

## ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

I have just returned from another business trip to America and during my visit I had the usual pleasure of turning from business conditions, which are now so confused, to the sanity and soundness of the Georgeist Movement. My first pleasurable meeting with our friends was in Montreal where Miss Strehel Walton, assisted by a splendid band of people whom it was a pleasure to meet, is giving the Henry George School ever new impetus. By now some of them are very old friends, like Mr. Turner, Mr. Boelens, Herbert Owens, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Markland.

I was able to visit our friends in Ottawa only by breaking my journey to Toronto; and the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Barber called a meeting at their home on Saturday evening, although they were involved in another function and must have been considerably inconvenienced, shows how our friends will do anything to help. But it was a joy to be with them and Mr. and Mrs. Code, and to meet so many new young people there who would have kept me answering questions for hours if they had not been closed. In Toronto I met other friends at the home of Mr. W. S. Hall and we had a conversational meeting. Naturally, Ernest and Arthur Farmer were there, together with Mr. and Mrs. David Farmer, Mr. Bronson Cowan and several others.

In Chicago I found the movement in the hands of John Monroe and Mrs. Matteson even more vigorous than ever. I attended one of the Commerce and Industry luncheons by means of which John Monroe had enrolled many of the leading business men of Chicago. In the evening I had the pleasure of speaking at a Christmas party to the staunch workers of the movement. I can hardly begin to mention the names of so many friends—Judge Korshak, Mr. Carus, George Tideman and Professor Harry Gunnison Brown. With John Monroe I called on leading business men who are realising that freedom through Georgeism is the only sound policy that will stand against all attacks.

In New York I found Bob Clancy running the Henry George School as intently as ever. I had the pleasure of attending two end of term functions. At one I had the interesting experience of hearing a lecture on an entirely different topic as a lighter touch for the party, by Miss Dorothy Sara, a hand-writing expert and a sound Georgeist. Another evening I had a talk with them and it was a pleasure to see again so many new young people. Miss Davis, the zealous editor of the *Henry George News*, had me check the script of my remarks for the paper before I left the building. Another example of the initiative and efficiency at that centre. Miss V. G. Peterson took me on the Sunday to visit the school at Newark where Dr. and Mrs. Esty were presiding over a memorial meeting to the memory of the founder of the school at Newark, Mr. George Rusby. The place is a hive of industry. There I met and returned to New York with Lawson Purdy, Lancaster Greene, Mr. Nolan and others. Lawson Purdy at 86 is another wonderful example of Georgeism making for longevity. Veterans of the movement can think of many cases of men having devoted their lives to Georgeism and being as mentally alert and vigorous as Lawson Purdy at his advanced age. He looks good for at least another 20 years and I hope that it may be so. Later, thanks again to Miss Peterson, I had the pleasure of meeting my old friend, Francis Neilson, whom friends in Britain will remember as ex-M.P. for Hyde Division of Cheshire.

Unfortunately, Rupert Mason, the energetic President of the I.U., was tied up with engagements on the West Coast, but he called me twice on the long distance 'phone and reported encouraging enrolments for the International Conference in Denmark in July.

Our friends on the other side are very concerned about conditions in Britain. They constantly asked me if there was any hope of real recovery. I told them that the collectivism which is hampering things so much here is not merely the fruits of the Socialist Government but had been started years before by previous governments. But now the Welfare State is on the verge of bankruptcy, harder times, as in the last century, will probably conduce to more fundamental thinking. And the Georgeist movement is steadily growing and will help to that end.

ASHLEY MITCHELL.