

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

We were pleased with the good reception given our 1941 calendar. Almost everyone liked it and stories of its effectiveness are still coming in. One friend reported the other day that a minister to whom she gave a calendar chose one of its quotations as the text of his Sunday sermon. Another person came in to purchase one after seeing it hanging in the executive office of a well-known organization. A prominent New Jersey manufacturer liked it so well that he purchased a quantity and sent them out to customers and business associates. Thus, a little over a thousand calendars have been distributed. We still have a few left and shall be glad of any help we can get in putting these into circulation.

Four hundred and fifty books went out as a result of our campaign to have Henry George's books given as Christmas presents. This is work in which all Georgeists can participate to some degree, and we have ample testimony as to its effectiveness. To cite one of the innumerable cases: The other day an order came for a full set of books from a man who had been given a Henry George book in 1939. He said, in an accompanying letter, "I intend to make a full study of the interesting philosophy to which my friend so kindly introduced me."

We also want to thank the scores of friends who remembered the Foundation with greeting cards and letters this Christmas season. From far and near these greetings came, some from Australia, some from embattled London, and one from South Africa.

You will be interested to know that just this week we received a long letter from Mr. Arthur Madsen of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain. Mr. Madsen tells us that the Foundation is carrying on as usual, with all members of the staff on the job every day. He and Mrs. Madsen have gone to Scotland for a few months so that he may complete some important work without interruption.

Last autumn we experimented with a new piece of advertising literature designed to help our bookdealers sell "Progress and Poverty." The cover of this attractive booklet asks the provocative question, "How High is Your E. I. Q?" ("Economics Intelligence Quotient," in case you have not guessed it.) Taking its cue from the popular quiz programs which come to us nightly over the air, our booklet challenges the reader with ten questions on economics starting with, "Where do wages come from," and leading up to

the more controversial question, "Can combinations of workmen increase the general level of wages?" The answers to these questions are also given in the booklet so that the reader may test his knowledge and then grade his own intelligence regarding economics. The intention is that he will thus become so interested in Henry George's point of view that he will hurry back to the store to buy the book. Each bookdealer who agrees to let the booklet work for him is sent a supply with his name and address printed inside. Several repeat orders received in the last two weeks encourage us to believe that the booklet is accomplishing its purpose. If you would like to see this booklet, send us a penny post-card and we will put one in the mail for you.

Princeton University placed an order this week for a quantity of "Progress and Poverty," which is required reading in their economics course. As one of the faculty once told us, "A man hasn't much chance of graduating from Princeton without knowing something about Henry George." It is also interesting to recall that the death mask of Henry George, cast in bronze, rests in Princeton's famous collection of death masks of the World's Great. This mask was unveiled by Mrs. de Mille in impressive ceremonies a few years ago.

Considerable interest has been manifested in Franz Oppenheimer's famous book, "The State," but it was only recently that we discovered that a few hundred copies of this classic are still available. The organic history of the State has been rendered dull by most learned accounts of it and, in sharp contrast, Dr. Oppenheimer's story is fascinating reading from start to finish. Many printings of this book have been made in this country, for its important information, written in easily readable style, has made it highly acceptable to American readers. The edition we have access to is 75c a copy, bound in cloth.

Much of our time is being devoted to the normal schools throughout the country. Our test campaign, conducted last autumn, revealed this group as more responsive than the average list. The value of reaching these budding teachers cannot be exaggerated, for if they can be made to comprehend the importance of Henry George in the fields of economics and philosophy, that influence may eventually be demonstrated in the classrooms of our public and high schools.

Henry George School of Social Science

HEADQUARTERS

Commencement exercises for the 700 Fall term graduates were held at the Engineers Auditorium, January 13.