

Future Heritage

By Lancaster M. Greene

Dr. Dow, famous chemist, poses a vital challenge to human beings when he asks, "Is it so presumptuous to begin with a conception that this world is without plan or order?" This is particularly a challenge to physicists, chemists, mathematicians, economists and lawyers as well as to ministers.

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All these people are working to understand better natural relations or order in this world of ours, in the hope that man may become more fruitful in the future than he has in the past.

Chemists have been the most successful of these groups in reaching common understanding for each chemist insists on describing over 400,000 compounds in such a manner that every other chemist in the world can be sure just what he means by his terms.

While each of the groups mentioned contribute fine teachers to the Henry George School of Social Science, the chemists may have an especially important lesson for all the others in their habits of exact terminology. This discipline is not an accident; committees of chemists have been coming together for a long time to resolve differences in nomenclature as the broadest possible base from which any chemist may start on his research into the natural order of the universe. Each sees the tremendous advantage of avoiding duplication of effort or even conflict based on mistaken concepts of what another means.

Economists probably have the greatest anarchy in the use of terms of any of the scientists named, despite the fact that universal understanding in this science is the most important step forward that can be taken to broaden the base for advance in any of the other sciences. It is the sine qua non for avoiding the application "against mankind of nearly all the forces and laws of nature which science has uncovered for the making of a better and happier living."

Dr. Wilford I. King has been working on a universal nomenclature for professional economics for a number of years, but perhaps the most hopeful sign for the world is the spread of Henry George Schools and extensions, all over the world, bringing adults to common definitions of the important terms in the science of political economy. As this terminology is

adopted by the economist and the man in the street, we shall see a broader and more solid base for the development of every other science.

We can't do much about the heritage we get from our parents, but we can choose the heritage or environment of universal understanding for our children, who may have a chance to take up these sciences from where we have left off.

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