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I first came across the teaching of Henry George when, in 1952, I read his best-seller, PROGRESS AND POVERTY, and was struck by the sincerity of the writer, and the simplicity and fairness of the economic system he was advocating. I thought this seemed the logical way to go.

As a boy growing up in Ireland I was taught by my parents that good will always prevail. When I asked "Why?" they replied, "Because that's how things are in this Universe". Remembering my parents' words, I ask if George's ideas are basically sound, in both a moral and an economic sense, and so provable in practice, why have they never caught on throughout the so-called civilized world? Why are people still denied the benefits that Henry George said would flow from the universal adoption of his economic system?

I must rule out ignorance because today's top economists and politicians are operating systems that are more complicated than those suggested by Henry George. I'm sure the Rulers of many countries must know the enormous advantage that using the Henry George economic system would confer on the great mass of the people. So, why don't they use it?

I believe the answer lies in a single word: power. Rulers like to feel in control; to be able to manipulate people for their own financial advantage. There have always been those who rule and those who are ruled. Rulers favour an economic system that makes them rich through the efforts of the ruled, who are invariably seen by their rulers as ignorant and often expendable. Example: apartheid in South Africa. Sometimes a people revolts against those who rule and eliminates them, but the system they set up is invariably worse than what they had: e.g. the various

Communist systems that have been tried and rejected.

Looking at the various non-Communist economic systems we find there are still those who work and those who believe that birth or destiny has singled them out as non-workers, people who live with the illusion that the mere possession of wealth, in whatever form, entitles them to live a life of luxury paid for by the masses.

People who milk the present economic systems to their own advantage are not going to change, especially if it means they'll have to give up some of their wealth so that less well-off people may enjoy a better life.

Having found the reason behind the apparent failure of the Henry George system to catch on, we must ask the question: **How do we change things so that Henry gets a fairer hearing?**

I've come to the conclusion the answer lies in spiritual education, which properly understood and used, cuts everyone down to size.

Under the searchlight of truth people realize that in essence we're all equal, all entitled to a fair share of the world's riches. They appreciate that in an ideal world there can be no place for bully boys or exploiters. They see that the Creator, who made everything happen, wants everyone to play the game, so that, in the final analysis, we're all winners.

Once people begin to think along these lines they'll try to find a better economic system than they have. This will be the time that Henry George will come out of obscurity, and "good always prevails", will be proved.

In this world progress never stands still, so another economic genius may come along and show us how the apparently perfect Henry George system can be improved.

The spiritual education that would give Henry George a break, if implemented, would improve every aspect of life. People would become more tolerant and the desire to go to war would lessen. This would allow money earmarked for armaments to be diverted to more worthy causes. Crime would eventually be eliminated. Instead of waiting for the Government or 'Somebody out there' to make it all happen, people would take up the challenge to make the world a better place. Even the Irish people might be persuaded to believe that in the 'Happy Land' there can be no 'bully boys' trying to get even because of past mistakes.

Abridged.