

the Henry George News

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40 Years and Still a Romance

BANQUETS and conferences which allow the Henry George School to combine with related organizations give the school a lengthened shadow and an enjoyable air. It was a particular pleasure to mingle at the annual banquet on June 9th at the Sheraton-Atlantic Hotel in New York, with the staffs, trustees and directors from both the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation and the Henry George School, which have for years shared headquarters at 50 East 69th Street.

This occasion was a happy celebration of the 40th birthday of the RSF which was established for the teaching and extension of George's ideas and has published a total of 254,437 books by Henry George to date. Besides distribution of books the Foundation sponsors the American Journal of Economics and Sociology, edited by Will Lissner, New York Times writer (page 9), and a variety of pamphlets.

Perry Prentice of Time and Life Publications paid a tribute to Philip Cornick, calling him one of the giants in the history of the Henry George movement. This dearly respected top RSF authority, though he is now retired, has not been permitted to withdraw — for his vast background in the technical aspects of land value taxation is a rich mine.

Mr. Prentice said Phil Cornick had indeed been a tower of strength for all

Georgists, and was a man of distinction and knowledge, broad and deep, whose integrity was beyond question. A gift was presented with "affection, admiration and esteem." Mrs. Cornick was also present, with their son and daughter-in-law.

Miss V. G. Peterson, executive secretary, acting demurely as a pretty hostess at this party, told of the romance of 40 years which began in Central Park (page 5). Even those who had heard of the incident leading to formation of the Schalkenbach Foundation smiled again at the circumstances surrounding it.

Albert Pleydell who presided, is the son of Arthur Pleydell, who helped guide the foundation in the early years. The RSF president, Albert Pleydell, has won serious recognition in New York for recommendations made to the city for reforming housing and taxation policies. His second-generation grasp of city management and planning is impressive and commands attention.

Lancaster M. Greene was the liaison officer, active on both boards, who extended the school's official anniversary greetings to the Foundation, representing Director Robert Clancy and all the school staff. He congratulated the RSF on its service to the Georgist educational effort and called the names of

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Left to right:
Perry Prentice,
Will Lissner,
Philip Cornick,
Albert Pleydell
and Carl McGuire.



Photo by Lancaster M. Greene

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many of its board members who were graduates of the Henry George School. Among these was Walter Rybeck of Ohio, now Washington correspondent for the Dayton Daily News, and a Schalkenbach trustee. His view from Washington, in abbreviated form, is on page 11.

George on Campus

The speaker who traveled farthest to speak at the banquet was Carl McGuire, chairman of the Economics Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His subject concerned "The Henry George Revival on the American Campus," and the campus where he first encountered George, when he went there to do graduate work, was the University of Missouri at Columbia, Missouri, where the influence of Harry Gunnison Brown pervaded the economics curriculum.

Professor McGuire would have liked to see Dr. Brown in the audience, and he would have been most welcome. He deserved to hear the tribute of a former student at first hand and to be reminded of how unforgettably his candle shed its light, for the exposure there left a lifetime impression on many.

Going back in memory to that graduate session, Professor McGuire called Dr. Brown "a tremendous, a wonderful, teacher," and vouched for the influence on one individual at least, that a teacher in the university can have. He said Harry Gunnison Brown's method of teaching economy was to

build a system of thought in which the principles of land value taxation were an integral part. The interest centered not only in the single tax but in other principles of George's writing, with special emphasis on free trade. He recalled the fine textbooks on principles of economics by Dr. Brown, and the various subjects, including money, on which he collaborated. Dr. and Mrs. Brown are now dividing their time between Pennsylvania and Michigan, and though he is retired, the work of research, writing and lecturing goes on in behalf of the reform to which he has contributed perhaps the most astute and lucid defense since Henry George himself.

In this connection Mr. McGuire spoke of a best selling book by Robert Heilbroner entitled *The Worldly Philosophers*. Among the great historical thinkers he listed in economics is Henry George. Although Heilbroner does not agree with all aspects of *Progress and Poverty*, he does include George among the molders of destiny.

Professor McGuire revealed his admiration for the economist Joseph Schumpeter, who defined an intellectual as one who deals in the spoken and written word, and looks on society, telling others what to do. Intellectuals, he said, supply ideas which hang on in people's minds. They exert influence as teachers and writers, and they also affect decisions second-hand. Politicians, for instance, have to get their ideas from somewhere, and brain trusters are hired to supply these.

Intellectuals are becoming more important in military affairs, and some are even starting to run their own businesses, though by the accepted pattern they assume no direct responsibility for practical developments. Intellectuals are articulate, but the term is not synonymous with persons of intelligence or pursuers of higher education. An intellectual can be self-made, though few are. Henry George is one example of a self-made intellectual.

Schumpeter provides a voice of authority in his field and it is interesting that he expressed the following view of Henry George:

"... We cannot afford to pass by the economist whose individual success with the public was greater than that of all the others [economists] on our list, Henry George. . . . He was a self-taught economist but he was an economist . . . he was thoroughly at home in scientific economics; and he shared none of the current misunderstandings or prejudices concerning it. . . . If Ricardo's vision of economic evolution had been correct, it [George's view] would even have been obvious wisdom. And obvious wisdom is in fact what George said in *Progress and Poverty* about the economic effects to be expected from a removal of fiscal burdens.

A number of good papers have resulted from attempts in the last few years made by RSF to introduce a rapprochement between professors of economy and Henry George's philosophy through relationships established by the personable Weld Carter. Growing out of this climate, a conference of interested professors meet each summer to compare and discuss the LVT point of view. It appears that other members will want to move closer to this climate and join these congresses.

Professor McGuire indicated that basic economic factors are now favoring the revival of the thought of Henry George on the American college campus and that the revival is not just the result of better organizational opportunities for discussions. In particular the skyrocketing rise of land rents and land values since World War II has impressed the land problem in a most practical fashion on the minds of real estate developers, building contractors and homeowners. Other pressing problems such as urban sprawl and deterioration of city cores stem from the land problem. Not theories but harsh practical facts force intellectuals to re-examine Henry George's ideas and apply them in the present-day social environment.

Robert V. Andelson Ph.D. initiated the movement in Louisiana known as TRAL, while on the staff of a Louisiana state college. Dr. Andelson has accepted an appointment to the Philosophy Department of Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. The Tax Reform Association of Louisiana is expected to continue under the able leadership of its officers.

Name changing is not to be taken lightly! In Sydney, Australia, there are those who propose dropping George's name from the title "Union for Social Justice." But when the discussion took place, not only was there disagreement over the inclusion or omission of George's name, but each of the terms "Union," "Social" and "Justice," came under attack.

It was then proposed that a name be found which could be adopted by all Australian Georgists and eventually by the world-wide Georgist movement. This should be "a source of power, forcefully and correctly commending the principles of freedom and justice to the minds of men," said the editor of *The Standard for Good Government* (Sydney). The title suggested for consideration was "The Site Rent for Revenue Movement."