

*Who's Who
in Georgism*
David Gibson



David Gibson saw the economic picture painted by Henry George long before reading a book on the subject.

As an 18-year old clerk of work for an Indianapolis building contractor young Gibson saw the contractor build and the land speculator reap. He got to know one Simon Yancy who had come into town on a mule while stumps were still in the streets. He learned how Yancy

bought land, how the land increased in value, and how this made Yancy the third richest man in Indiana—and never a payroll to meet.

"Something's wrong!" said the young clerk of work to his French contractor-employer. How wrong he was to know more fully when, just fifty years ago, a dog-eared copy of Henry George's "Social Problems" came into his hands, supplemented later by "Progress and Poverty."

David Gibson was born in Indianapolis in 1871. After his clerkship he began financing and promoting building schemes. In preparing many a prospectus he found he could write and become fired with an ambition to do so.

In 1904 Gibson went to Cleveland as a special editorial writer for the Cleveland Press. He has been syndicating articles and editorials, publishing newspapers and magazines, and doctoring sick publications ever since. Last September he acquired The Erie Press, one of the largest printing plants in northern Ohio.

Upon going to Cleveland Gibson fell in with Jim Vining, A. B. DuPont and other first-line Georgists of that day. In 1913 he launched the "Ground Hog" which built up a weekly circulation of 20,000 before it suspended in 1917. But "Ground Hog" was a failure, says Mr. Gibson. "In showing how much money was made out of land speculation, all it did was make a bunch of land speculators. My picketing of vacant lots did the same—even though my signs told of the unsocial effects of land grabbing." The Site Tax League of Ohio, which he organized about the same time, had much the same defect, in his opinion.

Out of his years of experience, he says today that the Henry George School is the "greatest thing that has come into the movement since the passing of Henry George."