

HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE

Frank Chodorov, Director

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The post-war problem of economic distribution will be acute enough. In essence it will be the same poverty-in-the-midst-of plenty conundrum which has plagued the world these many years; every indication is that it will be met with the pre-war palliatives of relief and make-work, only on a larger scale. The more fearsome prospect is the possible giving up of these moral and spiritual values which raise men above the level of beasts. Specifically, what regard men have had for the dignity of the individual may be thrown overboard in the brute struggle for existence. It has happened before that Freedom became synonymous with State-slavery; the historic symptoms antecedent to such mental adjustment can be discerned in the current trend.

But, men do not give up their precious hopes without a struggle. Particularly in America, where the concept of liberty has become traditionalized through the constant repetition of its immortal phrasing in the Declaration of Independence, the poverty-born threat of absolutism will find the going hard. Men who before the war saw no danger to the American way of life in the increasing spread of poverty will recognize the unmistakable signs in the social and political changes of the reconstruction period. Already during the war, when its acceptance is rationalized on the ground of expediency, the possibility of a State-dominated society is being looked upon with apprehension. Men are giving thought to the matter; they will think more about it when the broad outlines of State-ism are being filled in with legislation arising from a want-inspired social outlook.

Then will come the great opportunity to spread the doctrine of Georgism. Curiosity about the principles of freedom will be intensified by the fear of losing what they have of it, and minds heretofore smug will be prepared for an inquiry into those principles. There will be no lack of students.

But, will there be competent teachers to answer this call? Will there be men and women who, in addition to having a thorough knowledge of the subject and a grasp of teaching-technique, have that faith in freedom which carries conviction? That is what competency in the teaching of an ideal requires. For people believe those who believe in what they teach, while they question the soundness of a philosophy, no matter how erudite its presentation, when its exponents palliate its principles for fear of following through to unpalatable conclusions.

The HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE is designed to give followers of Henry George an opportunity to prepare themselves for leadership in the movement that must emerge from the present crisis. It is a school for teachers.

ORGANIZATION AND TENTATIVE PROGRAM

The group undertaking this venture are working out the details of organization and administration. The structure will be a non-profit association, and its machinery will be very simple - just enough to assure efficient functioning.

It is hoped that the Institute will be as near self-sustaining as possible. Toward that end each member will pledge himself to pay a fee of One Dollar a month - and will contribute whatever more he can.

Membership will be confined to those who have some familiarity with "Progress and Poverty", and who express a desire to prepare themselves for an active campaign in the propagation of the Philosophy of Henry George.

The group has agreed to the following tentative program, subject to change for the better achievement of the purpose, and to certain guiding principles dictated by experience:

1. The seminar method of study will be followed.
2. Members will be required to take part in an intensive review of "Progress and Poverty"; a page-by-page discussion will assure thorough understanding. Pedagogical methods will be emphasized. The task of translating each lesson into simple language will be assigned to individual members, toward the end that a lecture course may be developed for the benefit of those unable to comprehend the classic.
3. Courses based on "Protection or Free Trade" and "The Science of Political Economy" will be offered to those unfamiliar with these works.
4. Books dealing with the general subject of freedom will come in for reading and discussion. Since the very concept of freedom is being challenged, it will be profitable to examine the works of other contributors to this subject, to which George brought the essential economic implimentation.
5. Other seminars will be devoted to George's "minor" books. Since in these George leaves the field of theory and applies himself to practical problems, this seminar will help members acquire the ability to evaluate current events in the light of his philosophy.
6. A lecture bureau will be developed for the double purpose of training effective speakers and of organizing beginners' classes. Members will be urged to teach "Progress and Poverty" wherever they can, and to recommend for membership in the Institute those students who show some aptitude and that keen interest necessary for effective leadership.

7. All funds will be spent on present plans. These plans will be expended as rapidly as funds permit. There will be no attempt to build up an endowment fund, for in the very nature of such a fund there is a denial of the principles Henry George taught. There will always be money to carry on if the Institute carries on well.

8. The Institute will neither seek nor accept political aid, thus avoiding any impairment of its intellectual integrity. When the State does anything for you it puts itself in position to do something to you.

IN CONCLUSION

With these general aims and principles the HENRY GEORGE INSTITUTE is launched. Its development is in the hands of the membership. It starts with no material resources. The anticipated budget to make it a going concern for the first year will amount to a minimum of \$1500, for rent, equipment, printing and postage. It is expected that the membership fees will take care of a good part of these expenses. For the balance, contributions from those who have faith in freedom are solicited. Until the Institute is housed at a permanent address, communications and contributions should be addressed to:

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