

To the Editor:

The printing press is a curse—except when the dead print is made the instrument of a living body of teachers and organizers. In this way your New York school seems closer to what I consider ideal than is our Australian school. Here we have the Henry George League, the Australian School of Social Science and the Australian Georgian Association—devoted respectively to printing, teaching and organizing. I am president of all three bodies and I feel that they are not properly co-ordinated. Some Georgians specialize in one of these movements, while others are interested in two, and a few devote their energies to all three. This is all very good—for each can concentrate upon that line which to him seems most progressive or most congenial. But I do feel that they are all unduly burdened with the "historical load," that existential burden which makes all things in the concrete so different from that essential clarity which they have in the abstract.

Gradually, however, the movement seems to be clarifying its position. The Georgian Association now caters for the more politically minded followers who desire to concentrate *opinion* while not forgetting that "the laws of the production and distribution of public opinion" are, as J. S. Mill noted, a much more difficult subject than the laws of the production and distribution of wealth. They have definitely abandoned the old Georgian technique of insulting all our democratic parties and political leaders, and are attempting to win influence *inside* these parties.

The School of Social Science is catering for the more scientifically minded followers who desire to concentrate on the eternal truths, to go to the students, the groups of thinkers who desire to know, keeping to the work of teaching individuals interested in the social sciences.

Thus are the "reformers" separated from the "informers"—to the great benefit of each. But both of these are relying upon immediate personal contacts. Neither has any journal to serve as a medium of contact, and such mediate contact is important in sustaining the interest and co-ordinating the efforts of both groups. This is where the league and its journal [The Standard] can be helpful to both the association and the school. Thus we can have distinction with union.

As Lenin put it, we can keep apart in order to strike together. The printers, the teachers and the organizers can cease annoying one another and yet all can co-operate in the one great aim. The knowers must keep out of politics while the doers must not keep themselves out of politics by trying to form "New Order parties" (as the school tried to do about 1940) or by forming parties "against-the-parties."

As president of all three movements, I have, you must agree, plenty to do and, especially in this present year, many opportunities and hence many obligations in steering these somewhat divorced groups towards a better appreciation of one another.

But, as I was saying, my chief interest is in the school. For this I write day and night, not with any view to publication but with the object of supplying texts to strengthen our teaching. These writings can live in a school whereas they die in a book without a school. When the soil is ripe and the weeds have played themselves out the good seed can overspread the earth. There are historical conjunctures which enable ideas to spread like an epidemic.

—HENRY G. PEARCE
Sydney, Australia