

the Henry George News

PUBLISHED BY HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE • OCTOBER 1964

"Stronger Than Ever Before"

PERRY PRENTICE

YOU have done something that is very important to the future of millions of people. You have kept the faith alive when too many of the powerful and learned mocked and derided you. You have held fast against the vast vested interest in land speculation. You have raised a standard to which the wise and honest can repair. You have saved one of the great social philosophers of all time from being forgotten. For this the world will have cause to be grateful to you. Each passing week brings new evidence that the time is drawing near for the great ideas you have helped keep alive through so many years of discouragement.

People are beginning to realize the importance of taxing improvements less and taxing land more. Says Professor Colin Clark of Oxford, who is fast replacing the late Lord Keynes: "Today any good economist can demonstrate that the land tax is just about the only tax that does not discourage enterprise."

But comments from men in high places are perhaps less significant than the growing consensus among students of the land problem. Last winter Dean Gillies, director of the Real Estate Research program at the University of California in Los Angeles, said to me: "I think almost everybody out here is beginning to agree that it is important to tax land much more heavily."

Fortune Magazine goes much further. It spells out the "evident inequity in a tax system that puts most of the tax burden on improvements" and goes on to report that "in most areas there is growing local demand for higher taxes on land with an accompanying reduction in taxes on improvements."

It's always easier to see the moat in somebody else's eye than to admit the beam in our own. Pretty much everybody is beginning to understand that without sweeping land reform there is not much hope for most of Latin America. Pretty much everybody sees that the abuse of private property in land is playing right into the communists' hands in many lands whose rickety governments we are spending billions of foreign-aid dollars to keep in power. Pretty much everybody realizes that Castro could never have taken over Cuba if wealth had not been so shamefully maldistributed, with the landowners undeservedly rich and the peasants intolerably poor.

It is one of the tragedies of history that the Russian revolution swerved

(Continued on page 4)



Conference Cameos—Views from the Fringe

Peter Middleton, Australia:

Delegates and visitors will recall a variety of impressions of the 1964 conference with its truly international character and liveliness.

Some twenty countries were represented, embracing a strong infusion of non-white people, among whom we shall all remember with admiration and affection handsome George Collins, recently appointed director at the Philadelphia extension; and the ebullient, eager, yet thoroughly well grounded Phillip Wallace, from Jamaica, West Indies.

There was K. B. Sharma, the Indian-born representative of Kenya, with his passionate anxiety to set up a school in Nairobi and to sap the brains of all and sundry for information on how to do it. And who will ever forget the splendid impetuosity of Phil Wallace's response to Sharma's speech by starting an on-the-spot appeal which raised \$200 and several substantial promises. We were thrilled with the story of a lone man's pioneering when the Reverend Archer Torrey told us of his highly significant work in Korea; and fascinated by another such worker, Raymond Crotty, of Eire, who lectures in Agricultural Economics at the University of Wales. He presented a sober view of the agricultural stagnation and population drift in the Irish Republic, despite its governmental policy of subsidized peasant proprietorship. And who will essay a description of the effect on male par-

ticipants, young and old, of the advent of the charming Miss Joke Sevenster. After reading, in excellent English, her father's message from Holland, she artlessly wandered from the mike to the blackboard leaving us with nothing but a strenuous test in lip-reading. Her brief message of farewell, at the dinner in Philadelphia, will be cherished by all who were present.

An event of another kind, not less satisfying in its evocative power, was the arrival of the gay angel Gabriel (Stampfer, from Grenoble), in the middle of an impassioned speech by Bernie Donohue. The session was written off for dead from that moment. It will be many a day, I think, before the memory fades of the impact on the conference of its Dinkum Aussie, Bernie Donohue, the cheerful, argumentative iconoclast from Sydney, New South Wales, with his ardor for scientific terminology and his debunking of what to him is an unfounded faith in the success of the popular cult of LVT. The intellectual turmoil created by his intrusion of dissent was fascinating to contemplate. It ranged from shock, through anger and incomprehension to enthusiastic support. The satisfied smile with which he eventually retired from battle conveyed his conviction that it had all been well worth while.

Other highlights were the opening address by the president, in which our genial and well-loved Joe Thompson rocked us with a plan for distributing

Vol. 27, No. 10

October, 1964

The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

Publication committee: William S. O'Connor, Arnold A. Weinstein and Lancaster M. Greene, chairman. Editor: Alice Elizabeth Davis. Subscriptions \$1 a year; single copies 10c. Second class postage paid at New York, N.Y.

the surplus rent, when we get it, in the form of a national dividend; the luncheon at which we were given the blessing of the Mayor of New York; the visit to the City of Brotherly Love to view the birthplaces respectively of the United States and Henry George; and the dinner at Temple University where we were treated to a most original address on Henry George's significance as a writer and thinker. Finally there was a closing banquet with stirring speeches by that fine old battling Liberal, Ashley Mitchell; by Perry Prentice of Time, Inc.; and Agnes deMille whose inspiring words lifted us all to the heights. We are all deeply in debt to its two organizers, Bob Clancy and Vic Blundell, and their assistants in London and New York, for an unforgettable international conference.

