

Tax Plan Upheld

Trial of Henry George's Program Seen as Way to Prosperity

By Henry Ware Allen / Wichita, Kansas, 4 August, 1935

TO the Editor of The New York Times:

It is refreshing for the student of American history to read that at the conclusion of Thomas Jefferson's first term as President of the United States he was able to point with satisfaction to having reduced the national debt an average of \$7,300,000 each year of his term, that he had reduced the number of public officials exactly one-half, that he had reduced the expenses of the navy a considerable amount and that he had acquired the Louisiana Territory without the addition of a single soldier.

Jefferson was not, in the ordinary, sense, a politician. He deprecated the appearance of the President where such an appearance could be construed as display for personal advantage. But the democracy which he gave to the world is a priceless heritage of the American people, and his program of "Jeffersonian simplicity" provides an ideal that is inspiring to well-wishers of the country, and particularly at a time when wholesale extravagance and experiments have been the rule at Washington.

Henry George took up the problem of statecraft where Jefferson left off, and this perfected democracy would, if adopted, liberate that prosperity which all men are desiring at the present time. This provides the abolition of all taxes which now are binding business and industry as by an unbreakable band and the providing of government with its natural revenue to be secured by a single tax upon ground rents. Wherever tried, this philosophy has proved the virtue of the theory behind it. When the government at Washington has tried every other experiment, the single tax will prove to be the success in providing prosperity that has been claimed for it for nearly sixty years.