

the Henry George News

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Anniversary Year

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Henry George's birth in 1839; also the 85th anniversary of his masterwork, *Progress and Poverty*, which first appeared in 1879. Henry George was dubbed "the Prophet of San Francisco" by an opponent, but as often happens in such cases, the name was affectionately adopted by his followers. Coincidentally, some of his anniversary years have been fateful for civilization, dramatically illustrating his predictions of disaster if justice were not followed.

On the 75th anniversary of George's birth, 1914, the first World War broke out. The 50th anniversary of *Progress and Poverty* came in 1929, when the stock market crashed and the Great Depression began. On George's 100th birthday, September 2, 1939, World War II commenced. On that day an international Georgist conference was in progress in New York, and Judge Samuel Seabury gave an address on Henry George at a luncheon at the World's Fair.

Referring to the theme of the World's Fair, he said: "If we try to envision, in view of our present location this afternoon, 'the World of Tomorrow,' I have no hesitation in

saying that if the world of tomorrow is to be a civilized world, and not a world which has relapsed into barbarism, it can be so only by applying the principles of freedom which Henry George taught."

We do not know what portentous things 1964 holds in store, except that, 25 years later, another international Georgist conference is planned for New York* and another World's Fair is to be held here.

We can only hope fervently that George's present anniversary will not be marked by world catastrophe. Perhaps it is time for another of George's predictions to be fulfilled: that the truth he taught would eventually be recognized. George said that it would come, whether with the carolling of larks or with the beating of war-drums. We've had plenty of war-drums; perhaps it's time for the larks!

"She is not yet here," wrote Henry George of Liberty, "but yet she cometh. Lo her feet are on the mountains—the call of her clarions ring on every breeze; the banners of her dawning fret the sky! Who will bid her come and welcome? Who will turn to her? who will speak for her? who will stand for her while she yet hath need?"

*At the Henry Hudson Hotel, August 30-September 5. Plan now to attend.