

An Interview with Congressman Crosser

By ROBERT CLANCY and ARTHUR LEA

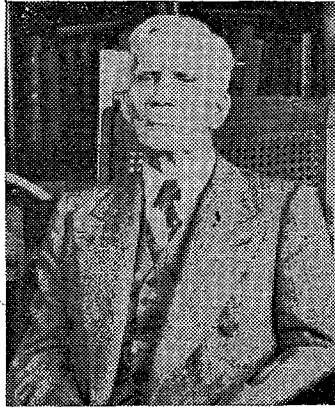
ON OUR recent trip to Washington in connection with establishing a branch of the Henry George School (see July Henry George News), we visited the Hon. Robert Crosser, Congressman from Ohio, at the House Office Building. He was pleased to see fellow Georgists and started immediately to talk about Henry George.

Reminiscing about his entry into the movement, Mr. Crosser recalled how he came to New York as a young man and just missed seeing Henry George. He attended a meeting where George was scheduled to speak, but the engagement had to be cancelled because the large crowds at the earlier meetings prevented Mr. George from reaching the hall where Mr. Crosser was waiting. That night Mr. George spoke at College Hill and later on passed away during the early hours of the morning. On the following Sunday Mr. Crosser attempted to see the body of Henry George lying in state at the Grand Central Palace. But thousands of people were waiting in line and he couldn't get within two blocks of the building.

Mr. Crosser knew Tom L. Johnson well. He represents the same section of Cleveland that that famous follower of Henry George did when he was in Congress. Mr. Crosser paid tribute to Tom Johnson in a speech in Congress in 1946, on the occasion of the Cleveland Sesquicentennial.

When we asked Mr. Crosser his opinion on why the evident principles of justice expounded by Henry George were not more readily accepted, he replied: "It has been said that thinking is the hardest work man can do. The individual must be devoted to principle. In other words, must know the truth and that requires thinking."

Mr. Crosser has had a long and distinguished career as Congressman. With the exception of a four-year period, 1920-24, he has been in Congress continuously since 1913. He is now Chairman of the House Committee on Inter-



state and Foreign Commerce, and as such is doing important work which calls for conferences with President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson.

Though confined to a wheel chair, the Congressman imparts a definite impression of spiritual strength. He is mentally alert and vigorous and has a profound philosophical outlook. Mr. Crosser holds that the universe is a unity and that it is a spiritual universe. He believes we are all part of this unity—all emanations

of the one universal spirit, and commented that contemporary atomic physicists are coming close to this conclusion as a result of their researches. We remarked on the similarity of this philosophy to that of the late Oscar H. Geiger, founder of the Henry George School.

Mr. Crosser does not look upon his philosophy and his interest in Henry George as departments of life separate from his public career. He is a man of principle and his philosophy permeates all his public deeds and utterances. Readers of The Henry George News will recall that in the April 1950 issue a speech of Mr. Crosser's was published in condensed form. The entire speech, which was delivered in Congress in June 1948, tells a complete story including the moral basis of the Georgist philosophy. In his activities Mr. Crosser seeks to get issues down to the most fundamental principles.

As an example of his approach, here is a definition of religion offered by Mr. Crosser: "The effort of the individual to bring himself into adjustment with the true laws of life." One can see how this basic point of view would dominate one's approach to politics and public affairs. The versatile Congressman is now writing a book on his philosophy.

From the first moment, when we entered Congressman Crosser's office and met him and his staff, to the last, three and one-half hours later, we felt we were in a circle of Georgist friends. We came away inspired and with the feeling that our time could not have been better spent.

Chicago

Speaking at the second Commerce and Industry Luncheon of the season on Wednesday, November 8 in the English Room of Marshall

eign powers, at the second in a Lecture Series on Freedom, Tuesday, November 21, at the La Salle Hotel.

The annual Christmas Bazaar of the Henry