

ROLLINS SANDSPUR / 1933

GEORGE STONE TO BE ADDED TO WALK

Henry George Foundation Is Donor Of Gift

A stone from the birthplace of Henry George, internationally famous author and political economist, will be presented to the Rollins Walk of Fame by the Henry George Foundation of America on Friday, Feb. 24, at 10 A.M. The stone has been taken from his birthplace in Philadelphia. Walter Fairchild, prominent New York lawyer and son of the late Charles G. Fairchild, second president of Rollins College, will take part in the dedicatory ceremony.

Originator of the Single Tax doctrine, Henry George has many followers in Europe and America, and a Henry George Foundation has been organized in Pittsburgh to perpetuate his name and theories.

The fundamental doctrine of Henry George, the equal right of all men to the use of the earth, did not originate with him; but his clear statement of a method by which it could be enforced without increasing state machinery, and with a simplification of government, gave it a new form.

He told that the land of every country belongs by right to all the people in that country, and that private ownership of land has no more foundation in morality or reason than private ownership of air or sunshine. However, he admitted, private occupancy and use of land are right and indispensable, although any attempt to divide land into equal shares is impossible and undesirable. To remedy this fault, he believed that land should be divided for private use in parcels among those who would pay the highest price for the use of each parcel. By applying the use of this "rent," exclusive of all improvements, to the equal benefit of the whole community, absolute justice would be done to all. As the rent would be more than sufficient to defray all necessary expenses of government, it would be possible to abolish all other taxes. Landlords, he explained, should be left in undisturbed possession and nominal ownership of the land, with a sufficient margin over the tax to induce them to collect their rents and pay the tax. They would then be transformed into mere land agents. Obviously, this would involve absolute free trade, since all taxes on imports, manufactures, successions, documents, personal property, buildings or improvements, would disappear. Nothing made by man would be taxed at all, and the right of private property in all things made by man would be absolute, for the owner of such things could not be divested of his property, without full compensation, even under the pretext of taxation.

The dedicatory program Friday is open to the public.