

## Who's Who in Georgism

Frank Chodorov



Frank Chodorov, director of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York since 1937, was born in New York, February 5, 1887. His parents, who came to America in 1885, had been landowners near Odessa, Russia.

After graduating from Columbia University (A.B., 1907) Mr. Chodorov taught history and English in New York high schools for two years before launching on a business career. It was while with a Chicago mail order house from 1912 to 1917 that he saw a copy of "Progress and Poverty" on a friend's book-shelf and asked to read it. With all the enthusiasm of a recent graduate of the Henry George School, he went out to "spread the word."

In 1917, Mr. Chodorov became advertising manager of a New York clothing house. His first hand study of production and labor problems went hand-in-hand with his activity for the old Single Tax party of which Jim Robinson, Oscar

H. Geiger, Norman C. B. Fowles and Charlotte O. Schetter were among the leading lights. He even started classes in "Progress and Poverty" under the auspices of what was called "The Henry George School of Economics." The classes were conducted entirely on a lecture basis, without benefit of either teacher's manual or printed lesson assignments.

Mr. Chodorov was hired by the New York Clothing Manufacturers' Association in 1921, to operate a jointly owned factory in Springfield, Mass., during a strike. After the strike, the factory was taken over by one of the manufacturers and Mr. Chodorov remained as general manager for five years. He hadn't been in Springfield long before he became president of the Y.M.H.A. in which capacity he conceived his principal duty to be to "teach the kids Henry George." In 1925, he went into business for himself manufacturing underwear and selling by mail. The depression wiped out the business in 1931. In all his peregrinations throughout Minnesota and the Dakotas in the years that followed, prospective buyers had to know their Henry George in order to have the privilege of purchasing his goods!

After the death in 1934 of Oscar Geiger, founder of the Henry George School of Social Science, Mr. Chodorov, though working as salesman on the road, prepared all the circulars for the Henry George School. He spent his semi-annual vacations at the School's headquarters in New York preparing the promotional literature. In 1936 Mr. Chodorov accepted a promotion and selling job so that he could remain in New York. Evenings and weekends found him fulfilling his duties as business manager of the Henry George School. He was selected by the Board of Trustees to serve as the School's full-time director in 1937, and in 1938 he became editor of *The Freeman*.

In the coming years Mr. Chodorov expects to do more lecturing and writing; in fact, at present he has a book under way. In all his work he has the loyal support of his wife, Celia, and their two children, David and Grace.

—JOHN