

# THE NEW STANDARD

Volume 1, No. 2

March 15, 1936

One Dollar a Year

## VETTERMAN NAMED PRESIDENT AS CHAPTER ORGANIZES HERE

### CITY CLUB COMMITTEE STUDYING THE ADVANTAGES IN SHIFTING REALTY TAX TO LAND VALUE

#### Buttenheim Group On Record Against the Sales Impost

Going on record as opposed to the sales tax, the municipal tax committee of the City Club of New York, of which Harold S. Buttenheim, editor of The American City, is chairman, has undertaken an investigation of the advisability of making recommendations for shifting part of the taxes on improvements to land values.

The committee will study the question and make its recommendations to the board of trustees of the club, which will pass them on to the proper city authorities for consideration. The City Club and the City Affairs Committee, another civic body, were largely responsible for the Seabury investigation which resulted in an upheaval in New York City politics and the formation of a Charter Revision Commission.

In connection with its study of the results of the Pittsburgh Plan, the committee met with William N. McNair, Mayor of Pittsburgh, at the club March 5. The Mayor explained that the municipal tax revenues in Pittsburgh had always been derived from real estate so that when the new system first became law in 1913, it merely altered the distribution of the tax, placing a greater proportion on land and a smaller proportion on buildings and improvements.

After a series of gradual reductions, the building rate was fixed at one half the land rate. This proportion has been maintained since 1925, and has meant lower taxes for 90 per cent of all home owners because land values were relatively low and building values relatively high in residential districts, he said.

He pointed out that higher taxes on land values serve to discourage land speculation by making it less profitable to hold land out of use. While this is admittedly little more than a gesture in the right direction, he admitted, it points the way to a more scientific system of taxation and he is eager to see a further reduction in building taxes during his term, he said.

The City Club is a civic organization of representative business

### REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN FOR 10-WEEK BASIC COURSES BEGINNING HERE MARCH 16

Ten week basic courses in fundamental economics and social philosophy will begin at the Henry George School of Social Science the week of March 16, it was announced by O. K. Dorn, acting director. The classes, meeting in the afternoon or evening, will hold sessions once each week of two hours each.

Following the ten sessions, there will be six-session courses in international trade and exchange. Certificates of alertness will be granted teachers in the public school system who complete the sixteen sessions. Registrations are still being accepted.

To advertise the courses in the Spring semester, thousands of pieces of mail were sent out with the aid of volunteers. In addition, students and alumni cooperated in placing posters announcing the courses in public places.

A teachers' training class, of which Herbert M. Garn, dean of the faculty, is the instructor, is under way. The advanced course in fundamental economics and social philosophy, of which Will Lissner is the instructor, held its first session from 2 until 4 P.M. March 7, and will continue on Saturday afternoons for sixteen weeks.

A ten-week course in "Public Trends in the Light of Georgist Philosophy", under the direction of John Luxton, was begun in February and meets Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9 P.M. Others are in preparation.

### NEWLY-WEDS CONGRATULATED

Congratulations from friends throughout the movement were received by Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, executive secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, who in private life is Mrs. John Howard Wambough, and her husband, on their recent marriage.

and professional men which constitutes itself an advisory board on matters of local and state legislation in the interests of the welfare of the city and its citizens. Mr. Buttenheim, an expert in municipal finance, is president of the Tax Policy League.

BINGHAM IS VICE PRESIDENT,  
MISS McNALLY SECRETARY,  
MISS PEIRSOL TREASURER

### Committees Named By New Unit Of Henry George Fellowship

Arthur H. Vetterman was elected temporary president of the New York chapter of the Henry George Fellowship, nation-wide organization of alumni of the Henry George School of Social Science, at a meeting held in the fellowship room at national headquarters March 10. Miss Helen D. Denbigh, vice president and co-founder of the fellowship, was present.

Mr. Vetterman, who is a member of the faculty of the Henry George School and an editor of The New Standard, was a member of a complete slate of temporary officers named at the meeting, which also named committees to organize and outline the activities which will be undertaken by the chapter.

George Bingham, also a member of the Henry George School faculty, was elected temporary vice president. Miss Joan F. McNally, a student in the advanced course at the school, was named secretary, and Miss Eloise Peirsol, who has just completed the course in international trade, was chosen treasurer.

The seven committees named will hold meetings in the next two weeks, receive the opinions of their members and other members of the chapter, and report back to a meeting of the whole chapter to be held, it was decided, the evening of March 24.

