

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Henry George Foundation of America

The Single Taxers of Chicago, under the able leadership of Chairman Clayton J. Ewing, are busy with plans and preparations for the Sixteenth Annual Henry George Congress which is to assemble at the Hotel LaSalle Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29 and 30 and October 1. A strong program is being prepared and, as it is now seven years since the Henry George Congress has gone to the Middle West, members and friends in that section are exhibiting a special interest in this year's gathering.

Facing the tremendous social and economic problems of the present world crisis, as well as those which may arise after the war, the program this year will feature an interpretation by prominent speakers of the Georgeist attitude towards war and its causes and a discussion of the part which the Henry George movement may and should play in the effort to reconstruct our social and industrial system on sound economic principles.

"The Georgeist Task in a War-Torn World" will be the topic to be presented by Sidney J. Abelson, of New York City, Chairman of the newly organized American Alliance to Advance Freedom. Among other well-known speakers who will address the Congress are: Col. Victor A. Rule, author of the book, "Chain the War God"; Hon. Peter Witt, Cleveland, Ohio; Benjamin W. Burger, New York City; Gilbert M. Tucker, Albany, N. Y.; Charles H. Ingersoll, President of the Manhattan Single Tax Club; Horace J. Haase, Director of the School of Democracy, New York City; Robert Clancy, Associate Editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, New York City; former Congressman Charles R. Eckert, of Beaver, Pa.; Dr. Mark Millikin, Member of City Council, Hamilton, Ohio; Mrs. Anna George deMille, New York City; John Lawrence Monroe, representing the Henry George School of Social Science, of Chicago; Mrs. Helena Mitchell McEvoy, Washington, D. C.; John B. McGauran, Denver, Colorado; E. S. Woodward, of Vancouver, British Columbia; Henry H. Hardinge and J. Edward Jones, of Chicago; Harold S. Bittenheim, Editor, *The American City*, New York City; Hon. George E. Evans, of Pittsburgh, President of the Henry George Foundation; Mrs. Lyril Clark Van Hyning, Chicago.

The usual annual banquet of the Henry George Foundation will be held on Wednesday evening, October 1, as the closing feature of the convention, and a special evening program of dramatic entertainment is being planned under the leadership of Mrs. Clayton J. Ewing with the cooperation of young Single Taxers of Chicago.

A printed invitation with full program details will be mailed to members and friends of the Foundation during the month of August, and a representative attendance from all sections of the country is anticipated. Ample time is being set aside on this year's program for open forum discussions of some of the more important questions which are occupying the minds of prominent Georgeists, both theoretical and practical, dealing with economic, legislative and political aspects of the movement to advance the Georgeist philosophy.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

The big news this month is the publication, by the Foundation, of a Guide for Teaching the Principles of Political Economy, based on the text of "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George. This Guide, which was prepared by one of our trustees, is designed expressly for use in college classrooms. It divides the book into fifteen lessons, with questions and answers, and assigns approximately forty pages of reading for each. Dr. John Dewey, famous educator and philosopher, has written a Foreword to the Guide, the full text of which appears elsewhere in this issue.

Besides the large universities with which we are all familiar, there are about three thousand small colleges in the United States, teaching economics. An announcement of the Guide sent to a thousand, as a test, brought requests for copies from eighty-three professors. Practically all branches of the economics departments are represented in these returns. Three college presidents wrote personally for the publication.

One of the encouraging things about our work has been the increased use of "Progress and Poverty" as a college text, and we confidently believe the new Guide will help us tremendously to further cultivate this important field.

Winston Churchill's speeches on the land question, now available in pamphlet form (ten cents), are causing considerable comment, and some speculation as to whether the Prime Minister can be expected to put his knowledge of land value taxation to practical use when the war is over. I am told that the late John Paul, beloved English Georgeist, was Mr. Churchill's mentor in his early parliamentary days, and responsible to a large degree for bringing the land question, and its importance, to his attention at that time.

We placed our order last week for 17,000 more copies of books by Henry George. This includes 10,000 "Progress and Poverty," and smaller editions of "Protection or Free

Trade," "The Science of Political Economy," and "The Land Question." When these books are printed, they will bring the total number of George's books published by the Foundation to 104,950 copies.

