

the Henry George News

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"I Have Kept the Faith"

HENRY GEORGE, JR., author of a splendid biography of his father, was honored at the school headquarters in New York in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth on November 3, 1862. The occasion was dramatized by a number of surprises, including the presentation of the sea chest used by George when he went to sea as a boy of 15, and by the name plate from the Liberty Ship "Henry George." The chest will "go home" to the little house on South 10th Street in Philadelphia where he was born, and from which he sailed away "to see the world." On that voyage he wrote a letter to "Aunt Mary," and described his surroundings in a manner which already showed promise of the fine prose style that was to characterize his later writings—and as he wrote, he rested his paper on the now well-worn sea chest.

Henry George, Jr. has left to us a distinguished family whose members have honored us with their presence and affection. His son, Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington is as earnest in his service to humanity as were



Jane George Werner

his father and grandfather. He and his wife, Mary Jane, unfortunately found it impossible to come to the dinner, and they were missed as were their sons John, a student at the University of Chattanooga; and Henry IV, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, now at the College of Osteopathy in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry George, Jr. had two daughters, Mrs. John Peirce of South Pasadena, California, and Mrs. Paul Werner of New Haven, Connecticut. Mrs. (Jane George) Werner was the only relative present Saturday evening, November 3rd, and she brought a tender memory-vignette

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"I Have Kept the Faith"

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of her youth at home with her father and mother. Henry George, Jr., like his famous father, worn with his labors, died in his 50's. His children, still very young, were brought up by their mother, now past 80, who lives in Tucson with her sister. She has made a great contribution with interests which have set her apart and which have endeared her to vast audiences of school children and others to whom she has lectured. She is an authority on minerals and sea shells which, she believes, reveal an understanding of God's works. In a letter from her conveying her regrets at not being present she wrote of her husband, "he was a noble man and did a noble work. It was a great honor to be his wife."

Jane George Werner spoke with enchanting reticence about her father. She said both he and his brother "lived and breathed their father's work." She recalled that when the family went to Italy she was only six, but her father put her on a monthly allowance which had to cover all her purchases—both the things she loved and the things she hated (like long underwear). That early responsibility, however, made her have more respect for money. She remembers too how his interest in Roman history was contagious and how much they all learned and remembered from their visits with him to historic places.

"Papa was very gentle," she said, "he loved animals, and he loved the smell of pine trees after the rain." It was real living for him when he could get away from the terrible responsibility of trying to make this a better world and refresh himself in the country. "Papa spanked me once," she confessed, and she never forgot it. One of their many dinner guests made "interesting noises" when he ate, and she had tried to imitate him.

It is always in retrospect that one evaluates a life, and lovely Jane has not forgotten the character training nor the rich memories. She realizes now how strongly her father touched her life and left his indelible imprint upon it. He died during the night, but when morning came her brave, wise mother said, "finish dressing, Jane, you're going to school, because you're going to go on living just the same as if he were here." That thought has remained with her, she said, and even now she sometimes ponders, in making a decision, whether papa would approve, and believing that he would, she tries "to go that way."

Robert Clancy, director of the Henry George School, presided and outlined briefly the short but vivid life of Henry George's eldest son. He served as secretary to his father and following his death stepped into the incompleting mayoralty campaign. Soon after that he wrote *The Life of Henry George*, (available now at \$2 a copy). This careful, complete and well documented book is his best known work, but he also brought to publication Henry George's nearly completed manuscript, *The Science of Political Economy*, and wrote other books and articles.

He was elected to Congress and while there introduced a bill for land value taxation in Washington, D.C., and made several excellent speeches on Single Tax, following which, as Mr. Clancy noted, Congressmen asked all the same questions that are still being asked. He also participated in foreign politics, especially in 1909, when Winston Churchill and Lloyd George were campaigning for land value taxation.

Georgists seem to feel a slight kinship with the great Tolstoy because he was so much influenced and so fervently impressed by the writings of Henry George. It was therefore particularly interesting to recall that Henry George, Jr. visited Tolstoy and

brought back pictures of the Russia of that day. Tolstoy was already an aging man, but his estimate of George was clear and forceful. As a testament to his faith it is recalled that when Henry George, Jr. was about to leave Tolstoy said, "I will see your father before you do. What do you want me to tell him?" The loyal son replied, "Tell him I have kept the faith." And this in a sense can still be said of his family. Henry George IV is expressing interest in the work of the great ones whose name he inherited in a family that is expanding into a most impressive genealogical pattern.

