

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

CALENDAR—Last year, about Christmas time, the Foundation published its first Henry George wall calendar. The idea proved extremely popular and was an effective instrument of propaganda. Many people wrote us during the year, after seeing this calendar in homes and offices, and some of these inquirers are now making their own study of our philosophy. The success of the calendar has justified our making another one for 1941. It will feature a handsome photograph of Henry George taken at the height of his career. It was generously loaned from her own collection by Henry George's daughter, Anna George de Mille. The date pad will carry inspiring quotations culled from the golden treasury of George's books. The calendar will again sell at twenty-five cents.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS—The giving of George books as Christmas gifts is a time-honored custom which has started thousands of people on the road to clear economic thinking. To encourage this type of giving we are offering special prices on quantity purchases. For instance, five dollars will purchase a full set of the George books in uniform bindings and a copy of "The Philosophy of Henry George," by Dr. George R. Geiger. Five dollars and seventy-five cents will purchase ten copies of our one dollar edition of "Progress and Poverty."

We are wrapping books to be given as Christmas presents in gay holly paper, with greeting tags attached. Individual attention is paid to all gift orders. Last year, about 500 books were sent out from the Foundation as Christmas gifts. This year, we are trying to reach the 1000 mark.

BOOK DEALERS—We have been very much encouraged by the lively interest on the part of our good friends, the book dealers. In the past few weeks, as a result of a special campaign, 200 books were placed with 20 new dealers, who had hitherto not deemed it worthwhile to stock Henry George books. It is worthy of note that dealers in small towns are now welcoming "Progress and Poverty."

FOSTER vs. GEORGE—Along with thousands of our friends who had hoped for Mr. George's election to the Hall of Fame this year, we suffered the disappointment (relative, of course) of learning that the vote was given to Stephen Foster, writer of American folk songs. Sharing honors with Henry George in the "near the top candidates," was Thomas Paine. He received fifty votes to George's forty-seven.

THE SCHOOLS—Last year the Foundation developed a lively interest in the Georgeist philosophy by circularizing the high school teachers of economics. This work had such splendid results that we extended our campaign this autumn to include normal schools throughout the country. Not only are we selling books to the teachers themselves, but are receiving requests for study material to be used in class. Also worthy of mention is the fact that several new colleges have introduced "Progress and Poverty" in their economics courses.

And now, in closing, let me extend the Season's Greetings and best wishes for a happy and busy 1941.

American Association For Scientific Taxation

Readers will recall the "Legislative Plan of Action," prepared by the Association, which appeared in our September-October issue in abridged form. It was a proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the State of New York, and was intended to serve as a model for proposing the Georgeist reform in legislative assemblies.

Since its partial appearance in the last issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, the full, unabridged Plan was printed in the form of galley proofs and sent to numerous persons prominent in Georgeist, civic and educational work, for suggestions and criticism. The general response was enthusiastic, and the Association was gratified to observe the care with which the Plan was read and criticised. It is thus assuming the form of a cooperative work, and will undoubtedly be an important contribution toward the legislative adoption of the Georgeist proposals. Following are excerpts from some of the many letters received:

"The Plan seems to me to be of great merit and I want to wish you all success with it. I am one of those who have been waiting more than fifty years for such action as this."

—Henry Ware Allen, Author.

"If I could share your optimism as to the possibility of bringing about the taxation reforms which you advocate with the speed you desire and also that these reforms in state and local taxation would completely abolish unemployment and poverty, I should say that you have done an excellent job of draftsmanship in the proposed constitutional amendment and legislation."—Harold S. Bittenheim, Editor, *The American City*.

"I cannot see any way to improve this very excellent piece of work."—William E. Clement, Secretary, Benjamin Franklin Research Society.

"I appreciate your sending me the galleys of 'A Legislative Plan of Action.' . . . I do not believe that anybody should be able to derive revenue from the mere ownership of land. But I do not believe that tax measures are the most efficient way of handling the situation. It seems to me that the direct and most effective way would be for society to recover the actual title of all land from private holders. . . . Why not strike directly at the root of the tree?"—Prof. Henry Pratt Fairchild, Chairman, Dept. of Economics, New York University.

