

The Last Campaign

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these goods. Henry George discovered this law that the common fund should supply the common wants. We should be thankful for this revelation and pray that more would have the wisdom to understand it."

This, we believe, constitutes a fitting epitaph for our beloved friend who can no longer be reached at 725 Bakewell Building, which now becomes the address of the Pittsburgh extension.

A temporary committee, meeting in Mario L. Bove's office adjoining Mr. McNair's, arranged shortly after his death, to rent the ex-mayor's office and convert it into headquarters for the Henry George School in Pittsburgh, as a memorial.

No more fitting tribute could be paid to William N. McNair by those who feel they owe him an undying debt of gratitude. The person who is making financially possible the continuation of Mr. McNair's office as school headquarters, wishes to remain anonymous.

Friends of the deceased, both new and old, in Chicago, St. Louis, Boston, New York and other cities where he was well known, extend sympathy to Mrs. McNair—also to members of the Hungry Club and other inner circles where the smiling, friendly personality of "Bill" McNair will be sorely missed.

St. Louis

MAYOR WILLIAM NISSLEY MCNAIR addressed the second Commerce and Finance luncheon in St. Louis at the Mark Twain Hotel on September 9th, where he discussed the "Pittsburgh Plan of Public Revenue." Three daily newspapers carried stories of this address and all stressed the theme: "Pittsburgh Plan of Heavy Tax on Land Urged for St. Louis."

Present in the audience were visitors from St. Louis industry including a representative from one of the world's largest shoe manufacturing concerns, an outstanding manufacturer of electrical equipment, executives from a small steel fabricating company, a large chemical company, and the printing business; as well as members of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce and of the city government's comptrollers' and assessors' department. B. M. Nevins presided and introduced the Ex-mayor of Pittsburgh.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat quoted Mr. McNair as saying: "Adoption of the plan in Pittsburgh has encouraged new construction, discouraged speculation in land and increased the purchasing power of hundreds of thousands of residents."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch took this from Mayor McNair's talk: "The Pittsburgh graded tax, as it is called, encourages new building, discourages speculation in land and helps shift the tax burden from small home-owners to wealthy landowners."

The St. Louis extension of the Henry George School planned to celebrate its formal opening of the 10th year of school work with observance of the 109th Anniversary of the birth of Henry George at a dinner meeting on September 9th. The guest speaker for this occasion was also to have been the Honorable William N. McNair.

Some eighty friends and graduates of the school assembled at the St. Louis downtown Y. M. C. A. with R. E. Hansen as chairman for the meeting. Certificates were handed to members of St. Louis' first summer session in basic economics.

When the speaker, Mr. McNair, failed to appear, B. M. Nevins and Edward B. Case set out to find him. They were told at the hotel that word had been received of his death at Union Station where he had taken his wife to catch a train for Houston. The Mayor suffered a heart attack while leaving the train. Unfortunately it was not known by those seeking to aid the stricken man, that Mrs. McNair was on the train (which did not leave the station for some twenty minutes following). Mrs. McNair received the news by wire at Bismark, Missouri, though from a description given by a woman who had tried to aid him, she knew it was her husband.

Following receipt of this tragic news, the announcement was made of Mr. McNair's death and at the suggestion of Joseph Widmer the audience stood for a few moments of silent communion and tribute, and the meeting adjourned.

All St. Louis papers published accounts of the Ex-mayor's passing, and the Post-Dispatch reported: "McNair's death caused the cancellation of the observance of the anniversary of Henry George, whose single tax proposals were enthusiastically advocated by Mr. McNair throughout his long political career."

We are sorry to lose him. I am sure all will feel he died on a battle front fighting for principles to which his life had been devoted. It's one of life's little ways of letting us know just who is boss.

