE OPENS SEASON

Some round score of Georgists walked the aqueduct trail to Tibbets Brook Park the morning of Sun. Oct. 5, on the first fall hike of the Henry George Fellowship.

Lunches in the open, ball playing, and general outdoor activity followed in the afternoon. The enthusiasm shown as the picknickers trooped back to the city from the parks clean atmosphere and colorful autumn scenery, augured well for the future social activities of the Chapter. The picnic was arranged by Miss Stella Hoffman's new social committee, and was the first event on what promises to be an enjoyable and active season for members of the Fellowship here.

JOURNALISM COURSE OFFERED

A class in Journalism conducted by Preston King Sheldon, will hold its first session at 8 P.M. Wednesday evening, Oct. 21.

Mr. Sheldon brings a long experience of reporting and editing, both here and abroad, to his new task of training future Georgist writers. The class will meet every Wednesday following the first session and is open to all graduates of the 10 weeks course in Fundamental economics and social Philosophy. Charles Erwood who conducted the class last season, will assist Mr. Sheldon.

SCHOOL ESTABLISHED IN GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON, (HGNS): The Fifth International Congress of the International Union for Land Value Taxation marks the beginning of the British Section of the Henry George school of Social Science and the extension of the school idea to the Continent, according to the complete report of the parley published in Land and Freedom, 150 Nassau St. N.Y.

One whole session was devoted to discussing the work of the Henry George School founded in 1932 in New York City by the late Oscar Geiger, with eleven classes and a total registration of 84 students. Last May there were 3247 students and 163 classes in 73 cities. Miss Helen Denbigh delivered a stirring testimony to the success of the school and Lancaster Greene, a trustee and a member of the faculty followed with an address in which he covered the history, development and statistics of the school's activities; its setup and the character and quality of its student body and staff of instructors.

"Our purpose," he stated, "is to teach certain simple economic truths in such a way that those who learn will be impelled to pass on to others the vision of righteous social relationships that they have come to see."

At the close of the Conference, Mr. Bue Bjerne of Copenhagen, was elected President to succeed former Senator Charles O'Connor Hennessey who declined re-election. Senator Hennessey was accordingly made Honorary President. Mrs. Anna George de Mille was elected one of the Vice-Presidents and James Blauvelt, Lawson Purdy

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N.Y. CHAPTER ADOPTS CONSTITUTION

On September 22, the Chapter of the Fellowship here, which had previously been running on an "Unwritten Constitution" and set of by-laws, formally adopted a permanent Constitution adapted to their needs. The document has been used as a model for Chapter's outside the City, upon recommendation of N.Y. officials. Text of the Constitution follows:-

- I. NAME. This organization shall be known as the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship.
- II. MEMBERSHIP. All graduates of the Henry George School School of Social Science shall be eligible for membership upon the payment of annual dues of \$1.00.
- III. OFFICERS. The officers of this Chapter shall be president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer, with the president having power to appoint committees.
- IV. ELECTIONS. Officers shall be elected by majority vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose. Officers shall serve for a period of one year or until their successors shall be elected.
- V. AMENDMENT. This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the membership present at a meeting called for the purpose.

SALES TAX REPEAL STRUCK OFF

CALIFORNIA BALLOT

Hundreds of thousands of people have gained new ideas upon the subject of taxation that they will not forget, as a result of the campaign of the Sales Tax Repeal Association for the Ralston amendment, says a bulletin of the Association just released. The amendment was to have been voted upon on November 2, and was removed from the ballot by a decision of the State Supreme Court, Justice Seawell dissenting.

It claims for the amendment the solid support of the Labor Press and the unanimous vote of every labor organization before which it was brought. Because of its firm conviction that the public must be thoroughly instructed in what it stands for, the Association proposes to maintain permanent offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco and the work will be continuous. "We are out to win a war, not a battle," declares the report, over the signature of Jackson H. Ralston, General Chairman and N.D. Alper, Executive Secretary of the Northern Section.

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED FOR THE

NEW STANDARD?

COMMITTEE GATHERING STATISTICS

The newly formed Statistical Committee of the Chapter, "is getting under way, and has an interesting and intensive program scheduled for the coming year", according to Mr. V. Demianof, Chairman.

The committee work will consist of correcting, classifying and charting economic data on labor, land, capital and their inter-relation.

The statistical information gathered will be put up in attractive form and kept in the files of the Fellowship at the School. The file will be available to members at any time. It is planning to co-operate with other Georgists in the country, exchanging the benefits of this city's research facilities for local information necessary for the drawing up of national charts.

