

Pittsburgh

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OPENS

THE Pittsburgh extension of the Henry George School of Social Science had an auspicious opening on Friday evening, January 4, with an enrollment of sixty students. The University of Pittsburgh has donated one of its classrooms in the downtown branch on the tenth floor of the Chamber of Commerce Building, where all facilities and conveniences are afforded.

Richard E. Howe, formerly of Chicago but now an active leader among the younger group of the Henry George Club of Pittsburgh, is Secretary of the School and the principal instructor, and as a volunteer teacher is giving a great deal of time and attention to the School with a view to making it one of the most successful in the country.

A keen interest is being displayed and another class is in process of formation, to be taught by George E. Evans, President of the Henry George Foundation. The officers of the Henry George Club and Henry George Foundation are actively cooperating as members of the committee in charge of the School.

The present course will run for a period of ten weeks and follows closely the official manual of the Henry George School of Social Science. "Progress and Poverty" is the text book and the classes are being offered free of all charge, except that students when registering pay \$1.00 for the text book. Sessions are held every Friday evening between 8:00 and 10:00 p. m.

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PITTSBURGH ORGANIZING TO EXTEND GRADED TAX PLAN

An intensive campaign for the further application of land value taxation is under way in connection with the opening in January of the regular session of the Pennsylvania State Legislature and at a meeting held in Pittsburgh on January 3, a campaign committee was organized to sponsor and actively promote bills for the extension of the present graded tax plan in Pittsburgh and also for Allegheny County, with Chief City Assessor P. R. Williams acting as Chairman.

City Solicitor Ward Bonsall has prepared revised drafts of bills which will be promptly introduced when the legislature convenes following the inauguration of Governor George H. Earle on January 15. State Senator Bernard B. McGinnis and Representative John L. Powers of Pittsburgh are among those who are actively interested in promoting this legislation and in view of the fact that two similar bills passed the lower house by large majorities at the special session in December, 1933, the sponsors of the measures are optimistic as to the prospects of securing some important advance at this session, especially in view of the fact that the movement has the whole-hearted support of Mayor McNair's city adminis-

tration, as well as of large numbers of influential citizens.

Prior to the November election, most of the legislators from the City of Pittsburgh had pledged their support as candidates to the extension of the graded tax plan.

The new illustrated booklet, entitled "The McNair Five-to-One Tax Plan," of which John C. Rose, now Secretary of the Department of Assessors, is author, is being widely circulated.

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Mayor McNair is constantly addressing groups of citizens in clubs, churches and civic and commercial organizations, and these addresses are largely devoted to the exposition of his economic principles, thus contributing greatly to the spread of popular knowledge with reference to more scientific methods of taxation.

The Mayor is also speaking this month in Chicago, Ill., and York, Pa., and may accept some invitations from the South in the near future.

JAPANESE statesmen claim that their country is overcrowded. And yet fifty per cent of Japanese farmers are tenants who support themselves and their families from the produce of their tiny two acre farms and give the landlords from fifty to sixty per cent of their produce in rent besides. In addition they support the statesmen who uphold landlordism. Such "overcrowding" should be relieved by getting rid of landlords and landlord-controlled statesmen.

THE law forbids one unable to pass an examination in medicine to make a business of practicing it. It does the same way with the law and some other professions. But however ignorant one may be of economic laws no statute laws prevents him or her from passing as a "professional economist" and teaching economic science—or what he in his ignorance may think to be economic science—in schools or universities. Some such are drawing big salaries for disservices of that kind. Worse than that such incompetents may be elected to legislative bodies or to the presidency where they deal with the economic situation and pass on measures relating to it. No wonder that the economic situation is a muddle.

A RACKETEER is a thickhead who has not learned that certain predatory privileges are reserved for land speculators only.

BOOK REVIEWS

NOTES FROM THE MOVEMENT IN DENMARK

En Verdenstankes Vaekst I Vort Folk (Growth of a World-Idea in our Nation) by Signe Bjørner. Nyt Nordisk Forlag, Kobenhavn 1934.

In her recent book, entitled "Growth of a World-Idea in Our Nation" Signe Bjørner gives, in interesting animated form, the story of "Georgism," as the Danish Single Taxers call it, in Denmark. The book is not a history of the movement in the usual sense. It is a compilation, in more permanent form, of articles that have appeared