

Henry George Newsletter

VOLUME 50, Number 7

July-August 1986

“GRAND FINALE”—HENRY GEORGE DAY

In an effort to publicize and celebrate the works of Henry George, the School has asked state and local governments from across the country to proclaim May 5th Henry George Day. Proclamations have been arriving during the past few months. Here are several more which comprise the “grand finale” of Henry George Day activities.

NEW YORK —

Mario Cuomo, Governor of New York, issued a proclamation in which he says;

“One name which stands out in the 19th century is economist, philosopher and political scientist Henry George. To eliminate the abuses he saw and chart a safer course through the future he envisioned, he proposed a tax to land values only to provide for all people’s needs. . . It is fitting that a day be set aside in remembrance of a man who preached peace and brotherhood among men a century ago.”

Another resolution has been read into the state record by Senator Marino of New York. He calls George “one of the most widely read and influential economists America has yet produced.” He continues, “The writings of Henry George. . . were written in a language accessible to non-specialists in the field of economics and gained for their author a broad following among working men and women around the world.”

ILLINOIS —

In the state of Illinois, Governor James Thompson, in the proclamation issued from his office, speaks about the political relevance of *Protection or Free Trade* today. The Governor calls George “a famous American philosopher, author and statesman who made significant contributions to economic thought.”

The Governor continues, “Inasmuch as Congress is debating raising tariff rates and abolishing reciprocal trade agreements with other nations. . . This book remains the best text to study all argument as to whether tariffs are needed or if we should have total free trade. . .”

**Henry George
Newsletter**
published by
**Henry George School
of Social Science**

Lancaster M. Greene
Chairman
Publications Committee

Stanley Rubenstein
Director

Laura Smith
Assistant Director

Subscription: \$5 yr.
For change of address
5 E. 44th St.
New York, NY 10017
(212-697-9880)

AFFILIATES

LONG ISLAND

P.O. Box 553
Cutchogue, NY 11935-0010

PHILADELPHIA

413 S. 10th St.
Phila., PA 19147

NEW ENGLAND

114 Ames St.
Sharon, Mass 02067

CALIFORNIA

Box 655
Tujunga, CA 91042

63 Chattanooga St.
San Francisco 94114

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Isabel La Catolica #212
AP #758, Santo Domingo

CANADA

School of Economic Science
2267 Westman Rd.
Mississauga, Ont. L5K 1M7

3017 25 St. SW
Calgary, Alberta T3E 1Y2

NEW JERSEY —

Two New Jersey resolutions — one from Senator Feldman, the other from Assemblyman Mazur — proclaim May 5th Henry George Day. The event was noted in an article in a local New Jersey newspaper, the *Palisadian II*. The proclamations state that "Outstanding in the 19th Century is the name Henry George. . . To chart a safe course through the future, Henry George. . . proposed a number of reforms affecting the quality of life of all the citizenry of our nation, including an equitable property tax, the elimination of urban blight and the wise use of natural resources. This House honors the memory of the man who advocated peace and brotherhood among men."

School Notes

SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco School has been busy organizing a program of events to celebrate the anniversary of *Protection or Free Trade*. Activities included a seminar by the Junior Statesmen of America with student debates, dinners, an essay contest "Invest in America," the distribution of informational flyers and a proclamation by the Mayor of San Francisco naming May 5th Henry George Day. The Northern Californians celebrated Henry George Day in style.

LONG ISLAND

A group of twelve Georgists, many coming from the Long Island Executive meeting, recently traveled from Long Island to the Henry George Birthplace in Philadelphia.

George Collins, Director of the Philadelphia School, spoke to the group about the historical significance of the Birthplace and its many memorabilia including Henry George's bed and foot locker, and a first edition of *Progress and Poverty*. The group spent the afternoon visiting other historical sites in Philadelphia.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Council of Georgist Organizations met at the University of British Columbia in Western Canada to hold its annual conference May 24th and May 25th.

Ted Gwartney, Commissioner of CEO of the British Columbia Assessment Authority, welcomed the group on Saturday morning and reported on activities in Canada. Mr. Gwartney detailed the workings of assessment in his province and spoke about the computerized approach used in maintaining properties assessed at full market value.

Mal McCarthy, from the Ontario Province, reported on his progress with Site Value Assessment in Peterborough. After receiving reports from Quebec, Colin Bonner explained the P.E.P. League's plans and Jerry Shaw commented on the plight of the oil industry in Alberta.

Georgists spoke about the U.S. movement — from President Charles Ingersol's report on the lawsuit to his Fairhope Single Tax Corporation to Earl Hanson's update on the International Single Tax Association. Progress reports on the past year's work were given by Felice Gruskin for the Transit Riders in Pursuit (New York), and by Mary Davis for the Georgia League for Land Value Taxation. Stan Fredrikson spoke on the Public Revenue Educational Council (St. Louis), Nadine Stoner on the Wisconsin Property Owner's League, Steve Cord and Dan Sullivan on the Henry George Foundation and the newly formed Common Ground, an umbrella organization for all Georgist Organizations.

Continuing with a tight schedule, Colin Bonner, during the evening session, discussed the budget difficulties faced by both Canada and the U.S. His talk was called, "The Budget Can Be Balanced—Now."

Jack Schwartzman and Robert Clancy, in recognition of the achievements of Canadian economists, developed and quoted from Stephen Leacock, Robert Mundell and Robert Service. Professor Schwartzman read excerpts from the many-sided Stephen Leacock, stressing his contribution as a humorist. Mr. Clancy quoted and commented on Mundell and Service.

After the evening session, Robert Clancy received a plaque from the trustees of the Henry George School in recognition of his decades of dedicated service to the Georgist movement as Director of the School. Mildred Loomis received the annual Newcomb award.

On Sunday morning, Fred Harrison, editor of Land and Liberty, related his experiences of several days spent in Northern British Columbia with native Indians. This was followed by workshops on publicity and alternative forms of money and credit.

Sunday afternoon began with reports from United States branches of the Henry George School. Stan Rubenstein focused on the developments and results of the nation-wide high school program. George Collins spoke on class results in Philadelphia, Ernest Kahn for the New England area, Dionne Marx for San Francisco and their five part seminar program, Stanley Sapiro for Los Angeles and the progress of their Adult Classes.

Oscar Johannsen reported on the annual results of the Schalkenbach Foundation, mentioning their continued publication of Georgist books, activities at Pace University and Williams College and seminars at the University of Scranton. Floyd Morrow, representing Basic Economic Education (San Diego), commented on his mayoral campaign and the injection of Georgist philosophy. He also spoke about classes and seminar activities. Robert Clancy of the Henry George Institute summarized the progress of correspondence courses.

During the final session on Sunday evening, Ed Dodson resigned as Deputy Chairman of the CGO and was replaced by Jeff Smith. It was decided that San Diego would host the 1987 annual conference with tentative plans for 1988 in the South.

Henry George School of Social Science
5 East 44th Street
New York, NY 10017

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Jacob Himmelstein
137 Union Avenue
Bala Cynwyd PA 19004