In their reports they will make recommendations regarding the activities of their specific committees, together with any dissenting opinions that may have been presented to them. These reports are to be approved or disapproved by the membership as a whole and the policies of the committees decided at the March 24 meeting.

The committees named were as follows:

Chairman of the finance committee is Robert Black. He will be aided by Miss Peirsol and Otto J. Fox.

Of the writers' committee, Will Lissner is chairman, and its members include George Bingham, Margaret F. Bingham, Carl Spanierman, Daniel Stein, Madeleine Swarte, E. W. Bell, Alma H. Bliss, Valerian Belinski,

Robert Clancy, Charles Erwood, Edith Lee Salkay, Charles Joseph Smith, Murray Schumach, Arthur Vetterman, Dr. R. S. Tipson, Salvatore Fiore Jr., Miss McNally, Don Marcellus, and Miss Helen Gottlieb.

Chairman of the public speaking committee is Mr. Fiore. Its members are Mr. Black, Miss Jean Kritzer, and Miss McNally.

Of the promotion committee, Mr. Muson is chairman, and its members include Mr. Fiore, Mr. Black, Miss Alfhild Johnson and Miss Kritzer.

Chairman of the school committee is Mrs. R. S. Tipson, and its members are Mr. Vetterman, Miss Peirsol and Miss Johanna Friedlander.

The research committee has Mr. Marcellus as chairman, and Mr. Bell, Mr. Fiore, Mr. Lissner, Miss Johnson, Mr. Black, Mr. Belinski and Miss Kritzer as members.

Of the exchange committee, Mr. Stein is chairman, and its members include Mr. Muson, Mr. Bingham, Mr. Bell, William P. Baurle and I. B. Brody.

The finance committee will consider methods of financing the chapter and will determine the budgets of the various activities. The writers' committee will draw up an outline of the various activities now conducted by the class in journalism at the school, and any other activities suggested. The public speaking committee will train persons capable of presenting the Georgist program before outside groups.

The promotion committee is aimed to bring the work of the various groups before the public, to aid in coordinating the work of the groups and to make their activities effective. The school committee is to contact officials of the school and draw up a program by which the chapter may be of best help to the school.

The research committee aims to engage in statistical research in problems of Georgist social theory, and to publish its results. The exchange committee is to contact other chapters of the fellowship, develop fraternal relations with other chapters and exchange ideas and methods with them.

**FIRST RETURNS ARE ANNOUNCED  
IN SCHOOL FUND CAMPAIGN;  
DORN HAILS ALUMNI WORK**

**Monthly Pledges Being Given  
To Assure Steady Backing**

First returns in the campaign of the alumni finance committee of the Henry George School of Social Science, of which John Angus is chairman, to increase annual alumni contributions to the school so that

**PUBLIC LIBRARY TO DISPLAY  
POSTERS ON SCHOOL COURSES**

Posters announcing the courses of the Henry George School of Social Science are to be placed in the local branches of the New York Public Library on the bulletin boards where announcements of similar non-profit making educational organizations are displayed.

demands on its services may be fulfilled, were announced by Mr. Angus. Contributions and pledges received at the outset of the campaign totalled \$215, he said.

Of the total contributions and pledges, \$110 was obtained from alumni by Lancaster M. Greene; \$55 by Mr. Angus; and \$50 by Walter Fairchild. Other members of the committee are: Carl Spanierman, Daniel Stein, Max Berkowitz, Mrs. Madeleine Swarte, Charles Joseph Smith, Mrs. Eva L. Maxwell and Mrs. Margaret F. Bingham.

O. K. Dorn, acting director, hailed the results shown in the progress report.

"The enthusiasm and enterprise shown by the Alumni Finance Committee in the results so far achieved in gathering pledges for the support of the Henry George School of Social Science is most heartening," he said.

"The work done so far is among people of moderate means. The returns are mostly in the form of monthly pledges varying in amount, many of them contributions of \$1 a month which assure a continuous income."

**MRS. deMILLE GIVES INTIMATE  
PORTRAIT OF HER FATHER AT  
NEW YORK ALUMNI MEETING**

An intimate portrait of Henry George from first-hand experience was drawn by Mrs. Anna George De Mille, daughter of the social philosopher and president of the board of trustees of the Henry George School of Social Science at a meeting of the Henry George Fellowship at Central Church, 142 West Eighty-first Street, Feb. 13. More than 100 persons attended.

Mrs. deMille, widely-known lecturer on social problems, described the "Prophet of San Francisco" worn to desperation by extreme poverty at the birth of his second child, and depicted other dramatic moments in the crusader's life, including his farewell appearance at Cooper Union during his race for the New York mayoralty.

