

Boosts Cooperatives

While the proposals of George are fundamental to the achievement of freedom and the good life for men, there are other movements which also contribute to the development of human personality and good relations between men.

One of these is the consumer cooperative movement in which I have been active for some years. I wish that more cooperators were acquainted with the fundamental economics of Henry George. And one thing that would help them become so, would be for more Georgists to acquaint themselves with consumer cooperation. These two great movements have a great deal to contribute to each other.

It is with regret, therefore, that I read in an article by H. B. Jones in *THE FREEMAN* a discussion in which he says that cooperative organizations are the beginning of socialism—its first stages. Nothing could be further from the truth. Cooperators believe in doing things for themselves—not in having the government do things for them. The most civilized countries in the world, where cooperatives are most highly developed, have the fewest laws and the least bureaucracy: Iceland is perhaps the leading example. The Scandinavian countries are better known examples. May I recommend to Mr. Jones, and anyone else who wants to acquaint himself further with the cooperative movement its basic text, *Cooperative Democracy* by Dr. James P. Warbasse.

And may I point out for George B. Greene and those who may have accepted his classification of the labor movement as "the largest group in the nation having common economic interests" that laborers do not form anywhere near the largest such group. The largest group in the nation having common economic interests is formed of *consumers*.

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