

F. Long pamph

Miss C. O. Schetter -- Economist, Philosopher
Artist, Traveler -- Loves The Human Race

By MONTGOMERY HARE

(Third in a series of interviews on interesting folks
by Montgomery Hare, of Manhattan and St. James, being
published in the Northport Journal.)

'First you must know of me I am not really a painter, says successful Portrait Painter Miss Caroline (sic for Charlotte) O. Schetter of McKinney avenue, Northport. 'Economics is my art. If you speak of me you should only say that I am incurably in love with the human race.'

Possibly it is the combination of hot Southern blood with cold New England reason, for her grandmother was from Baltimore, which has produced this very vivacious philosopher of McKinney avenue.

Continuing forcibly, sitting well forward on her chair, she says, 'I have spent my whole life working for economic justice to bring about the art of human living.' Obvious in her desire to convince her visitor as soon as possible of her beliefs, paradoxically she adds, 'But the trouble with women is they are too anxious.'

Miss Schetter, who now for ten years has been one of Northport's most valued citizens, refuses to permit her excited guest to see her paintings or her studio, until she has reiterated her devotion to the economic philosophy of Henry George, whose "Progress and Poverty" caused such a sensation in economic thought in 1879.

'You must understand,' she speaks, pressing one finely molded ~~hand~~ hand against the other as if to emphasize her point, 'I am of course sympathetic to socialism, but it is not the solution. Capital is NOT the enemy of labor. It is monopoly which is the enemy of both.'

'This would be recognized sooner, but many important men in business dare not say so for fear of losing their jobs.' And finally interrupting herself, now speaks the painter, the artist, sadly, 'But I never do see enough pictures.'

Miss Schetter, previous to her interest in painting, became at the unusual age of fifteen a convert to the Single Tax principle of Henry George. Which at that time, she is quick to admit, was not wholly her doing, as her inheritance was a liberal one. Her father, Florene (for Florens) Schetter, a musician,

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had been closely connected with the Brook Farm movement, which included among its members such famous names in American philosophy as Emerson, Alcott, Thoreau.

From her upbringing in this liberal atmosphere, Miss Schetter traces many of her most exciting memories. For many years she was a friend of Charles A. Dana, of the New York Sun, as she was also a friend of Dana's less well-known cousin, McDaniels. Later in her work with the Commonwealth Land Party, which Miss Schetter believes a more suitable title for the Single Tax movement, she was associated with the Jewish Leader, George Geiger.

Coming to Northport ten years ago, Miss Schetter did not relax from her labors in economics, though well she might have done so. Among her many friends whom she converted to her beliefs or in whom she found sympathetic listeners, were Mrs. A. S.H. Bristow and the latter's sister Mrs. Hiram Thomas, also Mrs. Henry Dreier.

Believing that classes in the Georgist economic philosophy should be made available to Northport, Miss Schetter soon enlisted the aid of Elwood Lewis and of Dr. W. C. Travis of Northport, the latter, according to Miss Schetter, though not a Georgist, offering his services with at least 'an open mind'. From these classes there were 25 graduates.

Miss Schetter, though preferring to think of painting as her secondary art, has pursued it as closely as her economic work. Commenced when as a girl she left home to take care of a relative, Miss Schetter followed her early work with a course of study at the Boston Art Museum, now retains a recommendation as a teacher from that institution. Lately she has discontinued her portrait work to devote herself to still-life and flower painting.

Among her many trips to Europe, Miss Schetter went to England in 1902, at which time she became acquainted with the literary works of a then obscure Scot, Dove, whose writings closely approximated those of Henry George. Shortly after this trip, and partly by her recommendation, Dove's treatise, "The Theory of Human Progression," was abridged and edited by one of Miss Schetter's friends.

Again in 1928 Miss Schetter left the United States for Denmark, where she attended the International Conference of Single Taxers. Careful whenever possible to attend such meetings, she tells with humor of an incident at the latest meeting held in conjunction with the Chicago World's Fair.

Descriptive of her intense devotion to the cause is her story that when asked, upon her return from the meeting, whatever she saw there to compare with the Fair, she retorted, 'I didn't see a single fool.'