Anecdotes illustrating the personal qualities of the economist which endeared him to his followers were related by Mrs. DeMille. His love for children, his fondness for pets, one of which was a monkey, his absent mindedness when he was concentrating on problems whose solutions appeared in his works, his disregard of his personal appearance, were illustrated by the founder's daughter.

Mrs. DeMille also gave a substantial account of the circumstances and conditions surrounding his scientific and philosophical works, especially that of his major work, "Progress and Poverty".

Edmund P. Donovan, an alumnus of the Henry George School in New York, another speaker, stressed the need for forming the New York Chapter of the Fellowship to bring its members in New York, where the national organization was founded, into a more closely united group.

The New Standard, monthly journal of the Fellowship in New York, made its first appearance at the meeting.

Otto K. Dorn, acting director of the school, John Lawrence Monroe, field director, Herbert M. Garn, dean, and John Angus, chairman of the alumni finance committee, spoke briefly on the activities of the school. A social gathering followed.

**SCHOOL'S CAMPUS NOW COVERS  
66 CITIES; 3,624 ENROLLED  
IN TOTAL OF 191 CLASSES**

Statistics just compiled by John Lawrence Monroe, field director of the Henry George School of Social Science, show that the school is now established in sixty-six cities of the world.

In the last semester classes were held in fifty-two cities. The gain, thus far, is fourteen. The total may be slightly larger, Mr. Monroe said, for reports are being awaited from cities abroad which have plans for launching classes in other cities.

Sixty-one of the cities are in the United States. The remainder are in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico. These do not include the countries in which Georgist groups, with the cooperation of national headquarters, are making preparations for launching extensions.

Since Sept. 1, 1933, when the school, after several years of preparation, was established at headquarters by the late Oscar H. Geiger, there have been 3,624 students enrolled in 191 classes in the basic course in fundamental economics and social philosophy. Fifty-one classes have been held at headquarters, 140 at its extensions.

There are now twenty instructors at national headquarters and ninety-two extension instructors throughout the world. All volunteer their services as a living endowment to the movement.

The school was chartered Sept. 15, 1932. Mr. Geiger conducted trial classes in the year 1933-34 and on Sept. 1 established school headquarters at 211 West Seventh-ninth Street. In the first school year, the total enrollment was eighty-four. In 1934-35, there was a total enrollment of 335; in the present school year, 1935-36, the total enrollment has grown thus far to 468 students.

#### TOWN MEETING OF AIR PLANS GEORGIST BROADCAST OVER COUNTRY THIS SEASON

America's Town Meeting of the Air, nation-wide radio broadcast, has definitely decided to present a discussion of Henry George's practical proposals for permanent economic recovery on one of its programs this season, according to a spokesman for George V. Denny, program moderator.

Mr. Denny's aide, acting in behalf of the moderator, told a representative of The New Standard that America's Town Meeting of the Air is motivated entirely by the interests of the program's regular audience, a predominantly large part of which is asking for a Georgist program.

An early date cannot be assigned for the presentation, the spokesman said. However, the program probably will be in the form of a debate, he said.

Hundreds of requests for an adequate presentation of George's proposals are pouring in, the spokesman said. Of every 1,000 letters being received, some 100, or 10 per cent, make this request, the official said. Some have fifteen or twenty signatures attached. He declared this proportion to be an exceptionally large one, indicating widespread interest by the program's audience.

#### HARTLEY AND MARGARET DENNETT DEAD; LIFELONG GEORGISTS ACTIVE IN RANKS TO END

Bellows Falls, Vermont, (HGNS)—Hartley Dennett of East Alstead, N.H., a lifelong member of the Georgist movement who, until his retirement some years ago, was a leading architect in Boston, died at Buckingham Hospital here Feb. 27 after a brief illness. Two days later his wife, Margaret Everett Chase Dennett, home economist and also a veteran Georgist, died in the same hospital.

Both succumbed of streptococcal pneumonia, it is believed. Mr.

Dennett is survived by his two sons, Carlton and Devon, whose mother, Mr. Dennett's first wife, is Mrs. Mary Ware Dennett of New York, author and artist.

Hartley Dennett, a member of an old Maine family, was born in 1870, was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1892, and after post-graduate work at Harvard he became a practising architect in Boston.

Hartley and Mary Ware Dennett were active in the Massachusetts Single Tax Association and he served as its secretary. Since 1907 he had been an active supporter of the Henry George Lecture Association and when this group, under the leadership of John Lawrence Monroe, disbanded so that effort could be concentrated on the Henry George School of Social Science, he transferred his interest to the school.