Dehydrated English Delegate:

It took longer to cross the conference floor than to walk the length of Central Park. One progressed by inches, being button-holed by fellow conferees at every step. Catching the other fellow and dodging the too-enthusiastic became daily more of an art that was not helped by 90 degree heat and humidity. Thank goodness for the ice water, which I had to have explained to me, was for drinking and not for pouring over one's head.

There was one consolation — if you missed an appointment you found your victim, or were found, in McGovern's air-conditioned bar. Here, to be heard you had to raise your voice above the surrounding din. By three o'clock in the morning conditions were better. Those with poor stamina had retired and you could command the floor. Then what you failed to say during the last session could be expressed with remarkable fluency.

The conference was hard on the shy and retiring. Modest people like Harry Pollard had to be dragged to their

feet to say a few words on the single tax. The shyness was a nervous complaint evidenced by their inability, once on their feet, to sit down again. But to be fair, we all had this complaint. There was so much to say—think of it, hundreds of fellow Georgists to be converted to the single tax!

Of course it must be agreed that Americans generally are not yet civilized (except for their remarkable ice water), since tea comes with a sandbag hanging on a string from the cup, and "English muffins" are tea cakes, while milk is "cream" and cream is "custard." The tips plus the tax sometimes seemed larger than the cost of the meal, and two 11-cent stamps set us back 25 cents (from the pecuniary stamp machine). We gave up trying to convert prices from dollars into English money, it was too heart-breaking. But once we learned to think in dollars most things seemed cheap.

Television in one's hotel room was a typical American service. Unfortunately the set in my room worked and it was disappointing to have the advertisements interrupted every few minutes, thus interfering with my cultural indoctrination to American life. The New York taxi drivers are a surly bunch, until you start a conversation, then you get their life story and kindness beams from their faces.

Perhaps the most vivid memory of the U.S. that I shall take back will be of Japan! How come? A visit to the World's Fair included dinner in the Japanese Pavilion. Here was another world. Soft lights, pretty girls and a string quartet. But then this was just the contrast that hit me on a particularly tiring day.

As the events of the last weeks fade there remain the enduring values of firm friendships. Shadowy names so often read in cold print have sprung into life — some larger than life. I find myself thinking of the next conference — it cannot come too soon.

(Continued from page 1)

aside to follow the communist lead of Marx and Lenin instead of its greatest humanitarian, Count Leo Tolstoy, who was a disciple of Henry George, and said: "Solving the land question means the solving of all social questions... Possession of land by people who do not use it is immoral—just like the possession of slaves."

The Chinese revolution likewise followed Marx and Lenin and Chou en Lai down the road to ruin instead of following the path laid out by the philosopher, President Sun Yat-Sen, another disciple of Henry George, who said: "The only means of supporting the government is an infinitely just, reasonable and equitably distributed (land) tax, and on it we will found our new system. The centuries of heavy and irregular taxation for the benefit of the Manchus have shown China the injustice of any other system of taxation."

It's fine that almost everybody here is beginning to see that everybody else needs land reform, but it is much more encouraging that so many see that land reform must begin at home, with the tax reform whose economic impact and moral rightness Henry George so nobly and eloquently dramatized.

It is nonsense to say that Henry George is out of date. The fact is that he was so far ahead of his time that the full importance of what he preached is just beginning to be felt. The moral case for full land value taxation in George's lifetime rested on the fact that the market price of unimproved land derived, not from what any past or present owner had done to make it valuable, but from what other people had done by building a community around it.

In these days of many-times-more-costly schools, libraries, streets, water supplies, sewer lines and sewage plants, the market price of unimproved land derives largely from an enormous ex-

This is a summary of the inspiring address by Perry Prentice at the close of the recent Henry George conference in New York. Mr. Prentice is vice president of Time, Inc. and associated with Fortune Magazine and other Luce publications. He is a director of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, and a cheerful counselor in the fields in which he is an expert.

penditure of other people's tax dollars. For example, the New York Regional Plan Association states the taxpayers will have to spend an average of \$7,400 per added family to provide for the city's population growth from now to 1975. That's another way of saying that if a lot sells for \$8,000, all but \$600 will reflect what other taxpayers have spent to make it accessible and usable. So the moral case for taxing away the owner's unearned increment in the price of land is far, far stronger now than it was during Henry George's life.

The economic case for land value taxation is also stronger than ever before. In Henry George's time our cities had hardly begun to grow, so urban and suburban land prices had hardly begun to climb. In nine years since 1955 land prices have risen more than in all the nine generations of American life on which he could look back.

Inside our cities this tremendous price rise has made urban renewal impossible without big subsidies. Outside the cities high land costs have become the No. one cause of suburban sprawl as home builders leapfrogged far out into the countryside to find land they could afford to build on. And now high land costs threaten to price good new single family houses out of the market.

So Henry George is anything but out of date. Thanks to you who have been loyal through many years of public neglect, his message is alive today to meet our more and more urgent need for them.

Every Continent Represented

"WE don't have to say everything; it isn't the end of the world."

With these words Robert Clancy, the New York director closed a six-day conference in which every continent of the world was represented and thousands of words were spoken. There were brave words, challenging words, wise and witty ones, sober, reflective and earnest ones, always cheerful and pleasant ones, many trusting and loyal ones, courtesy always, defeat or rancor seldom if ever. The measure of respect which all present held for those with whose views they did not agree was characteristic of Georgists.

