

Faith In Action

GEORGISM is on the move in this changing world. Some of the early Henry George School conferences were held in Chicago, beginning in 1946. Many good things have started in Chicago with John Lawrence Monroe, and many lasting friendships were made. At the first conferences the rooms we used were of the average hotel variety, with no extras. But the 17th annual conference, in Hartford, July 13-16, many hotel rooms later, brought to mind how many things have changed.

In the Statler Hilton Hotel a compact dressing table was built into the bathroom—an inspired idea—and the equipment was so modern that many minutes were spent in a search for the equivalent of the chain we used to pull. The air-conditioning was dial-controlled—there was radio, and TV too, not used, but thanks just the same.

And mirrors! One side of the room was nearly covered with them. This was a bit disturbing, but it seemed to suggest sober reflection.

Hartford's charm got through to us at once. There was an atmosphere of genial hospitality and thoughtful planning. Hartford hostesses were nice to know as they passed refreshments the eve of the conference. James McNally, the director, gave everyone a feeling of assurance, and this same graciousness was expressed by Mrs. McNally, Mrs. Nathan Hillman, Miss Muriel M. Kehoe, Mrs. Helena Kavalier, Miss Marie LeVam and others.

Robert Clancy showed his New York films with glimpses of familiar faces and figures (somewhat thinner then, four and five years ago). We are older, as he jocularly noted, but

are we going deeper? None of us want to keep tugging at a chain if there is a new push-button method in full view if we will take time to reflect.

Year after year conferences have followed a similar pattern. Georgists are loyal to their well-known speakers, and never tire of them. But there may be others who should be participating. If there are, this would be a good time to start talking to them about next summer's conference in Toronto, and perhaps to start scholarship funds to help send promising students who otherwise might not be able to go.

On the table by the bed was a copy of Guideposts, another thoughtful gift of the hotel management. "It's not easy to begin over . . . take advice . . . keep trying . . . (or) shoulder a deserved blame . . ." it stated, "but this is faith in action."

There is a great deal of faith among the Henry George directors, and it is at the annual conferences that one realizes how many times they have to begin over, and how consistently, against discouraging odds, they demonstrate this faith in the scattered extensions where the work goes forward with meager funds and very little help.

This is the bond that draws the many directors into unity despite wide differences in their programs. Variety and good natured discussion made their sessions especially interesting at Hartford. Strethel Walton has a unique problem in the bi-lingual city of Montreal—Leoane Anderson's situation is quite different in the vigorously expanding city of Denver.

Robert Andelson of San Diego, Robert Benton of Detroit, Robert Bowers of Pittsburgh, Robert Clancy

of New York and Robert Tideman of San Francisco are all concerned with the same goal, but each is free to exercise originality in pursuing that goal. The same is true of Noah Alper of St. Louis, James McNally of Hartford, M. S. Lurio of Boston, John Monroe of Chicago, Harry Pollard of Toronto, Joseph Stockman of Philadelphia, John Tetley of New Jersey and William Truehart of Los Angeles, as well as the others who were not present.

Verlin Gordon of Ohio was represented at the large oblong "round table" by Ivan Dailey of Lakewood. Heman Chase, a surveyor, of Alstead, New Hampshire was in the group, as were George Menninger of Chicago, and Californians Sidney Evans, Glenn Hoover and George Lachner.

In some cities a fee is charged for the basic courses, but in the majority they are free. In some *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George is used exclusively as a text, in others additional material is used. Some use a prepared manual, others prefer to plan as they go. Original teaching methods are encouraged in accordance with the emphasis on individual freedom which is a hallmark of Henry George's philosophy. This encourages initiative and avoids crippling standardization. The fact that each director is free to arrange the kind of educational appeal that seems right for his particular situation makes the annual idea-exchange at conferences most profitable.

The first formal meeting, a luncheon, was presided over by the host, James McNally, whose guest, Mayor Dominick De Lucco extended a welcome. Robert M. Kelly, Director of Adult Education of the Hartford Board of Education, was also a speaker. In a rapidly exploding world, adult education must provide new concepts if we are to live in better harmony, said Dr. Kelly. New knowledge contradicts old—no education is

final or complete—"1945 was the year somebody threw away the world in which we were reared."

Although adult education is now reaching ten million people, more help is needed for special groups, he said, such as senior citizens and handicapped persons. He advised using avenues of instruction that are not customary, and more short term activities with institutes. Boards should change radically every year, he believes, to introduce new blood, "since all of us get rusty and need fresh ideas." A continuous attitude of experimentation (eagerness) was urged by the speaker.

