

Schalkenbach Foundation Work

IN last issue we explained that a new booklet containing a speech by Dr. John Dewey entitled "Steps to Economic Recovery," was being printed by the Foundation. A copy was sent to some six thousand people with the suggestion that additional copies be obtained and sent to liberal-minded citizens. As a result several hundred of our Single Tax friends, as well as some persons outside of the movement who are interested in the work we are doing, are circulating this important little pamphlet. The results are reflected in the rising demand for "Progress and Poverty," and for "Social Problems", the books recommended by Dr. Dewey for earnest and careful reading.

In order to coordinate this demand for George's books with the distribution facilities of the various bookstores throughout the country, the Foundation sent a bulletin notice, with illustrative literature, to 2,600 bookdealers, including those in charge of department store book corners. The response has been very encouraging indeed. Macy's in New York is selling the book at the rate of 15 copies every week or two, and department stores in Detroit, St. Louis and other large cities are sending in orders for ten copies at a time. Needless to say a large discount and prepayment of postage costs is undertaken by the Foundation in order to subsidize this branch of the work, and to make it feasible for the stores to carry the George books.

At a time when professors and teachers are planning the number of textbooks that they will use for courses in economics, sociology and civics, a special letter has been sent to some 1800 teachers in the colleges, enclosing the pamphlet "Steps to Economic Recovery," and recounting the various services of information and book-supply that the Foundation maintains for the direct aid of teachers, in presenting the subject of Henry George and "Progress and Poverty" to students. Few Single Taxers realize the extent to which this work has progressed within the last few years, but it should be a matter for encouragement to all to know that the progress has been substantial, and that there are a growing number of teachers who definitely plan a place in their courses for the study of "Progress and Poverty" and other books by Henry George.

A bulletin has been sent to 5,000 members of economic societies and sociological groups, enclosing the pamphlet "Steps to Economic Recovery." By this means the Foundation is able to reach a very large audience among those people who have shown a renewed interest in the Georgist viewpoint, but who would be unlikely to orient themselves to it unless some special inducement or urging is supplied. The Foundation creates this interest through carefully planned literature and "follow-ups," and hundreds of persons in these groups have been thus led not only to read our books but to identify themselves actively with the Georgist cause.

For example, we find that in response to one of our advertisements a Mr. R. Q. Foulke of Dun and Bradstreet came to this office purchasing "Progress and Poverty." Later in the pages of Dun and Bradstreet's *Monthly Review*, there appeared an article by Mr. Foulke entitled "Three Important Balance Sheet Ratios" which discussed as one of the causes of failure in business "land speculation."

Mr. Foulke said in part:

"In the years of reconstruction and rehabilitation following the speculative panic of 1873—and they were long lean years—there appeared a remarkable volume of English literature from the pen of an economist, a philosopher and a social thinker, a volume which was destined to be translated into almost every language of the world. The power and inherent strength of its thoughtful, restrained persuasion has placed it on a plane which has been reached by few economic treatises. That volume is "Progress and Poverty by Henry George."

Mr. Foulke then explains George's theory of the speculative rise in land values being responsible for business depressions.

The book, "The Philosophy of Henry George," (\$2.50 postpaid) has been in some small demand among Single Taxers, but we have been disappointed in the number of volumes called for. Originally 2,000 copies were printed by the Foundation, and it was hoped that because of the excellence of the material to be found in it, and its peculiar merit as a source book and reference book for teachers and professors, that the demand for it would be a large one. Only 225 copies have been called for thus far. Since in format it is the equal of a \$5 book, and since we cannot emphasize too strongly its great merit, especially for libraries and places where a competent survey of the Georgist movement is necessary, we would urge that wherever the readers of LAND AND FREEDOM may find opportunity to do so, they acquaint friends and librarians with this book, and with the fact that it is obtainable from the Foundation.

Since May, 1933, about 1,500 books of all titles have been sold and distributed; about 15,000 pamphlets and about 25,000 advertising pieces distributed. An average of fifteen letters per day come to the office each receiving individual answer, and attention.

We have news from Miss Josephine Nelson of the Henry George Economic League in Seattle, that the League has been formed for active work, and we learn with pleasure that the son of E. Stillman Doubleday, Mr. W. J. Doubleday, is on the committee, as well as Mr. Morrow, Mr. Erickson and Mr. Fausett.

An interesting visitor at the Foundation office was a Mr. Leslie Crawford who came from Argentine, and who was a friend of Mr. Easton Garrett. Mr. Crawford informs us that the Georgists of Buenos Aires have formed a political party and have gained a number of recruits during the last half year. Mr. Crawford told us that the landowners of northern Argentina are letting their estates go for taxes because the big estates cannot pay their way, due to the depreciation of prices of cattle and agricultural produce and because the land taxes have been raised on

large properties. The result is that the big land owners are disappearing, but opportunity has come to small farmers who are called "chacareros."

ANTOINETTE KAUFMANN, Secretary.