Every reader should know by now that the conference in New York was sponsored jointly by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, with headquarters at 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, S.W. 1, and the Henry George School. English visitors arriving a few days before the opening date were warmly welcomed as August, which had up to then been the coolest in years, turned fiercely hot and humid. But even this villainy did not dissolve the historic calm of the British.

The address by Joseph S. Thompson of San Francisco, president of both the International Union and the Henry George School, on "Basic Income for Everyone" was capsuled in the September HGN. Regarding payment of "income" to all citizens, it was strongly held in a discussion period that the citizen has a duty to support the government, not vice-versa. The speaker defended his proposal (later facetiously referred to as the "Thompson Plan") by saying that each portion of the "incorporated national resource fund" would be only large enough to prevent dire want. Talented and aspiring people would still feel the desire and incentive to work.

Raymond Moley, Newsweek contributing editor, spoke at a luncheon meeting. Having lived in Cleveland when Tom Johnson was mayor, he was exposed in his early life to Henry George's ideas. However, his present belief in land value taxation has been developed from his observations of government in recent years.

He pointed out that we are facing the nation-wide problem of attempting to check the growth of centralized government and returning some of the responsibilities that have been lost by the local community and the states. The burden of providing services which are either essential or expected at the local level is extremely severe, especially as our farming population is declining and the population of the urban areas beyond city limits, is growing at a very rapid rate. Therefore, it is necessary, unless we are to become entirely dependent on the federal income tax, to exact more revenue from the property tax. A major factor in this is to tax land more heavily and improvements less.

Mr. Moley as a director and adviser of the Lincoln Foundation noted that it had established The Lincoln School of Public Finance at Claremont, California. He indicated that studies there will be focused on taxation generally, with special emphasis on land taxation and land economics. The purpose is to train men and women at the graduate level who will become policy makers for legislative committees, state tax organizations and state tax commissions.

He mentioned that Dr. Archibald Woodruff will go to Australia and New Zealand under auspices of the Lincoln Foundation to make a thorough study of the operation of land value taxation. An important survey is being made under the same auspices

by Professor Mason Gaffney in Milwaukee. This will throw meaningful light on the capacity of cities to finance their needs through LVT. Studies indicate that the central problem lies in the assessment process in the states and local communities which is grossly tainted with politics. The necessity is for trained assessors operating under state supervision.

The Lincoln Foundation has issued a report which Mr. Moley offered to send to anyone requesting it from him at 444 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022.



A Continental afternoon session brought Raymond Crotty to the podium with "The Irish Land Question," and Gustav Bohnsack with Germany's tax on building-land (Sept. HGN).

Miss Joke Sevenster of Holland read a message from her father. This third generation Georgist is the granddaughter of Mr. A. Sevenster, editor-in-chief of the Dutch periodical, *Ons Erfdeel* (Sept. HGN p. 8). Reporting on reclamation of land in the *Zuiderzee* and elsewhere, owned by the state and leased out, it was held that since none of this has been sold, the government must be convinced that land plays a special role. Under a new tax municipal counties will have the responsibility of revising the rates on land and buildings, and it is considered important just now to make people see the difference between these two sources.

Natale Pulvirenti of Milan raised the query "Chaos or Turning Point?" reflecting the widely opposed views of two of Italy's powerful politicians. One offers peasants free land bought with public money; the other, a communist, demands confiscation of big holdings.

A greatly increased number of employees in industry has caused an explosion of consumer demands, with soaring prices and cries for heavier

taxation to decrease consumption. This threat of overtaxation, even expropriation and nationalization, resulted in business failures, credit restrictions and a transfer of funds to other countries. The previous emigration from south to north reversed itself, with again much displacement, depressionary effects and still higher taxes on production and commerce. Big strikes can be expected by communist unions and syndicates; many Italian-Americans who hoped to retire in Italy have become alarmed and are trying to move their families to America.

The teachings of Henry George are sound and logical, said Dr. Pulvirenti, but he observes that in other countries as well as in Italy there is much indifference. "I shall not relinquish our cause," he said, "and now when the 'economic miracle' promised by the communists has come to a sad end people may again be interested in solving Italy's, and the world's, crucial problems."

Max Toubeau is president of the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. He succeeded M. Daudé-Bancel, the former president and editor of *Terre et Liberté* (Land and Liberty). He is the son of Albert M. Toubeau, who was present when Henry George declared in Paris at a land conference that all taxes should be removed from man's industry and placed on land values.

In France everyone suffers from taxes but when LVT is advocated one comes up against old habits which die hard, as slaves curse their chains but fear to be freed. Though aware of the difficulty of the task, Mr. Toubeau and his colleagues show the French what France could be if it would only become inspired with the principles of great men of the past (such as Turgot). His message was translated and read by C. Matthew Ossias, Head of the Correspondence Division of the Henry George School.

Philipp Knab of Vienna sent a report from a country which has learned to accept its "delicate state of neutrality between two dominating powers." The Austrians have "got used to the housing shortage and gradual inflation and they enjoy their cars and television." However, there are sinister threats ahead and possibly an economic crisis of great dimensions. Needless to say, Austria has not escaped deficit spending, and the new government is trying to find several billions of Austrian shillings to make up for what was handed out too freely by an irresponsible parliament. Keynesian methods are supposed to win, since the one man considered capable of establishing monetary stability, and who is aware of the merits of land value taxation, has withdrawn. A small league of Austrian land reformers is trying to advise both political groups as they grapple with the housing problem.

