

(cont'd from Page 1)

"We give little classes here and there," She said. "We are also worming our way into the public schools."

"We are not against capitalism; we want capitalism to work and justly. We are not socialists."

Mrs. Wendell said none of her group wants to see George's principle adopted suddenly and she admits that some of them are willing to see it toned down.

"It has to be gradual, so it doesn't upset the economy too much," she said.

And although George would have liked to see sales taxes, income taxes, incorporation taxes and you-name-it all abolished, his modern followers tend to dilute his teaching a little.

"Some of them quibble a little

bit about it," said Mrs. Wendell. "We don't all exactly agree."

Some will say, 'Well, maybe we need to have just a little income tax,' or like that. "And license tax, that's a sensible, just tax if it's limited to things connected to automobiles and trucks."

"We are not too absolutely strict, but mainly it should be a tax on the land, which is owned mostly by the richest people."

Mrs. Wendell, a onetime actress and grandmother of six who has lived in Santa Monica since 1962, said she uses a simple formula to decide how much extra tax she should pay.

Her land — not the buildings on it — has a actual value of \$38,620. And she hit on 5 percent of that, which is \$1,855.28, after you subtract the homeowner's relief program.

So she sent a check for that instead of the \$1,262.64 she'd been billed.

"I thought that was correct," she said.

Alvord agreed the arithmetic was correct, but didn't know whether he'd like taxpayers making a habit of such overpayments.

And although he's one of those who's heard of Henry George, he wasn't sure he wanted to see the George principle adopted, either.

"When I was treasurer in Sacramento County, there was a tax assessor elected who was a follower of Henry George," he said. "When taxes were assessed that way, it threw things all in a whack and she lasted only one term. There was even a recall petition."

"But it was interesting while it went on."

POSTSCRIPT "His name was Henry George, and along about 1880, following the publication of his monumental work **Progress and Poverty**, he was, next to President Rutherford B. Hayes, the most famous man in America. . . .

His panacea was a "single tax". He advocated the abolition of all taxes save one — a tax on the value of land. There would be no tax on the buildings that stood on that land, nor on the food grown on it, nor on the goods produced in factories that occupied it. His conviction that a single tax on land value could end speculation (thereby opening land for development and providing jobs for the unemployed) took such a hold on the American psyche that by the time George died in 1897, a whopping 2 million copies of his book had been sold and his influence was being felt around the

world.

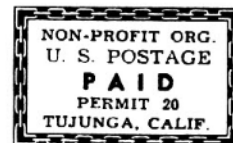
Although "charismatic economist" may seem a contradiction of terms, at the height of his popularity George was exactly that. An almost Messianic figure, he was followed everywhere by crowds of true believers.

Unlike other movements and ideas that have tended to die with their leaders, however, George's single-tax theory is alive and well, and quite possibly picking up relevancy and momentum with each passing day. The philosophy is still being taught to new generations of the curious under the auspices of the Henry George School of Social Science, a New York based institution that has eight branches in the - U.S. and Canada.

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