

International Institute For Georgianism

THERE has been formed in Melbourne an International Institute for the Interchange of Information regarding the progress being made in the practical applications of the principles of Henry George's teachings. The founder of the Institute is an internationally known Esperantist and has been a Georgian almost from the cradle.

There are Esperantists in every city and town throughout the world and many of these are being asked to assist Georgian Clubs where they also exist to form small internal groups who will study the International Language with a definite objective in view—to send to the Institute in Melbourne reports of progress made in the application of Georgian Principles in their district, to report about Georgians generally (not omitting, perhaps, social ills), and also to cover Proportional Representation in like manner. English communities should not imagine that English is a suitable language for the primary purpose—the gathering of information from all the world into one place—English has its limitations, and because the Georgian Movement is now alive in almost every land in the world (despite reports by G. B. Shaw, and the Communists to the contrary), an International Language has become more and more necessary to keep in touch with our movement *in all places*.

At least this is the view of the Institute, which will simply make of the International Language the instrument for collecting and disseminating News,—news of a kind not obtainable through the ground-lord controlled press agencies. Our beginnings will be modest, but whatever information we receive from foreign lands will be freely passed on to the Georgian and P. R. Press in Australia, translated into English, of course.

Membership is five shillings per annum for those who wish to receive the International Letter in full as issued from time to time during the year: supporters may become members by paying one shilling or any sum by way of donation to assist in the work being undertaken. One of the matters to which the Institute will give early attention is the publication of a translation of Bengough's "Up-To-Date Primer"—possibly in the form of a textbook through which the budding linguist-economist may gather economic truths whilst learning the simple words which are the core of language. The late Mr. Bengough's nephew is the Registrar of the McMaster University at Hamilton, Ontario, and is the President of the Canadian Esperanto Association (National Federation of Esperantist Clubs throughout Canada.)

Address correspondence and subscriptions to The Secretary, International Georgian Institute, Henry George Club, George's Lane, Melbourne C1., Australia.

Yesterday's Causes and Today's Effects

Charity is indeed a noble and beautiful virtue, grateful to man and approved by God. But charity must be built on justice. It cannot supersede justice.—HENRY GEORGE.

LIKE the weather, much has been said of environment as an aspect of our social problems but little, if anything, really has ever been done about it. Many will question this assertion contending that our present social order benefits currently from not one but actually two horns of plenty, one furnished a reputedly social-minded and perhaps well-intended Governmental Administration in Washington intent on improving the conditions of the entire country, excluding, as Mr. Harold L. Ickes recently inferred, sixty families of wealth, the other provided by numerous charitable organizations and eleemosynary institutions working earnestly for the betterment of mankind. Both these groups, we might admit, continuously try to appease the hungry public appetite for better living standards but, when we pause and look about us today at the poverty which exists in this wealthy land of ours we are forced to conclude that in spite of a slight improvement, absolutely artificial in nature, neither group is having much success in its endeavors along these lines. Would it be too dogmatic to claim that all this energy and all this money is being misdirected? It would not seem so if on one hand we reviewed the tremendous amounts of energy and money expended to help mankind and on the other hand . . . well, just look at mankind.

Many years ago the river Nile was known to go on an habitual spree, overflowing its bank almost seasonally and causing terrific damage to the countryside. Man endeavored to anticipate these disastrous outbursts in many haphazard ways but found himself faced with the same dilemma time and again. Finally, as our civilization developed and land values expanded, it became more and more expensive to society to ignore the fundamental aspect of the problem and a scientific survey was compiled of the entire situation. Artificial irrigation and other similar feats of engineering were introduced. The energy of this mighty body of water as well as the energy of man, no longer misdirected, then contributed towards the production of a fertile countryside where barren wasteland was known to have existed for many years before.

In citing this particular instance in the metamorphosis of our present civilization, let us not be accused of digressing. Today the Administration in Washington offers new solutions daily with the ultimate objective of improving our public environment and elaborate philanthropic organizations worthy products of Capitalism (communists, Mr. Ickes, et al, please note) continue to expand energy and vast sums of money in an effort to aid the less fortunate.

Now the point is: How can both these competing agencies expect to improve the environment of man when neither one has given sufficient thought to the actual sources from whence the social conditions of our present civilizations have sprung? Omar Khayyam says, "Yesterday this day's madness did prepare." Why do intelligent individuals strive to eradicate our every day social diseases without tracing the ailments of today to the sources of yesterday? It is hoped that in the future more mental power and physical energy will be deflected into channels leading to laboratories for human research, where our current dislocations may be traced to the source, laboratories where the desire for truth must be the sole dynamo generating mental energy.—R. JOSEPH MANFRINI.

Washington Letter

THE third meeting of the Woman's Single Tax Club for the season of 1937-1938 was held with Mrs. Jennie Knight at the Cordova, 20th and Florida Avenue, on December 6, with the vice-president, Mrs. Minnie White, presiding, in the continued absence of the president, Mrs. McEvoy.