"The School sounds like the most hopeful effort yet," he wrote. During the winter of 1934-5 he led a discussion group in social problems which continued through "Progress and Poverty". Aided by Margaret Everett Chase Dennett, he was planning the establishment of an extension when he was stricken.

Margaret Everett Chase Dennett was a member of an upstate New York family. As a young woman, she specialized in the field of home economics and became known as a brilliant teacher of the subject.

On a trip to New York last November she visited the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation at 11 Park Place and was shown the wide range of its activities by Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, executive secretary. She wrote back later in praise of the foundation's work and its efficiency in distributing Georgist literature.

On the same visit she came to the school in New York and sat in on a class conducted by Lancaster W. Greene. "Mr. Greene's confidence in the power of justice and his intelligence and good humor were all delightful to see," she wrote to headquarters.

#### PUBLIC TRENDS COURSE OPENS; ANALYZES CURRENT EVENTS IN LIGHT OF GEORGIST THEORY

A new addition to the catalogue of the Henry George School of Social Science in New York, a course in "Public trends in the light of Georgist philosophy", was begun during the past month.

The Public Trends class is a laboratory course in the economic philosophy of Henry George. In it the principles laid down in "Progress and Poverty" are applied to current events in the arena of the whole world and the events analyzed to show how unmistakably injustice at all times and the universal un-

rest and distress that characterize our times have their origin in the monopolization of land and the misappropriation of economic rent.

This course is aimed give the student a clearer understanding of the material he has been studying and equip him with the practical knowledge without which it is difficult to combat current ignorance and misapprehension.

Everyone who has taken the basic course is urged to register for the Public Trends class. It is conducted every Thursday evening at 7:30 under the leadership of John Luxton.

#### THE NEW STANDARD

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#### Editorial Board

George Bingham, Margaret F. Bingham, Carl Spanierman, Daniel Stein, Madeleine Swarte, editors; Valerian Belinski, E. W. Bell, Alma H. Bliss, Robert Clancy, Charles Erwood, Edith Lee Sakay, Charles Joseph Smith, Murray Schumach, Arthur H. Vetterman, associate editors.

#### Honorary Subscribers

Anna George de Mille, Helen D. Denbigh, Otto K. Dorn, H. Ellenoff, Walter Fairchild, Henry J. Foley, Lancaster M. Greene, Spencer Heath, George Lloyd, Harry Maguire, Leonard T. Recker.

#### 'LIVE CAMPAIGN WITH US', CALIFORNIANS URGE ALL; OFFER RALSTON PAPER

San Francisco, (HGNS)—"Live the California Campaign With Us!" That is the slogan under which subscriptions for The Sales Tax Repealer, a paper to aid in the fight for adoption of the Ralston Amendment, are being sought, it was announced.

The Sales Tax Repealer, which will be published under the direction of the Sales Tax Repeal Association, 83 McAllister Street, San Francisco, "is needed to carry our message to the people of the State and nation and to keep up the enthusiasm of the campaigners," an officer of the association said.

A \$1 subscription entitles the subscriber to not less than ten issues of The Sales Tax Repealer.

### 140 BUY COPIES OF THE NEW PAMPHLET BY B. BURGER

Already 140 copies of Benjamin Burger's pamphlet, "What to Emphasize in Teaching the Philosophy of Henry George", have been distributed to purchasers, Joseph Dana Miller, editor of Land and Freedom, 150 Nassau Street, said. The magazine reprinted the pamphlet. Mr. Miller, treasurer of the Henry George School of Social Science, said he was greatly pleased with the interest shown.

### MCNALLY, OF FACULTY, WRITES ON 'THE ENIGMA OF MONEY'

Raymond V. McNally, member of the faculty of the Henry George School of Social Science at national headquarters, is the author of a 5,000-word essay on monetary theory, "The Enigma of Money", published in the current Land and Freedom, 150 Nassau Street.

### RALSTON PLEADS FOR WORLD SUPPORT FOR WEST COAST 'BATTLE FOR LIBERTY'

San Francisco, (HGNS)--The non-partisan legislative campaign for passage of the Ralston Sales Tax Repeal Amendment, backed by civic, labor, progressive and liberal groups headed by the Sales Tax Repeal Association of which former Judge Jackson H. Ralston is general chairman, is in reality "a battle for economic liberty", Mr. Ralston declared in a public statement appealing for national support.

"Our campaign is no local affair," former Judge Ralston said in the statement, issued from the headquarters of the association at 83 McAllister Street, San Francisco. "It is of world significance.

