

ARE YOUR
1937
DUES
PAID?

SEND
A FRIEND
TO THE
WINTER
CLASSES

Henry George FELLOWSHIP NEWS

NO. 9

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GRADUATION BANQUET HUGE SUCCESS

LOCATIONS NEEDED FOR WINTER CLASSES

Do you know of some place--a room in a church, hall, or community center of some kind--which would be available to the Fellowship to use as a classroom for the winter classes. There is a great need for such places. If you will but suggest them to the officers of the Fellowship every effort will be made to obtain their use.

There is only one way in which we shall be able to make the economics of Henry George known to people as a whole that is by making that knowledge available in an ever-enlarging body of students and graduates. During the Fall term we found ourselves considerably set back for want of space. Every graduate should see to it that such a thing does not happen this winter.

WOMAN PASTOR ADDRESSES FELLOWSHIP MEETING

On November 2, the Fellowship had the pleasure of hearing Miss Margaret Blair, pastor of the Addison Congregational Church talk on "the Influence of Purpose in the Life of Henry George."

Miss Blair, wrote as her thesis for the Bachelor of Divinity Degree at the Chicago Theological Seminary a treatise dealing with this subject. In her speech she made use of several excerpts from this paper. She traced the influence of various factors in his life upon the formation of George's philosophy.

REMEMBER LINCOLN STEFFENS' AUTOBIOGRAPHY?

My only plea for recalling the attention of many of you who have longstanding admiration for Lincoln Steffens is the enthusiasm of a novice. So many people have told me that Steffens' Autobiography is one of the "must be reads" of American literature. So many, in fact, that I have picked up a copy in the library several times, glanced through its over 800 pages, and decided that there was time enough to read so long a book sometime later.

One evening early last summer, I borrowed Henry Tideman's copy of the book. It is most certainly "a book to be chewed and digested". It is a book to be read and paused over, a book to challenge the thought of one's spare hours. It is certainly the book which would not permit itself to be forgotten or neglected.

(Continued on Page 3, Column One)

One of the most successful graduation banquets to date was held Wednesday evening December 15th. Speakers, the location, the dinner were all superb — Henry Hardinge reached unparalleled heights in delivering the main address of the evening. Never have we heard Mr. Hardinge deliver a more understandable talk on how the evils in our present day world can be abolished thru putting in operation the ideals set forth by Henry George.

Max Korshak's address on the life of Henry George was truly inspiring. Henry Tideman is to be commended for his talk on "Past and Future."

Graduates who gave inspiring talks were Eugene V. Lutz, Louis Freidman and the Rev. E. E. Chipman.

ADVANCED PUBLIC SPEAKING CLASS PLANNED

If there are enough people interested in an advanced study of public speaking, Col. Rule will undertake to form such a class. The greater the number of people taking this course, the greater will be the opportunity for constructive criticism by classmates, and the more inspiring the exchange of thought possible. Then too, whatever small charge Col. Rule believes to be necessary will be negligible when divided among a group. This is a great opportunity to continue the acquisition of skill in speaking and should be looked into by everyone who has completed the elementary course. Those interested should contact Col. Rule at the Fellowship Headquarters.

THE FREEMAN

Do you know what you're missing? The Freeman, the new official publication of the Henry George School of Social Science. Unless you have subscribed for it you are missing a real treat. It is full of inspirational articles by John Dewey, Harry Gunnison Brown, George Raymond Geiger, Henry George, Albert Jay Nock and many others. Its purpose is to direct the minds of its readers toward a continued criticism of modern economic trends in the light of the Georgist philosophy.

The cost of The Freeman is extremely low, only 50 cents for a year. Any single issue is worth many times that much. Having heard the enthusiastic comments on the new publication of so many members as spoke about the November issue would be reason enough to subscribe without further delay. Those desiring to subscribe for The Freeman should see Henry Tideman.

October 13, 1937

An Open Letter to Mr. Knox,
Editor of the Chicago "Daily News".

Dear Mr. Knox:

You publish a great newspaper. As newspapers go, I like it. I am inclined to rate it the World's Greatest Newspaper. This is not plagiarism. It is my candid opinion. My only wish is that you had a more sane and logical economic policy.