During the business meeting, attention was called to the curriculum, published for St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland, in which the names of Mill, Malthus and Marx were given as the economists to be studied, and a motion was carried that the secretary, Mrs. Walter N. Campbell, be requested to write a letter to Dr. F. Stringfellow Barr, President of the college, inquiring why Henry George's name was omitted.

Readings from Otto Cullman's book entitled, "\$20,000,000 a Day," with discussion on the points brought out, formed the main programme for the evening.

The fourth meeting of the season was held on January 3, at the home of Mrs. Daisy Campbell, 4915 Fourth Street Northwest, with the vice-president still in the chair.

Under the head of reports of officers, Mrs. Walter N. Campbell read a copy of the letter which she had written to Dr. Barr, in accordance with the request made at the preceding meeting, and also a letter to the Schalkenbach Foundation, and their reply. Mrs. Mackenzie followed suit by reading a letter written unofficially to Dr. Barr, and his response thereto. A letter addressed to her by Mr. Peter Schwander, the "Horatio" of Single Tax verses, was also read, approving the metal literature container which he had read of in one of the LAND AND FREEDOM reports of W. S. T. C. meetings, and adding the suggestion that leaflets be tucked inside of library books just before their return, which plan found general acceptance among the members.

The subject for consideration at this meeting was the possibility of educating radio broadcasters on the subject of the Single Tax, in view of their wide sphere of influence, the good work of Mr. Ingersoll and others being cited. A committee was appointed to see what steps might be taken in this direction, and advice and suggestions from anyone having ideas along this line to contribute, will be appreciated.

Just before refreshments were served, Mr. George A. Warren extended an invitation to hold the February meeting at his home, Hammond Courts, at which a Single Tax debate is scheduled to be held.—GERTRUDE E. MACKENZIE.

I BELIEVE land values taxation to be the salvation, and the only salvation of the South.

DR. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

Miscellany

FAIRHOPEISM VS. ALTRUISM

Written by Ernest B. Gaston, for *The Fairhope Courier* of Sept. 1, 1894. *The Courier* was then published at Des Moines, Iowa, but moved to Fairhope with its founders in November, 1894.

It must not be thought because the *Fairhope Courier* does not gush over the altruistic feelings actuating its members and which shall make life delightful in its community; because it counts selfishness the mainspring of human action, that the editor and his associates have no faith in the influence of higher motives of human conduct. Far from it.

Love is the divine germ implanted in the human heart and we rejoice in the feeling that its blossoms of kindness, purity and self-abnegation increase in numbers and fragrance with the passing generations. We believe its growth may be encouraged by favorable conditions, but cannot be forced. Kindness and unselfishness cannot be commanded, they must be volunteered, and so we believe that the effort to ordain unselfishness by rule and rote must end, as it always has ended, in failure.

The function of organized society is, to establish and maintain justice. The higher ethical rule of unselfishness must be applied in the individual human heart.

So in the Fairhope plans we have endeavored to establish justice. To remove the opportunities for the preying of one upon the other. Recognizing that selfishness has been the ruling force of mankind from the infancy of the race, we have not been so foolish as to command or expect that it should immediately cease. Selfishness says "take," love says "give": we may not command a gift, but we can say to him whose impulse is to take—"take that which belongs to you by right of creation, no more."—This we do. We close the gates against injustice; we open them to unselfishness. Society can do no more.

THE HOUSING PROBLEM IN AUSTRALIA

If the general industrial group, particularly the main manufacturing group, can save £200,000 by the Government dipping its hands into the public Treasury and financing private enterprise to purchase houses to let at a low rental, naturally they will enthusiastically favor such a proposal. My opinion is that it is no more a function of the Government to build homes for the people than it is to provide them with umbrellas to keep off the rain. We have gone too far along that scheme in days gone by.

HON. E. J. CRAIGIE in the Australia House of Assembly.

LAND REFORM IN MEXICO

The position of United States capital has been affected by three policies of the Cárdenas administration: agrarian reform, protection of labor, and the recapture of natural resources. On October 23 it was announced that during the last three years 25,000,000 acres carved from great estates—some of them American-owned—have been given to 569,000 peasants organized into 5,985 communal villages. Following large-scale division of cotton and wheat lands in the Laguna region of north-central Mexico during the fall of 1936 President Cárdenas initiated a similar programme for the heneque plantations of Yucatan in August, 1937, and two months later for the Yaqui River valley in the northwestern state of Sonora. While the Mexican constitution provides for compensation to owners of expropriated lands, the government declares that funds are at present lacking for indemnification.—*Foreign Policy Bulletin*.

SNOWDEN AND MACDONALD

Two other tragic deaths this year have saddened me—the death of Snowden and MacDonald. Passing the moors, o'er which the ashes of Snowden were scattered at the very time when MacDonald