

**Letter from Cecil B. deMille to Robert Clancy,  
director of the Henry George School**

**I** AM HAPPY to send a message which may be read at the San Diego Conference of the Henry George School.

First, may I express to the members of the conference my regret that I am unable to greet them in person. The devotion of the disciples of Henry George to his memory and his principles is one of the most remarkable tributes that could be paid to any man or any set of principles. If I could, I would be with you in San Diego, to salute that devotion in person.

I can well understand that devotion. I saw it in my own father, Henry Churchill deMille. He and Henry George were close friends. My father gave credit for the leading ideas in his last and best play, "The Lost Paradise," to Henry George. The writings of Henry George were read aloud in my boyhood home. I cannot say that at the age of nine I understood them all, but the figure of the kindly, bearded man, in whose home I often played with the George children, was impressed upon me as prophet as well as friend. Long before William deMille married Anna George, his younger brother too was taken into the large-hearted, patriarchal circle of Henry George's family; and some of the happiest memories of my childhood are memories of visits, with lots of good fun and good talk, at the Georges' cottage at Fort Hamilton. I remember we were once snowed in there and had to spend two unexpected days under Mrs. George's beautiful hospitality; there were twenty children in the party!

And these are not only memories of

far-off days, for through the years I have been struck by the frequency with which people mention Henry George to me—people who never knew him and who are not particularly identified with his philosophy, but who still speak of him with respect bordering on reverence. The most recent striking instance of that occurred last fall when I visited Sir Winston Churchill at his London home. I gave Sir Winston a copy of Henry George's lecture on Moses and told him that I thought his own essay and Henry George's were the best essays on Moses in the English language. It would not be proper for me to quote directly anything Sir Winston said in a private conversation, but he left me in no doubt of his respect for whatever Henry George might have to say on the subject of the great Prophet and lawgiver, through whom we received the Ten Commandments. That was a small incident—but it was an indication of the regard in which the name and influence of Henry George are held.

The members of your Conference are to be congratulated upon keeping that name and influence alive.

Sincerely,

CECIL B. DEMILLE

---

Vol. 21, No. 9

August, 1958

---

The Henry George News is published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science 50 E. 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y. Publication Committee: Lancaster M. Greene, Chairman; Otto K. Dorn, William S. O'Connor; Alice Elizabeth Davis, Editor. Entered as Second Class Matter, November 15, 1943; at the post office of New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions, \$2 a year; single copies, 25c.

HENRY GEORGE NEWS