"We *must* reach the educated people," Dr. Kelly insisted, "they are the leaders. Our job is to educate the people who make the decisions." Suggestions (to us?) for reaching the educated segment were: work with prestige agencies, offer a top-notch speaker to real estate groups, etc. "You can take great satisfaction in what you are doing," he told his Georgist audience, "perhaps we have the most important job in America—educating the adults."

At the opening of the conference three members of the Board of Trustees from New York headquarters were present: Lee Bottens of Washington, D.C., Lancaster M. Greene and Arnold Weinstein, both of New York. A fourth trustee, Colonel E. C. Harwood, was the speaker at the closing banquet.

The afternoon and evening of the opening day brought first-hand reports on activity in various locations. Professor Harry Gunnison Brown has for some time contributed his efforts without remuneration to the cause of winning the populace to an understanding of the possibilities open to them in Pennsylvania. He spoke in this instance of Keynes' view of the return on capital, and this will be presented in the September HGN.

Economic Education League

W. Wylie Young, who reported on his activity in Pennsylvania in the April HGN, spoke of the success of his class in Fundamental Economics, and distributed tax studies comparing conventional tax and graded tax figures in two Pennsylvania cities.

Working under the auspices of the Economic Education League of Albany, of which Gilbert M. Tucker is president, Mr. Young told of the way in which he and Dr. Brown had laid the ground work for what promises to be ultimate success in several cities in Western Pennsylvania. Educational methods were begun by presenting the arguments for land value taxation to practically all the service clubs in third class cities north and west of Pittsburgh. The next step was to organize classes and prepare a research study showing exactly how the proposed reform would affect taxes of various properties. In both Erie and Beaver Falls this has resulted in deepening the interest and bringing many local citizens to a state of conviction as to the desirability of adopting such a tax system.

In Erie the Junior Chamber of Commerce has officially endorsed the idea and when calling for volunteers to work for the adoption of the law all members who had been exposed to the educational process agreed to serve under the direction of the local chairman, Robert Meyers, a young engineer in the General Electric Corporation of Erie.

In Beaver Falls the classes and a general study of the tax spot-check analysis by civic leaders has resulted in the decision to organize another class and to bring particular pressure to bear upon some of the best qualified leaders of the town to study the whole plan more intensively.

Mr. Young said the plan appeals to all who study it but that the inevitable

tendency for taxes to be increased on the properties where land values are high and building values relatively low, presents a disturbing prospect. It would be easy to win the argument for the graded tax (from buildings to land) if everyone were to enjoy tax reduction, and it is apparent that about four-fifths of all property owners do enjoy not only immediate tax reductions but also the right to improve their properties without any tax increases. Although taxes in the business districts increase, this is not really disastrous since conditions ultimately improve in the areas affected.

Incentive Taxation Committee

Henry B. Cramer, for many years president of the San Diego extension, and now chairman of the Incentive Taxation Committee of California, described this as the leading political movement for land value taxation in the United States, in no way connected with the Henry George School. Although three years old, the committee's work has become intensive only in the last year. During the past four months it has been incorporated, with headquarters in San Diego. It also maintains an office in Oakland, a lobbyist in Sacramento and a field representative. John Motley of San Diego, who was also very helpfully present at the conference, is the full-time secretary. The state organization has ten directors on its board in addition to the chairman and an advisory council of 16 members. It recently held its first annual conference in Fresno.

This committee operates on a paid membership basis and organizes most of the members into local chapters. There are 22 chapters in California (80 is the goal). The immediate objective is the adoption of a state constitutional amendment, now being studied by a legislative committee, which will permit buildings and per-