On the financial page of your October 4th issue, one of your spokesmen under "'Upside Down' Economics are Bane of U.S." says "At the root of the economic troubles of the United States is lack of economic education on the part of the mass of the people". We faintly recall Mr. Vanderlip, or some such person, has been credited with having said as much in fewer words, to wit, "The United States is a nation of economic illiterates". (16 fewer words. However, I suppose the column had to be filled). To a student of "basic economics", the column referred to is indeed a confirmation of the accusation.

Unfortunately, about 160 years ago, a man by the name of Adam Smith put forth a theory, which became famous as the "Wage Fund Theory". It was based upon the false assumption that wages are paid from a fund designated for the purpose and currently called Capital. From the tenor of the article in your paper, it is evident the author does not know that this theory has long since been disproved. The author says "..... the way to create jobs is to bring together the three factors of trained workmen, courageous management and adequate capital". No man need be a student, much less a graduate, in economics to know this is not true. Only two factors are required, first, workmen - they do not so much as need be trained. They may be either male or female, which for simplicity will be called LABOR; second, Natural Resources, by which we mean anything and/or everything extant, excepting man and his products, which for simplicity will be called LAND.

Now Mr. Knox, look at this simple illustration. A man (when you were a child you called him Crusoe) was shipwrecked. As a lone survivor, he was cast upon an island. The island was by a Supreme Creator, or Nature, supplied with many things familiar in our everyday lives, namely, earth, sky, air, water, vegetation, animals, etc., or as defined above, it contained LAND. Now we find assembled on that island LABOR and LAND. There was no capital, adequate or otherwise; no management, courageous or otherwise. How about the job? You know the job was there. Even if you had never read that famous child's story, you would know. Assume the first appealing thing this shipwrecked man saw was a tree bearing cocoanuts. He knew their interiors were good to eat and to drink. From beneath his feet, he selected stones suitable for knocking the coconut from the tree and for cracking the outer shell. By these acts, we have the application of LABOR to LAND, or a job, which resulted in the producing of wealth, or that which satisfies human desires. The stones selected to

knock cocoanuts from the tree became wealth when selected for that purpose and became Capital when used to assist labor in obtaining cocoanuts. Capital is merely wealth used to assist labor to produce more wealth. This being true, it is obvious there can never be a "Lack of Capital". Our economic difficulties arise from the monopoly of natural resources, thereby preventing labor having access to them.

There is more to this story that I am sure you know. Will you be the means whereby "Upside Down" economic thinking in the United States shall be "Righted"?

DR. MURRAY-AARON ADDRESSES FELLOWSHIP

Very many fellowship members attended the interesting lecture on the Arctic Regions by Dr. Murray Aaron. So inspiring was his talk that it gave one the chills to observe how man risks his life for science, in no-man's land. How little we know about the earth and its inhabitants can be learned if fellow graduates attend these lectures. Dr. Murray-Aarons is nationally known as an etymologist (or bug hunter), working on the staff of the Field Museum here in Chicago.

Dr. Murray-Aarons is, besides an eminent scientist, a thorough-going Georgist. Even in his talks about his travels, his devotion to the Cause manifests itself. In his speeches he dashes with fine style through the fields into which his very interesting life has led him. Through science, travel into widely varied parts of the earth, through economics and through philosophy. His personality is that of the genuine scientist. Dr. Murray-Aarons is undoubtedly one of the bright lights of the Chicago Chapter, and we may well be proud to call on his store of knowledge and adventure for many evenings like this one.

THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

Many of the graduates of the Henry George School have their Tuesday evenings occupied with agreeable or necessary activity so that it is not practicable for them to attend the meetings of the Henry George Fellowship. For these folks another opportunity is open.

The Single Tax League meets every Friday evening at 8:00 o'clock in the headquarters assembly room, 180 West Washington Street. Some of these meetings are better than others; but all are splendid opportunities to review various phases of fundamental democracy and to add to our information useful for the intelligent discussion of public matters.

You have friends who you realize cannot be induced to accept the discipline of a ten weeks course of regular study in the School on the strength of your recommendation alone. If you would bring them to these Friday evening meetings, their interest may be aroused, and they having, as it were, nibbled at the subject might then be induced to look further into it.

Every avenue for arousing interest should be explored, and the Single Tax League meeting is one deserving attention. The Single Tax League exists only to promote a knowledge of the Philosophy and proposal of Henry George. All who come to these meetings are received with a friendly welcome.

