

Henry George Fellowship Federated Chapters

DISPROVING the old theory that the Single Taxers were too individualistic to organize and achieve their common goal, the Federated Chapters of the Henry George Fellowship have demonstrated that Georgeists can and will cooperate.

According to National President, Nathan Hillman, ten cities have already become members of the Federated Chapters, stretching from Boston to San Francisco, with a total membership of over 3,000, and there are indications that more cities will soon join.

The Henry George Fellowship is the alumni organization of the Henry George School of Social Science. The Federated Chapters is the national body, and is the means whereby all of the Chapters can cooperate to achieve our final goal, the establishment of the Georgeist principles as the law of the land.

Many seasoned campaigners for the Single Tax cause, have expressed the opinion that the Henry George School of Social Science, is the best method yet discovered to make real Single Taxers in numbers large enough to amount. Of course, the School is not making Single Taxers of every student, and the Trustees of the School are the first to admit this fact. However, by and large, the School is making more and better Single Taxers, per dollar expended, than anything ever done before in the history of the movement.

Oscar Geiger, the founder of the School, realized that a person could not be made an expert in economics in ten weeks, and therefore conceived the idea of the Henry George Fellowship, which would keep the graduates together so that they could become better acquainted with the subject and with each other.

A tribute to Mr. Geiger's foresight is the growth of the Federated Chapters.

The graduates themselves, realizing the great need for further study, and cooperation to increase the followers of Henry George, have banded together and are doing an organization job that undoubtedly will prove to be a milestone in the history of the Georgeist movement.

The cities which are members of the Federated Chapters with their officers follow:

Chicago Chapter: Victor H. Verby, president; George Moyland, vice-president; Myron Goldenberg, treasurer; Marcella Gwin, secretary; Esther Meinecke, financial secretary; Esther Davis, secretary of social activities; Betty Feldbein, vice-president of social activities.

San Francisco Chapter: Edgar Pomeroy, president; T. L. Braizell, treasurer; N. J. Braizell, vice-president; Nellie D. Kujua, secretary; Jan Kujua, Dr. W. M. Cameron, time-keepers.

East Bay Chapter: (Consists of the cities of Oakland,

Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville.) Robert Hunter, president; Grace A. Johnston, secretary.

Pittsburgh Chapter: Edward G. Lang, president; J. Butler, vice-president; John C. Weaver, financial secretary; Wm. A. Comorada, recording secretary; Nicholas C. O'Data, treasurer, Robert C. Bowers, executive secretary.

Montreal Chapter: John Anderson, president; Miss S. Walton, secretary-treasurer.

New York Chapter: Sidney Tobias, president; Claudia Pearlman, vice-president; John Munson, treasurer; Edith Salkay, secretary; Arthur Vetterman, honorary chairman.

Boston Chapter: Mark J. J. Leonardi, president; Lazarus Ogus, vice-president; Marjorie Dottling, treasurer; Albert R. Spears, treasurer.

Newark Chapter: George C. Winne, president; Alexander M. Goldfinger, vice-president; Morris J. Hoenig, secretary; Mitchell S. Lurio, vice-president.

Omaha Chapter: Harold Becker, president; Paul Koons, vice-president; H. F. Sarman, secretary-treasurer.

Kansas City Chapter: Hugh Ennis, president; John C. Baker, vice-president; Clara A. Rose, secretary; Mrs. H. Stolz, recording secretary; Jessie E. Monohan, recording secretary.

National Officers of the Federated Chapters are: Nathan Hillman, president. Mr. Hillman, formerly of Chicago, is now located in Hartford, Connecticut.

Edward G. Lang of Pittsburgh, vice-president; Noah D. Alper of San Francisco, 2nd vice-president; Harry E. Kuck of Cincinnati, Ohio, treasurer; Harold M. Becker of Omaha, financial secretary; J. Edward Jones of Chicago, corresponding secretary.

Joseph R. Carrol, Norfolk, Conn.; Edward White, Kansas City, and James C. Fuller, Missouri, are member of the executive committee.

FEDERATED CHAPTERS

OF THE HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP.

Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow in the House of Representatives

MR. CHAIRMAN, I am as much handicapped in talking on the subject of taxation to this audience as though I were talking in a strange language. Forty-three years ago a great friend of mine, Tom L. Johnson, for nine years mayor of Cleveland, stood in the well of this House and supported an amendment to a tax bill which incorporated a principle in which I have believed for forty years. Our common belief in this cause was the basis of my lifelong friendship with this great Ohio citizen. They got six votes for the amendment in the House at that time, and the names of the six men were recorded in the Congressional Record that they might go down in history.

I have no illusions as to the possibility of passing such an amendment, which I am going to present at the appropriate time, but I do it to find out how many more people in this House will vote for this proposal than voted for it forty-three years ago. Moreover, I do it because of the sentiment involved. I spoke the last words at the grave of Tom Johnson in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, twenty-six years ago, where we left him sleeping beside his great friend, Henry George. It is a matter of sentiment with me to stand in the well of this House and do what my great friend did forty-three years ago, and offer the same proposal.

