

## The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

### *The Backward Look*

A few generations ago populous nations found an answer to some of their problems by way of colonization. Lands were appropriated or bought for the crown, and these acquired territories added to the wealth or income of that appropriating nation relieving some of the pressure of over-population.

While in many instances this movement increased the resource and power of the nations so acting, the value continued or declined in proportion as the interests of the people involved were considered. Repeatedly history has revealed that there cannot be exploitation of human life without defeat of the very ends sought.

This result is not as clear in America as in the record of other countries. There is little free land today, and the problems of thousands can no longer be resolved by going West. But the man who gives value to the land, and the land that makes possible the livelihood and productiveness for the man, may still come into its free relationship.

In the memory of many people still living, there was much free land in our country. It was good land. It had little value, however, except in terms of its use. All kinds of inducements were offered in an effort to draw people to the undeveloped areas.

Observations like this may seem unimportant when we think of the clogged mass-living of our cities with their impressive bulk. Still the note sounded in those earlier days is clean and refreshing, placing the emphasis where it belongs.

Productive freedom for man can still be regained by means of Henry George's remedy. Even in crowded cities man may be restored to the land and the land to man, in a way that will create greater and more wholesome wealth for all people. Georgism becomes therefore in its basic principles the most modern and timely of solutions.

Henry George made clear an effective way of uniting human values and land value. Anything, however profitable for some, that does not unite these values, is simply exploiting.

A substantial daily contribution toward realizing his solution would be the practice of respecting the integrity of human kind and a dedicated effort to make all our human relations more satisfactory and mutually good.