

the Henry George News

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"We are called upon to answer . . . by our acts as well as by our words for the faith that is in us."

—NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER*

OSCAR GEIGER was so limited in means and so alone in his belief, that he could only give evidence of his faith by offering his strength and his modest home; but without his sacrificial effort there might have been no Henry George School thirty years later.

His faith kindled faith in others, and though his life was shortened, as was that of Henry George, friends and believers carried on with voluntary effort keeping the goal in mind. Thus a foundation was built—a world-wide Henry George School—not housed in an ivy-covered citadel but in whatever varied meeting places can be found.

Henry George opposed all poverty—spiritual and material. He was a product of America who typified the best and gave his life in a determined but seemingly futile attempt to insure the continuance of liberty.

He predicted, on the basis of history, what would happen if freedom was not cherished and protected. How did he foresee our present dilemma so accurately in a day when there was so little opportunity for study? Because he was a self-educated, thoughtful reader, he could look both ways in history, and he described our present situation better than we ourselves can.

Time, having proved him right in his predictions, is also exposing the correctness of his economic science. But the early "Georgists" saw purpose in education long before there was any indication that his proposals would ever be considered again.

We are the benefactors of their faith. It would be a pity if, with the foundation so courageously built, and with a world awakening to a need for social and fiscal reform, we faltered in translating our faith into action.

Faith is reflected in membership and cooperation. Those who believe deeply have become supporting and sustaining members of the Henry George School, but there are far too few of these. The broader base is made up of students, instructors, and convinced friends who are \$10 and \$25 members—active and contributing. Even the donor of one dollar becomes an associate member, and a little faith is better than none.

Please help make the Henry George stocking bulge at 50 East 69th Street in New York on Christmas Eve in memory of those whose faith and action made the present possible, and let us not fail those who follow.

*From an address in 1931 at Columbia University on "Progress and Poverty."