



Robert Clancy (left) and Miss V. G. Peterson.

The Tree Grows Strong

ON SEPTEMBER 2 New York friends honored Henry George's birthday by a visit to Central Park. It was a pleasure to see how straight and tall the sturdy six-year-old tree has grown which was planted there in his memory.

Informal remarks by Robert Clancy, Lancaster M. Greene, Thomas Gilmartin, a song by Marjorie Dare and a poem by Mabel Rees made up the program, after which Miss V. G. Peterson laid a laurel wreath at the foot of the tree. Following are Miss Peterson's remarks on that occasion which stirred all listeners.

"It is fitting that this tree shall stand here, in this memorial grove, to remind the people of the city of New York of one of its most distinguished citizens. It was placed here in 1946 by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation with a fund subscribed by Georgists from all parts of the country. This tree is their tree—their tribute to the memory of the man who set our high goal.

"A white oak was chosen because the white oak grows slowly, but strongly, and becomes a great tree which lives for a century. It is symbolic of the work of the Georgists. That work is growing slowly but strongly. It will become a greater work, and will some day bring a better way of life to the world forever.

"It is appropriate that a laurel wreath should be placed here on this 113th anniversary of George's birth. Laurel was used by the ancient Greeks as a symbol of fame and honor and throughout the years it has commemorated deeds of courage and achievement. George deserves it on both counts. He went forward bravely in the face of opposition which would have cowed and killed the spirit of a timid man, and in the end he gave his life for his just cause. His signal achievement was to speak out for freedom

—full freedom—and to show how by a change in our economic structure this freedom could be achieved. In effect he said, 'What you produce is yours, what I produce is mine; but what neither of us produces—we all must have the right to use.'

"I am deeply moved that I was the one chosen to place the laurel wreath of our remembrance here today. I do it now in the name of George's followers the world over, and in the challenging words of George Washington, spoken at the Constitutional Convention.

'Let us raise a standard to which the wise and honest can repair, the event is in the hand of God.'

"We have such a standard, ladies and gentlemen—a standard to which the wise and honest can repair. Henry George raised it in 1879. Let us hold it high and proudly. *The event is in the hand of God.*"