

HENRY GEORGE NEWS

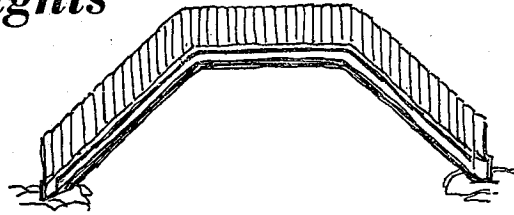
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The Bridge of Sights

Henry George's Principles—
How Can They Influence
Our Life and Times?



THE Philosophy of Henry George is like a bridge which, if you hold to it, will hold you. This bridge spans a stream, not of water, but of the raging torrent of world problems. It offers a substantial vantage point from which one can view those problems from above, without passing through or around them.

It is a Henry George principle that the value of land is contributed by the people. This point of view can be applied to every concern. If we pursue it faithfully, estimating everything by the principle that value comes from people, many constructive changes will emerge. Adjustments never before thought of begin to reveal themselves as a result of this basic insight that *human values are intrinsic*.

This is another way of pointing to the centrality of human values. What people are, not what they have, determines values. By making a broader survey of the world and things of interest, with that principle in mind, innumerable circumstances can be intelligently spanned. The bridge of Henry George's principles enables all who use it to have more influence upon those situations for which we have now no answer. Often there is nothing but confusion. We feel we must do something about them, but for want of understanding we either dismiss them or put them in a pigeonhole of our minds for future consideration and then move on to the next thing. At last our minds become cluttered with postponed attempts at solutions and unresolved questions. That state tends to give us a mind-set, which in turn develops a habit of unconscious evasion.

Setting the Sights for a Correct View

A beginning could be made on most of the questions that press for answers, if we would mount the bridge and view these torrential eddies objectively, without becoming a part of them. This image we use is purposely that of a home-made bridge—one that belongs to us and is of our own construction. With this as a tool of our thoughts we shall not be forever victims of a world that disregards us—instead we shall be gathering up as we proceed.

There are values of and within every person. By establishing this basic principle of human worth, we shall conserve and enrich the fundamental force from which value comes. This will lead to articulate efforts and invisible waves of influence that should bring into operation actual ends, possessions and achievements.

Many students of this philosophy are oppressed by the lack of response from the world to what they see as being important. They are likely to be unduly impressed by negative forces, and sometimes to enter into acrimonious debate

growing out of their interest. Such debate accomplishes the least for their purpose.

But if we can see the principles as a bridge spanning every circumstance, of whatever nature, and coming down to earth again, we will still be in progress and will have taken no detriment. The strongly and intelligently held logic will be more robust than ever; and the more it grows in silence and detachment, the more freedom there will be for the individual. And freedom within has more power than freedom without.

Re-Study of Henry George

A deeper understanding of the real spirit of Henry George will be necessary before such clear-mindedness can be fully achieved. Every thing else is secondary. We must become broader and more unselfish—observing not only the words of Henry George, and not only the satisfactions that come to us from them—but the heart and soul of Henry George. There is a way to feel with the heart, not only with the mind, what it was that captured him and made him a leader, endearing him to all who knew him.

The time has come for the school to find its way through all the circles of interest that surround the man for whom it was named—for the school has come of age. When it is approached with the proper sensitivity, a spiritual quality can flow into all that is attempted, thought and seen, bringing to the name, and to the school, the driving heart throbs of a man who saw people and cared for them. If once a new sense of that great soul could take hold of us, a survey of the school might well follow.

It may be helpful to think of the school as a tree deeply rooted in the life of Henry George. Pruning here and there may be necessary, but that can be done skilfully with the clear motivation resulting from a new vision. That will mean—not to enthrone a school—but the spirit of the principle of a man—and bigger than the man—a universal principle in the school. For all that goes under the name of Henry George, and all who consider themselves part of the school, will have actual meaning only as all unite to form a bridge on a solid footing. This month we begin, therefore, a series of attempts to understand anew *the spirit of Henry George*. We hope this column (page two) will be a source of inspiration for instructors and students. In these two categories we include all readers, hoping that all who are not instructors, are still students, irrespective of their age.

The Henry George News in April
will wear a new Easter bonnet!