

Wanted: Moral Fervor

by LANCASTER M. GREENE

OUR objective is justice through land value taxation. Our means is involvement in moral fervor. A short term method might be instruction through politics, but it is education—the long term method—which must first thoroughly train students to become competent teachers. Courses offered by the Henry George School, along with reading such as *The Henry George News* seeks to provide every month, make successful teachers who will make other teachers. It is this "leading out" which is significant and gratifying, as discussion causes students to make for themselves the startling discoveries their teachers made earlier.

I shall always be indebted to George L. Rusby, founder of the Henry George School in Newark, who kept "instructing" me for nine years about social justice. By 1934 he was tired of talking and insisted that I expose myself to the discipline of a course at the school founded by Oscar Geiger in New York, using *Progress and Poverty* as a text. This was the most exciting course in economics I had ever taken, and I was soon caught up in George's moral fervor as well as his irresistible logic. It then became *my* Henry George School, and land value taxation was no longer merely Mr. Rusby's cause, but mine. In due course I became a teacher, then a trustee of the school.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, of which I became an officer, pursues another long term plan, by publishing the necessary books used by schools and economists around the world. It also sponsors such educational aids as the film "Land and Space to Grow," and has instituted an annual land value conference where discussions by the professors who are invited

could result in them carrying some of the principles back to their classes.

The June 1960 issue of *House & Home*, personally edited by Perry Prentice, vice president of Time, Inc., has been, especially for the construction industry, the greatest single factor in arousing interest in Henry George's proposal. It is perhaps not generally known that Mr. Prentice began this study years ago because he found architects and the construction firms handicapped by the lack of good sites at reasonable prices. This led him to the Henry George School and eventually to serving as a director of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. In accumulating his research material he consulted Professor W. Mason Gaffney of the University of Wisconsin, who had studied at the Henry George School in Chicago before going to Harvard. The result was an extensive "Land" issue. Reprints are available from *The Henry George News* at 50 cents each.

We have heard at our conference of much needed money for the important political activities, and I hope this will be willingly and gladly forthcoming, but even more essential is the ever continuing long term Henry George School program, which is the basis for all other efforts. Informed students and teachers imbued with a dedicated fervor have a valuable contribution to make. The seed money for this work is required anew each year, and we have not yet learned how to raise enough to give commensurate support to our splendid extension directors. There are many encouraging signs of progress and these will continue, because we are on the side of right. Our educational effort is and must remain synonymous with the cause of justice. Sound principles of taxation are the means.