

Henry George School of Social Science

SINCE our last issue, which announced the classes and forums of the School of Social Science as being conducted at the Youth House, a change of location was found advisable. The young folks that are attracted to the Youth House are more of the fun-loving type seeking diversion and pleasure than the studious or even serious type to which the School necessarily makes its appeal.

The classes are now held at the Pythian Temple, 135 West 70th Street, just east of Broadway, perhaps one of the finest assembly room locations in New York, and are meeting with marked success, both in attendance and in the interest manifested.

Starting with an attendance of about twenty-five, half of whom were adults and largely convinced, and half high school students just initiated and merely curious, the classes now average more than fifty, of whom about forty are college and high school students, and some teachers, all interested and most of them taking part in the discussions that follow the lectures.

Walter Fairchild, a college man himself, who carries the message of Henry George to colleges and universities at every possible opportunity, and who attended one of the classes, writes:

"I was much interested and encouraged upon my visit to your class last night, in connection with the Henry George School of Social Science, which you are directing. I am sure your plan is a good one, and will succeed with perseverance and a lot of hard work, which I know you will give it. My observation is that you are planning your talks in classroom style, which I think is correct. * * * I hope your plan will work out so that you may be able to have a definite room for your class work. * * * I believe in the teaching method as against the oratorical method, although both have their place according to the opportunity offered. I am writing this in a personal vein, giving my thoughts as they occur for what they may be worth. With personal regards and best wishes for your success."

Coming from a man of Mr. Fairchild's learning and vision, these are precious words. The letter also contained words of good counsel and valuable advice which, even more than the words of praise, are evidence of sincerity and constructive assistance. Such interest and moral support call forth one's best efforts and are an urge to better and bigger accomplishments.

A luncheon meeting of the Advisory Committee was called to meet at Halz's restaurant, Woolworth Building, on April 15, which was attended by all in and near New York who could spare the time (one good soul, Gilbert M. Tucker, Jr., coming down from Albany to be present). Many kind words of regret were received from those too distant to attend.

At this meeting steps were taken toward organization and incorporation. Professor John Dewey accepted the position of honorary president of the School, and the Hon. Frederic C. Howe was elected as chairman of the

Advisory Committee. The board of trustees elected were Frederic Cyrus Leubuscher, president; Anna George de Mille, vice-president; Joseph Dana Miller, treasurer; Harold Benedict, general secretary; William Ryan, recording secretary.

It was also decided at this meeting to send out a general appeal for funds to support the work of the School, and this, together with additional descriptive matter, was mailed under date of May 14. If there are readers of this article who have not received such matter and who are interested in the work of the School, it will be mailed to them immediately on receipt of their request.

We are pleased not only to be able to report progress in the work of the School in its regular Pythian Temple classes and forums, but we are also happy to report that as a result of Mr. Geiger's lectures outside of the School a new forum class has been started under Mr. Geiger's direction which meets every Tuesday night at the Young Israel Synagogue, 229 East Broadway, in the section of Manhattan Island known as the "Lower East Side." Those organizing it as a result of hearing Mr. Geiger speak are of high calibre, and mostly well educated young folks: college students, several college graduates, a few teachers. Mr. Geiger is very much gratified with the results of the few meetings that have been held and is greatly encouraged by the unusual interest shown.

Mr. Geiger seems determined to make the School a United Movement Effort rather than a "one-man institution," for, while he conducts the classes, unless another speaker capable of doing this is at hand, his endeavor is to have a different lecturer at every meeting if possible, the purpose being two-fold: first, it gives the students an opportunity to see and hear the various men and women in the movement and thus to know that there is a movement, this permitting them to hear the subject presented from different angles and view-points and helping to hold their interest; second, that this will rekindle the spirit that has cooled because of inaction, and give followers of Henry George an opportunity to do work they can and want to do.

Thus far the responses have been all that could be wished for. Bolton Hall, Whidden Graham, Benjamin W. Burger and Morris Van Veen have already spoken and are willing to speak as often as called upon. Anna George de Mille, who has already dedicated herself to the School, lends lustre and inspiration to the work by her presence at the classes, while Isabel Colbron, James F. Morton and Joseph H. Fink have signified their willingness to speak.

Owing to the great amount of detail work that Mr. Geiger has had to do in the organizing of the School assisted only by Mrs. Geiger, who, to her eternal credit

be it said, has taken up typing in order to be able to assist in secretarial work and thus save expense, Mr. Geiger has had to defer for a while his outside lecture work. With the assistance now of the faithful souls that have volunteered their services to speak as occasion calls and their time permits, he means to more actively resume this work and hopes to provide opportunity for everyone willing to help the Cause.

