

Mayers

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL
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C U R R E N T E V E N T S

Scope of the Course

It is the hope of your Leader that this class in "Current Events" will prove to be lively and stimulating; more, that it will be interesting, diverting and enjoyable for all of us. By all means, let good humor prevail and let us relax amiably together as we discuss the affairs of the day and endeavor to discover the deeper causes which occasion the more superficial effects. The exchange and interchange of ideas and opinions among us should result in much enthusiasm, probably a bit of excitement and perhaps a laugh or two now and then.

However, it is my presumption that there will constantly exist in the class a basic seriousness of purpose. Frankly, merely to gather for a weekly kaffee klatsch (sans coffee) cannot, in the long run, offer a very rewarding experience. It is therefore anticipated that we will be thoughtful rather than opinionated; that we will seek truth rather than assert it, and, in general, that we will view and consider what is happening here and abroad, not with emotional pre-conceptions, but with honest and objective attention. As Henry George said, "If the conclusions that we reach run counter to our prejudices, let us not flinch; if they challenge institutions that have long been deemed wise and natural, let us not turn back."

By your presence in this School, it is assumed that you members of this class are well-grounded in - or to greater or lesser extent familiar with - or at least interested in - the economic and social philosophy of Henry George. My aim here will be to demonstrate that this philosophy, although it was first propounded over 80 years ago, is neither obsolete, nor passe, nor outmoded - and in fact is as valid today as it was in George's time. It is not my desire or intention to "interpret" Henry George, who needs no interpretation. (No one can say what George "means" better than George himself!) What is necessary, and what I shall try to encourage the class to do, is to apply George's principles to contemporary events, in an effort to determine the true meaning and import of these occurrences. Our newspapers tell us Who, What, How and Where - our task is to find out Why.

Welcome to the class. As I've said, my primary wish is that we thoroughly enjoy it. But I do hope we will also derive a better understanding and a clearer concept of Current Events.

-- Sydney A. Mayers