

Seventh International Conference to
Promote Land-Value Taxation and
Free Trade, Swanwick, Derbyshire,
England—14th to 21st August, 1949.

No. 8

Henry George School of Social Science in the U.S.A.

By Robert Clancy

Education and Patience. With this simple formula the Henry George School of Social Science has grown since 1932 from one room with one teacher and a few students to a great institution with a five-storey headquarters in New York, branches throughout the United States of Canada, sister schools in other countries, thousands of graduates and correspondence students throughout the world.

The formula was given by Henry George. In *Social Problems* he wrote: "Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting; by complaints and denunciation; by the formation of parties, or the making of revolutions; but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas . . . The great work of the present . . . is the work of education—the propagation of ideas."

Elsewhere in his works George expressed the same thought: the need for education, widespread knowledge of the truths he taught; and patience—the willingness to let achievement come in its own good time, when the world should be ready for it.

After George's death many of his followers thought the work could be accelerated. Impressive quantities of literature were distributed and oratory abounded. Not a few Georgeists became leaders in high places. The reform was brought to halls of legislation and in some cases advances were made. But ultimate achievement seemed as far away a generation after George as during his lifetime.

One of George's followers, a New Yorker by the name of Oscar H. Geiger, participated in the movement's various campaigns and activities, but he found himself going back to George's original thoughts on the matter of achieving his reform. At a Conference of Georgeists in 1914, Geiger delivered an address which opened as follows:—

"Fundamental social betterment, to be lasting, must come in response to a demand from the people, and the people