

"Keep Alive the Teaching"

FROM Progress, the Australian Georgist journal, we learn that Henry George was honored at a gathering in Melbourne with an address by Dr. C. K. Ravasz, president of the Sydney Henry George School of Social Science. Following is a summary of the address as it appeared in the Melbourne publication, Progress.

"Henry George lived a very rich life and took part in many activities. In his thinking he got back to fundamentals of social problems. How can we introduce people to George? It is not easy to put him in a category.

"As a scientist, he tried to make economics a science, writing the book, *Science of Political Economy*. His thinking had links with the physiocrats, but he improved on them. He could also be grouped with the classical economists and had affinities with the radical economists such as Mill and Spencer. . . .

"It is as a social reformer that we remember George. In his fundamental thinking he was a revolutionary. His aim was that everybody should get the full fruit of his labor. His unique contribution is that he aimed to **ACHIEVE SOCIAL JUSTICE THROUGH FREEDOM**. Most others wanted to achieve it through regimentation. His teaching, that of conforming society's laws to natural law, is the only one that shows justice and freedom going hand in hand.

"Georgist groups are to be found all over the world today. In America, his homeland, he is considered one of their greatest political philosophers. The Henry George School flourishes with thousands in classes and thousands of graduates throughout the country. Canada also has branches of the school and some land tax appli-

cation. South America, where similar ideas were advocated before George's time by Rivadavia and others following, today has little application of the ideas in legislation.

"In Britain there were great efforts along Georgist lines in the past, particularly sponsored by the old Liberal party, but no application as yet. The School is very strong there, with many branches in London and provincial centers, and in Scotland and Wales.

"In Europe there was a strong physiocrat tradition in France, Belgium and Holland before George, and continuing, but little practical application. Denmark stands out as a stronghold of Georgist ideas, shown by many writers before George and since. Great progress is being made there today. An increment tax has taken almost all increase of land value since 1936. Until recently the Justice party (Georgist) was part of the government, and there are other Georgists outside the party. In Spain a small group publishes literature, and in Germany, where there was once a very strong membership, new groups are emerging. A German edition of *Progress and Poverty* has just been published.

"Russia's great Georgist was Tolstoy, who had many followers, but the Revolution swept them away. However, today the importance of rent is again being studied and many conferences are held on the subject which is dealt with in Marx's third book.

"China: The outstanding name here is Sun Yat-sen, who, around 1910, advocated Georgist ideas. But the Communists today are not following him in land reform methods.

"A co-ordinating and strengthening influence for the Georgist world is the International Union, with headquarters in London. Under its auspices, conferences are held every few years in different countries with representatives from all over the world.

"Many have adopted Georgists ideas in a diluted form. We must there-

fore keep alive the teaching in its purity and pass it on to others. We have to be topical, up-to-date in our approach to people. What George wrote is timeless, because he wrote about principles, but we must apply these to today's conditions, always keeping the great aim in mind — Social Justice."



ERIE JUNIOR CHAMBER ENDORSES LAND VALUE TAXATION

The building industry, building trades workers and all the extractive industries of the country will be aided by land value taxation, according to the Erie, Pennsylvania Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Charles A. Hall, chairman of the land value taxation committee of the Erie Jaycees, and a past president of the organization, said the Erie group is the first Junior Chamber of Commerce in the United States to endorse the idea of exempting buildings and improvements from property taxation, and shifting the tax to land values. This action is the result of months of study and research by a committee formed last May.

Mr. Hall said the Erie Jaycees will campaign to have the Erie city council adopt the tax shift, and will work with other local groups to have it done. Erie is one of 48 third class cities in Pennsylvania allowed to exempt buildings and improvements from local property taxation. He said Erie should use land value taxation to increase its prosperity, stimulate building, renew its downtown area, help industry expand and reduce taxes for most home owners.

"Untaxing buildings will just naturally produce more construction of every kind. This will not only put construction people to work, it will also result in more work for loggers, miners, truckers, factory workers, as well as those engaged in agriculture and livestock fields." The U.S. economy needs land value taxation to make it stronger, the committee chairman said, and there is an increasing awareness all over the country that land value taxation is overdue in the nation.

"So far, only two states, Pennsylvania and Maryland, have laws which allow buildings and improvements to be untaxed, but California, Texas, Michigan and Montana have groups which are pushing for the legislation. It is the hope of the Erie Junior Chamber of Commerce that Erie will adopt land value taxation. When Erie does so, other third class cities in Pennsylvania will follow. When that happens, other states will follow the lead of Pennsylvania, and the entire U.S. economy will be stronger." Mr. Hall believes land value taxation should be the backbone of the competitive enterprise system.

The Erie assessor's office is making a study of land value taxation, and the idea is also suggested in the Erie Workbook for Community Development Action, published by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

A LEAGUE TO UNTAX BUILDINGS was formed last month in Detroit with Joseph J. Pietruska as president, and Adam Kempa as secretary-treasurer. Its purpose is to inform citizens of the necessity of eliminating artificial barriers to the production and distribution of wealth and services. Voluntary contributions will be welcome. Membership dues are from \$3 upwards. Members receive bulletins informing them of tax developments.

A LAND VALUE TAXATION COMMITTEE organized in Boston by Herman Halpern, a recent graduate, meets regularly and sends out letters and printed material borrowed from the Incentive Taxation Committee of San Diego. Eventually they hope to press for an amendment permitting separate rates on land and buildings.