You have probably been reading about Colonel Josiah C. Wedgwood, British Georgeist, in this country on a lecture tour. The daily press has devoted considerable space to a chronicle of his progress from platform to platform, along the Eastern seaboard. It is appropriate, then, to announce at this time, "Forever Freedom," published in England and now available in this country, the work of Colonel Wedgwood and our own American author, Allan Nevins.

"Forever Freedom" (twenty-five cents a copy), is an anthology in prose and verse from England and America. It is well seasoned with selections from Henry George, and is rich with the words of men whose greatness we learned about in childhood days. Old friends like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Patrick Henry are represented, as well as the inspiring words of some unfamiliar writers such as Leno and Dennisthorpe. The speaker who would stock his verbal larder with choice sentences, as well as the reader who desires only to share the fruits of these brilliant minds, will greet "Forever Freedom" as a book of enduring worth.

Henry George School of Social Science

The First Annual Convention of the School was held at the New York City headquarters, July 9, 10 and 11. Representatives from the various extensions and out-of-town visitors attended, as well as many New York Georgeists. There were over 200 registered delegates, besides many unregistered visitors.

The first day (Wednesday, July 9) was given to welcoming the delegates, familiarizing them with the School, and allowing them to become acquainted with one another. Anna George de Mille, Otto K. Dorn and Frank Chodorov addressed the delegates.

The morning session of the second day (Thursday, July 10) was taken up with panel discussions on various theoretical topics, including "George and Cooperatives," by John T. Tetley, "Will There Be Enough Rent," by R. M. Connor, "Housing," by David Targ, and "The Value of a Teacher," by Jacob Schwartzman. In the afternoon, different branches of the School's work were discussed. Teresa McCarthy spoke on the relation of extensions with headquarters; Gaston Haxo discussed the work in the correspondence course division; Herbert von Henningsen told of the Lecture Forums; and Alfred M. Gants spoke on ways to get publicity for the School, presenting an interesting advertising program. The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation was also represented at this session by V. G. Peterson. At the evening session, John Lawrence Monroe of Chicago gave an inter-

esting account of the Henry George movement before the advent of the School, stressing the failure of political movements without a background of mass enlightenment and intelligent leadership. M. B. Thomson presented an enactment of a typical classroom scene, himself in the role of instructor, and various assistants throughout the audience acting as students. Mr. Thomson's demonstration was entertaining as well as instructive.

The morning and afternoon sessions of the third day (Friday, July 11) were devoted to further discussions of the School's problems and activities, including classroom techniques, the speakers' bureau, extension activities, and other educational problems. Raymond V. McNally delivered a talk on "Whom Can We Teach?" which evoked much debate. A visitor who took part in the discussions was M. E. Kriegel, one of Oscar H. Geiger's original students, and now a lecturer, radio commentator and editor.

In the evening—the last session of the conference—Hon. Lawson Purdy and Col. the Right Hon. Josiah Wedgwood addressed the group. Lawson Purdy delivered an interesting impromptu talk on some progressive achievements made during the past half century. He expressed the belief that the Georgeist doctrine should be taught in all its purity, but added that at the same time Georgeists ought to strive for reforms worth attaining on their own merit, without bringing the Georgeist philosophy or the name of Henry George into them.

Col. Wedgwood, Member of the British Parliament, now in the United States on a speaking tour, addressed the group on the principles of freedom for which Georgeists are struggling. His talk was broadcast over Station WQXR. Mr. Wedgwood related his experiences in South Africa where, after the Boer War, he was in charge of a town. There was a fringe of common land around the town which Wedgwood allowed the veterans of the war to use. They worked upon it and built their own homes. In consequence, wages throughout the whole town rose to the full product of each laborer's toil—illustrating the effect of free land on wages. More of Col. Wedgwood's adventures may be found in his book, "Essays and Adventures of a Labor M. P." Col. Wedgwood is also co-author of the new anthology, "Forever Freedom."

At the conclusion of the last session, William Newcomb presented his recently completed slide film, "The Story of the Savannah," based upon Henry George's eloquent description of the growth of a city, in "Progress and Poverty." M. B. Thomson acted as narrator.

Thus concluded the First Annual School Convention. It has helped to foster fellowship among the various workers and friends of the School in New York and out of town. It is hoped that there will be more of these conferences in the future.