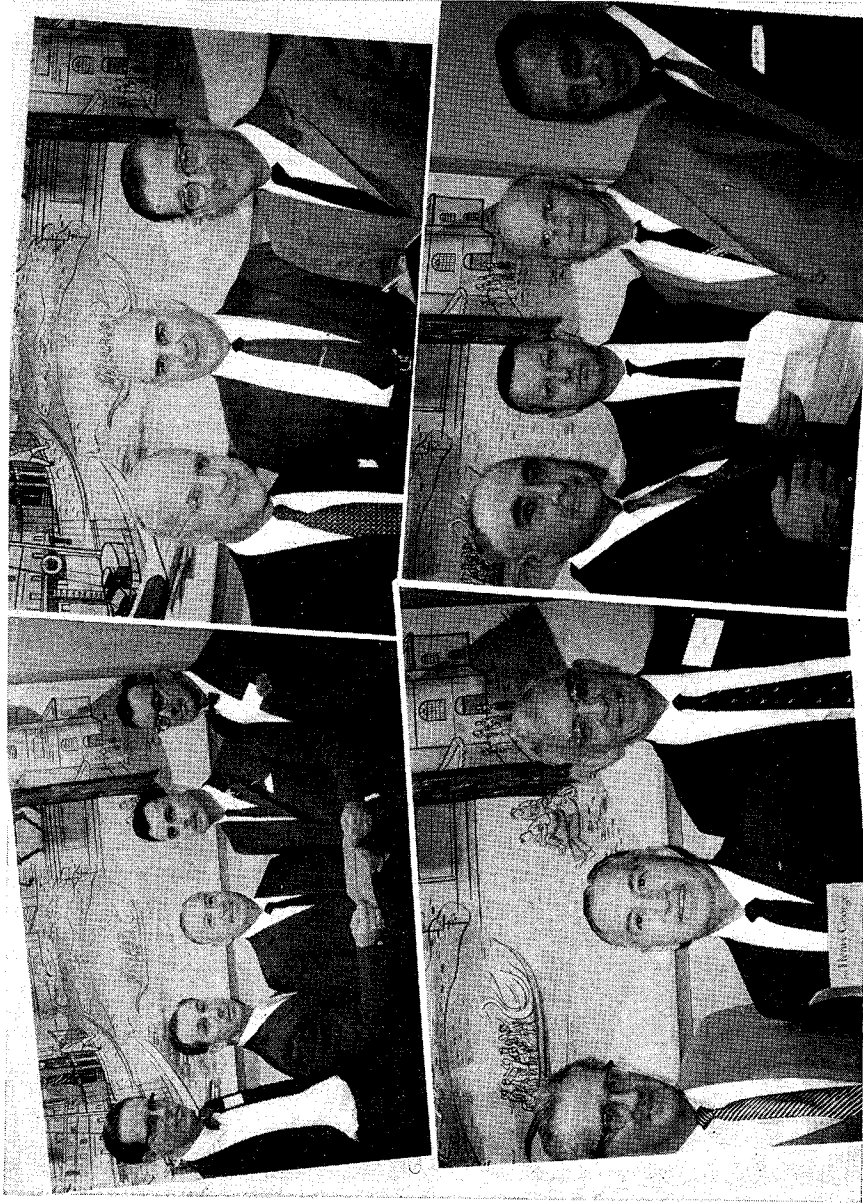
HENRY GEORGE NEWS

"Five Bobs worth of George" at the Henry George Conference, top row left: Robert Tideman, Robert D. Benton, Robert C. Bowers, Robert V. Andelson and Robert Clancy. Top right: John L. Monroe, Noah D. Alper and Harry E. Polard—all directors.

Bottom left: W. Wylie Young, Robert C. Bowers and Percy R. Williams, all working in the Pennsylvania area, with the Economic Education League and the Henry George Foundation.

Bottom right: Henry Cramer, John Motley, Sidney G. Evans and George W. Lachner, all active on the Incentive Taxation Committee of California.

Mr. Lachner was the obliging photographer.



sonal property to be exempted from local taxation.

Local newspapers, which welcomed earlier articles about the committee's work, are now offering resistance. This is proof certainly, of the fact that an impression is being made. The committee is concerned only with nonpartisan politics, it does not endorse candidates. The opposition comes chiefly from forestry and real estate people and the state Chamber of Commerce.

Although the Georgists were unquestionably the most serious-minded group in the hotel during that period, even they had to take time out for recreation. Many enjoyed a shore luncheon and relaxation at Ocean Beach the second day. In the evening all were eager to listen to Glenn E. Hoover, professor emeritus of Mills College, and now city councilman in Oakland, California. His address will be a notable feature of the September HGN, as will the talk given the same evening by Steven Cord of New York on "Henry George and His Critics." Robert V. Andelson was the chairman.

Saturday afternoon and evening brought additional visitors and special reports, presided over by Nathan Brenner of Hartford, with further evidence of the divergent avenues open to this movement.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

Miss V. G. Peterson, Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, said the film introduced at last year's conference in Detroit, "Land—and Space to Grow," now in its seventh month of public showings, has been viewed by 694 groups, totalling 34,856 persons in 40 states. Twenty-three television stations have shown it.