Later on, we understand, Mr. Geiger will write to all who have ever done lecture work and ask their active assistance. We believe it would be gracious of them to accept the offer if they can. In fact, a voluntary offer on their part in advance of such request would, we believe, prove a fitting reward for Mr. Geiger's efforts and an encouragement in the tasks before him.

We asked Mr. Geiger to tell us for publication in a few words how he felt about the success of the School. This is what he wrote:

"All things are comparative. This is as true of success as it is of everything else. When we speak of the success the School is having we do not 'point with pride'; rather we are gratified that we have chosen the right path and that we are going in the right direction. There is much more to be done, higher goals to be achieved, greater tasks to be accomplished.

"We can take only one step at a time. We now have a School; our next step is to have our own schoolroom, our own meeting place, our own headquarters, where, if necessary, we can conduct classes every night, and if it should be required for those who cannot attend at night, have classes during the day.

"We believe this will be made possible by the responses to our appeal just issued. We hope we will be able to report success in this direction before the next issue of LAND AND FREEDOM."

May we add that editorial blessings go with this programme. What an achievement it would be if our movement could point to the Henry George School of Social Science open every day and every evening, with classes teaching the Philosophy of Henry George, and open at all times to all who would hear the message!

To a Georgian, it fires the imagination and grips the heart.

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Several requests have been received (one from a Single Tax lecturer) asking that a Question and Answer column be conducted by LAND AND FREEDOM. The need for such a department seems evident, and the Henry George School of Social Science section of this magazine, is, perhaps, the logical place for such a feature.

An attempt will be made by the editor or Mr. Geiger to answer all serious questions on Economic and Social Philosophy as these are viewed in accordance with fundamental Georgian principles. Space, however, forbids long argumentation and it is therefore requested that questions be clear and brief. Also questions should bear the name

and address of the questioner, in the event that correspondence on the subject may be necessary.

This is a good opportunity to interest the young folks everywhere and should prove a worthy and useful extension of the services of the School.

Manhattan S. T. Club Activities

HEREWITH is a report of the work of the Manhattan Single Tax Club covering the period since our report in the last issue of LAND AND FREEDOM.

We have found it necessary to reduce our activities because of shortage of funds, and regret that among the other curtailments it was necessary to discontinue the Ingersoll speaking tour after three months of strenuous cross-country campaigning.

Mr. Ingersoll delivered 127 separate lectures, his audiences numbering 20,714, and has been successful in securing much front-page newspaper publicity. We regret we cannot arrange for a return tour by Mr. Ingersoll, but our treasury is entirely depleted.

We are receiving many requests for literature, but are running short of printed matter. We have had edited, ready for printing, four unpublished lectures by Mr. James R. Brown, our late President. It has been suggested that these lectures be printed in book form. This would be a very useful work and a memorial to Mr. Brown.

Mention was made in March-April issue of the lecture trip of our secretary, Mr. Fairchild, but the lectures were not listed. Mr. Fairchild spoke at some important colleges on this trip, and it will be of interest to your readers to know that the schools in the South at which Mr. Brown was a regular visitor have not been neglected this year.

Mr. Fairchild started for Baltimore Sunday, March 6, and met Mr. Spencer Heath of Elkridge, Md., at his home that evening. Mr. Heath accompanied Mr. Fairchild on the trip. Mr. Fairchild spoke as follows:

March 7—Baltimore, Md.; Johns Hopkins University at 8:30 a. m.; 40 in attendance in Prof. Broadus Mitchell's class in economics.

College Park; University of Maryland, at 1:20 p. m.; group of 20 students in economics; Prof. W. H. Brown in charge. At 6:30, to Johns Hopkins for an advanced class in economic history; fine group of 35; talk lasted one hour and thirty minutes.

March 8—Westminster, Md.; Western Maryland College; 60 students in assembly; introduced by Dr. Frank B. Hurt (Prof. Hurt was formerly at the University of Virginia and is a friend of Prof. Snively); after the class, Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Heath had a discussion with Prof. Hurt and Prof. E. K. Schempp, who took an opposite view, but was very friendly.

March 9—Annapolis, Md.; St. John's College; 40 mature students; introduced by Dr. J. W. Wyckoff; also met Prof. J. A. Duncan, associated with Dr. Wyckoff in the economics department.

Washington, D. C.; George Washington University at 6:00 p. m.; Dr. Joseph S. Zucker's class in public finance; 40 students in number; Howard University at 7:30 p. m., Economics Club; George Butler president; 25 present; introduced by Ralph J. Bunche; meeting adjourned 9:00 p. m.