Presiding at the foregoing sessions, all on Monday, were Dan Bjorner of Denmark; Judge John R. Fuchs of New Braunfels, Texas; and Dorothy Sara of New York. Unless otherwise identified, all local chairmen are trustees or teachers from the Henry George School in New York.

"Political Dynamite"

At a meeting in the evening "the two Vics" were co-starred in a presentation of the "Demand for Land Reform in Great Britain." The chairman, Arnold A. Weinstein, an attorney, said at the close of this first conference day that we were seeing a shift from the analytical approach to the functional approach. This describes well the new dimension which made the conference varied and provocative.

Victor H. Blundell, editor of *Land & Liberty*, is also the secretary of the International Union and the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values in Great Britain. He said that many people have taken an interest in

LVT and it has been "blown up very big." In fact, the United Committee has become "almost respectable" and is recognized as an authority. Its special pamphlets are welcomed for use by local government candidates, and articles on land values appear frequently in the newspapers.

When the Labor party put a tax on land values the United Committee of London was consulted, but because its leaders did not understand LVT their suggested reform was very weak. In the Conservative party there is a slight awakening to a need for some kind of land policy, but in the Liberal party (not the same as the Liberals in the U.S.) it has become a major issue, and this party asks for speakers on LVT without having to apologize.

The educational department, or Henry George School, occupies a major position, according to Mr. Blundell, and the activity of the students forms the third wing of the United Committee's campaign. But the greatest single factor accountable for the present favorable and authoritative recognition in England seems to be the Whitstable Survey (HGN May, p. 1 and Sept. p. 3).

The Whitstable story was presented pictorially by Victor G. Saldji in a series of color views of that peaceful seaside city. He called the survey the greatest political dynamite since Winston Churchill's declaration about land value taxation half a century ago. When you can get people to see that a thing makes sense, suddenly you've got a working example. The quiet resort city has leaped into prominence as a result of the publication of this survey. Detailed facts and figures are available on request for students who wish them.

Mary Rawson of Canada has endeared herself to Georgists through her writings, so it was with a flutter of excitement that the faithful gathered on the second day with a dozen

talks and reports scheduled before the nightly exodus and "after meetings."

Miss Rawson and her associate have set up a planning agency in Vancouver. Cities are being rebuilt every day, and some degree of regulation will be required, she said. We need a system of open space. Cities are congested and yet they are full of spaces, and the community has to enter the market to get these sites. The cost of land acquired by the government would be less under LVT, and the benefit derived would tend to be collected more by the public. Where there are adverse effects, as at highway interchanges, LVT would compensate for them. Students were advised to look at urban renewal from the standpoint of the tax burden.

Frank Wiles explained with color slides the "Land Development and Taxation in a Central Commercial Zone" in Vancouver, on which he and Miss Rawson collaborated. This shows the irregular development occurring under present assessment and tax methods, and points out how LVT would act as a "carrot and stick" to encourage building and discourage land speculation.

In the Tuesday afternoon session a world map would have been helpful. The Reverend Archer Torrey of Seoul, Korea spoke of educational efforts being made through the Christian church, at present the only medium through which a "useful ethnic can be introduced in that country." He said there will never be a workable democracy until there is a yeoman class (independent farmers), and he believed LVT would bring such a class and finally democracy to Korea.

Reverend Torrey was instrumental in getting a book published in the Korean language which includes translations of the Miriam deAllen Ford condensation of *Progress and Poverty*,

The Reader's Digest article on land speculation, and explanatory material on the Georgist philosophy in relation to both Oriental and Christian philosophies. This will be used in disseminating Georgist ideas in Korea, and university help is anticipated.

Australia is the country which Georgists boast of as the place where LVT has been successful. Mrs. E. Serpell of Melbourne and Peter Middleton of Sydney filled in pertinent details regarding present conditions in that continent almost as large as the United States, with a population of only 11 million.

A message from Dr. Hengtse Tu of Formosa, now studying in Paris, was read by Trilby Wolff representing the United Board of Christian Higher Education, in New York. This organization supports about six universities in Asia, and made possible the fellowship in International Law under which Dr. Tu is continuing his preparation for a career.

In a moving appeal in which Africa was called the continent of Henry George, Kul B. Sharma of Nairobi, Kenya, told of the urgent need for spreading his philosophy there. "You Americans may claim George, since he was born here and lived here, but now Africa is on the move, millions are fighting ignorance, poverty and disease to achieve progress, but there is also killing poverty, so I claim Africa to be the continent of Henry George." (April HGN)

The old African grandfather, when thinking about the days before the white man, fondly remembers when land was not owned individually but belonged to the whole tribe. Every man had his own plot, but he did not own it nor could he mortgage it or sell it like a car. Land *was* common property belonging to all and used by all. He would welcome a tax to end the bewildering variety of direct and

indirect taxes which he hardly understands but has to pay.

