

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

We were pleased with the good reception given our 1941 calendar. Almost everyone liked it and stories of its effectiveness are still coming in. One friend reported the other day that a minister to whom she gave a calendar chose one of its quotations as the text of his Sunday sermon. Another person came in to purchase one after seeing it hanging in the executive office of a well-known organization. A prominent New Jersey manufacturer liked it so well that he purchased a quantity and sent them out to customers and business associates. Thus, a little over a thousand calendars have been distributed. We still have a few left and shall be glad of any help we can get in putting these into circulation.

Four hundred and fifty books went out as a result of our campaign to have Henry George's books given as Christmas presents. This is work in which all Georgeists can participate to some degree, and we have ample testimony as to its effectiveness. To cite one of the innumerable cases: The other day an order came for a full set of books from a man who had been given a Henry George book in 1939. He said, in an accompanying letter, "I intend to make a full study of the interesting philosophy to which my friend so kindly introduced me."

We also want to thank the scores of friends who remembered the Foundation with greeting cards and letters this Christmas season. From far and near these greetings came, some from Australia, some from embattled London, and one from South Africa.

You will be interested to know that just this week we received a long letter from Mr. Arthur Madsen of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain. Mr. Madsen tells us that the Foundation is carrying on as usual, with all members of the staff on the job every day. He and Mrs. Madsen have gone to Scotland for a few months so that he may complete some important work without interruption.

Last autumn we experimented with a new piece of advertising literature designed to help our bookdealers sell "Progress and Poverty." The cover of this attractive booklet asks the provocative question, "How High is Your E. I. Q?" ("Economics Intelligence Quotient," in case you have not guessed it.) Taking its cue from the popular quiz programs which come to us nightly over the air, our booklet challenges the reader with ten questions on economics starting with, "Where do wages come from," and leading up to

the more controversial question, "Can combinations of workmen increase the general level of wages?" The answers to these questions are also given in the booklet so that the reader may test his knowledge and then grade his own intelligence regarding economics. The intention is that he will thus become so interested in Henry George's point of view that he will hurry back to the store to buy the book. Each bookdealer who agrees to let the booklet work for him is sent a supply with his name and address printed inside. Several repeat orders received in the last two weeks encourage us to believe that the booklet is accomplishing its purpose. If you would like to see this booklet, send us a penny post-card and we will put one in the mail for you.

Princeton University placed an order this week for a quantity of "Progress and Poverty," which is required reading in their economics course. As one of the faculty once told us, "A man hasn't much chance of graduating from Princeton without knowing something about Henry George." It is also interesting to recall that the death mask of Henry George, cast in bronze, rests in Princeton's famous collection of death masks of the World's Great. This mask was unveiled by Mrs. de Mille in impressive ceremonies a few years ago.

Considerable interest has been manifested in Franz Oppenheimer's famous book, "The State," but it was only recently that we discovered that a few hundred copies of this classic are still available. The organic history of the State has been rendered dull by most learned accounts of it and, in sharp contrast, Dr. Oppenheimer's story is fascinating reading from start to finish. Many printings of this book have been made in this country, for its important information, written in easily readable style, has made it highly acceptable to American readers. The edition we have access to is 75c a copy, bound in cloth.

Much of our time is being devoted to the normal schools throughout the country. Our test campaign, conducted last autumn, revealed this group as more responsive than the average list. The value of reaching these budding teachers cannot be exaggerated, for if they can be made to comprehend the importance of Henry George in the fields of economics and philosophy, that influence may eventually be demonstrated in the classrooms of our public and high schools.

Henry George School of Social Science HEADQUARTERS

Commencement exercises for the 700 Fall term graduates were held at the Engineers Auditorium, January 13.

In addition to student speakers, and an address by Mr. Frank Chodorov, Director, the program included these novel features: A quiz contest on "Georgiana"; a skit, "Baby Snooks and the Law of Rent," written by Edwin Ross, and enacted by Mr. Ross and Miss Dorothy Sara; a demonstration of a unique mechanical contrivance elucidating the Law of Rent, invented and built by Mr. Emanuel Ebner; and a sale of Henry George School pins, introduced by an auction of the first pin, with Mr. Arthur Landry as auctioneer. About 750 attended this occasion. Mr. Otto K. Dorn was chairman.

