

## Who's Who in Georgism



William Nissley McNair was born in Middletown, Pa., October 5, 1880. After receiving his A.B. degree from Gettysburg College, he was graduated from the University of Michigan Law School in 1903, and was admitted to the bar in Pittsburgh in 1904.

In that year he became interested in the philosophy of Henry George through the influence of a fraternity brother, Newton D. Baker, at that time City Solicitor in the administration of Tom L. Johnson, Georgist mayor of Cleveland.

At the suggestion of the Georgist lecturer, John Z. White, McNair ran for District Attorney of Allegheny County in 1907 as an opportunity to talk the program of Henry George. In 1911 he was nominated by the Democratic Party for a State office. In 1921 he polled 20,000 votes for mayor of Pittsburgh against the usual 5,000 for a Democratic candidate. In 1928 he received nearly a million votes for United States Senator.

In 1933 McNair was again running for office and talking economic rent. The Roosevelt landslide surprised everybody (including McNair) by landing him in the Mayor's chair. After two and a half hectic years he was forced into a position where he would either have to become the tool of a political machine or leave office. He chose the latter course and resigned in October, 1936.

During his administration he encouraged study in the Pittsburgh Extension of the HGSSS. Over 1000 students took the basic course during that period. Since leaving office, he has taught a number of classes, and has made many talks that brought in students.

McNair was married in 1914 and has two daughters, Helen and Betty.