So the basic ideas of Henry George are not alien to Africa. These are needed *now* when a new society is being formed, new nations are being created, and thousands of young Africans are seeking education. The need for knowledge and hunger for printed matter are insatiable. "I have 500 pupils at the college where I teach. Nairobi is cold, but some students walk five or seven miles to school. They want to read, but have not many books or other printed matter on which to test their new skill of reading English. Even week-old newspapers are passed for days from hand to hand. "I wish we could give them the material now before it is too late," he said, "and before they get the wrong literature."

Mr. Sharma requested the conference to set up a school in Nairobi and to send books and pamphlets to him at New Era College, Box 6854, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Kristensens, father and son, were awaited with anticipation, and the junior member, J. H., who spoke on "The Georgist Situation in Denmark" (Sept. HGN p. 5) seemed young in comparison to the maturity of his paper. He is vitally concerned with the economic problems of his country and on his return he planned to enter actively into politics.

The senior J. L. Kristensen, prepared a scholarly Georgist analysis, which will be presented briefly in an early issue of HGN. The second day chairmen were Peter Patsakos, Bill Davidson and Lancaster M. Greene.

The third day, Henry George's birthday, was spent in Philadelphia, but you'll have to wait until next month to read about this delightful excursion. For news of the fifth day World's Fair outing, too, pounce on your November HGN.

The World-Wide Campus

At midweek the emphasis focused on the familiar Henry George School conference, but with a difference. Overseas visitors were eager to hear the experiences of American Georgists. Their curiosity was welcomed by those long in the movement, and their enthusiasm was infectious and stimulating. Spontaneous applause punctuated many sessions as horizons stretched to distant points and enchanting islands. Two sessions presided over by Robert Clancy revealed wide-ranging educational activities, with and without civic overtones.

One was on "Problems of Applying Land Value Taxation," at which delegates huddled in small groups earnestly debating such matters as taxing land value vs. rent, taxation of natural resources, assessment problems, and related matters. At the close of these group sessions each chairman reported on the deliberations. There was remarkable agreement on most points.

Dr. Edwin Rios Maldonado of San Juan was accompanied by Rosendo Marcano and his son. Mr. Marcano is editor and owner of *The Progress*, and is also associated with Puerto Rican radio and television. Dr. Rios was glad to see an audience composed of both old and young people, signifying a link between the old and the new.

Puerto Rico, he said, is a small island where the people want to learn. So he started a school where more than 1,000 students have studied not only economy but the humanities. "We have to be in politics and everywhere," he said, "because we must serve the people in every way." Graduates are encouraged to work for the spread of these ideas and are expected to report on them.

Only the best instructors and professors are selected, and seriousness pervades the grading of lessons and

evaluation of courses. The curriculum covers foreign relations, human relations and *Georgistics*. "We want more people who work," he said, "and who don't criticize but try to do better. We don't believe much in buildings — we preach everywhere, like Christ." The question asked of the students at this unusual Caribbean school is "what can you do for humanity?"

William Camargo, international secretary of the Henry George School, reported for the representatives from Latin America, where there is much resistance to problems that would limit landowners. The socialists and communists say the privileged class must go. It is too late for placebos. Cuba is the greatest catastrophe in the western world. Our philosophy is between the two extremes. Latin Americans are sick of both systems, and this partially accounts for their animosity toward the U.S.

Progress and Poverty is regarded as subversive in one of these highly nationalist countries. Up to now it has been offered only to upper and middle classes. We have to simplify the course and go down to the masses. He suggested making a base in Puerto Rico where students from Latin America could come and study. Action is needed as well as careful training, especially in the techniques of proper assessment.

There are twenty different independent and autonomous Latin American countries with three different languages besides many dialects and Indian languages. Our friends in these countries need more communication between each other if Georgism is to penetrate. If it fails in Latin America it is doomed, said Mr. Camargo, and the chaos on that continent will be worse than it is now, if that is possible.

Most Spanish-speaking students of Henry George are enrolled in the cor-

respondence courses, but follow-up mail is slow. The International Correspondence Department in New York is trying to make up for the lag by writing more personal letters. A revised manual, the new edition of *Progress and Poverty* in Spanish, and Robert Clancy's book, *A Seed Was Sown* in Spanish, will add to the growing interest. In New York a number of volunteers issue a bulletin on Georgist subjects related to "agrarian reform." In Brazil, where the press is state controlled, it was encouraging to find the largest engineering magazine devoting twenty pages to three articles on Henry George and the land question.

James Murphy who has just returned from Santa Maria, the Catholic University in Arequipa, Peru, said the students who were previously exposed to *Progress and Poverty* considered it too theoretical — they wanted something which would give them earning power. Accustomed to voluble student participation, Mr. Murphy was at a loss to understand the rapt silence of Peruvian study groups until he learned that they are always "awed by their professors." Mr. Camargo explained that natives feel freer in private circles where there is less likelihood of being implicated politically.

Phillip Wallace of Jamaica, West Indies, on his second incursion into U.S. Georgist conferences, has gotten the feel of things, and with a genius for timing, managed to inject pertinent remarks at regular intervals. He appreciated the books which reached him after last year's request, and they are being put to good use. Students keep busy writing letters to the press on local matters. Vacationing Americans longing for a Jamaican holiday are advised that the island has thought up a new tax. Jamaica spends thousands of dollars each year advertising for tourists and now proposes to tax them.

