

# the Henry George News

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## New York Area Land Values

FOR the annual banquet of the Henry George School on June 2, more than 200 Georgists met in the Seventh Regiment Armory at Park Avenue and 67th Street. Paul S. Nix, a trustee of the school, was the chairman and read a cordial message from the president, Joseph S. Thompson of San Francisco. Four speakers; Alexander Frame, Charles F. Leonard, Gerald Schleicher and Max Flechner; discussed the application of land values. Their views are reflected on succeeding pages in this issue. Mr. Nix said purists might wince at some of these suggestions, but while Georgists are known to be individualists, all can agree that a little bit of land value taxation is better than none.

Sloan Wilson, author of *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*, was the final speaker. He said he was not a tax expert but he got interested in the George movement and was fascinated by it because it gave an idealistic, practical vision of what might be done, and it seemed to offer a coherent plan.

"I cannot understand why people do not grow more indignant with present tax practices which seem to me in many ways dangerous," he said "The income tax as it is now administered is subject to so many interpretations of unclear laws that nobody knows where he stands if he's making very much money, and even if he's

not. I think this gives unusual power to people in Washington, and at the state level, so that we are no longer governed by law—we are governed by people—which is dangerous. A great many live in fear of having their taxes investigated and this gives the government a power over individuals which, if continued, can rob us of our basic freedom. Because if you are afraid somebody can come down and put you in the clink or disgrace you or take most of your money, you are then very careful, and if you are very careful, afraid to speak out, you're not a free man.

"You people who have been working toward this are reformers at heart and this country needs reformers. There is a dangerous atmosphere nowadays that suggests the patriot is that man who keeps quiet, while the person who speaks up and rebels at things he does not like is often criticized as not being patriotic. I too am a crusader. I think it is necessary to stand up and say what you think, and say it loudly, in any kind of forum that you can find, and to propose whatever plans you think are right. I know all you people have this kind of courage or you wouldn't be here tonight. The main reason why I came here, not being a tax expert, but being something of an expert on dissent, is that I want to congratulate you."