

Economics Laboratory

By Charles H. Spaulding

I prowled about the Henry George School when in New York because I have been wanting to make some personal contribution to our common cause for some time, and am looking for an opening.

Until some better method is found, the classes which the school is promoting so successfully have my whole-hearted approval. It seems to me, though, that they cannot be most effective without laboratory or pilot plant demonstration; that is to say, practical application on some scale, however limited. The science of bacteriology for example, owes its growth to step by step applications, beginning with "diseases" of wines, silk worms, and so on. No doubt business men and women who are teachers of fundamental economics find vivid demonstrations in their business experience, and to that extent they are applying their knowledge of economics. Relatively few people have such opportunities.

Should not advanced students be devoting full time to discovery of ways and means of applying single tax philosophy? Can a small scale working model be devised which will function and prosper because it is sound? Cannot this be accomplished under our existing social and legal framework? If not here, can it be done elsewhere? These are some of the questions that are haunting me. I haven't the answers, but I feel that someone should be looking for them.

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