Practical Tax Reforms

A legislative and academic session under the leadership of Paul Nix, Jr. brought Weld Carter from Chicago to report on his contacts with economics professors in universities. Under sponsorship of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation this program has brought a new "family" together, as annual seminars are enjoyed by professors who share an interest in LVT.

Miss V. G. Peterson, executive secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation also referred to the seminar which this year was held in Milwaukee. Under skillful efforts a "neutral image" has been created by the Foundation's American Journal of Economics and Sociology, and it has won the support and respect of the academic world. Now 12 years old, this journal carries its influence into 32 foreign countries.

The RSF is becoming increasingly known as a stable service organization where people can get information cheerfully and without charge. It was established in 1925 to promote the economics of Henry George and rescue his books from obscurity, and there has never been any diminution of this aim. Two new editions of *Progress and Poverty* have appeared recently. One in modern Hebrew was the result of much initial promotion by Louis Weitzman, a former trustee of the New Jersey Henry George School. With the help of the Jewish National Fund the new book was introduced with éclat, and copies have been placed in every library in Israel. The other edition is in Spanish.

The Henry George Foundation at Pittsburgh, according to its executive secretary, Percy R. Williams, is the "oldest but not the richest" Georgist foundation in existence. It was inaugurated 38 years ago at Henry George's birthplace in Philadelphia and has been concerned ever since with local

tax situations and making its influence felt when possible. The Graded Tax Plan was a triumph for the HGF fifty years ago, and if it seems not to be appreciated at home, at least it has been studied and described around the world. Pittsburgh owes some of its favorable international fame to the HGF, since its tax plan is being copied and publicized in land-hungry Hawaii.

The president of the HGF, John Fuchs, a retired judge of Texas, prepared and is promoting an amendment to the state constitution. Mr. Williams and the Judge were pleased with the practical aspects reported at the conference. We used to argue about whether rent entered into price, said Mr. Williams, now we are moving toward application.

Erie, Pennsylvania would become a leader among American cities, wrote W. Wylie Young in a newspaper advertisement, if it would take advantage of incentive (LV) taxation. The Erie Land Tax Association composed of Junior Chamber of Commerce members, is patiently continuing under Mr. Young's direction, the long educational campaign that seems necessary before the established tax pattern can be dislodged. Naturally there is an obstacle. But when was any worthwhile reform easily won? ELTA leaders now know some of the things to avoid, and one is a committee!

If Erie doesn't hurry, Southfield, Michigan may have the honor of being the first city in the U.S. to benefit from improved tax methods. Robert Benton, director of the Detroit extension, brought news of fast growing Southfield, where James Clarkson, a former Georgist instructor, is mayor. Following an objective reassessment as reported in HGN in July, Southfield's construction has moved 33 per cent ahead of last year, and Mayor Jim has lost nothing on the budget. Much new

building in single family residences reflects the satisfaction of homeowners with their tax reduction. Yes, facts and figures point to Southfield as having some land value taxation soon. It all came about in a relatively short time; not without a struggle, it's true, but without casualties. And all because one man who became interested in the HGS classes in Detroit, went into politics and campaigned fearlessly and fairly for LVT.

•

"All we want to do is take the taxes off improvements and personal property, for homeowners are paying much more than their share," said John Nagy, president of the Statewide Homeowners Association of California, which may soon become nation-wide. Business men know there is something wrong, and chances in California are good. There are nearly 1,000 homeowners groups in the state and yet not one of the legislative advocates in Sacramento spoke for them until the Statewide association was organized.

State legislators must be made to see which taxes encourage land specu-

lation and how they influence the farmers, businessmen and cities. So far 26 local homeowner groups have become affiliated and will receive tax information to help them understand the importance of fighting the tax inequities. Following exposure in the press, radio and TV, legislators are becoming better informed and more responsive. Where the slogan has been to invest in land and make millions, we say "invest in industry and make millions," said Mr. Nagy. "Industry provides jobs and jobs are what we need. Who needs land speculators? Nobody!"

•

There was an agreeable aura of success about Montreal's presentation on Saturday, as three large boards filled with reproductions of thousands of columns of favorable French and English newspaper articles were displayed. This was confirmed by Raymond Perron, the director, and Ben Sevak, chairman of the Canadian Research Committee formed in 1959 for graduate activity. The committee studied unemployment and its relation to tax-

LAND — AUGUST 1960 vs. SEPTEMBER 1964

Georgists will long remember the Land issue of House & Home four years ago, where more land value taxation was recommended. Perry Prentice was its editor and publisher. But House & Home has changed hands. The September 1964 issue gives a report on land, much as the August 1960 issue did, reiterating that land is still housing's No. one problem and that spiralling prices are squeezing the housing industry. But one comes suddenly to a separate item, unrelated to the main argument, on "Why site valuation tax is no panacea for land problems." Here the single tax is very briefly explained. Ten remaining paragraphs are devoted to opposing it with frequently heard and self-contradictory objections, such as that the single tax would encourage over-development; that it would drive down land values; and that landlords would milk their tenants even more than now. Also that it would not be enough by itself to cure slums, since zoning, planning, etc. would still be needed.

One wonders why the new House & Home printed this item, especially as there is a strong argument later on emphasizing the need to assess land for taxation realistically so as to avoid land speculation. Their proposed solution to the land and housing problem seems to lie mainly in planned communities and cluster developments with landscaping and trimmed-down costs. However, we are glad to note that at least the need for better land assessments is included in their observation.