In just a couple of minutes I must try to give you a little flash of this truth. The first pioneers come to a community like the District of Columbia. There is no land value when they come, but as the community grows, the growth of population creates the land value. When the first pioneers come there is no need of public revenues, no need of taxes, but as the community increases there is increasing need of public revenue. This is the economic drama which has happened in every city in America. First you have the growth of population, there being now 600,000 people in the District of Columbia, and as a result of this growth of population you have two economic forces. You have land values and taxes. Taxes and land values rise and go up and up together, caused by the same thing, the growth of population. I say the rising land values of a community are just as clearly nature's provision for the increasing needs of revenue of the community as the milk in a mother's breast is nature's provision for the babe in her arms. At the proper time I am going to offer this amendment.

THE New Jersey Legislature admits that the unemployment problem is too deep for its members and adjourns without doing anything. How many of its members were honest enough to tell the voters before election that they were too ignorant to be fit for a legislator's job. Those who did not secured office and salary under false pretenses. Does not New Jersey law penalize fraud? Electing frauds to the legislature is one reason why unemployment exists.

THE Duke styles me a Pessimist. But, however pessimistic I may be as to present social tendencies, I have a firm faith in human nature. I am convinced that the attainment of pure government is merely a matter of conforming social institution to moral law.

HENRY GEORGE, "Property in Land."

THE only way to check and stop the evil (of the White Man) is for all the Red Men to unite, in claiming a common and equal right to the land, as it was at first and should be yet.—*Tecumseh's Speech* to Governor Harrison, at Vincennes, Aug. 12, 1810.

What I Learned in Santiago (Cuba)

ON first arriving, the picturesqueness of Santiago de Cuba, one of the largest cities in Cuba, reminds the visitor of a quaint picture on a post card come to life. Founded early in the sixteenth century, it presents old, crumbling churches and quaint little houses with large window openings guarded by fancy iron grills. The entrances are paved with beautiful, colored tiles. Tiny street cars rumble and rock through narrow streets, twisting their way up and down traffic-locked thoroughfares swarming with people. Untethered goats munch bits of grass along the more modern avenues where small parks and grass bordered walks have been set. Many stray dogs dart about while, very near, overhead, greasy buzzards soar boldly, hinting that although Santiago boasts a Department of Sanitation housed in a beautiful new modern building, much is still required for its proper functioning.

The green steep hills behind Santiago are peppered with small plots of ground, haphazardly cultivated. Small, ramshackle houses or huts, sometimes covered only by colorless dry palm leaves, shelter the tillers of these fertile tiny acres. At each doorway groups of small children, mostly naked, peer shyly around a mother's tattered skirt.

Yet strangely enough, as one approaches the town proper, many vacant plots of more arable and desirable ground, large and small, may be seen—level and fertile land whose appearance of being long unoccupied is accentuated by the sagging, dusty, windowless houses, partly covered by some huge wild vine, or shaded by fruit-laden mango trees, untended. If the villager wishes, he may climb through a rift in the barbed wire or picket fence and pick himself a hatful or stomachful of these abundant fruits that seem to grow and ripen only to rot on the ground.

After insisting strenuously, I was conducted through a typical untenanted parcel of land and was told that although the rental, including a house of four large rooms, was considered quite moderate, the place had been vacant for years. It seemed that the poverty of the would-be buyers, unable to spare even the initial rental, together with the instability of the local government and its inability to guarantee them security, prevented occupancy. Then, too, if rented, how could the place be maintained during the months necessary to recondition this tumbled-down, weed-choked field?

Considering the large amount of idle land, the landowners seem perfectly willing to hold to their high prices and to their land as well. Thus, in limiting the amount of land in use, rents increase as the margin of cultivation and wages are forced lower until it is no longer profitable for the small independent farmer or industrialist to hire laborers and remain in business. Thus, unemployment statistics rise higher.

Meanwhile, increasingly large numbers of idlers and beggars, the latter mostly ragged children, clutter the streets. It is difficult to forget one beggar, very old and ragged, blackened and dried by the sun, who seemed contented to rehearse his "line" time and again in a dreary monotone whether or not there were any passersby to hear. Yet his condition differs from that of others only in degree.

Strangest of all, we noticed several hundred men and women, laborers, streaming through the immigration and customs building. A few of them laughed or smiled cheerfully as they greeted a familiar face but most of them looked sullen and expressionless as they patiently shifted their possessions, tied into cloth bundles, while they waited their turns to enter the immigration office. Then we noticed that those who came out proceeded in groups to the dock where they piled through the side hatches of an old freighter to take their places inside the crowded, stuffy hold. It must have been hot in there for the sun beat down on the ship as though it would blister the paint on its deck and sides.