—NOAH D. ALPER

Chicago

"**T**ODAY is New Year's Day," said Mrs. Edith Belle Matts, daily volunteer at headquarters, referring to the day after Labor Day. And she was right, for at that time vacationing graduates came back to work in earnest for the school's "new year" of classes opening October 4th. The graduates launched a double-barrelled campaign for enrollments and funds on September 8th, starting a program of 1,000 personal calls over the Chicago area. The calls involved a request for financial support but were also an effective means of distributing the class literature. Each graduate called was asked to hand out five of the new fall '48 bulletins to his friends. Leaders of this campaign had previous valuable experience in two campaigns in June.

The drive for students has been fortified by a series of three newspaper advertisements in two metropolitan papers, and by free newspaper publicity. A story on the campaign in the Sunday Chicago Tribune brought Walter Tefo, West Side regional chairman, nine telephone calls from friends and business associates inquiring about the campaign and classes.

A new venture in class promoting is under way at Milwaukee, which is serviced by the Chicago school. Klaus L. Hansen, engineer-inventor, is seeking enrollments by a direct appeal to pastors of the more than 200 churches in Milwaukee. Basis of his appeal is the report on "the

church and disorder of society," submitted at the World Council of Churches meeting in Amsterdam recently, and "commended to churches for their serious consideration and appropriate action."

An advisory council of thirty-one members of the Commerce and Industry group met at a luncheon on September 8th, to discuss and make recommendations for the year's program. In a poll of the members, 14 expressed the wish to participate in a bi-weekly seminar. Selecting from seven texts suggested as a springboard for discussion, the group showed a preference for the works of Dr. Harry Gunnison Brown, particularly *The Economic Basis of Tax Reform*. His talk before the group in June left many with a desire to know more of Professor Brown's economic analysis.

Featured this term for the first time is an advanced course, "The Thought and System of Henry George," a downtown seminar to be taught by Gustave Carus, attorney, teacher and trustee of the school. This seminar will include selected readings from Henry George's writings, from *The Philosophy of Henry George* by George Raymond Geiger, *The Theory of Human Progression* by Patrick Edward Dove, and other outside reading.

Honors have been coming to school folk and their families. Jane Leslie Monroe, headquarters volunteer and 14-year-old daughter of John Monroe, in September won the annual Senior Ballet Award of the Edna L. McRae School of the Dance, after a competitive exhibition in the Fine Arts building. A seven-month student of ballet, Jane competed with advanced students ranging in age from 14 to 20. Receiving honorable mention in a photographer's beauty contest recently was Carol Frenzel, four-year-old daughter of faculty member Herman Frenzel.

The Chicago school, his frequent host, is saddened by the death of Pittsburgh's William N. McNair, who, until the last, fought for legislation and practices based on the principles of economic justice. When McNair came to speak, it always meant "good box office" for the school. The earliest memory is of his address at its first commencement in 1934. This year he addressed the Commerce and Industry luncheon in March, and in May spoke at a special hearing arranged for him before the Commission on Revenue Laws of the State of Illinois, under the provision of the General Assembly.

Dan Brink, a former Chicago resident, who is in Oak Ridge for construction work, recently wrote in a letter published in the News, of his lonesome but persistent attempt to introduce the book *Progress and Poverty* into the public library. He now has succeeded in including in a local extension course sponsored by the Division of Oak Ridge Schools and the University of Tennessee, a series of free courses dealing with the philosophy of Henry George in social science, or *Fundamental Economics*. Four books by George serve as texts in this course which was listed in a prospectus mailed out to 10,000 persons.

"The principles of the text, *Progress and Poverty*," we read in this prospectus, "are applicable for study today, though the book was written in 1879. The subtitle indicates the importance of this study: 'An inquiry into the cause of industrial depressions and of increase of want with increase of wealth; the remedy.'"

For this particular Oak Ridge experiment, you can best learn of results by watching future copies of The Henry George News.

NEXT MONTH

Henry George and the Problems of Our Time

By GLENN E. HOOVER

Professor, Economics and Sociology
Mills College—Oakland, California

An Address at the
HENRY GEORGE BIRTHDAY DINNER
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