

"You'll Never Be the Same"

An address by Howard E. Kronish, a graduate of David Sklar's class in Fundamental Economics, at a recent commencement of the New York Henry George School.

ABOVE all else I feel gratitude toward those who made it possible for me to attend this course in political economy and thus be exposed to the teachings of Henry George. I use the word gratitude because I now understand the nature of the socio-economic world in which we live, or at least I'm on the road to understanding it, as I never did before. Not any college course, book, play, conversation or other medium of the spoken or written word has so enlightened me as the reading and discussion of *Progress and Poverty* over the last ten weeks.

Ours was a typical class of men and women who gathered together to learn something new. There were the skeptics among us, the cautious, the curious, the placid and the argumentative. But I do not hesitate to say now, that having opened our minds and hearts to Henry George, we finished this course with the realization that there is an answer and a solution to the world's ills. There was one gentleman who offered many negative thoughts until he found out that his income taxes would be eliminated, as such, under the economic rent system. He didn't offer much opposition after that. I'm

sure he finished the course a better individual in spite of himself.

The instructor indicated at the outset that life would change for us. We were told we would never read the newspaper exactly the same again and we might lose some friends. How right this was! What he neglected to warn us about was that we would feel a little superior to others who had not been exposed to Henry George. Superior, because we were in possession of a basic form of knowledge more valuable perhaps, than anything we'd ever learned.

Some of us were a bit frustrated during the course because we couldn't find the right words to explain the George philosophy to those "lunk-heads" out there. The only real difference between them and us is ten, far too short, weeks. Now I have learned to be patient with them and with myself, and also have learned that I could misrepresent George by not being fully prepared to answer the questions that inevitably arise.

Only now can I begin to feel somewhat educated despite my four years of college. I wonder why the educational system does not make *Progress and Poverty* required reading in the economic curriculum.

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