

the Henry George News

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Justice, the Dominating Factor

THE annual banquet of the HGS was held on June 5th with Bill Davidson, a trustee of the school, as chairman. More than 200 persons came to the impressive old armory on Park Avenue at 67th Street to enjoy dinner and meet friends.

A number of books made their appearance at the book table, and Henry George was central in emphasis throughout. The new biography by Edgar J. Rose, *Henry George*, was introduced by Dr. Cecyle Neidle representing Twayne Publishers. Dr. Raymond Moley, author of *The American Century of John C. Lincoln*, adviser for the Lincoln Foundation, and former professor of political science at Columbia University, spoke of the book *Rebel, Priest and Prophet*, which has been republished by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, with a new introduction by Father G. J. Gustafson, SS.

Professor Moley touched only briefly on the good priest Edward McGlynn who hated poverty and accepted the doctrine of Henry George. The book, *Rebel, Priest and Prophet*, by Stephen Bell, tells of his efforts toward reform—a story which ended happily despite the frustration.

In expressing a wish that he had been born 20 years before 1886, Raymond Moley said he would not then have missed the exciting and interesting things that were going on when

he was too young to know about them, and he would have been spared witnessing the deterioration of morals and principles that we face today.

In 1886 Charles Stewart Parnell was at the height of his power as a reformer and Irish patriot. He was born on the great estate he inherited in Dublin. Parnell attempted in the first years of his career to carry on a crusade for Home Rule that one of the greatest of all statesmen, Daniel O'Connell, had started only 80 years before. Mr. Moley's father was born the same year as Parnell in one of Daniel O'Connell's houses on O'Connell Street.

As he read the tragic story of Parnell in a book by Jules Abels, Mr. Moley said he came to a realization that Home Rule after all was only a means to the end in the long struggle of the Irish. Their real objective was land reform. The book made it clear to him that a good deal of the inspiration in the Irish Land League came from Henry George, who advised and helped Parnell's intellectual mentors.

In his syndicated newspaper columns he has pointed out that much has changed about the attitude of the Church toward land reform. The interest of the present Pope in this subject is deep and lasting. A conference was held in Rome on land reform two years ago and he officially invited the

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participants to the Vatican. A year ago a conference was held in Taiwan, sponsored by the Lincoln Foundation, and the Pope sent an emissary and a message of congratulations. So a long space has been covered between the time when Henry George wrote a letter of protest to Leo XIII in 1891, and Pope Pius VI.

New Taiwan School Trains Students for Tax Reform

With special reference to the conference in Taiwan, the speaker said the influence of Henry George had reached far beyond what he ever expected. When Chiang Kai-shek went to Taiwan with his army, a fugitive from Red China, he carried with him ideas about land reform which had come from the great Chinese statesman, Sun Yat-sen—and Sun Yat-sen was influenced by Henry George. As a result they have established a land ownership system in Taiwan which should be the model for all developing countries. At present the Lincoln Foundation is interested in setting up a school in Taiwan to train people from undeveloped countries in which land reform is the essential need. Indeed it was suggested that there probably would have been no war in Vietnam had the land not been parceled out to about 100 landowners in the capital after the French left.

The former adviser to President Roosevelt paid a compliment to the Henry George School which he said had kept the flag waving consistently for what is essentially a just civilization. The way may be difficult to establish reform in this country because the demands upon cities are so great that they are compelled to reach out in all directions for revenue, and when they are struggling to make ends meet there is small opportunity for fundamental land reform.

"But keep on with the idea of justice, which should be the dominating factor

in all economic thinking," he said in conclusion, "because in the long run your influence may go far beyond anything that you now anticipate."

Robert Clancy, New York HGS director, noting the tragedy of the wounding of Robert F. Kennedy on that day called for a moment of silence. He then introduced briefly the 25th anniversary of The Henry George News, reviewing the background of Georgist periodicals. The first was Henry George's own weekly, *The Standard*. In 1901, Joseph Dana Miller started *Land and Freedom*, which continued until August 1943. In the very next month *The Henry George News* was started. Its immediate predecessor was *The Freeman*—one of several revivals of the original begun in 1920.

Mr. Clancy surprised the editor with a silver medal on a chain—a much appreciated memento of her long tenure on the 25-year-old HGN.

In a response the editor recalled Henry George's qualities of politeness, sympathy, courage, religious faith, family love and loyalty, respect for law and order, integrity and high conduct which should inspire us who speak his name many times daily. Attempting to place him in the 20th century she suggested there might be a reversal of his attitude toward labor unions, since he opposed restrictive monopolies and defended freedom. And though he denounced poverty and urged opportunity for all, it would not be consistent with his principles for him to submit to the debilitating largess of a federal welfare state. While deploring the decline of morals, which he predicted, he would retain a strict code for himself. He would still be "a free trader absolutely" and a champion of the tax on land values irrespective of improvements.

Dr. Neidle spoke next (see page 13), and Mr. Davidson read the message from Professor Rose which appears on page 15.