

## Manhattan Single Tax Club

The Club has embarked upon a course of action to do all in its power to spread knowledge of the Georgeist philosophy while there is yet time. In this program—as outlined in a circular recently sent out—are the following points:

1. Revitalizing the Club to bring it up to its standing under Henry George, and make its influence felt throughout the country.
2. Publishing its paper, *democracy*, weekly to spread sound economic teachings.
3. Cooperating with other Georgeist organizations.
4. Interesting the public through radio talks, lectures and the dissemination of literature.

## Arden Celebration

The annual Henry George Day celebration was held in Arden, Delaware, on Sunday, September 8. Arden is an "enclave of economic rent" administered under the single tax principle, on the outskirts of Wilmington. The attendance at the meeting was good, and the speeches were well-received.

The principal speaker was Harry Weinberger, who delivered an address on "Liberty in a Dark World." Dr. Henry George III (grandson of Henry George), spoke of the pioneer spirit as being an important factor in the greatness of men like Henry George and Mahatma Gandhi. Julian Hickok and Harold Sudell of Philadelphia spoke. Mrs. Katherine F. Ross, former Trustee of Arden, spoke on the Arden Deed of Trust, and paid tribute to Frank Stephens, founder and guiding spirit of that little community. In her talk, Mrs. Ross said:

"To be able to grant basic justice and freedom, involved in the equitable Use of the Earth, upon which, together with Free Trade, depends the just distribution of wealth, requires an instrument, such as a Constitution, or, as in the case of Arden, a Deed of Trust, to keep it inviolate. And that is what the Deed in Arden has been designed to do for Arden. Should the Trustees perform a dereliction of duty in respect to this underlying intent, they can be forced to resign, but no Court of Law, I am told on authority, can dissolve this Trust.

"This instrument, that prevents basic aggression on the part of individuals, groups of individuals, or a majority, in its preservation of Equal Rights in the Use of the Earth in Arden, although other adverse unnatural conditions may overshadow its effects, is the highest, the simplest and most fundamental social guide that has ever been devised, and Georgeists have the privilege to pay it honor."

Dr. Henry George was drafted by the Trustees of Arden to fill a vacancy on their three-member board. The position is a life-long one. Dr. George is president of the Delaware State Osteopathic Society.

## The School of Democracy

Within a year at least, two new schools teaching Georgeist principles have been started! One is the We, The Citizens School (reported in the last issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM*); and now we have the School of Democracy. This new School is being started by Mr. Harry J. Haase, in collaboration with Mr. Charles H. Ingersoll. The present headquarters are at the Manhattan Single Tax Club, 1165 Broadway, New York City, in Room 203.

Classes are being held daily at 5:30 and at 8:00 P. M., and on Saturdays at 2:00 P. M. Several Georgeists have become interested in the idea, and some are starting extension classes, among them Mr. Byron T. Conrad, of Bellerose, Long Island.

Mr. Haase has circulated a number of Georgeists urging them to cooperate. The prime purpose of the School is to "convince the layman that the only workable basis for democracy is equality secured through the collection of economic rent." Cooperation is invited, in the form of "physical, mental, moral or financial assistance."

## Great Britain

Our commendations go to our British colleagues who are carrying on so bravely amidst air-raids and the general disorder in the present crisis. Mr. W. E. Fox, Henry George School leader, continues his classes, which opened October 2, at the Battersea Central Library. The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values sent Georgeist literature to the Annual Conference of the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland, held September 12. Altogether, 1,190 copies of each piece of literature were sent, and a number of Town Clerks responded, saying they were giving the matter their attention.

A Georgeist working in Ireland reports that the spreading of economic truth is impeded by the political division of that country. "The Six Counties is the last Tory fortress," he writes to *Land & Liberty*. "The partition keeps the political issue before the Irish people to the exclusion of the economic problem and serves the same purpose that Home Rule served in England. I don't expect much progress in our lines till the partition is removed; but it is well to spread the light amongst the more far-seeing people, which I am trying to do as opportunity offers."

Mr. F. C. R. Douglas, the new Georgeist M. P. from North Battersea, is losing no time in speaking for sound economic principles in Parliament. In a debate on the Finance Bill, August 6, Mr. Douglas condemned the Purchase Tax as being both unjust and unsound. In concluding, he said: "Reference has been made today—and very properly, I think—to the circumstances which we shall

have to face after the war, because our troubles will not then be ended. One of the problems with which we shall then have to deal, no doubt, will be the question of putting into employment those who are taken off the production of munitions and implements of war, and the tax on land values, which the Chancellor has rejected, would be a valuable instrument in securing that the idle resources of this country were put into use in order that its idle people should be employed. I hope that question will yet be pressed to an issue, that the Purchase Tax will be repealed, and that better taxation will be placed in its stead."