"It is so evident to me that you and your associates have spent so much thought and labor upon your proposed legislation that even though you have invited criticism and suggestions, it would be presumptuous for me to suggest any amendments without previously explaining that I fully realize you may have excellent reasons for preferring the text and the details as already given."—Albert Firmin, former Postmaster, Brooklyn, N. Y.

"The amendments, the bill, and the comment are compositely a succinct statement of Georgean economics; and mixed in a way I never before encountered in legislation. A splendid propaganda as well as legislative document."—Charles H. Ingersoll, President, Manhattan Single Tax Club.

"I think the general plan of not trying to do the whole thing too quickly is sound."—Benjamin C. Marsh, Executive Secretary, People's Lobby, Washington, D. C.

"I question the value of attempting to write Georgeism into law until Georgeists themselves have a more concrete program. I don't think that merely shifting taxes from improvements to land will do any good. I think it has done considerable harm in other places."—Paul Peach, Associate Editor, *The Freeman*.

The Association is now at work carefully sorting and sifting the many suggestions and criticisms offered. When the final draft is put into shape, it will be published in pamphlet form as "A Legislative Framework for the Philosophy of Henry George." A wide distribution is anticipated, as well as concrete results in legislative halls. It should be understood here that the Plan, or Framework, is not being presented as a mere fiscal measure. It is a legislative embodiment of the full Georgeist philosophy in all its strength.

An Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is also being projected. As soon as the work on the State Plan is completed, the Association will endeavor to frame a model Amendment for the Federal Government, covering all the legal and Constitutional points necessary.

The American Association for Scientific Taxation, under the direction of Messrs. Walter Fairchild, Harry C. Maguire, and Charles Jos. Smith, has its tentative headquarters at the office of LAND AND FREEDOM, 150 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y. Communications to the Association should be addressed care of this magazine.

Henry George School of Social Science

Two new and very interesting series of lectures have been scheduled for the new auditorium of the School. One is a series of six lectures on "The Forerunners of Henry George," delivered Friday evening, beginning November 15, by Mr. H. D. Bloch. In this series, Mr. Bloch reviews the theory of the land question as presented by thinkers who anticipated George, such as Confucius, Spinoza, Locke, the Physiocrats, Smith, Ricardo, Mill, Marx, Spencer, Ogilvie, and Dove. The second series of lectures, delivered on Tuesday evenings beginning December 3, is on "Origins of the Capitalist Crisis," by Mr. Will Lissner. The admission charge for this latter series is \$1.00. In a series of three talks, Mr. Lissner proposes to outline historically the rise of the capitalist system, the factors in it that are favorable to the development of a free society, and the factors that it must rid itself of in order to overcome its present crisis.

A new course in "Progress and Poverty" opened the week of October 28, with good attendance. Another course opens the week of January 27, 1941, and a campaign is already under way to secure many students. One of the methods being used is the urging of every friend and graduate to secure one student for the School.

The extension courses continue to build up. Particularly remarkable is the progress of the Boston and the New Jersey extensions. The latter has already secured a headquarters at Newark. Chicago continues its sustained activity, and its Speakers Bureau is taking the Windy City by storm.

The School of Democracy

Within the very short time it has been in existence, the School of Democracy has already shown signs of growth and progress. Classes are held at headquarters (1165 Broadway, New York, in the office of the Manhattan Single Tax Club), and there are extension classes at Bellerose and Brighton Beach. In addition, questions and answers for a correspondence course have been worked out. The text-book used in the courses is "The Economic Democracy," by Horace J. Haase, who is teaching the classes. Mr. Haase is ably assisted by Cecil C. Tucker, who is serving as Executive Secretary of the School.

A Library has been established. It has been greatly augmented by a contribution of three hundred pieces of literature from Mrs. Amalia Du Bois, consisting of books, pamphlets and back files of LAND AND FREEDOM. The Library also arranges to lend the text-book to students at ten cents a week. If the student wishes to purchase the book later, whatever rental he paid will be deducted from the price.