

Henry George School of Social Science

THINGS are happening. As we go to press, the capable director of the Henry George School of Social Science, Norman C. B. Fowles, reports so exceedingly an active and varied campaign for the new spring term starting February 4, that this story must be a rather sketchy summary of the details of this campaign. It is characteristic of the director that he is more concerned with the plans for the future than with any record of accomplishments. The fact that nearly one hundred and fifty boys, girls, men and women have during the past four months studied "Progress and Poverty" and "Protection or Free Trade" is not nearly as important as the details of the plan to double this number during the coming term, or the methods proposed for extending the work of the School outside its own portals.

On December 31, a mail circular offering the course in Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy was mailed to twelve thousand New York City school teachers. Replies to this circular have to be followed up, sometimes two and three times. Letters were mailed to high school principals offering Free Scholarships to capable seniors in their schools. A similar offer was made to heads of the departments of philosophy, sociology, and economics at the local colleges and universities. Also, a number of social service organizations were circularized for the purpose of securing their secretaries as students. A committee of women, under the chairmanship of the ever-willing Mrs. Anna George de Mille, has been at work for over a month rounding up enrollments for afternoon classes, a most difficult time of the day to get people to go to school. The work of writing letters, preparing copy, answering inquiries, following up names of prospective students, interviews, is neither dramatic nor of apparent importance. Yet it is vitally necessary to achieve the goal, that of getting more and more enrollments.

One cannot possibly appreciate without seeing the amount of effort expended in getting people to attend these classes. It must be remembered that a course in the Georgist philosophy can be offered to the prospective student merely for its cultural value. He cannot hope to derive any material benefit from the acquisition of this knowledge, which is the usual motive for attending a school. The pure altruism of our philosophy, and the lack of selfish motive on the part of the School, makes the "selling" of the course most difficult. Mr. Fowles reports that the skepticism of some of the prospective students regarding the School's motives is a real obstacle in securing enrollments. Many of them cannot believe that back of our offer there is no nefarious scheme for separating them from their money. It takes real salesmanship to convince them that we have nothing to sell, save a plan for the betterment of the race.

The greatest result of the School work is the enthusiasm engendered in the students. Practically all of those who attended the fall term submitted names of friends for scholarships in the spring term. Many enrolled for Part II—which is devoted to a study of the "Science of Political Economy" and Professor Geiger's "Philosophy of Henry George"—and quite a few are taking Part I over again. At this writing the Student-Alumni Council is planning a dinner for graduates and present students, as well as for old-timers. The work of knitting together socially those who have acquired a knowledge of Henry George has not been overlooked.

The Extension Courses being organized throughout the country entails a considerable amount of thought and labor—which will be greatly increased as this work progresses. At this moment about forty copies of the "Teachers' Manual" have been ordered by Single Taxers who have signified their intention of starting classes. An account of John Lawrence Monroe's field work along these lines appears elsewhere in this issue. An elaborate system of co-ordinating these extension classes with the headquarters in New York is now being put in operation, so that the results of this wide-spread teaching will be properly recorded and ultimately brought to fruition. It is the hope of the Board of Trustees that Single Taxers everywhere will undertake this work of teaching classes in "Progress and Poverty" through the use of the "Teachers' Manual" so that the gospel may be spread faster and more thoroughly than has ever been done before. A thousand classes of at least ten students in each, should be the goal in 1935.

Every month the School conducts an open forum in the Pythian Temple. These forums have for their objective not only the spreading of our philosophy, but also the more definite one of attracting prospective students to the School. Lack of funds prevents the holding of more frequent forums, which would be much more desirable.

Mr. Fowles regrets that the Correspondence Course work has lagged. It is hoped that some day funds will be available to extend this department, which can be made a very valuable part of the School's endeavors. The cost of securing correspondence students, as well as the clerical labor entailed, have made it necessary to neglect the Correspondence Course for the moment in favor of the more productive class and extension courses.

During the first semester of our first year, fifty-three men and women spent sixteen weeks in the study of "Progress and Poverty" and of "Protection or Free Trade." Thirty-seven of these continued for another similar period in the further study of the philosophy.

