

Henry George Enterprises

AT THE recent joint conference of the Henry George Foundation and Henry George School in Pittsburgh, brief reports were offered on various activities related to and outside the regular school curriculum. The number of such activities has increased noticeably in the last few years, and this program grows more important each year.

Percy R. Williams, speaking of the Henry George Foundation said he had enjoyed acting as host to the conference, which was held on the campus of Chatham College. The Foundation was born at the Henry George birthplace in Philadelphia, now the headquarters of the Philadelphia extension. Its main interest is a long-range campaign to pave the way for political action and realize the profitable benefits of land value taxation now.

W. Wylie Young, representing the next oldest tax group, the Economic Education League, paid a tribute to its president, Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, author of *The Self-Supporting City*, *Common-Sense Economics* and a new booklet "How About Your Town?" among others. This group and the Henry George Foundation have always cooperated closely in trying to do practical things. "It is slow up-hill work," said Mr. Young, but having a law in Pennsylvania giving permission to individual cities of the third class to assess land separately from buildings, makes a big difference. In all other states new legislation is required before any such tax reform could be instituted.

Sidney Evans of San Diego brought news of the Incentive Tax Committee. He also mentioned that a study has been undertaken by a research organization of high repute, Griffenhagen-Kroeger of San Francisco, on

how the proposed amendment AC 43 would operate in Fresno County, California. It is to be completed by November 15, 1962.

Edmund Darson of Detroit reported for the League to Untax Buildings, which is attacking the tax problem from the home owners' point of view. The motion picture "Land—and Space to Grow" has been presented with success, and speakers address meetings held by other civic organizations. Their spokesmen are telling people to get the valuations reduced and fix up old buildings. The president, Joseph Pietruska ran for the state legislature in the recent election and made a good showing.

Jack Motley was called on to share the exciting news that a number of politically-minded actionists have formed an association to issue a newsletter, and "get the show on the road." New groups need encouragement, and since there are several isolated groups from coast to coast, all trying for some kind of civic reform but having no contact with each other, it seemed as if a national group should attempt to coordinate the others, perhaps establish more, and support all candidates. The time may be right to start and pound away, he said, at least it may be time to begin, since one has to begin somewhere. Referring to the article on land speculation in the July Reader's Digest, he hoped the Digest would receive enough comments to make them feel there was a wide interest. The ELTA's of Erie ordered 10,000 reprints for distribution in their Pennsylvania city—it's easier to get people on your band wagon if the band wagon is moving, Mr. Motley said.

Robert Clancy, who acted as chairman of the meeting, commented at

this point on how encouraged everyone would have been a few years ago if they could have foreseen that all these things would be happening. Both education and political action are needed, he said, but they are two different things and should be kept separate. He introduced Noah D. Alper of St. Louis as the "missing link" who fosters education with a passion as director of the St. Louis extension, but who also reaches thousands through his Public Revenue Education Council.

Why PREC? Mr. Alper said he needed something for the graduates to do. He thinks we need many avenues of expression and believes eventually one will tend to dominate. He applies the strategy "divide and conquer," and said there is a demand for both capital and labor—where is the difference? But if you separate capital from land title interests there is an opposite in the landowner. Work to pull capital and labor together, he urges, in booklets prepared by PREC which have gone out to thousands of colleges and other organizational groups.

When you have laid out the avenues, you have laid out their sources, he insists. You know the relationship of rent to wages and interest, therefore you know the only sources we can draw are the rewards of human effort and rent of the earth—the very basis of public revenue. It's not an all-at-once idea, but it's an idea that can get into the mind. And an idea in the mind can become the irritant that will build a philosophy.

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, once almost the only other group to report at these sessions, now reflects a highly professional approach to an ever-widening opportunity. Miss V. G. Peterson, the Foundation's secretary, brought the message from this the "publishing arm," born in 1925 to "teach, expound, and propagate the ideas of Henry George." She spoke of grants given at various times to stu-



V. G. Peterson and Robert Tideman

dents interested in Henry George who are going on to study for Ph.D.'s. It will be interesting, she suggested, to see what comes of these efforts after the students thus helped have become teachers and pass their knowledge on to others.

A second edition of the German translation of *Progress and Poverty* has recently been subsidized by Schalkenbach in response to increased use of the book by German correspondence-course students, and a translation in modern Hebrew is under way. A book on free trade has been commissioned, and the manuscript is expected within the next three months. Another new publication is a pamphlet for use in college classrooms. A survey revealed that professors would welcome such a booklet *if* it was unbiased.

Well over a million people have seen the Foundation's film, "Land— and Space to Grow." A second motion picture script is under consideration, and there will probably be a movie on Canberra (Australia).

Visits to many colleges by Weld Carter have done much to soften a hard-bitten point of view here and there, and to discover friends who agree with George's conclusions. An Academic Institute was held at Boulder, Colorado last August to discuss "Land Value Taxation and Contemporary Economic Problems," and another is scheduled for November, at Monti-

cello, Illinois. The November meeting will have as its theme "Urban Economic Problems and Land Value Taxation." A lecture program, which calls for interested professors to speak at selected colleges, is also under way. The first of these talks will be made in November.

Activities in Korea, which were stalemated for a time, are being revived by Eva Maxwell who recently returned to Seoul along with her husband. Mrs. Maxwell hopes to get classes started in that corner of the world, with the help of the new Korean Translation of *Progress and Poverty*. (See also pages 5, 6 and 7)

Robert Tideman, director of the San Francisco extension, described how students have begun to hold joint meetings with other local groups and also to form smaller units within the Henry George School, on a continuing basis. A grassroots movement is therefore being planned to keep up interest and financial support, with the school as the "father image." Each new group will be a controlled branch of the school and will develop toward a chartered autonomy. To gain its charter a chapter must be at least three years old, have not less than 30 graduates, and meet certain requirements as to its officers, contributions, publicity and speaking engagements. After winning a first charter the group will be encouraged to go on and win second, third and fourth class charters, with increasing autonomy. Under a fourth-class charter a branch gains the

power to elect new board members. This plan is expected to draw in new graduates and perhaps lead to a fundamental rearrangement in the organization.

Peter Patsakos, International Secretary of the Henry George School in New York, reviewed the work of the foreign language correspondence courses. He reported seven and a half thousand inquiries from Latin America for the course in Spanish, as a result of advertisements. Several hundred have already enrolled and some have completed the course. A certificate in Latin is given to all who complete the course in Spanish as well as in German, Italian and French.

On the European continent advertisements have appeared in newspapers in Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland. From one advertisement in a Milan newspaper 1200 inquiries were received. The German students use the condensed version of *Progress and Poverty* and are the most thorough. They return all class assignments typewritten. From Israel most requests for the course are in English, though it is hoped it can eventually be offered in Hebrew. The big problem is to find enough teachers who are skilled in these various languages. Mr. Patsakos made an appeal for anyone trained in Spanish, French, Italian or German, who is qualified to interpret the George philosophy, to prepare succinct statements about land value taxation, since there is very little foreign language material available.

AGNES DE MILLE, the celebrated author and choreographer, granddaughter of Henry George and a trustee of the Henry George School, has written a third book entitled, *To a Young Dancer*. This handbook for young dancers has received the same enthusiastic praise from critics that greeted her earlier books *Dance to the Piper* and *And Promenade Home*.

HARRY GOLDEN, publisher of the Carolina Israelite and prolific author, who was the main speaker at the thirtieth anniversary banquet of the Henry George School in New York in June, has brought out a new book right on the heels of his biography of Carl Sandburg, this one called *You're Entitled*.