

Those familiar with the history of the Georgist movement know that an influential mayor, William McNair, and others who understood the importance of easing taxes on site values, left their imprint on the city by instituting an enlightened tax plan.

In our century we find Georgist leaders emerging again in civil life. A

truth may lie fallow for a time, but in the nature of things it cannot be obscured forever. There are evidences here and there that its time will come.

The Nation's Cities reprint, "What Kind of City Do We Want?" is available from the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, at 15 cents a copy.

Assessors in the News

SOMETHING like a community of interest is emerging for channeling Georgist personality and "brains." Last summer Dr. Irene Hickman delighted the faithful by her election to the County Assessor's office in Sacramento. In the general excitement that followed a good many like-minded people began to feel less like outlanders.

For the first elected lady assessor there has hardly been a dull moment, and on June 7th she will plead her case for 100 percent assessment before the Supreme Court in Los Angeles. If she wins, every county in the state will have to change the rate of assessment. On June 5th her story will be reviewed on KPFK-FM 90.7.

This spring another surprise greets us in the news that Ted Gwartney, who was an appraiser in Dr. Hickman's office, has been appointed assessor of Southfield, Michigan, where S. James Clarkson is mayor. At 26, Mr. Gwartney will become probably the youngest assessor of a major metropolitan area. He is president of the HGS Alumni Group in Los Angeles, also a director, and like Mayor Clarkson, he was a class instructor in the HGS.

After receiving a bachelor of science degree at San Diego State College he won a certificate in real estate at the University of California at Los Angeles, majoring in appraisal. He be-

lieves in equality and fairness of assessment and thinks eventually taxes will be on land, because taxing land values is the most equitable method of spreading community service costs.

Mr. Gwartney says he is looking forward to combining California knowhow with methods already in use in Southfield. Although it was incorporated less than 10 years ago, Southfield has already attracted more than 600 major corporations, due to its low tax rate and policy of equitable tax assessment. First on the agenda will be the installation of map books replacing the present system based on legal descriptions. Also the Californian will introduce techniques of gathering verified sales information so assessing can be done on an accurate professional basis.

And now that our interest has carried us to Michigan, we hear from Robert Benton, director of the Michigan Henry George School in Royal Oak, that their honor guest at the meeting on June 10th will be Commissioner Robert F. Patnales, who will speak on "What I Like About Land Value Taxation." This is the man who was recently appointed to the County Tax Equalization Board. While he is not experienced in assessing, he contends that some city property is under-assessed and some is over-assessed, and he thinks assessment in line with actual values might raise operating cash needed by the city of Royal Oak.