During this first semester of the second year 180 were

enrolled in our "Progress and Poverty" course, and of these 143 have attended the weekly sessions in sufficient regularity to have gained a knowledge of our philosophy and the aims of the reform we propose. At this writing these students are engaged in a study of "Protection or Free Trade." None had had any previous contact with our philosophy.

Thus, we report an increase in this first semester of nearly two hundred per cent over the first semester of last year, and we have every reason to look for a corresponding increase in enrollment for the second semester, beginning next February 4.

Mention should be made here of the excellent volunteer services of Stephen Bell, Otto Dorn, and Will Lissner in teaching classes. The director will be called upon to enlist other valiant stalwarts in the movement this coming term, not only with classes in the School, but also in taking care of classes it is planned to form outside the School.

Things are happening, we repeat. The seed sown by the noble Oscar H. Geiger is bearing fruit. With the co-operation of Single Taxers everywhere the Henry George School of Social Science can become the means of making our philosophy known throughout the country.

IF Democratic congressmen and senators have any brains at all they know that the tariff should either be lowered or raised. Knowing this the duty is up to them to do the raising or lowering and not pass the buck to President Roosevelt. If their brains are less than the average amount they can show it by raising the tariff in spite of all experience and common sense. If no less than the average they can find by putting them to use that the tariff should be lowered. If above the average they can easily discover that the tariff should be abolished and will so decree. But if they have none the fact will be admitted by their surrender of power to the President.

AS chief of the N.R.A. General Johnson fixed Alabama coal miners' wages at \$4.60 a day. The operators threatened to close the mines and Johnson surrendered. Wages were made \$3.80. The operators control the land and those who control the land have more to say about wages than General Johnson. But land monopoly is still a sacred cow to the administration.

SATAN rebuking sin is never convincing however reprehensible the sin may be. So the old guard protectionist Republicans who find fault with the Roosevelt policies fail to be impressive.

SECRETARY of Agriculture Wallace finds that 50,000,000 acres of good farming land must be withdrawn from production if the present tariff is maintained. That is how the tariff "makes jobs."

Report of Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

DECEMBER—JANUARY, 1935

THE pamphlet, "100 Years of Land Gambling," a review of Homer Hoyt's book "One Hundred Years of Land Values in Chicago," by our president M. Hennessy, has been attracting attention. Some 13,000 copies were sent out during October and November. Among those who have written to the Foundation commending the pamphlet are: Hon. Dan Fellows Platt; Ida Tarbell; Norman Thomas; Father Coughlin; Housing Study Guild of New York; Walter Nesbit, Congressman; and those who have asked for large supplies for distribution include Mr. Swinney of Los Angeles; Mr. Paige of the Governmental Research Bureau, Chicago. Mr. Paige received 200 copies for the members of his Bureau; Dr. Gleason of St. Mary's College, Kansas; Steel & Co., brokers, Fort Worth, Texas. The Rev. Baska of St. Benedict's College, Atchison, Kan., wrote as follows:

"I have read the article to my class in Economic History of the United States, for we have been recently studying the booms and speculations in lands during the last century of our history.

"My class consists of 57 students, and 14 of them hail from Chicago. They were extremely anxious to get a copy of this article hence I am writing in their behalf."

A supply was sent (we have had former pleasant contacts with this college), and further word was received from Dr. Baska of the interest of his students in this review.

There is, in the department of economics of the New York Public Library at 42nd Street, a section devoted entirely to material about Henry George. Through the donations of Mrs. de Mille, original manuscripts and precious scrap books containing a newspaper record of Henry George's remarkable career, are available for display. Many historically important and valuable documents are to be found in a glass-enclosed case. All books written by or about Henry George are on call. Rollin Sawyer compiled a catalogue around (1926) of about 90 pages, listing all the documents, and all books that contain mention of Henry George.

Through the courtesy of Mr. C. LeBaron Goeller, clippings concerning the administration and activities of the Fels Fund were turned over to the Foundation some time ago. Recently this file was given to the Library at 42nd Street, with the understanding that they would arrange it in scrap book form, and add it to the Henry George collection.

The Foundation has kept a scrap book record of all publicity on the subject of Henry George, the Single Tax, etc., since 1926. These news clippings and magazine articles occupy ten large scrap books. They have been