

## The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

As personal beings we think largely in personal terms. Logically, perfect attention should bring invariably satisfactory results. One can follow a course of personal attention so far, however, that a point is reached where expected values are dissipated.

End results then make it clear that a person and his possessions take their significant and larger meanings from the whole. Where responsibility toward the whole has been disregarded, the individual suffers loss and dissatisfaction, no matter how attentive he has been.

An ocean liner demonstrates the relation of the individual to the group, for myriads of separate elements combine to make possible a successful voyage. Each member of the crew is a distinct individual, each has his particular task within the limits of which he is master.

It is conceivable that any crew member could, if he pleased, act independently, beyond these limits, without consideration for others. But common sense soon makes it clear that this would lead to conflict and he would be likely to lose his station. Safety and success on the sea are measured by what each responsible person does with the whole in mind, in this case, the ship itself.

### *The Ship of State*

This simple illustration can be applied as well to the land as to the sea. The same degree of cooperation would make it possible for the ship of state to reach harbors of mutual welfare as successfully as ocean liners reach their destinations. By using the same common sense and by following certain necessary requirements laid down for the crew, we could sail on land without landing on the rocks.

The crew member knows, while at sea, that his life and every life may depend on the right mindedness of everyone in command, from the captain down. Similarly the ship of state reflects the attitudes of all its occupants.

While one individual may be free to do as he pleases on land, holding it in some cases, selfishly out of use, there is a point at which such concentration will prove disastrous despite its seeming success, for Nature has made us stewards of the land only.

Self centered disregard for the universal family, membership in which has been forced upon all, is always an adverse factor affecting the peace and safety of all.