Weld S. Carter, representing the Schalkenbach Foundation, has just completed his third year of college visits. In support of this work, which

is locating scholars with varying degrees of interest, a three-day academic institute to study "Land-Value Taxation and Its Relation to Modern Problems," will be held in August.

A surprise announcement was made by Miss Peterson of the publication in September of *Taxation's New Frontier* by Joseph S. Thompson of San Francisco, president of the Henry George School and of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. This attractive book of 96 pages will be available at only \$1 (more about this next month).

Two particularly interesting letters from foreign lands were read. One, from a professor at the University of Ceylon, requested a copy of *Progress and Poverty* for use by his students. The second, from The Izumiya Company of Osaka, announced publication of a book entitled *The Economic and Social Study of Henry George*, by Yoshisaburo Yamasaki, and stated that a Japanese translation of *Progress and Poverty* also by Professor Yamasaki would soon be published.

Miss Peterson introduced Eva Maxwell, who was in the audience, and referred to the dramatic events leading to the publication in Seoul, of the Korean translation of *Progress and Poverty* (see June HGN).

Robert Clancy mentioned briefly the International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and spoke of the Basic Economics correspondence course now available in four foreign languages—French, Spanish, Italian and German.

Mr. Clancy recently visited the State Department in Washington, D.C. to see what official encouragement the school might obtain in promoting its Spanish course in Latin America. It was learned that the State Department is about to undertake a survey on its educational program abroad, and our course will be brought to the attention of the committee making the study.

Howard Asen, a recent New York graduate present at the conference, was so interested in the prospects of educational work in Latin America that he suggested immediate formation of a committee. Several conference delegates agreed to serve on this committee, which has the approval of the Henry George School. Mr. Asen will be the chairman.

Percy Williams of Pittsburgh said the Henry George Foundation was better equipped to do a job than it had been for years. He was cheering for the California Incentive group who are trying to pass an amendment similar to that in Pennsylvania. Neither group is affiliated with party politics, but both are concerned with civic betterment.

A new group formed in New York recently has taken for its name The Justice Party. Peter Patzakos, a vice president, said (1) anyone can be a member, there are no age restrictions, (2) in order to be a voting member a person must complete the basic course in economics either by attendance or correspondence, (3) to be an executive member one must have completed three basic courses in economics, (4) to be an officer one must have taught economics or given not less than three speeches, and (5) to run for public office a person must have taught three times or given ten or more lectures. This eliminates from executive participation any who lack the proper understanding of a desirable economic reform.

John Monroe brought everyone up to date on the Henry George School in Chicago. With clearance given for offering the Commerce and Industry study program throughout companies of the magnitude of Illinois Bell Telephone Company (39,000 employees), New York Central System (61,000), and United Air Lines

(27,000), the past year has seen the ways open for volume participation throughout industry. That interest is widespread in basic economic study is affirmed by the ten per cent responses of executive, office and plant personnel to join the after-hours roundtable groups.

Eighty-five per cent of those enrolled completed the basic course. Ninety per cent went into the advanced course when given the opportunity. In one company which has been participating for eight years, 60 per cent of the 200 employees have taken part.

Encyclopaedia Britannica, Market Research Corporation of America, the Gannett daily and the Danville Commercial-News are among new sponsoring companies.

department. They are encouraged to bring their friends to the meetings. Teachers, not graduates, Mr. Pollard says, are the real end-product of the school. Instead of 10-week courses this extension keeps students coming for nine months or so—after that "they get used to it." Not only that, but students pay \$25 for this long course, and there are few dropouts.

Noah Alper's capability and earnestness in presenting the Henry George philosophy in St. Louis are well known to those who gather for these yearly conferences, but this year the cumulative effect of his years of reaching out to influential citizens, professional groups and colleges,

seem to have found gratifying acceptance. Hundreds of requests have been received from colleges by the Public Revenue Education Council of which Mr. Alper is president, for more of his informative publications. These include "Let's Abolish Taxes," "How to Raise Wages," and "Wrong-Source Public Revenue," all available from him upon request (705 Olive Street, St. Louis 1, Missouri).

PREC is a graduate activity operated by graduates, said Noah Alper. He needed an institute for the purpose of taking a message to the people who could not be induced to take a course. Now in its tenth year the council has put down roots. Over 2,000 persons have been exposed to penetrating problems regarding the right and wrong source of taxes.

Sidney Evans of San Diego expressed the view that whenever it was found possible to establish meeting centers where people could find agreeable company, these would be important assets for any school.