"Help us to show how the people everywhere may create an ever-expanding, flexible, civilizing, and self-renewing frontier; how the 'next best' opportunity may be made available to man with no penalty attached; how man may be freed of working on poor lands when better lands exist! Help us to form a model tax pattern for every State in the union!"

Mr. Ralston said the only "menace" to the campaign was the possibility that the amendment's proponents might fail to reach enough people.

"We need not tell you that in seeking to serve such a cause we must have money," he said. "To our last appeal some responded quickly and generously. The total response was very, very small. Less than five responded from one of our very largest cities."

Pointing out that the election in November is but a short time

away, the appeal concluded, "Friends, if you are going to help, the time has come to do it!"

### THORNING, EMINENT SURGEON, IS DEAD IN HOUSTON AT 63; WAS SCHOOL SPONSOR THERE

Houston, Texas, (HGNS)--Dr. W. Burton Thorning, widely known surgeon and veteran Georgist, died here on Feb. 11 following a long illness. Dr. Thorning, who was a sponsor of the Henry George School of Social Science here and was keenly interested in its work, was 63 years old.

A member of the American Medical Association, Dr. Thorning was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a charter member and former president of the Texas Surgical Society and a member of the Harris County Medical Association, The Houston Post records. He also served as editor-in-chief of the Medical Record and Annals from 1913 to 1924.

He was born in Sullivan, N.H., July 2, 1872, the son of William H. Thorning, whose ancestors came to America in 1630, and Elizabeth Knight Thorning. Dr. Thorning entered the University of Vermont as a medical student, received his degree in 1899 and began practise in Winchendon, Mass., where he remained until 1909.

After a year of post-graduate work in Europe, Dr. Thorning returned to the United States and moved to Houston in 1910, spending the rest of his life here as one of the city's leading physicians and surgeons. In 1916 he established the Houston Clinic.

Dr. Thorning married the former Gertrude M. Goodnow at Keene, N.H., on June 1, 1905.

The passing of Dr. Thorning, who, in the midst of a busy professional life demanded by his brilliant surgical career, found time nevertheless for devoted and valuable work for the Georgist movement has caused a deep sense of loss, leaders said.—Bessie Beach Truehart

### FOUNDATION MAKES CLIPPINGS AVAILABLE TO WRITERS UNIT

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of 11 Park Place, publishing house of the Georgist movement, has made available to the members of the class in "Journalism as a Social Force" at the Henry George School of Social Science, through Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, executive secretary, its clipping service covering a wide range of periodicals.

The clippings will be used in connection with the activities of the writers' group, which include The New Standard; the Henry George News Service, which supplies news to

forty-five Georgist papers throughout the world as well as the school extensions; and by a committee on publication now forming.

### Editors Heartened By Well-Wishers

Congratulations poured in on The New Standard during the past month, heartening the editors in their work. Typical was that from Mrs. Anna George DeMille, daughter of Henry George and president of the board of the Henry George School, and from O. K. Dorn, acting director.

Mrs. DeMille declared that the publication would do valuable work in spreading news of Georgist achievements and inspiring the movement's followers to even greater efforts in its behalf. Mr. Dorn said: "The New Standard is a corker. It's alert, snappy and chuck full of interesting and important news concerning the School and the movement in general."

### E. L. SALKAY NAMED REGISTRAR OF SCHOOL; GEIGER'S AIDE

Miss Edith Lee Salkay, a secretary on the staff of the Henry George School of Social Science at national headquarters, has been appointed registrar of the school, O. D. Dorn, acting director, announced.

Miss Salkay was secretary to the late Oscar H. Geiger, founder of the school, from the time he first opened the headquarters building. She has been in charge of the office since. Miss Salkay has been devoting every effort to the Georgist cause, officials said, and has merited promotion by her efficient and faithful service.

### MONROE TO ORGANIZE IN CITIES IN 400 MILE RADIUS

John Lawrence Monroe, field director of the Henry George School of Social Science, will shortly make a series of trips to cities within a radius of 400 miles of New York. Mr. Monroe will return from the field to national headquarters each week to keep in touch with the extension activities throughout the world, which centre there.

In the area to be covered, Mr. Monroe's operations will be carried on from "advance stations" in each of about twenty-five cities. He will organize and campaign in localities where the school has not yet a foothold as part of the school's drive to have well-established extensions in 100 cities by the end of this year.

### COL. JOHN BIGELOW, DEAD

Expressions of sympathy are being extended Poultney Bigelow, Georgist, on the death of his brother, Lieut. Col. John Bigelow.