Miss Marion L. Simmons, Chief of the Public Relations Office of the New York Public Library, in making the presentation of the sea chest, said it had come to the library from Anna George deMille, daughter of Henry George, who used it to store the manuscripts and books that comprise the permanent collection at the library. However, since the chest "didn't fit on the shelves," the library graciously decided to present it to the Henry George birthplace in Philadelphia. Joseph A. Stockman, Philadelphia director, and curator of the birthplace, was there to receive the treasured gift.

Miss Simmons read the letter penned by the youthful Henry George to his aunt while the ship "Hindoo" lay off Staten Island awaiting completion of the crew, in which he said, "I am writing this on my sea chest." The old chest was used again by Henry George, Jr. to send his papers home from Washington D.C. when he was a Congressman.

As part of a Liberty Ship Memorial Program conducted by the American Merchant Marine Institute and the American Institute of Marine Underwriters, plates from these ships, named for men and women who contributed to the greatness of America, are being donated to educational and other institutions, where they will find permanent resting places memorializing not



C. B. Mitchell, C. E. McDowell and Lancaster M. Greene with name plate from the Liberty Ship

only the personages mentioned, but the fleet of Liberty Ships. C. B. Mitchell of the American Merchant Marine Institute and C. E. McDowell of the American Institute of Marine Underwriters presented the name plate to Lancaster M. Greene, Vice-President of the Henry George School. Mr. Mitchell noted that this was the only plate recovered from a Liberty Ship that was now sailing under a foreign flag, and he congratulated the Henry George School on its diligence in tracking it down.

Mr. Greene said that Henry George, Jr. had dedicated his life to educating the world to the importance of liberty, with land value taxation and free trade as the means to liberty. Free trade, he said, is tied in with a strong merchant marine. Quoting Lord Philip Snowden's statement after reading Henry George's *Protection or Free Trade*, he said, "free trade is a principle of far wider significance and application than a question of tariffs on imports only."

The full and varied program following this historic dinner meeting for members and faculty, the largest ever held at the school, included pre-

sentation of awards to Henry George School volunteers; verses by Mabel L. Rees, and a piano rendition by David Solomon, both composed for the occasion; and finally a showing of slides,

including views of Tolstoy and his household, made available by Dr. Henry George III—the photographs taken when his father, Henry George, Jr., visited Russia.

MORE LVT ACTIVITY IN PENNSYLVANIA

The McKeesport Junior Chamber of Commerce is the second in the state to endorse the idea of removing the local property tax from houses, buildings and improvements and shifting it to land values—the first having been Erie. The "Jaycees" are convinced that land value taxation will benefit their city and they will campaign to have the city council adopt it. The president, Raymond J. Gargash, said that shifting taxes from buildings to land values would stimulate construction, attract new industry and help industry already in McKeesport, help clear slums, and reduce property taxes for most home owners.

McKeesport Jaycees will formulate an educational program to acquaint city residents with the benefits of this reform and will assist in setting up a special promotional organization which will be open to all. "This is one of the most important projects ever attempted by the Junior Chamber of Commerce," the president said, and "can result in a new era of growth for the McKeesport of tomorrow."

EDUCATION "ON THE HOUSE"

"The Henry George School is one of the best-known of our city's schools offering courses in Fundamental Economics," according to an article which appeared recently in *Today's Living*, the magazine of the Sunday New York Herald Tribune. "Enrollment is always on the house and courses may be taken by mail if it is not convenient for you to attend in person. Guided by Henry George's economic masterwork, *Progress and Poverty*, these courses will aid anyone seeking a better understanding of the economic problems that confront the world today. Call or send a postcard for complete details and an application blank." The name, address and telephone number of the Henry George School were given.

Adult Leadership, the publication of The Adult Education Association of the U.S. in its September issue, also announced, "Anyone interested in social science who is willing to study, may enroll without charge in the Henry George School's basic course of Fundamental Economics or in an advanced course in the same field. The school, originally in New York, has now established extensions in several states as well as abroad."

We are sure other extensions and adult education groups will be interested in calling the Henry George courses to the attention of readers.

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