

By George!!!

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COMING - 14th NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOLS, JULY 9 - JULY 12.

ANNUAL ALUMNI MEETING AND POT-LUCK DINNER, June 2, Monday. Note the date.

THE PLACE:-
Lafayette Hotel, 2223 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego 4, California.

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The San Diego program, as it is shaping up calls for an informal gathering at the Lafayette Hotel Wednesday evening. This informal gathering is usually very worthwhile.

Bard Hall, in the Unitarian Church at 1541 Sixth Avenue, Monday, June 2, at 6 p.m., or as early as you can come. If it is inconvenient to bring a dish of food, then just drop in the treasury as much as a similar meal would cost you BUT COIN. Scandinavian food? Japanese food? Mexican food? Who knows what delectable tid-bits you'll find? Bring the family. The dinner will be fun, the business brief, the pictures, of India and Africa, (colored slides) taken by Mr. Cramer on his recent cruise, just a real treat. Mark the date NOW!!!

Formal sessions open Thursday morning at 10, with brief welcoming speeches and the discussion of one of the many School problems, which will occupy most of the mornings and afternoons. The evening sessions and the banquet will give opportunity for economic discussions and the more distinguished speakers.

Friday afternoon is the only scheduled recreation time--a sightseeing bus trip, may be planned for that time although a boat trip around the harbor is also being considered. 1½ hour trips can be arranged to follow afternoon sessions.

Mr. Charles ECKERT, OUR ELDER STATESMAN
Mr. Charles Eckert, former Congressman from Pennsylvania, will leave San Diego Friday afternoon, May 16, to go to his home in Beaver, Pennsylvania. He spends part of each winter in San Diego to be near his older brother, Mr. Henry Eckert who has made his home in San Diego for many years.

You are the hosts to the Henry George schools of Canada and the United States.. Plan to help entertain our guests, and plan to attend as many sessions as possible. You are welcome to all sessions, so try to be present as often as possible. Mark the date of the banquet, especially, for that will be the highlight of the entire conference. Please phone in your offer of car and driver to meet trains planes, and busses on Wednesday, July 9, Also, we need to have hostesses for each morning and each afternoon. Please tell us when you are free to help.

Mr. Eckert has his law office in Beaver, which is near Pittsburgh, Pa. He works through the Henry George Foundation, to promote an understanding of the just distribution of wealth through the abolition of all taxes, and the utilization of the community created ground rent, for public purposes, thus ending speculation in land and assuring equality of opportunity for everyone.

Below is a letter written to Mr. Eckert, by his close friend, H. S. Bigelow during his visit to Russia. He was a minister, a public spirited citizen, and finally a congressman from Ohio.

A MOST PROPHETIC LETTER

On the Volga, Russia
August 11, 1931

My Dear Eckert:

Here I am 1500 miles down the Volga from Moscow. Am leaving Russia in about 10 days. Will have had a month's trip here, with stays in Leningrad, Moscow, and other industrial centers and agricultural experiment stations.

I get a different opinion about it every day. It is certainly the most audacious undertaking in History. For millions of peasants such as I have seen, Communism can be only another Tzar. More than one generation will have to die before they are reconstructed. But in spite of that, one is amazed at the thoroughness of the Revolution. Not a millionaire is left. Not even a moderately well-to-do class. There is no income except wages for work done. The lowest rate of pay is 69 rubles a month, or ¾ dollar. The highest rate is 400 rubles, or 200 dollars a month. The wage differential may be as high as 1 to 6. We have about the same variation between skilled and common labor. But here there are no high salaried men, except the foreign engineers, who, of course, have attractive terms offered them. There are no landlords, to draw rent. There are no capitalists to draw interest. There is no stock exchange. There are no profit-over

teers. The Government monopolizes all trade and banking and industrial processes. Everyone works for the Government. The Government fixes wages and prices. It determines how much shall be left to the people in wages, how much shall be withheld for capital funds, and in what industries their funds shall be invested. If there is a scarcity of anything it is rationed. With us the price goes up. Those who have money, buy, and those who cannot afford the price go without. In Russia it is doled out in sparing amounts. The theory is that all work, and all get their share, and that as the nation increases its production the share will increase for all. Hence there is no foolish talk, as with us, about the machine displacing men. They are crying for machines. Since each man's income depends on the total product, they cannot conceive of over production. Neither is there any rivalry here for precious jobs. It is not jobs they are crying for, but men for jobs. Many factories are working in 3 shifts, 24 hrs. a day. They could use millions of American workmen. Their handicap is that they have to draw their labor supply from the raw peasantry. Factories have as high as 70% of peasants.

It bowls one over. It knocks much of our political economy into a cocked hat. Given 25 or 50 years of this, I cannot see why Russia should not be one of the richest and most powerful nations on earth.

Indeed, if their experiment succeeds, a similar policy will be necessary for survival in all the nations.

There are, of course, weak points in the policy - and it would be rash to predict its success. They are trying hard to introduce methods of management to take the place of the check-up that the interest of investors holds under private capitalism. They claim to be succeeding. But they may never hope to equal an American factory in efficiency. While we are efficient in the individual factory, we are chaotic and wasteful in the extreme in our lack of social management. They think the advantages bulk large in their favor.

There is much boot-leg trade. While this is frowned on, it perhaps is tolerated because it may relieve to some extent the tension. For the Government policy is to stint the Russian people to the point of endurance, so that it may have the means to pay for factory equipment. They are appealing to the public to stand it, just as we sold Liberty Bonds. They say that the success of their experiment will be too dangerous a thrust at the capitalist powers to be tolerated. They expect attack. They say that a primitive agricultural country cannot hope to meet a highly industrialized country in modern war. The 5 year plan is in part at least military preparedness. The red army is the darling of their hearts. If it does not carry an Evangel's sword through Europe, as Napoleon's army did, they at least expect it to meet the armies of a "decadent capitalism", as they say.

You sense this, that hard as Russian life is at present, the people have hope. They expect steady improvement from now on. They feel that the country is theirs. That they are the masters of their own destiny. This will make the red army a hard nut to crack, if Europe or America does try its teeth on it.

But, there is no.....such drastic revolution in America. We must take the route of Economic Evolution through education and the development of social mindedness. But we shall feel the pressure, the Russian pressure. We shall have to set our house in order. Our present barbarism cannot go on. You and I still have a great work to do. It seems to me that the time is fast ripening for a new blossoming of democracy and attacks on the monopolistic elements which make capitalism master instead of servant.

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