

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Henry George School of Social Science

REPORT OF EDWIN ROSS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

CLASSES—At the middle of this spring term there are fifty classes in "Progress and Poverty" being conducted at headquarters, out of an original fifty-one at the beginning of the term. A comparison with previous mid-term data reveals that there has been a smaller percentage of drop-outs this term than ever before.

There are six classes for high school students, and judging from the report of their instructors they are splendid classes. The students evince a disposition towards logical reasoning, and they are less obsessed with pre-conceived notions than are their elders. They require less help from the instructors, and they readily correct themselves when in error. The results of educating this group warrant more attention being paid to them. It is expected that the number of such classes will be increased in ensuing terms.

STUDENT GROUPS—A group of students have formed a debating team. To begin with, they will limit themselves to intra-mural debates, and as experience is gained, they expect to branch out. The purpose of the group is to attract the attention of those unacquainted with the philosophy of Henry George, to the end that they will take up the study more thoroughly in classes.

Another student group that has been formed is the Current Events Discussion Group, which meets at the School every Wednesday. Sidney Abelson, who also conducts a writing group, acts as Chairman. Topics of current interest, such as the Finnish loan, the Japanese embargo, and New Deal measures, have been discussed by a group averaging twenty-five in number. Controversial subjects are treated in the manner of a debate, each side being represented by a speaker, with general discussion following.

EXTENSION CLASSES—Due mainly to Secretary Teresa McCarthy's intensive efforts in New Jersey, classes are being conducted in Elizabeth, Bloomfield, Perth Amboy, Irvington, Dover, Orange, Newark, Kearny, Montclair, North Arlington, Union City, West New York, Hackensack, Paterson, Pompton Plains, and Lincoln Park.

Most of the big cities in the United States are represented by classes. Among those that have more than one class are: Boston, Mass., with ten classes; St. Louis,

Mo., with five; Philadelphia, Pa., three; Chicago, Ill., twenty-five; Hartford, Conn., five; Long Island, N. Y., seven.

Not all the extensions have reported yet for their Spring term plans. More are expected.

In Boston an unusually large class graduated at a meeting of the Henry George Fellowship held at the Y.W.C.A. John S. Codman was chairman. Francis Goodale delivered the principle address. New classes started April 1. A broadcast over a Boston radio station announced the commencement of these classes.

SPEAKERS BUREAU

Dorothy Sara, in charge of the Speakers Bureau of the School, reports that the service of supplying Georgeist speakers to various social groups is a most efficient means of stimulating public interest in the Georgeist philosophy, and in getting people to take the course at the School.

Louis Wallis, noted Georgeist author and lecturer, spoke before the Paterson Rotary Club, in New Jersey, on March 15. Out of eighty-five members present, fifty-eight enrolled on the spot for the correspondence course in Fundamental Economics. The meeting consisted mostly of business men, a type of audience which Mr. Wallis is particularly qualified to handle. His remarks were on "Our Lopsided Taxation", a topic he has often used, always with favorable results.

A new service has been established in the Speakers Bureau. While most speakers deliver their speeches *ex tempore*, some of them write out their speeches, and afterwards place them with the Bureau, thus making them available to others. A file of speeches on a variety of subjects has thus been built up. When some organization wants to hear a talk on housing, or the depression, for instance, the chosen speaker may study and use the speech already written on that topic.

So valuable has the Speakers Bureau in New York City proven, that Extension Schools in other cities have been inspired to start their own lecture service bureaus. Among the cities that have already gotten their bureaus under way are: Newark, N. J.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Berkeley, Calif.; and Montreal, Canada.

SOCIETY FOR LONG ISLAND GEORGEISTS

The proposed classes of the Society, reported in the last issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, are now in full swing, and arrangements for four new classes in "Progress and Poverty" have since been made.

Besides taking upon himself the large order of covering Long Island with classes, Dr. S. A. Schneidman, leader of the Society, has established a series of forums similar to the ones held at the School headquarters. The Long Island forums are held Tuesday evenings at the Jamaica Y.M.C.A., and the whole series for this Spring has already been planned. Among the lecturers who have already spoken are: Holger Lyngholm, on "Cooperation and Democracy in Denmark" (which appears elsewhere in this issue); Ralph Borsodi, Editor of *Free America* and Director of the School for Living, on "The Doom of the Modern City—Decentralization Program for Social Change"; and Dr. Henry Neumann, leader of the Brooklyn Ethical Culture School, on "Building the Ethical World of Tomorrow". Many more prominent speakers appear on the program for future forums.

A fine statement of the aims of the Society appears in the announcement of the forums: "The Society for Long Island Georgeists is bravely attempting, in these chaotic times, to bring together socially spirited men and women inspired by the teachings of Henry George, that these may in turn help others into an understanding of the possibility of realizing economic democracy—the basis for a meaningful life—in this day and age."

CHICAGO, ILL.

One of the aims of Oscar Geiger in founding the School was to produce, not only converts to the Georgeist philosophy, but also leaders who would themselves sustain and expand educational activities.

The fact that this aim has borne fruit is well exemplified in the Chicago School. Forty students of the Winter term met at the Chicago headquarters on March 9, to consult on plans for Spring classes, and for the commencement exercises. One of the students suggested that a representative from each class discuss the needs of the School with his fellow students and help support its activities. The suggestion was unanimously accepted.

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

TAXATION TURMOIL—Readers who enjoyed "Taxation Turmoil" by W. R. B. Willcox, will be pleased to know that the publication has now been taken over by a New York concern and a new edition, now in production, will be available later on this year. For those unfamiliar

with the book, perhaps the best summary is the author's prefacing statement: Mr. Willcox says, "The following pages were written in a spirit of protest against what seems to be a settled policy of those who direct and influence the affairs of government." His answers to the questions of what can replace taxation, who will pay for the government, which of our existing taxes is the most vicious and what class of men is hardest hit by the present system, make up one of the most widely discussed books of contemporary Georgeist literature. The publishers have established a price of \$2 for the new edition and orders may be placed with the Foundation.

PEARSON'S LONDON—It has been suggested that we bring to your attention Doctor S. Vere Pearson's excellent study, "London's Overgrowth" (reviewed in the May-June issue of *LAND AND FREEDOM*). While treating, as the case in point, the City of London, Dr. Pearson undertakes to answer many of the questions about our own cities that have long perplexed us. The book is a pleasant voyage of exploration into the economic, geographical and cultural forces that combine to establish, develop and maintain the city as a special form of human association, and the understanding which the reader gains sets the problem completely in perspective. Dr. Pearson's inquiry into the part the land question plays in complicating every urban issue, however remotely connected it may seem, is the reader's guide into a realm hitherto reserved for the experts—some of whom have found it expedient to keep the public ignorant and the territory uncharted. The book, a recent import, is available from the Foundation at \$2 a copy, postpaid.

PAMPHLETEERING ACTIVITIES—The value of pamphleteering has long been acknowledged, and is bringing results in special work we have been doing this winter among high school teachers of economics. Nearly two hundred copies of "Progress and Poverty" have been purchased by members of this influential group, extra literature for class room use has been requested, and we have reason to believe that, in many high schools, more attention is being paid to George.

A new campaign has just been started among architects of New York State. We are distributing the pamphlet "Why Penalize Building", with a letter pointing out how the building trade and allied industries would benefit by the abolition of taxes on buildings and other improvements.

FAME MOVES APACE—Our efforts to have Henry George elected to the Hall of Fame this year, move on apace. Friends who have helped in previous elections are being urged to again put their shoulders to the wheel. New friends who would like to assist are invited to get in touch with us. If you are personally acquainted with