

# A Word With You

LET me tell you something about the Henry George School library.

Bit by bit, over the years, our library has been built up, mostly with donated books. It started with the nucleus of books left by the School's founder, Oscar Geiger. Then, as we sought our absolute charter, one of the requirements was a substantial library, and School friends helped us out with donations of books. One of the largest and finest collections was from the library of the late Chester C. Platt who had been secretary to former Governor Sulzer. (P.S. We got the charter.)

We have not always been so fortunate. There are times when, a few days after the funeral, a surviving relative phones us and tells us we can have certain books from our late friend's library, and presently we find ourselves the possessors of Bobsey Twins and Tom Swift books, a physics textbook of 1910, a worst-selling novel of 1913, a World War I Manual of Arms, a 1928 Guide to Wall Street, and a well-thumbed 1929 edition of *Progress and Poverty*. We can find a use for the P. and P, but the others will have to go to a second-hand bookstore; or in some cases they are donated to other libraries. We've probably had to clear out more books than we've kept.

Some of the clearing out, alas, is unauthorized, and books, especially new ones, have a way of disappearing. The most disappearing books are the ones

that tell you how to make millions in real estate or the stock market.

But this is more than matched by kind donors who anonymously leave their gift of books—good up-to-date works on economics—in the library. If the donor is not anonymous, his name is inscribed in every book he donates.

And the periodicals! They form a slowly swelling tide. Often they are gift subscriptions, and they range from dailies and weekly news magazines to special subjects like organic gardening—and from far-away Tasmania we receive not one but two newspapers. But the core of our periodicals are the Georgist ones. We are trying to keep a complete and permanent file of all Georgist periodicals, past and present.

We also try to maintain as complete a collection as possible of Georgist pamphlets, tracts, letters to editors, manuscripts, etc. For every author, there is a separate folder into which go his contributions. Some fascinating items have been accumulated, ranging from a book of songs sung at Father McGlynn's anti-poverty meetings, to a term paper on George by a current high school student. This enormous mass of material has been catalogued through the kind and patient volunteer services of Mabel Rees.

Come to our library to browse, and be welcomed by our librarian, Muriel Fuller. And if you can donate suitable books, they, as well as you, will be welcome! —Robert Clancy

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The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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