We regret this deflected course and can only hope that the new editors will not lose sight of housing's No. one problem, the high price of land; and the No. one solution, higher taxation of land values. — R. C.

ation injustices, and has prepared Parliamentary briefs annually with increasing effectiveness. Last fall the president of the Montreal District Homebuilders Association came out against land speculation in many TV, radio and press interviews.

This splendid group of Georgist graduate students is now carrying on a study with Mary Rawson for the Town Planning Commission of Quebec to define the phenomenon of land value and suggest means of controlling land speculation, and this time they are being paid for their efforts.

Understandably confident and encouraged, the committee now looks forward to receiving a federal charter. Five years of work with carefully qualified workers have paid dividends in service and satisfaction. Ray Perron feels that other alumni groups could undertake similar researches, and he urges them to do so, wherever there is mutual accord and wise leadership.

The Public Revenue Education Council of St. Louis was started by Noah D. Alper, and although he has resigned as director of the school's extension he will continue as president of PREC and will always be a part of the Georgist movement and beloved by all. The educational material he has prepared is being distributed through worthy channels, and all those who took home samples of PREC letters and folders will find these invaluable, for the logic is persuasive.

Noah, whose life has been a total and shameless dedication to Henry George's philosophy, is known in St. Louis newspaper circles as an inveterate letter writer. He is troubled when his students go out among their friends and are challenged in such a way that they are embarrassed. This is the penalty of trying to defend a little-known or unpopular point of view. Noah has

discovered his own answers, but has not found a sure way to help students meet the criticisms of detractors. Some people carry lumps of sugar for city horses, and some scatter seed for those unwanted pigeons. Noah Alper fills his pockets with school booklets.

John Lawrence Monroe, director of the Institute for Economic Inquiry, made a brief but welcome appearance. John has come up through the ranks, having been for years director of the HGS extension at Chicago. In guiding the destiny of the IEI his appeal is aimed at industry where he has found, after a period of testing, a wholesome acceptance. On receipt of requests from interested organizations a portfolio or long-playing record will be sent with directions for starting and conducting a study group.

The principles of taxation commonly associated with Henry George are introduced into these discussions but no textbooks are used. Experience indicates these employees prefer to reach conclusions by the evidential method.

George Tideman of Chicago brought to conference attention a staggering instance of unrequited labor. Displaying a too-little known work, the voluminous concordance to *Progress and Poverty* by Helena Mitchell McEvoy, he offered this rare collectors' item at a mere \$3.50 a copy, while the limited edition lasts. This price covers only the barest publication cost, which means that the many painstaking years of work by the author, went without any financial reward and far too little recognition. The entire and overwhelming task of typewriting was done too, as a labor of love, by Mrs. Elsie Brady. Every Henry George school and library needs copies of this invaluable reference work. Write to George Tideman, 309 North Belmont Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois, before the supply is exhausted.

Dr. Robert Andelson, former director of the San Diego extension, now professor of philosophy at Northwestern State College, Natchitoches, Louisiana, surprised friends with news of the Tax Reform Association of Louisiana, Inc. He finds the state's industrial development lagging because of historic patterns of land ownership "hobbling economic progress through discriminatory imposts."

E. W. Walthall of Pensacola, Florida, generously made it possible to conduct an objective professional study of the Natchitoches area, and the results indicate great benefits possible through adoption of LVT. Lack of assessment uniformity among parishes has resulted in a few progressive regions being forced to supply public revenue for the rest of the state where assessments are miniscule. The new TRAL is proposing liberation of the products of private effort from the burden of taxation, and the use of scientific assessment techniques.

Legislation for reforming the state property tax system is now being drawn and display advertising will introduce the educational program. Key legislators have already received copies of *Taxation's New Frontier*, by Joseph S. Thompson.

A Henry George School would make the work easier, said Dr. Andelson. The principles of LVT could then become living instruments of social progress instead of neglected passages buried in constitutional verbiage.

From September 3rd to 6th inclusive, school directors gathered every morning to exchange experiences, while others went on well-planned tours with Adele Buckalter. A good deal of banter entered into these amiable squabbles, as when they discussed "meaningful objectives," and ways of measuring whether or not these had been reached. There was a noisy session on teaching methods, too, with

many helpful suggestions. One that lingers is from Mr. Rennie, a Scot, "listen more than talk."

William Jocher, a teacher in New York, said "the remedy proposed by Henry George, 'we must make land common property,' is damaging, and too often students do not read page 405 which states that he is opposed to confiscation of land."

Here are a few sample comments: Blundell — once we concede that it is private property the owner is entitled to income from it. Tideman — we are unnecessarily defensive about the phrase. Pollard — it already *is* common property. Donohue (Australia) — get rid of the freehold idea. Chairmen for the four sessions were James Ramsay of Toronto, Mina Olson of Chicago, Elisabeth Breese of Syracuse, and Richard Grinham of London.

There was as always a heightened air on the banquet evening. Joseph Thompson was the perfect chairman. He brooked no dalliance even during the surprise of the evening, when Dorothy Sara, a faculty member, presented Robert Clancy with a gold watch and lots of love from directors and teachers. She was reduced to clipped phrases by the West Coast raconteur and member of the Commonwealth Club.

