

## The Land Problem, Vol. I-IV

The Henry George School now has in its library collection the first four volumes of "The Land Problem," a compilation of Georgist writings in Spanish, proudly donated by Mr. German Lema, whose years of hard work have culminated in this impressive achievement. This is the first collection of this kind in Spanish, assembled from a variety of authors, teachers, economists and activists, past and present, throughout the world.

The series begins in Volume I with Progreso y Pobreza - Progress and Poverty - an abridged version based on one by Dr. Busey and complemented by Mr. Lema. It continues with the "Doctrinal Declaration" of Dr. Edward McGlynn, from Rebel, Priest and Prophet; "Principles," an article written by Mr. Lema for publication in *Revista Destino* of Barcelona; "Human Rights," by Winston Churchill; "A Great Iniquity," by Leo Tolstoy; followed by the Theory of Human Progression, by P.E. Dove, from the abridged version by Julia Kellogg. The first volume closes with "The Religion of Joseph Fels," from Joseph Fels, His Life Work, by Mary Fels.

The first volume is sweeping in its range of ideas represented, touching upon the Georgist philosophy from multiple disciplines and providing a background beyond the standard economic discussion. This in turn offers the reader a social, humanistic context in which to frame the more nuts and bolts arguments in the subsequent volumes. Many of these pieces are seeing their first translations into Spanish, courtesy of Mr. Lema.

Volume II starts off with "Privatization and Poverty" by Ramsey Clark, the former U.S. Attorney General and international human rights advocate. The concluding nine sections further introduce the land question and rights of property, including pieces from Henry George, Alejandro Reyes, B. Rivadavia, Craig Ralston and German Lema. First mentioned in Volume II are the particular cases of agrarian reform in Argentina, Colombia, and Paloalto, and the Letter of Chief Seattle to the President of the United States.

In Volumes III and IV Mr. Lema compiles dozens of shorter works, including articles, lectures and letters. This second half of the series focuses on the study of the actual economic conditions of past and present day Latin and South American countries. There is still an eclectic mix of subjects at play in these volumes, with "Arquimedes" by Mark Twain beginning the fourth volume, followed later by Gorbachov on "Poverty in Russia," "Experiments in India," and "Historical Notes: England and Rome," all sprinkled among the continuation of work dealing with Spanish speaking countries.

"The Land Problem" totals roughly two hundred pages, a deceptively small number since some of the articles are photocopied directly, are densely compiled or include graphs. The Henry George School is proud to share this admirable contribution with its students and congratulates Mr. Lema for his exemplary effort.

## Conference Update

Preparations for the upcoming Georgist Conference in August are in full swing. Highlights of what you can expect are as follows:

**Wednesday, August 6th** - An evening reception and a special seminar hosted by the Landmark Education Corporation.

**Thursday, August 7th** - A day not to be missed for those newly introduced to those well versed: seminars and programs of Georgist training and philosophy through the day, and a special evening of culture and fun by Georgists, for Georgists.

**Friday, August 8th** - A serious examination of the history and practice of Georgist theory, followed by a reception and banquet with guest speakers.

**Saturday, August 9th** - New York City Day! Ceremony at the Henry George Gravesite, lunch and rally at Washington Square Park, followed by a bus tour of New York, emphasizing Georgist history and an economic rent analysis. The day closes with a very special evening at St. Stephen's Church, exploring the roots of the Anti-Poverty Society at the parish of Reverend McGlynn.

**Sunday, August 10th** - Planning the future and a champagne brunch.

**For the bus tour only:** Tickets are \$25 each. Seats are limited! Please reserve before July 22nd. Greenwood Cemetery and St. Stephen's Church are both free. Donation accepted. *For those who are not attending the Conference but wish to take part in the Bus Tour, please call Scott or Sue Walton at 847-475-0391.* Directions for attending the New Jersey dates or for the Gravesite can be obtained from the School.

A committee of students, most of them graduates of the Principles of Political Economy, has been organized to gather tax assessment information on the under- and undeveloped sites along the route of the tour. Similar in goal to earlier Graduate Research Committees, the participants will familiarize themselves with several sites, then plumb the computers of the City's Surrogate Court to find the current tax roll data. Once collected, this information will be incorporated into the tour's narrative, giving riders a tangible grasp of the great confusions involved in land and property valuations, and a sense of the massive untapped public revenue resource laying dormant. The intended route will take conference-goers through a range of Manhattan neighborhoods to give the best cross-representational slice of the tax code pie. Coming from the Henry George gravesite in Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, the bus will head to lower Manhattan, passing City Hall and Publisher's Row, where *The Standard* was printed. Going uptown on Church St., we'll see one of George's early mayoral campaign headquarters. At West 4th St., riders will walk to Washington Square Park for lunch, hearing some special speakers while they relax. Afterwards, the bus will continue to the heart of midtown, crossing East at 42nd St., *(continued on page six)*

## What Is Nature Worth?

by Max Panzner

In the Tuesday, May 20th, New York Times science section, William K. Stevens wrote of research underway to determine the worth of what ecologists call ecosystem services, which are natural resources that include a consideration of the vital social and economic functions they serve. The purpose is to prevent continued misuse of the world's

dwindling resources, to put a dollar value on "valuable, practical, measurable functions" which nature provides to all for free. He offers the example of the water purification service that the Catskills provide to New York City. "The city plans to spend \$660 million to preserve that watershed in good health; the alternative, a water treatment plant, would have cost \$4 billion to build." That sounds like a good deal, until we hear from the so-called experts, on page six.