Dr. Robert Andelson reported reorganization of the San Diego extension on a membership basis, with 68 voting members to date paying a minimum annual fee of \$10. A total of \$2,400 has been received in membership donations and pledges. Approximately half of the donations were less than \$100—seven persons contributed \$100 or more. The members have elected the following officers: Colonel A. V. Gerard, president; Everett J. Seeley, vice-president; Gordon Gran, secretary; and Charles E. Hendricks, treasurer.

Sidney Evans, James L. Palmer, A. V. Gerard, Henry B. Cramer, Harold B. Nicholas and Cyrus Schoenfield were elected to the board for three years; Gordon Gran, P. A. Rhodes, Dr. Paul Jarand, Bernice de los Rios, Florence Bale and Everett J. Seeley for two years; and Louise McLean, Louis N. Perna, Charles E. Hendricks, Captain Jesse B. Gay and Harry Valasek for one year.

ROBERT DEBON OF DETROIT was another who reported success with "un-organized activity." Legislative activity (different from political activity) holds interest for Michigan students.

Strehel Walton of Montreal said the able work done by their Research Committee on Taxation, *not political*, "softened up" the Canadian Legislature for future hearings on unemployment.

Several directors, especially from the West Coast, urged "involvement," and all California extensions found that the Incentive Taxation Committee gave their people the feeling that something practical was being done.

Robert Tideman of San Francisco spoke of the spontaneous decision on the part of 50 college students in a Portland, Oregon, Social Science Club to picket a vacant lot and distribute literature outlining the Henry George idea, which created interest and provoked questions up and down the Coast.

Louis Weitzman, formerly active in the New Jersey school, mentioned a unique plan for involving students. He suggested they get together and learn to apply the principles of Henry George to controversial subjects, then draw up a carefully prepared resolution, vote on it, get 20 or 30 signatures, and send it to a Congress-

man. This is hard work if done individually, he said, but in a group it can be absorbing and very effective.

Saturday evening was banquet time, but this was not a stilted or pompous occasion. It was more like a pleasant homecoming with the family. Dorothy Sara of New York, who is "celebrating her 25th anniversary as a teacher" took this occasion to suggest a 25th anniversary gift to the Hartford extension—no sooner said than done! With skill and despatch it was also arranged that gifts should be presented to Roma and Neva Bianca of New York, who had taken care of registrations and other details, as they have at so many other conferences and dinners.

Mr. A. P. Christianson, who, until his retirement was one of the outstanding instructors on the Henry George School staff in New York, now lives near Hartford and presided at the banquet. Several of his former pupils were present. Speakers on this occasion were Nathan Hillman and Colonel E. C. Harwood, whose addresses, in shortened form, appear in this issue.

John R. Fuchs of New Braunfels, Texas, president of the Henry George Foundation, in a short note to the conference, wrote, "Never have we had a better opportunity to spread the philosophy of Henry George. True individualism recognizes the vast distinction between that which

the individual has created and the values created by the people as a whole. Communism makes no such distinction. We too, with but a few exceptions, treat all things created by nature or man, as private property. We will not win the battle of ideas until we acknowledged and apply the plain truth that the intangible value attached to land is created by all the people and belongs to all the people.

We must take advantage of the present world conditions (but) the words taxes and taxation handicap us. The system we advocate goes far beyond a mere method of raising revenue for the government. This must be repeated again and again, and driven home. All talk about taxes, however sound, reaches only the mind—the underlying philosophy will reach the heart—and without that appeal we can accomplish nothing. My own personal experience over fifty years has taught me that."

Judge Fuchs, like other sturdy Georgists whom we cherish, has demonstrated half a century of *faith in action*.

The conference concluded pleasantly on Sunday afternoon with a lawn party most hospitably arranged by the Nathan Hillmans at their attractive home. Good food, good company and good conversation made this annual meeting "fade away" happily as the party gradually broke up with adieu and "see you in Toronto next year."

Caribbean conference greetings came from Phillip Wallace, director of the Jamaica extension, who wrote, "With communism spreading in Latin America, driving fear into the boldest hearts, George's message of freedom and justice offers the only hope."

Edwin R. Maldonado of Puerto Rico affirmed that every day there were more followers of Henry George's ideas in his group, which includes men of the highest caliber. "Our school is ready to help in the establishment of other Henry George Schools in Latin America," he wrote.

The Detroit Free Press of July 24th brought word of the death of Warren Scott Blauvelt, 93, a Detroit industrialist since 1897, and a champion of "the single-tax plan of economist Henry George."