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Charles Erwood, Editor

DEWEY CALLS ECONOMICS COCKEYED AT FELLOWSHIP MEETING;  
PRAISES GEORGE'S CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCE

New York, (HGNS)--Speaking at the organization meeting of the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship, Dr. John Dewey, distinguished American philosopher and Honorary President of the Henry George School of Social Science, called this a cock-eyed world from an economic point of view. The school is combating "economic illiteracy", he said, however.

"I read a recent book by Walter Lippman", Dr. Dewey said, "in which the author realized the sharp difference between proletariat and plutocrat - a difference beyond that of money, and who says 'this division does not exist as long as there is free land.

"As a remedy, Mr. Lippman neither advocates a change in our policy of land ownership, nor does he propose calling a halt to the present unsocial uses of rent; instead he advocates more government directed social service.

"Such a policy is comparable to a physician who, knowing the anopheles mosquito to be the cause of malaria, would not use preventative methods and destroy the breeding places of this pest but as a solution would increase the supply and improve the methods of distributing quinine."

Going on to cite a case with which he was personally acquainted, Dr. Dewey told of a family which moved out to Denver, and because of lack of money to pay for the transportation charges on a grand piano, traded the piano for a small sum and a strip of land in Denver, at that time a frontier town. Later, when the state capitol building was erected near the site of their holding, they became wealthy through the enormous increase in the value of this strip of formerly worthless land.

"If we were to ask most people what they thought of this, they would reply that this family was 'lucky', he continued. "We who have studied Henry George know that they had merely acquired the right to appropriate wealth from the community for the right to use that land."

The present governmental efforts at slum clearance, though well-intentioned, were severely criticised are branded as worse than useless under our present system of land tenure by Dr. Dewey. Every time some project of this type is mentioned and funds allocated for its work, the land owners and real estate dealers raise the price of their holdings so high that it is next to impossible to purchase the land on which these eye-sores stand, to say nothing of the objections raised by the owners of antiquated tenements and underimproved residential property at having to meet this new competition.

And, he continued, if the work is successful in surmounting all these obstacles, the increased value of the land, is reflected in increased rents of the improvements and is so great that the very people for whom the work was undertaken cannot afford to live in the new buildings.

Furthermore, Professor Dewey declared, the soil erosion program with its attendant power projects now proposed by the national administration, its most beneficial undertaking, will, in the end, result in the taxpayer paying for improving and increasing the value of land privately owned.

"From an economic point of view, this certainly is a cock-eyed world", he averred.

"I do not believe that Henry George said the last word on the subject of economics, but I do believe that no sound economic movement is possible without tackling the land question along the lines pointed out by this great economist and social philosopher", Dr. Dewey concluded.

Dr. Dewey, who attended the meeting as the guest of Anna George de Mille, daughter of Henry George, declared that he was proud to be the honorary president of so fine an institution and that the school had his best wishes for a continuation of its rapid growth and development.

#### NEW YORK CHAPTER EXPANDS; PLANS LAID FOR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

New York, (HGNS)--at the organization meeting of the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship held here May 6, at Pythian Temple, an effort was made to mobilize the alumni of the Henry George School of Social Science into a body of workers to aid the growth of the school. Arthur H. Vetterman, president, presided.

The chapter was launched on Feb. 13 and held its first meeting and elected temporary officers on March 10. It has been functioning since then under a steering committee who has organized the most important activities under committees.

Mr. Vetterman made an appeal for the support of all graduates of the school,

"What we need now is man-power", he declared. "We have the organization; it is functioning; what is needed now to make it an important factor in the growth of the movement is the strength of numbers."

Will Lissner, Chairman of the Writers Committee, which though it preceded the chapter has combined with it to give all aid possible, gave a report of the projects now under way and those still in prospect. Among them is a journal of opinion, similar to the old Public, to present the Georgist viewpoint on current topics. Mr. Lissner continued his report by calling on the chairmen of sub-committees under his direction.

Madeleine Swarte, member of the board of editors of the New Standard, official organ of the chapter, told of a personal experience in interviewing Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh. In completing the report on The New Standard, Mr. Lissner told that it has published three issues, and in spite of lack of money, it seems to be a going concern.

A summary on the work of the Henry George News Service was given by Charles Erwood, editor, who pointed out the importance of coordinating the work of the extension classes and Georgists who are scattered throughout the world. The news service is now serving 66 newspapers and 200 extension classes, Mr. Erwood said.

David Chodorov, chairman of the committee on cooperation with the Georgist press, told of his plans to have libraries situated near various New York colleges carry a full complement of the Georgist publications. Mr. Chodorov enticed, cajoled, and pleaded for incoming members to join his committee. The arranging of garden parties is also a duty of this committee.

An important phase of the writers committee is being carried on under the Committee on Publications, E.W. Bell, acting chairman. Salvatore Fiore, Jr., secretary of the committee, reported in Mr. Bell's absence that they are contacting prominent Georgist letter writers to further the writing of letters-to-editors and mistakes and misinterpretations of Georgist social philosophy are being corrected. A thorough classification of writers, both geographically and by subject, is being made.

Mr. Lissner finished the report of his sub-committees with an appeal for aid in the various activities, present and projected.

Alexander I. Muson, chairman of the Promotion Committee told of the birth of the New York Chapter in answer to the inevitable question: "What are we going to do about it?", and outlined the plans of his committee in answer to that question.

"We must aid the school to secure as many students as possible", Mr. Muson said, "And we are going to go about this in every conceivable manner."

Reporting for Don Marcellus of the Research Committee, Miss Alfhild Johnson spoke of the need of having concrete proof of the benefits of land value taxation. "If we Georgists are called on to show what effects this measure would have", she said, "we must have statistics on its effect in aiding business and agriculture."

Mrs. R.S. Tipson, chairman of the School Committee, related the work being done to make the school a more comfortable place in which to study. Reports of the Library Committee and the Public Speaking Committee, under Otto J. Fox and Mr. Fiore, respectively, were made.

Robert Clancy, who reported the progress made by the Library Committee in establishing and classifying books in the seminar room, told of the need of a Georgist art group.

"Other social philosophies have been given expression through this medium," he said. Mr. Clancy is now engaged in painting murals for the school library.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Miss Edith Lee Salkay in the absence of Miss Joan F. McNally, Secretary of the Fellowship.