FALL ENROLLMENT HITS NEW HIGH

Fourteen teachers started the fall term of the ten weeks course in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy at National Headquarters of the Henry George School of Social Science three weeks ago, with close to 500 students, the largest in the history of the School, enrolled in sixteen classes.

Classes are being held every evening from 7:30 to 9:30, and every afternoon from 4:30 to 6:30. Two classes convene on Saturday, one at 10:30, and the other at 2:30. Four new teachers have been added to the Schools staff, among whom are Gaston Haxo, and Salvatore Fiore Jr. who handle the evening sessions together with the Messrs. Greene, Smith, Erwood, Vetterman, and Chodorov. Robert Clancy, another new addition to the staff, has an afternoon class, while the rest are handled by Mr. Dorn, Mrs. Halpern, Mr. Garn, and Miss Denbigh. Another new teacher, Max Berkowitz, teaches the Saturday morning class, and Mr. Vetterman, who together with Mr. Haxo heads two classes a week, takes the afternoon period. Courses in Protection and Free Trade, and in advanced Political Economy will begin shortly.

PRIZES OFFERED FOR PEACE ESSAYS

A World Competition in which prizes totaling \$5,000 will be awarded for the best essays of not more than 2,000 words on "How Can the People of the World Achieve Disarmament" has just been announced by the New History Society, 132 East 65th St.

The New History Society proposes a universal plebiscite to give all the peoples of the world a chance to express themselves on how to stop war and its losses by death and mutilation, and reorganize the world's affairs on a safer basis.

There will be three major prizes of \$1,000, \$600 and \$400 respectively, six continental prizes of \$200 each and national prizes of \$50 each will be distributed among the contestants of the various countries, no country being eligible for more than one of these prizes.

The contest opens November 1, 1936 and closes May 1, 1937.

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EDITORIAL

With the election of permanent officers of the Fellowship here, what we hope, and have good reason to believe will be a new phase in Georgist activity in New York, has auspiciously begun. While we cannot over-praise the enthusiasm and zeal with which some of the membership has responded to their officers, we cannot be too emphatic in stressing the necessity for continued support from a larger group within the Fellowship. The officers elected, typify the new young blood that has taken hold of Georgist activities here, as well as elsewhere in the States, wherever the Henry George School of Social Science has sent out its graduates. We cannot then make our appeal too strong. The land question has received a new attention and stimulation which it has not known since the days of Henry George. The progress made in the past three years is utterly without precedent. It has been due entirely to the splendid efforts of our young converts, who, have carried on the work of our older Single Taxers and not permitted themselves to be discouraged by the lethargy of a public which must be trained to think in terms of economic law and concepts.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

SEEKS HELP

The Chapter has acquired an invaluable asset in its newly formed Social Committee. This committee is blessed with an unusual personell. The Misses Hoffman, Breese and Piersol form a nucleus around which a most significant force within the Fellowship can be rallied. They are all people eminently suited to their job; by enthusiasm, by earnestness, and by an experience which gives force and pointedness to their efforts. It seems to us that there can be no better way in which a Georgist can show real spirit than by a whole hearted support of this group's enterprises. We can make this the drawing card of our organization.

FELLOWSHIP MEETING

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other personal interests. One of the aims of this administration will be to re-organize all the committees, with a view to effecting tangible results in each line of endeavor. Each Chairman will be expected to attend all meetings of the Executive Council, which will be called at my discretion. At these meetings, reports of progress to be presented to the general body, as well as the preparation of a program for the Chapter. The Committee head will be personally responsible to me, and I am determined to get action from each man, or have a satisfactory reason. We must consolidate our membership as well as go after new people. We must ensure the progress we have made so far, by continuing our achievements. In this way only can we fulfill the trust that has been given us by the Henry George School and the higher inescapable trust of a great and eternal truth."

He closed with an expression of thanks for the faith the members had rewarded him with and announced a meeting of the executive council immediately after the general meeting.

A letter from Rabbi Aaronson in connection with the coming Cincinnati Congress, and an announcement that Station WBBC had time available for educational programs concluded the business of the meeting. The members dispersed at 10:30.

GEORGISTS CONVENING IN CINCINNATI

CINCINNATI, OHIO, (HGNS): The eleventh Annual Henry George Congress, the first convention of the Henry George Foundation to be held in the State of Ohio, will meet at the Netherlands Plaza Hotel on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 12 to 14. An interesting program has been planned, Land and Freedom, 150 Nassau St. N.Y., reports, and excellent speakers have been chosen to address the various sessions.