We should like to call our readers' attention to our new British correspondent, Douglas J. J. Owen. Mr. Owen has kindly volunteered his services in this capacity, and hopes to keep us informed on economic conditions as well as Georgeist activities in Great Britain. An article by Mr. Owen appears in this issue. Our thanks are due to Mr. Arthur W. Madsen of *Land & Liberty* for securing the services of Mr. Owen.

## L & F Again Goes to Washington

**I**N our last issue we announced that 50 copies of the May-June number of this journal had been personally distributed among as many Congressmen at the nation's capital. The idea was extended for July-August so as to place the Pan-American issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM* in the hands of every member of the Senate and House of Representatives, over 500 copies having been mailed. Each was accompanied by a letter, appealing for land value taxation as a means of financing the national defense program.

Of course, all such activities entail expense. The printing and delivery of 500 copies, with enclosed letter, by 3rd class mail, costs around \$50. However, we believe this kind of work justifies the effort, and we are only too glad to do it whenever the necessary additional funds can be obtained.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### LAND ACCORDING TO ELY AND WEHRWEIN

"Land Economics," by Richard T. Ely & George S. Wehrwein  
The Macmillan Company, New York. 1940. 512 pp.

Any book that considers the economic issue of the land question is of interest to Georgeists whether or not its author understands that "the ownership of land is the great fundamental fact which ultimately determines the social, the political, and consequently the intellectual and moral condition of a people." It is with this thought that "Land Economics" is here reviewed.

In the preface we find that "Land Economics may be defined as the utilization of the earth's surface, or space, as conditioned by property and other institutions, and which includes the use of natural

forces and productive powers above or below that space over which the owner has property rights." The index notes four references to George. The bibliography has placed "Progress and Poverty" under "Conservation of Natural Resources."

Students who have read "Progress and Poverty" do not all become Georgeists, but they usually agree that the Malthusian theory, which attributes want to the decrease of the productive power of land, is completely answered in the second Book. But the noted professors insist that Henry George "failed to overthrow the law itself."

Private property is justified "only on the social theory of property, namely, that it is established and maintained for social purposes. Under this theory, agricultural land is retained as private property because it is believed that the nation enjoys the greatest well-being under private ownership. Whenever social welfare is better served by shifting from private to public land, the state has the power to make this change. It has the power to make the right of the individual to the land less absolute."

The reviewer wonders what Ely and Wehrwein would say if this "social theory of property" were at some future date used to defend a Georgeist society.

The authors illustrate their lack of understanding of Henry George's concept of private property in land. He was not interested, as claimed by these economists, in "excluding land from the realm of legal private property." Georgeists are only interested in the public collection of the economic rent. Perhaps the noted professors merely overlooked mentioning this difference. Or perhaps the confiscation of the milk and honey of vested interests would not permit them to note any difference in consequences.

"Competition for the land has driven the price up to the full capitalized value of its income. In fact, many times above this value, through speculation and other factors." How has this admission slipped in?

Two mentions are made of why Henry George wrote "Progress and Poverty."

"Henry George acquired his philosophy of the taxation of land in the atmosphere of land-frauds and wild speculation in urban and agricultural lands of California where both Mexican and American land policies had favored concentration of ownership, and the bona fide settler found great difficulty in acquiring land."

The second mention also deals with the environmental factor that influenced George. It is an apparent attempt to belittle his contribution to economic theory. "He lived during the post-Civil War period when speculation, 'land-grabbing', corruption, and fraud were rife, but he over-simplified the remedy for the ills of society by attacking 'the unearned increment' in the land only."

Is it possible that a good word about George is permitted to enter the book? The authors quote from Lewis Mumford's "The Brown Decade":

"But George's awareness of the political importance of the land, his clear perception in 1879 of dangers that were to be fully demonstrated by 1890, and the stir that he made in the torpid political and economic thought of his day by introducing into it a vital idea—all this cannot be discounted. Henry George challenged the complacencies of bourgeois economics in the terms that the bourgeois economist could partly understand. Less than fifteen years after George's 'Progress and Poverty' was published, Professor Fredrick Turner pointed out some of the social and economic implications of the passing of the frontier. From this point on, any one who ignored the role of the land, either in American history or in our current institutional life, was guilty of convenient forgetfulness: the fact was established."