

By ROBERT CLANCY

I got "stung" with the George philosophy at an early age - and by an exceptional person - Oscar Geiger, founder of the Henry George School. He and Henry George left me with something that has lasted through the years.

Yet it has not quite been an automatic carrying on. There has been decision-making all along the line and there have been times when I was at a cross-roads where I had to decide anew whether I would continue actively with the Georgist cause. With all the ups and downs and with the slow progress and setbacks, I do not regret staying with it.

First, I am working with something I believe in. That's important - "to thine own self be true."

Second, I have been impressed by the fact that in all these years I have not encountered any convincing refutation of the Georgist philosophy. It holds up, it conforms to the facts of life, it does not require being an irrational "true believer."

Then I have found validity in what Henry George said about the future of the truth he made clear. He did not promise "easy acceptance," but he did promise that "it will find friends"; and he said that it must eventually be accepted. The first two have proven true, and the third, I suppose, has to be taken on faith. But it is a well-grounded faith, since so much else has failed - and since people, when they do heed the George philosophy, generally agree with it.

There has been progress. Still, I realize it's a long pull. I'm somewhat in agreement with Talleyrand who in serving his country, said "No zeal." Or rather that the zeal should be sublimated into cool and effective effort. Perhaps Jefferson put it in more palatable form: "Patriotism is not a short and frenzied burst of emotion but the long and steady dedication of a lifetime."

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