The new semester opened the week of January 27, with a total enrollment, to date, of 1600. Of these, 1100 are taking the basic course in Fundamental Economics, including 100 high school students, and 500 have enrolled for the various advanced courses. The Leaflet Distribution Committee is in no small degree responsible for this figure. The basic course has been changed from a ten-week to a fifteen-week course. On this new schedule, "Protection or Free Trade" will consume the latter five weeks, the first ten weeks being taken up with "Progress and Poverty," as before.

Two important lecture courses have been added to the curriculum. One is on the "Principles of Assessing," a series of seven weekly lectures which began Tuesday, January 14. This series is conducted by Mr. John St. George of the New York City Tax Department. The course provides a much-needed familiarity with the fiscal fundamentals of taxation, with special reference to the system and methods employed by the New York City Department of Taxes. This course has been well attended. The second lecture course is on "The Influence of Henry George on Economics," a series of five weekly lectures beginning January 31, and conducted by Mr. Morris Forkosch.

The Fall term elective advanced courses have drawn to a close, with Mr. Michael Bernstein's course on "Democracy versus Socialism" taking the lead in popularity. In this course, Mr. Bernstein uses Max Hirsch's celebrated book which gives the course its name. Other courses are: Social Philosophy, based upon Dr. George R. Geiger's "The Philosophy of Henry George"; Public Speaking; Basic Principles of Composition; Formal Logic. Robert Clancy has completed a ten-week course on the Life and Teachings of Oscar H. Geiger, the Founder and first Director of the Henry George School of Social Science. In this course, the background of the School is discussed. Geiger's philosophy of life is also studied. His philosophy, while based upon Henry George, also presents many original features, such as his views on Natural Law, the Unity of Creation, and Individual Ethics.

CHICAGO, ILL.

The largest Winter term in the history of the Chicago Henry George School opened the week of January 13 with 33 classes in "Progress and Poverty," and 16 advanced classes. The total enrollment was nearly 500. In addition, over 300 inquiries concerning the correspondence course were received. The campaign for students was marked by the distribution of 40,000 announcements, 2000 posters, and news releases which appeared in 60 metropolitan and neighborhood or suburban papers. Forty teachers are manning the new classes, seven doing double duty, and one triple duty.

In other ways the Chicago School is progressing. A library has been started, augmented by a donation of many Georgeist books and a bust of Henry George. The Chicago Speakers Bureau, well past the "wing-testing" stage, is increasing its engagements. "America's Forgotten Line of Defense" is proving a talk of particularly popular appeal. Mr. Francis Neilson is sponsoring a letter contest open to recent graduates of the Chicago School.

And so the Windy City moves apace.

The School of Democracy

Mr. Harry J. Haase, who is engaged in a Georgeist educational program in the School of Democracy, has submitted a four-point proposal for a Georgeist course of action, which he calls "A Four-Year Plan". The plan follows:

1—That we spend the next three years educating—utilizing all our resources to imbue every person we can reach with the philosophy of freedom.

2—That, having obtained an individual's acceptance of the Georgeist philosophy of freedom, we see to it that no individual drops out of the struggle of "freedom through enlightenment."

3—That we hold a convention at the end of the third year of this program, and adopt a platform of freedom to be submitted to every candidate for a major state or national office (all parties).

4—That we follow up each and every one of these candidates, and demand that he take a stand on our platform—for or against.

Suggestion No. 1 is offered to all schools, organizations and groups teaching the collection of economic rent as the remedy for society's ills, regardless of method, text or teacher. It is also intended for those who educate through lectures, publications, radio talks, or any other method.

Point No. 2 means that some method of utilizing the energy of everyone who accepts the philosophy of freedom should be found. The "method" should be broad enough to take consideration of every individual. There should be provision for those who want to teach formally in the classroom; for those who want to carry the message "outside";