Abolish Poverty

Preserve Liberty.

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Henry George Fellowship
(Chicago Chapter)

Meets First Tuesday of
each month, at 180 W. Washington, 8:00 p.m.

**REMEMBER LINCOLN STEFFENS' AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Continued--**

As long as it has been in the reading the time is well spent.

I wonder how many of you noticed the following excerpts. They are extremely significant in that Stephens recognized the philosophy of Henry George as a solution for economic problems. So also, did Folk and Johnson.

The people of St. Louis, like the people of Minneapolis and New York, were against bribery in the abstract and against the corruption that involved the police, vice, and petty politicians. They backed reformers who attacked these petty evils. When Folk went on to discover that not only Ed Butler's garbage business but the franchises of public service corporations were linked up with garbage and gambling and prostitution, some of the people turned against Folk. They had stock or friends who held stock in these companies and so could see that they did not belong with what they called the honest citizenry. Therefore Folk had to appeal to the people of Missouri. And they elected him governor before he had gone so far that they saw that they were in it. Then Folk had the people of the United States behind him. He was a possibility for president at one time after he was governor of Missouri, when he could not have been reelected governor of Missouri.

What did this all mean? What was this system? Folk and I could not answer this question either. Like the other question, we knew the answer but we didn't want to face it--not clearly. I'm sure Folk didn't. One day I saw a book on his living-room table, *Social Problems* by Henry George. He saw me see it; we had just been wondering together about the nature and the cure of political corruption.

Of the writing of books there is no end, said the poet, hundreds of years ago. And today's plague is the column. Everybody writes one, or dreams of writing one, or can tell you how you can write one better. There's about as much excuse for another column as there is for starting a Chinese invasion.

This particular column, however, will be strictly original. We mean it: it'll be different from all others in one vital respect: it won't say anything clever, anything original, anything that even smacks of freshness. It will only quote.

Oh, it'll have a social purpose, all right; but we'll always let someone else do the talking. Surprisingly enough, we're going to let the Opposition make all the speeches; yes sir, the Chicago Tribune, the News, the Herald, the American, the Times will write this column. Everyone knows the old adage about giving a man enough rope; well, we're so sure that their own words will damn them, so much more effectively than we could, that we're just going to sit back and listen.

Now all the big Chicago papers are in sympathy with our present capitalist system. Wouldn't dream of changing it. Oh, while it might creak a bit here and there, the old horse still can show any other system a fine pair of heels. Doesn't need a major operation....

Say they.

Well, here's something from the Daily News of Nov. 2. We don't have to add one word; it's perfect.

**COUPLE WHO ATE FOOD FROM
DUMP FOUND DEAD**

A man and woman who were treated in the county hospital over the week end after eating food they obtained from a dump heap were found dead in bed in their apartment today.

The couple, Michael Matousek, 67 years old, and his wife, Mary, 50, who live at 2740 South Sacramento Boulevard, went to the county hospital Saturday.

At first Mrs. Matousek told hospital attendants that she had purchased the meat they had eaten at a grocery. Later Joseph declared the meat had been found on a dump heap beside the sanitary district canal and she agreed, according to Dr. Ole C. Nelson, assistant warden of the hospital.

Well, one last cynical touch was added when the copyreader didn't even bother to catch the error in the name....It's perfect....But we did think we'd like to write the caption on the sweet little thing; Modern Capitalism Proves Claim to be Best Of All Possible Worlds....

"That book explains the whole thing," Folk said.

"Have you read it?" I asked.

"No," he said. "I read into it enough to see that that man has it all sized up, and—I dropped it, as I did another book a socialist brought me."

"Why?", I demanded, astonished.

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"Oh," said Folk, "if I once got socialism or any other hot-and-dried solution into my head I'd be ruined--politically. Couldn't get anywhere. But you are not in politics. Why don't you read them?"

The man's sense of humor is highly evident in the fact that he tosses in the parenthetical statement "much better, I thought", and then puts "scientifically" in quotes. It is also significant that Folk did not fall into the error of so many superficial observers, by classing Henry George as a socialist. No Note that he said "I dropped it, as I did another book a socialist brought me," instead of saying "a book another socialist brought me".