The Executive Committee of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation has engaged in a job that ought to interest the followers of Henry George in every part of the United States. Briefly, the Foundation has undertaken a nationwide search for a scientific proof from public records or otherwise, that the phenomena arising from the extension of lack of purchasing power on the part of would-be consumers, which is called business depression, is directly related to the artificial scarcity of land arising out of monopoly and speculation that prevail in times of so-called prosperity. Henry George has pointed out that what from the side of the businessman is called "business depression" is from the side of the workingman, "scarcity of employment," and that the one always comes with the other and passes away with the other.

It is the idea of President Hennessy of the Foundation, with which his associates are in full agreement, that Georgists should translate their theory into a demonstration by marshalling evidence of unquestionable character, to show that business depressions, their cause and cure, are most intimately related to the land question in all sections of the country. An interesting letter is going out to leading followers of Henry George throughout the country, asking for cooperation in getting together the material evidence that is required on this big subject. The letter follows:

We are engaged in attempting a job that I am sure will interest you, and in which I would like to have your help.

Followers of Henry George for years have been contending that the main causes of business depressions and unemployment are land monopoly and land speculation. The argument to sustain this contention is to be found in Book V, Chapter I of "Progress and Poverty," and in other writings of Henry George. To most of us, I believe, the conviction that George was right has been founded not upon academic theory, but upon our own practical experience and observation.

But the *facts* upon which George and so many of his followers have based their beliefs in this regard have been disputed even by economists who pay tribute to George's high intellect and integrity. A well known and friendly professor recently wrote a letter which is, in substance, as follows:

He declares he has yet to see a convincing demonstration that the effects of land speculation have been such as to make business conditions fluctuating instead of relatively constant. Conceding that land speculation might be a very great evil, he contends that there is no *definite evidence* that its effects account for the undulations of business. Conceding that it *may* account for them, he asserts that *there is nothing by way of evidence* except a bare assertion, that rent increases until somehow and somewhere it checks production, which in turn checks demand. The professor says that George's argument *requires evidence* that the speculative rise in rent really causes people to stop producing goods.

Now we would like to give this eminent professor, who is our friend, the "convincing evidence" which he has never seen. Can you help us to do it out of your observation and experience in your part of the country?

What we want is not any mere repetition of assertion, but concrete

evidence, such as the professor as a scientific man might rely upon. The operation of the factors of land monopoly and speculation in the rural regions, as well as in urban territory, should be taken into view wherever the observer or commentator may support his conclusion by references to established facts that may be verified in common knowledge, public records or otherwise.

Among other aspects of the inquiry might be the allegation, where supported by evidence, as to the extent to which the failure of bank mortgage companies, real estate companies, insurance companies, and the ramifications of such failures may be traced to land monopoly and land speculation. The influences of these factors upon the public credit of municipalities in many parts of the country should not be excluded from any competent fact-finding survey in your territory.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation in its endeavor to get the material together for subsequent examination, analysis and possible publication in adequate form, earnestly invites you to help us to locate the evidence that will sustain our theory.

Most of us, I believe, have no doubt that George was right. Will you help us to prove it? If you will, please write, giving us the verifiable evidence so far as it applies to conditions in your state.

CHARLES O'CONNOR HENNESSY, President

But We Must First Clear the Way

SINGLE TAXERS are distinctly divided into two schools. The All-at-Oncers represented by the *Commonweal* and its editor W. Graham Peace of London, and the other group represented by the *Land and Liberty* of London, formerly edited by John Paul, and since his recent death by A. W. Madsen.

Of this school we have in this country, LAND AND FREEDOM edited by Joseph Dana Miller, and several active organizations, among the number the Henry George Foundation of Pittsburgh, George E. Evans, President, and the Manhattan Single Tax Club with Charles H. Ingalls, President.

I have been writing thus far only as to the technique of reform, but as to FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES there are now among the social reformers two distinctly different philosophies. Nearly all the Single Taxers and many Municipal Ownership reformers adhere to most of the principles of what has been called the Manchester School of Economics, as taught by Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill. On many respects Henry George belongs to this school of economics. One of their most significant doctrines is the LAISSEZ-FAIRE or Individualism Alone doctrine. Henry George believed in it and contended that the harmony of interest, and general public welfare would accompany free competition. Alexander Pope caught the idea when he said "The state of nature was the reign of God."

CHESTER C. PLATT in Batavia, (N.Y.) *Times*

AT present, in this vicinity the best part of the landscape is not private property; the landscape is not owned. But possibly the day will come when . . . fences shall be multiplied and man-traps and other engines invented to confine men to the public road, and walking over the surface of God's earth shall be construed to mean trespassing on some gentleman's grounds.—THOREAU.

WHAT has God given to one that He has not given to another? Has the common Father of all children sold out some of His children? You who claim the exclusive enjoyment of His gifts, show the testament which disposes of them. He inherits your brother.—ABBE LAMENNAIS.