

# Westward Ho

by V. G. PETERSON

Oleanders were blooming in the gardens of San Diego, and lacy-leaved pepper trees, palms and eucalyptus lined the streets of this charming southern California city, reminding us Easterners that we were, indeed, a long, long way from home.

We had started off that morning (July 9) four strong, from New York, for the annual conference of the Henry George School of Social Science of which the San Diego extension was, this year, to be the host. Joined soon after our arrival by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Lurio, of Boston, we represented a delegation of six from the Eastern Seaboard. Other parts of the country, nearer to the conference city, were more generously represented, and as might be expected, a big turn-out came from the West Coast communities.

We missed Verlin Gordon, director of the Ohio extension, and John Monroe of Chicago, but were glad to welcome two additions to the extension-director family, otherwise complete. These new members, both Californians, were Arleigh Chute of Berkeley and A. E. Hartmann of Sacramento.

Honored guest of the conference was Dr. Rolland O'Regan of Wellington, New Zealand, whose fight for the preservation and extension of land-value taxation in that island country carries on the work started by his father, the late Patrick J. O'Regan. By the time we arrived, the doctor, a well-known surgeon in his native

land, had spent three busy days in San Diego during which he had appeared on television, spoken over the radio, and addressed a luncheon of prominent citizens with great success and a gratifying amount of newspaper coverage. This publicity helped to attract an exceptionally large turnout for the banquet on Saturday night. At least two hundred and fifty were present on that gala occasion at which Jack Ensign Addington presided as chairman. The last of three speakers, Dr. O'Regan won a standing ovation for his talk on the advances made in New Zealand in the use of land-value taxation, and his impassioned plea that the Georgists of the United States should study their cities and assemble facts on which, he confidently believed, they could base a convincing argument for a change in our American tax system. Preceding Dr. O'Regan on the banquet program were the ever-popular and distinguished Joseph H. Thompson of San Francisco, speaking on "Taxation for Justice and Sanity," and the Honorable J. Bracken Lee, former Governor of Utah, whose talk, "Abolish the Income Tax" was in line with a nation-wide fight he is making, and which he vigorously pursued on this occasion.

Here, as at other similar Henry George School conferences, the daytime sessions were devoted to school problems dealing with teaching methods, promotion, activities and graduate organizations.

The evening sessions were well at-

tended and diversified. On Thursday we heard reports from various organizations and the accumulated evidence of how much work actually is being done in publishing, in contacts with the colleges, in research and in efforts at mass communication, was impressive enough to send us to bed with the heartening conviction that Georgism is a growing and dynamic concern.

Friday evening brought Vernon Kilpatrick, California State Assemblyman, a student of the Los Angeles extension, talking on his efforts to introduce "A Pittsburgh Plan for California" (good luck, Vernon, we will have our fingers crossed!), and Dr. Glenn E. Hoover, City Councilman of Oakland, and former professor at Mills College, with an inspiring talk on "Justice, Charity and Power." It was good to see Hyman Ledeen of Los Angeles in the role of a most efficient chairman. [Both of these addresses will be in the September HGN in digest form]

The conference was not without its lighter side. On Friday afternoon plans had been made for a luncheon, a boat trip around the famous San Diego harbor with guided tours of the submarine "Steelhead" and the carrier "Hornet," and for a Mexican dinner, discreetly special (for this we were grateful) at a charming restaurant in the old, historic section of the city. Working hard at the loud speaker during the harbor cruise was James Palmer of nearby Chula Vista, a valuable member of the Henry George School faculty and one of our genial hosts at this conference. His knowledge of the points of interest which we passed, and their economic history,

is remarkable, and provided fascinating and instructive entertainment for all.

Hovering in the background, always busy, and always dodging recognition, was Sidney Evans, hardy veteran of many annual conferences, and pinch-hitting director of the San Diego extension when occasion demands. Another distinguished San Diegan attending all sessions, was Louise McLean whom Henry George "dangled on his knee" when she was a small child. Henry Cramer, Captain and Mrs. Jesse B. Gay, Everett Seeley and Dixie Wood, to mention just a few, were other members of the committee who helped to make the conference such a great success. Seemingly unruffled by the many duties she was called upon to perform was Mrs. Eva Maxwell, director of the local extension, whose work for the Georgist cause has been pursued in many different places—in New York, in Tokyo, and now in San Diego.

To many the highlight of the conference was the presence of Dr. Roland O'Regan whose faith in the success of land-value taxation in his own country was an inspiration which did not fade with the sounding of the gavel. His challenge that in America similar results can be obtained will not go unheeded. The great philosophy which brought this conference together has always found, and will continue to find, those who will work for it in the many fields in which progress can be made, those who, as Henry George so beautifully expressed it, "will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it." For this is the power of truth.