

The Henry George School in the News

ALBERTA'S S.E.S. Newsletter (The School of Economic Science) reports several provocative evening programs in Calgary and Edmonton in the first months of the year, with lots of activity going on behind the scenes. This deals principally with a report on property in Edmonton showing assessments, tax rates, market values, etc. There are even speculations about establishing a single tax community five miles outside of Edmonton — a golden opportunity for a complete LVT satellite city, if inflation doesn't interfere.

Wilbur Freeland, the popular president of the Edmonton extension since its inception, resigned that office and is succeeded by Isadore Gliener. Gerry Shaw and Gaye Shaw are vice president and treasurer respectively, and Jim Ramsay is secretary. Jack Marles audited the books.

An intensive study has been made of Colonel E. C. Harwood's book, *Useful Economics*, and it was recommended for use with the first 10 weeks of the course which in Alberta extends to 28 weeks.

VANCOUVER, B.C. has a group of Georgist enthusiasts who have organized a discussion group with 20 students enrolled. One of the very proficient students and the discussion leader, E. A. Bryan, is a high school teacher who attained his Henry George training in England. He publishes a news sheet called "Freefolk" devoted to "explaining the social nature of ground-rent and the injustice of taxation," and to filling a need in British Columbia. "We must think more basically and stop speculation by collecting the full economic rent of all land for public purposes," he pleads. "This system is so simple and so scientific that its operation will immediately stop all land speculation." This international group includes couples from

England, Denmark and Germany, all avid HG fans. Mary Rawson and Frank Wiles, noted for outstanding progress in planning, were the initial pros around whom the new extension was formed.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA announces a new Mount Diablo branch, which will serve a limited area within Contra Costa County. The first regular meeting was held in January. Ray Bergman who, with his wife Fran, has been very active in organizing classes, was elected president. He appointed five chairmen who will serve along with four members of the board: Dr. Mary Raphael and Dr. Richard Irvine, Harlan Trott and William Tuttle. This branch will offer two basic classes in the spring.

The East Bay branch will soon complete five ten-week courses of study in *Progress and Poverty*, in Hayward, Berkeley, Albany, San Pablo and Oakland, also an advanced course and a review of "P. & P."

This branch maintains a library with carefully selected books available for use by students and members. The librarian is Bell Kent in Berkeley.

At one of the popular Oakland Town meetings in February the subject discussed was "Population Increase and Pollution," with a panel representing many facets of this wide ranging topic.

A speakers' bureau arranges for talks on Henry George's ideas on request for service clubs, churches or other organizations. Clayton Berling is in charge and may be reached through the HGS office, 833 Market Street, San Francisco.

The governing board of the Northern California extension plans to hold its meetings in a different one of its several branches each time, in order to maintain rapport with all. At a recent

meeting at the East Bay branch the film "Better Cities," produced by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, was shown.

LOS ANGELES director of college activities, William B. Truehart, now enrolled at Claremont Graduate School, has earned accolades and an A-plus from his professor. His term paper was on "The Economics of Property Taxation With Emphasis on Urban Problems." Mr. Truehart taught a class at Azusa College in the fall and will teach again in the spring semester. Several other colleges have expressed an interest in more of his lectures in the future on LVT and related topics.

Two seminars on "The Philosophy of Henry George" were held late in February at the University of Southern California, in conjunction with Rampart College, the California Libertarian Alliance and the USC. The speakers included Harry Pollard, HGS director, Robert LeFevre, president of Rampart

College, and other distinguished faculty members from various universities.

In response to the student revolution the program was designed to offer a philosophy of individual liberty. It was titled "The Left/Right Festival of Liberation."

CHICAGO's Henry George Woman's Club is conducting an essay contest on the subject, "Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* Today." Students from Northeastern Illinois State College and the University of Illinois, Circle Campus, Chicago, are eligible to enter. The essay must be an original work and should be approximately 2000 words in length. The contest closes April 1st. Winners will receive prizes ranging from \$50 to \$150.

The city's sixth Constitutional Convention is the principal concern at present of HGS friends who are much interested in helping members of the Revenue Committee become informed about recommended changes.

Write Letters

Marvin S. Saillard has been writing letters that are used regularly in the Aurora Beacon News, the Sun Times and Chicago Gazette. These are directed mainly to changes in the state constitution that would discourage land price inflation.

In St. Louis too the Post-Dispatch, surely well indoctrinated by letters from Noah D. Alper through the years, generously published and illustrated a letter by W. G. Learn, Sr. This concerns a proposed rapid transit system for St. Louis and the claim by

Mayor Cervantes that the property tax is regressive. The property tax, he points out, is two different kinds of taxation — the one on land is just, the other on improvements is the one that is unjust and regressive.

It is impossible to estimate the influence and effectiveness of well phrased letters on current topics which find their way into newspapers and magazines. Conciseness and brevity are appreciated and rewarded. Readers of HGN are encouraged to write more letters.

Mrs. Kenneth Stillwell (formerly Ilse Harder of the HGS staff) and her husband have just completed a belated honeymoon to New Delhi, Bangkok, Hongkong, Jakarta, and Bali. They wrote that they had never seen such abundance in land productivity as in Bali, where the land belongs to the gods. Balinese use it and pay for it by offerings.