Invitations to speak have been sent to Cordull Hull, Secretary of State and J.W. Graham Peace, English writer and lecturer. Mr. Peace has already signified his intention to participate and although Secretary Hull has not yet definitely accepted, there is good reason to believe that he will honor the Congress.

Several delegates from the recent London International Conference are expected to discuss the situation abroad and the progress of the movement in Great Britain and Europe. The activities of the Henry George School and the Fellowship will be reviewed.

Cincinnati's central location and the reduced railroad fares are expected to stimulate attendance and the Convention Committee is preparing to welcome colleagues from every point of Georgist activity. Reservations may be made with Percy Williams, 809 Keystone Boulevard, Pittsburgh or Rabbi Michael Aaronson, Chairman of the Convention Committee, 218 Forest Avenue, Cincinnati. Rabbi Aaronson and his coworkers are straining every

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nerve to make this meeting an outstanding success and a substantial contribution to the growth and development of the American Single Tax movement.

CO-OPS AID GEORGIIST SCHOOL

Because of the friendly relations of long standing that have existed between the Georgist movement and the consumer's co-operative movement, customers of New York cooperatives are being informed of the courses given at national headquarters of the Henry George School of Social Science here. Two of the chain of eleven restaurants owned by the Consumers Cooperative Service, Inc., readily gained consent of the management to display two of the large announcement placards of the Henry George School on their bulletin boards. Cooperative leaders also are having announcements displayed by their affiliations.

FOUNDATION FORWARDS MOVEMENT

ON NON POLITICAL FRONT.

The Robert Schalkenback Foundation, 11 Park Place, New York, limited resources as it has, has carried on the work for land value taxation on a broad front and reached a following that none of the other organizations could successfully approach. Land and Freedom, 150 Nassau Street, N.Y., points out in a tribute. It has built up the prestige of Henry George by subtle and persistent efforts and has succeeded in commanding the interest of a vast body of editors, educators and leaders of economic thought.

From plates prepared in 1929 the Foundation has printed 27,000 unabridged copies of Progress and Poverty and 16,529 abridgements. A new printing of the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition made last March was promptly exhausted and it was found necessary to secure another supply in September.

LAND VALUES WIDELY TAXED IN AUSTRALIA.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA, (HGNS): The Georgian principle of exempting improvements is widely applied on Australia, the Melbourne Progress points out. It prevails throughout New South Wales including Sydney; throughout Queensland, including Brisbane. In Victoria, fourteen municipalities and shires have adopted it, as have sixteen municipalities and seven councils in South Australia, eighty five boroughs, including the Capitol, Wellington, in New Zealand, and Johannesburg and ten towns in the Transvaal, and the list is not complete. The highroad to prosperity in Australia, it is felt, lies in the liberation of industry from protected trade monopolies and the substitution of land rental values for all forms of taxation, to meet federal, state and municipal revenue demands.

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and Leonard Recker were appointed to the Executive Committee.

The Conference dealt in the main with the economic causes of war and industrial depressions. Twenty-six papers reviewing the critical political and economic conditions of the world were discussed and twenty-seven nations were represented. Reprints will shortly be on sale in Great Britain and will be procurable from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 11 Park Place, New York City.

The league was organized in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1926 to work toward the establishment of a social system designed to bring peace and prosperity to all men in every land.

URGES LONDON TO TAX RENT

LONDON, (HGNS): The London County Council upon recommendation of its Finance Committee, urges upon the Government the introduction of legislation to empower the local authorities to levy a tax on site values. Opposition bldies are active and are writing to the London Times, asking voters to enroll as the London County Council, as well as the county councils throughout England and Wales will be held in March 1927.

HALL SURVEYS TAXATION

Pointing out that the first condition for free production is easy access to the resources of nature, Bolton Hall in the American City for August, gives a comprehensive world-wide survey of the limited applications of Henry George's principles of land value taxation wherever this principle has been adopted.

The City of Pittsburgh received \$12,000,000 annually from its taxation of land values, which sum had previously been exacted by taxing buildings, Mr. Hall pointed out. Not as well known as the Pittsburgh Plan is the method of financing the irrigation systems in California. Today 1,500,000 acres of California's most fertile land is operated under a system of land value taxation. Important steps have been taken by the States of Minnesota and North Dakota where a portion of the state expenses are raised by taxes on land.

In Canada, Ontario, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta the Georgist principle is partially in force, Mr. Hall continued. Denmark, Queensland, New South Wales and New Zealand, among other nations, are collecting part of their expenses from land value.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TYPISTS!

PHOTOGRAPHERS!

And of course there's always addressing to do!

Are you one who has "spare moments"? Those times when bored for want of a new interest? Come to the School any evening. Always interesting "going's on".