

Henry George Club Forms in Philippines

by NITO DORIA

A FEW months ago I was working in a copper mine in the southern jungles of Negros Occidental. I decided to come over to Manila to propose establishment of a Henry George Club for the systematic dissemination of the abiding truths that Henry George propounded in *Progress and Poverty*, so we as a nation should be able to avoid the pitfalls of Communist deception, anarchy and despotism.

The Henry George Club is predicated upon the importance of the individual to the nation. It is a reaffirmation of my faith in human dignity, and as such it is to be dictated by a high sense of morality. *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George gives us a clue to our economic perplexities, and we can only hope that we will not be late in endorsing it to the nation because of recent ominous eruptions south of our country, the repercussions of which might serve to precipitate the collapse of the uneasy tranquility of our people in these lovely islands.

I think it can be predicted with certainty that if we can stick together and be steadfast in our aim, this organization shall, one day in the future, have become a kinetic force exerting a salutary influence in the conduct of our national affairs.

With the exception of the vested minorities, the Filipino people, have, since time immemorial been suffering from a chronic shortage of the basic necessities of life, and while there is no dispute as to the economic nature

of our basic problem, we find plenty of inconsistency and confusion in the solutions that have been presented. The proponents of one theory seem to believe that our economic problem is due to the fact that the laborer has been getting more than enough compensation for his industry, and therefore ought to be given less by law.

There is one thing that our economic experts have failed to mention—how much out of the total aggregate national production of wealth was taken away by landowners before laborers and capitalists could collect their shares in the form of wages and interest, respectively. This is very significant for the most important element in the production of wealth is land. While labor complains that it is not receiving enough wages, and while capital complains that it is not receiving enough interest, there is silence on the part of landowners. We may, therefore, safely presume that landowners are contented with the status quo.

Henry George long ago unraveled for us that mysterious element that is so perplexing, that element that causes humanity to seethe in discontent and which now threatens the peace of the world. Human beings are bound together by a common destiny, and if we must have equal rights, then we must also assume equal responsibilities.

Mr. Nito Doria is Executive Secretary of the newly formed club. The above remarks are a part of his address at the Panciteria Nacional in Manila on May 18th, in which he explained the factors of production and quoted Henry George.