

Let's Learn to Speak

By **BENJAMIN STOLOW**

I'M sure this subject deserves real serious consideration. If we can talk this over together and come to a conclusion about some of the problems, each of you can utilize the solution in your particular territory.

We need not only teachers who can teach, but teachers who can speak. We have about forty teachers here in Boston and I know that many of them are called upon to speak at organizations, and before large groups, such as brotherhood groups, synagogues, churches, and temples. How wonderful it would be if they could be trained as capable speakers who could convince audiences and bring them into the Henry George Schools far and wide.

Now how are we going to solve this dilemma? It is important that we increase our curriculum and add courses in public speaking and teachers training so that we can attract thousands of people to these courses. Everybody's interested in public speaking, so let us have good teachers for these public speaking courses. A subject of discussion at these meetings should be Henry George's works, books and principles—thus you inoculate students and unconsciously they get the germ and become Georgists, even as you and I.

The Boston Experiment

Now personally I know this thing will work. Here in Boston we tried it a few years ago and I had the pleasure of leading a course. We began with twenty students and at the end of ten weeks there were forty students, because people were bringing more people in. We were discussing Henry George principles all the time—the interest and enthusiasm were miraculous.

I want to read from an editorial that was written by our beloved Uncle Dudley here at the Boston Globe, entitled, "Who Says English is a Dead Language?"

"At a gathering of business executives recently there was surprising agreement on at least one subject. Complaint was general that there has been little improvement shown in the ability of young men and young women to write or to speak the English language correctly. There seems to be a persistent lack of knowledge. The truth is that proper and adequate use of the English language is rapidly becoming a lost art."

We have to learn how to present concise answers to the objections we receive. For example, how would you deal with this: The single tax would take private property for public use without compensation, or, it is not practical to distinguish land values from improvement values. We have to know the answers, and not only know them ourselves, but know how to present them so that we can convince our opponents and bring them into the light. We must clarify these ideas with simplicity and understanding.

We are standing on the threshold of a better world and in order to achieve this better world we must use the great truths of Henry George to help an ailing world which at present is suffering from what we call evil tariffs and excessive taxation. If we can help equip people for the battle of the ballot box, with the proper information and adequate enthusiasm, the battle can be won.

Let us bring into actual reality, very soon, those great principles of Henry George in which we all so firmly believe.