

The Spirit of Henry George

By PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY

The spirit of Henry George is the spirit of pioneering—a spirit which is just as vital today as it was during his lifetime.

In retrospect, the most interesting thing about Henry George's writing is that he took a common element which most men took for granted, and brought it into sharp focus. It was merely a part of their lives that was under their feet, and there it remained. It concerned them only as a possession and seemed to be so individual that they could do with it as they pleased.

The Master—Not the Servant

Men scarcely realized that this common element, the land, had more influence upon them than they had upon it. They failed to see that it held power which, if not understood, would become the master of men rather than their servant.

Since that time many historians have become prolific students of government and have observed and charted the trends toward totalitarianism. But in ascribing these trends solely to political influence and the will to power of the dictators, they have missed the vital factor of land values, which often has been the greatest contributing influence.

Writers in the field of romance, too, have repeatedly failed to see that the most vivid romances in the world are concerned with just land—water—and the living things upon them.

Others, of an equally serious nature, have given themselves to the study of philosophy, and have attempted to work out Utopias. In almost every case however, they have been so incomplete in their use of the materials at hand, that they have not been aware of the great human values in land.

Time for a New Look

The time has come to review problems—whether political, philosophical, or fanciful—from the standpoint of the *earth* and the power it wields as people possess it.

For in a real sense, human value, which is the highest value, also includes land value. The consideration of land from this fundamental approach will be more productive than many of the welfare studies now in operation.

Land, as a common element, offers as many fresh angles for pioneering now as ever before.

It is more important to know where you are going than to get there quickly. Do not mistake activity for achievement.

—MABEL NEWCOMER