Later in the book, during Steffens' study of "Ohio; A Tale of Two Cities", Steffens found another Georgist in Tom Johnson, who possibly aside from Teddy Roosevelt and Steffens himself, is the most admirable character in the book.

When I arrived in Cleveland to study Ohio, Johnson told me his personal story. He was a poor boy, the son of southern parents ruined by the war. To help out the family he sold newspapers from the city in his small home town. Fat, jolly, and bright, he made friends, and one of them, the conductor on the train that brought in the papers, said to him one day: "See here, Tom, I like you and I'm going to boost your business. Hereafter I'll bring papers only for you. You'll have a monopoly and can charge what you like, twenty-five cents apiece for them."

Tom Johnson not only made some money, he learned the principle of monopoly; and when he grew older and the other boys in his gang used to talk about going to work at a trade or in the grocery or some other store, he wondered at their folly in choosing a competitive line. He meant to start in some monopoly, and he did; he went into the street railway business, and he applied the monopoly principle to it. The street railways were monopolies, each of its route, but they competed with one another for power, control, domination. He discovered an idea that would bring him control. Most street car lines in his day in all cities started from the center of the town and ran out to some city limit and back. Each got thus the heavy traffic, downtown in the morning to work, back home in the evening. If he could unite two such lines and run them clear through a town, his one consolidated road would get, in addition to the up and down business, the lighter but good midday traffic across town and so have an advantage that would enable him to beat the other companies and force them into one consolidated monopoly. He worked these principles to a triumph in several cities and was applying them in Cleveland. He had already got the Bir Consolidated there and was driving out Mark Hanna, with his "Little Con," when something happened. Tom Johnson read a book.

The peanut butcher on a train one day was trying to sell him Henry George's Social Problems when the conductor passing down the aisle said, "That's a book you ought to read Mr. Johnson." The street railway man had a

soft spot for conductors; he took this one's advice, and after buying and reading the book, went to his attorney and said: "I want you to answer that book for me. I can't. And I must. For if that book is right I am all wrong and I'll have to get out of my business." The lawyer answered Henry George, but only as a lawyer, not to his client's satisfaction. Tom Johnson went to New York, called together a group of his rich friends, and put it up to them. They all read Henry George, met one night and discussed it till daylight. Johnson defended the book; he didn't want to accept its doctrines; he begged his friends to upset them, and they tried; they were able men, too, but Tom Johnson had seen the light, and his friends not only failed to clear his mind of the single-tax theories; they were themselves convinced. They all saw what Henry George pointed out: that excessive riches came unearned to individuals and companies owning land, natural resources, like water, coal, oil, etc., and franchises, such as steam and street railways, which, being common wealth to start with, became more and more valuable as the growing population increased the need and the value of these natural monopolies. The increased value of them was created by the mere growth of the population, who should have it, and George proposed that government should take it back by taxing nothing but the values of land, natural resources, and monopolies.

Tom Johnson returned to Cleveland, sold out his monopoly business, gradually, and went into politics as a successful business man with a vision, a plan. He ran for Congress, was elected, and there, in Washington, worked and voted against his own interests for the public interest. He did it genially, jovially, with humor, but with all the force of his good mind and powerful will. He could not accomplish much. A large representative body is no place for an executive, he discovered, and the House of Representatives, filled with men nominated by the State machines, had long ago been organized into a stronghold of the system. Tom Johnson consulted with Henry George, and they decided that the thing for Johnson to do was to go to a city, run for mayor, and try for the control so that he could apply the George principles and set an example in policy and in achievement, for all Cities, all States.

Thereafter Johnson was the head of what was perhaps the most admirable city government in modern times. Run by an honest man, for the good of the people, it was an example of what a city government can be when dominated by a person of intelligence and principle with a vision of what government ought to be.

The thought has probably occurred to many Georgists upon reading Lincoln Steffens that we have no Tom Johnson's now. True, but perhaps there are others who, having heard George's argument will become as firm supporters of it as was this great man. Possibly, as Folk thought such a philosophy would ruin a man politically today. But that is the purpose of the Henry George School of Social Science--to give to persons of leadership a sound economic philosophy, and to show those who will follow him that same philosophy so that they may understand and sympathize with his efforts. We are but paving the way for the new order.