

GO POLITICAL By FRED AULD (Hobart, Tasmania, Australia)

James L. Busey's article in GJ No. 29 regarding the need for political action was excellent and should be read again by all thoughtful Georgists who really believe the desired reform is possible. Robert Clancy's reply was predictable, unfortunately.

Dr. Busey's examples of Proposition 13, rights for women, environment, etc., and how reforms had been achieved in the short term by supporters getting out and shouting about it, etc., was impressive.

For many years I conducted classes on the works of Henry George. Invariably any student who "got the message", who was excited by the potential of the new knowledge, wanted to know what was next for him, and what he could do to join and support the reforms needed. His limits were in fact: 1, conduct classes himself; 2, subscribe to a dull journal on offer throughout the Georgist world; 3, join an established Georgist group and attend meetings dominated by elderly men, often cynics.

The latter are frequently "old men's clubs"; a habitual social activity which promises nothing to the newcomer. The spirit of the words "Yes, we need young blood" is rendered sterile by the attitude which prevails.

Well I remember my return to Melbourne after my conversion in London. "How much do you think you are going to achieve?... I won't live to see it... It won't happen in your time," I was told. Encouragement to the young?

Sydney on the other hand offers confusion sown by a few there who have successfully brought the New South Wales Georgist movement to a standstill. "Taxation of land values" may be an unscientific expression, but it has meaning to an electorate fed on emotives such as "below the poverty line", "a fair wage", "exorbitant profits", "scab labour", etc., etc.

I have never known so much effort by a few to be rewarded by so little. The number of people who do the educational course with a positive reaction to it, then disappear back into the "real world" never to be heard of again as Georgists, is appalling. (Vic Blundell is an exception to all the above.)

I believe the present offers a unique opportunity that wasn't present even 20 years ago. Then "I'm all right Jack" prevailed; the standard of living was pretty good and few complained. Now there is a general disquiet, unemployment, inflation and no confidence in the powerful. The young seek an alternative life-style to do their own thing in their own way, and Henry George offers just that. They need him but they know him not. What's the use of talking sentimentally about a book that sold by the millions if a bearded young man says "Who's Henry George?"

The tried and tested educational method (by itself) has been a total failure. Go political and it will become part of the educational syllabus, as environmental studies are now.

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HAVE you ever sent your local M.P. (State or Federal) some Georgist literature?  
Or the editor of your local newspaper? - Progress