Agnes deMille put a strong message into a fast-moving rocket: we are on the verge of a kind of revolution, but it is not racial, it is economic; and it is your duty and your privilege to explain it everywhere so people will not continue in the confusion of national tangles they are struggling in now.

Ashley Mitchell said the conference was tremendously encouraging to "an ancient veteran of fifty years." Even the partial light which freedom shed on Greece allowed wonderful things to happen there, but liberty must be accepted wholly or she will not stay, and the price of liberty is eternal vigi-

lance. Our enemy never sleeps. Get as many classes started as you can before hostilities break out, he warned, you can't get them after political trouble erupts.

Perry Prentice spoke next — he smiles at you from page one.

•
A Sunday morning session accorded mike-time for famous last words. M.S. Lurio of Boston said the conference could be summed up in one word, "growth." John Tetley of Newark termed it "enjoyable, interesting and fruitful." Bob Tideman said he would return to work with "fuller mind and stronger heart." He extended an invitation from the Northern California extension in San Francisco for next year's conference (this was later accepted). To Sidney Evans of San Diego this one was his best.

Kul B. Sharma, with the impetuosity and gravity of youth, called it the biggest thing in his life. "You can just imagine what a tremendous impression it made on me and how many ideas I gleaned," he said. "We are going to start the Center for Economic Inquiry on the right foot. I want to be in touch with you. Please keep in touch with me, and keep me going." He proposes to send a set of color slides showing life in Kenya which can be circulated among the extensions.

Mr. Sharma is 25. Just a week before he left for the U.S. he married a lovely Indian girl in Delhi and went to Kashmir for his honeymoon. From New York he will return to Kenya, the home of his parents. The bride, having left her ancestral home in India will be there awaiting him, for the Indian girl leaves her parents to live for the rest of her life with her husband's parents. That is why, said Kul proudly, you never see old people alone or neglected in India.

With the conference a week old there were still some who had not seen the headquarters at New York.

So all who remained took off through Central Park to lay a wreath at the Henry George tree in memory of Joseph A. Stockman, for many cherished years the director of the Philadelphia extension. Arriving at the school what was more appropriate than to hear two talks — one on money by Foxhall Parker of Texas, and one on capital and interest by Charles F. Leonard of California (available on request from him at 1445 Oak Meadow Road, Arcadia, California). The RFS film "Land — And Space to Grow" was shown. There was a reading in observance of Shakespeare anniversary and a piano composition by David Solomon especially for the conference.

The beleaguered sisters, Roma and Neva Bianco, in charge of registrations, closed their accounts which miraculously balanced, and the conference creaked to a close.

•
On Monday, Labor Day, the remnant crossed the border into New Jersey and had a pleasant day visiting the school in Newark, where they were greeted by their hosts, Dr. Geoffrey Esty, Alexander M. Goldfinger and John Tetley. The rest of the holiday was spent picnicing in the park.

Finally, in retrospect, one sees Georgism as fluid and unfinished. In Peru and Puerto Rico it combines comfortably with a Catholic background, in Korea with a Protestant Christian one; in Africa it will have a Hindu exponent, while in the West it is considered by some as a substitute for religion or opposed to it. In every country it shifts with the political climate, sometimes toward the welfare state (in Mr. Blundell's words, the farewell state), and sometimes against.

Henry George was a prophet who could see in the future a need for increasing vigilance. But on recent sultry conference afternoons, even the most conscientious of his followers were sometimes found napping.

Henry George Week

HENRY GEORGE was born September 2, 1839. For eleven years September 2nd has been known as Henry George Day in New York, to be observed in a fitting manner. This is the first time, as far as is known, that an entire Henry George Week has been celebrated.

Just before the International Conference opened, a striking parchment from the office of Mayor Robert F. Wagner called "the attention of the people to the 125th anniversary of the birth of Henry George, the 85th anniversary of his masterwork *Progress and Poverty*, and the significant contribution made by this renowned American," naming the week of August 31st to September 6th in his honor.

The proclamation referred to George as "a man of letters whose profound thinking in economic science and political economy and whose lessons in progress and poverty won for him the commendation and respect of scholars and statesmen from his own time to the present day," and whose "expert diagnosis to cure the many problems that cropped up in the nation's great

industrial progress inspired the establishment of an educational institution, non-profit, non-sectarian and non-political, for the purpose of teaching fundamental economics and social philosophy."

Though his widest and latest activity was in New York, Henry George was born in Philadelphia. Equally impressive, therefore, was the document from Mayor James H. J. Tate, naming September 2nd Henry George Day and urging Philadelphians to honor a distinguished author and economist and join in recognition of the International Conference bringing together members from Europe, Australia, Asia and Africa, who would visit the birthplace of Henry George at 413 South 10th Street on that date.

In like manner good Mayor James Clarkson of Southfield, Michigan, requested homage to "this outstanding American author and statesman" on the same date. Chicago also participated in a proclamation to observe the memorable day, as did Syracuse, New York and Newark, New Jersey, among others.

Next month read Professor Clyde Reeves' views on "The Paradoxes of Henry George" and other conference echoes, as well as news of recent Georgist activities.

Mr. Robert Clancy,
33-53 82nd St.,
Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.