

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

On September 30, Mr. Walter Fairchild and Mr. George Hansen, representing the Foundation, left New York for a tour of some of the colleges in upper New York State.

The first stop was made at the State College in Albany, where our two representatives talked with President Sayles. He showed a definite interest in the advance of Henry George's ideas. From Albany our friends traveled to Rensselaer, Troy, Saratoga Springs, Schenectady, Hamilton, Clinton and Ithaca, visiting colleges in each town and interviewing in all, about thirty professors. They report a cordial reception on every campus. As a direct result of their visit, supplies for a "Progress and Poverty" class of twenty students were requested by Skidmore College.

This trip was a sequel to a summer of hard work by the Foundation. The campaign started last July with the publication of our new Guide for Teaching the Principles of Political Economy based on the text of "Progress and Poverty" by Henry George. In August we printed up sets of lesson sheets for the use of students. The Guide, and the fifteen-session course of study which it anticipates, was then announced to the colleges in a series of mail campaigns, the last of which went out on September 21. These campaigns brought requests from six hundred and fifty-two professors who want the Guide in connection with their classroom work. About two hundred and fifty of them asked for "Progress and Poverty" as well. To date five of the colleges represented in these returns have asked for classroom supplies. Two have groups of fifty students; one has twenty and two have ten.

During the month of August we had occasion to write Mr. William Allen White of Emporia, Kansas. In the exchange of correspondence which followed, we suggested to Mr. White that it had been some time since he had mentioned Henry George editorially in his famous paper, *The Emporia Gazette*. A week later Mr. White wrote us: "Here is an editorial I wrote a few days ago about Henry George. I keep the torch burning." (The editorial is reprinted elsewhere in this issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.)

When Colonel Josiah Wedgwood returned to England after an extended lecture tour in this country, he left behind him a few copies of his book, "Essays and Adventures of a Labor M. P." As long as the supply lasts we are offering these at fifty cents each. Colonel Wedgwood has dedicated this book "To all who love Freedom and Adventure." In explaining why he wrote it, which explanation

also serves as a fair preview of the book itself, he says: "My best friends look pained when they observe my lips framing the word 'land'; others move rapidly in another direction when they see me approach lest, like the ancient mariner, I distract them from their dinner by a dissertation on the law of rent. I have, therefore, devised this book as a sandwich, having in it sufficient adventure to play bread and mustard to the political meat."

With the free trade argument getting a new hearing these days, and needing all the support that we can give it, it is appropriate to mention once more "Picking America's Pockets," that valuable little book by David L. Cohn (twenty-five cents a copy). Stocked a-plenty with facts and figures with which to refute the "protectionist," this book is, at the same time, written in so interesting and forceful a style as to make readers say time and time again, "I was sorry when I came at last to the end."

Henry George Committee for Legislative Action

"A Legislative Framework for the Philosophy of Henry George" has been listed in the Vertical File Service Catalog of the H. W. Wilson Co., which has an extensive library distribution. As a result, requests for the Framework have come pouring in from universities, legislative and public libraries in all parts of the country. This, and the favorable response of public officials (reported in our last issue), indicates that those we are seeking to reach pay attention to us when we have a practical proposal to offer.

Our wide circulation of the Framework among libraries and legislators has depleted our supply. Before another printing is undertaken, the Framework will be examined for possible improvements. Suggestions from those who have studied the Framework are welcome. Address communications to the Central Committee, care of LAND AND FREEDOM, 150 Nassau Street, New York, N. Y.

SUFFICIENCY OF RENT FOR GOVERNMENT

Lawson Purdy has made some interesting comments on the Framework. Because of his long experience in tax matters as Commissioner of Taxation for the City of New York and his lifelong interest in this subject, Mr. Purdy's observations are especially valuable. He writes as follows:

"If this bill were to become law it would be necessary to provide some method of apportionment between the several taxing districts. Section 2 on page 5 (q. v.) would hardly suffice.

"I believe that if we had equal opportunity to use land, the cost of government would in time be greatly reduced, but