

A Word With You

By ROBERT CLANCY

Attending so many Georgist conferences and events during the past few months, and meeting so many Georgists from all over the world, has led me to reflecting on being a Georgist.

One characteristic certainly stands out. A Georgist is an American, an Australian or a Dane secondly; first of all he is a Georgist. This strong bond seems to tie together people of the most diverse backgrounds.

It is all the more remarkable that there should be such a unity and fellowship amongst Georgists when it is further reflected that they are all such individualists. Add to the differences already existing the fact that each Georgist has his own personalized interpretation of the teachings of Henry George, and the *entente* becomes something of a miracle.

There is a certain chemistry about Henry George's writings that causes his thoughts to blend with those of the enthralled reader, to fuse them in a peculiar, dynamic, personal way. The blending is often such that the reader's own past predilections, preferences and prejudices become "Georgist." This is one of the secrets of the strength and durability of a Georgist conversion. It also sometimes results in pained surprise that there are other Georgists with different inclinations. The disagreements often become intense.

But above and beyond all this, cutting through the differences, stands the magnificent unity of a common purpose, a lofty ideal, a great goal.

When I speak of the readers of Henry George's writings, I refer especially to those to whom George wrote his *Progress and Poverty* dedication (which see). Georgists are high-minded people. They want freedom and justice, not just for "our side" but for all mankind. You'll have to look long and hard for any other group today that can consistently boast that it doesn't want governments interfering with the lives of individuals; nor labor unions creating special privileges for themselves; nor private or corporate monopolists garnering unearned riches; nor handouts to farmers or any other economic group; nor tariffs or any other privilege to any manufacturing group.

But withal, Georgists are not supermen or intellectual giants or out-of-this-world or anything like that at all. Georgists are just like people, and I fervently hope that as time goes on, lots more people will become just like Georgists.