

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN NEW YORK

Change in the Directorship

IN A letter from Mr Lancaster M. Greene, member of the Board of Trustees, we are informed that Miss Margaret E. Bateman, former Canadian promotion director of Standard Brands Inc. and former extension secretary of the Henry George School of Social Science of Montreal, is now the director of the Henry George School of Social Science of New York. Miss Bateman made a world survey of Henry George progress for the 1938 Henry George Congress in Toronto. She was especially impressed in her travels to Europe and the Scandinavian countries with the results of the Danish Folk Schools, which have been supplemented by Henry George Schools as a result of the Fifth International Conference in London in 1936.

The new Editor of *The Freeman* is C. O. Steele, four years a teacher at the School in N.Y. and a much sought after member of the Speakers' Bureau for gatherings and for the radio. He is giving his work as editor as a voluntary contribution to the Georgeist cause; professionally he is a member of the editorial board of a statistical service. Mr Greene adds: "While we are losing many of our faculty to the military services, we have secured a fine response to our invitations to classes. We have over 800 students in our spring classes now in session. Three keen business men that I have been asking for years have felt impelled to start class at this time in order to understand the grave situation in which they see the world. This seems a not uncommon reaction."

The School has had much publicity as the result of complaints made against the attitude of the School's journal, *The Freeman*, in its references to the war. Allegation was that it was taking a political line not in conformity with the charter under which the School had to eschew politics, a former teacher of the School, Mr Michael J. Bernstein, having filed complaint to that effect with the State Education Department, the F.B.I. and the Treasury. The *New York Sun* and the *New York World-Telegram* give much space to the case. Meanwhile the School, owner of a former telephone building at 30 E. 29th Street, has been removed from the tax-exempt rolls, an automatic procedure pending an investigation which was then nearly completed. We eagerly await, and in suspense, the outcome of this serious development which Mr Bernstein has brought to a head. The statements on which his charges were based were all made before America entered the war, the trustees maintaining they were ripped from their context and their meaning distorted. The School categorically denies that it "disseminated anti-democratic and pro-appeasement propaganda" and they wish and welcome investigation by any group in the United States. The School is supported by voluntary contributions; its teachers and most of its staff serve without pay; it offers free classes in fundamental economics and social philosophy with the works of Henry George as texts; it espouses no political ideology and sponsors no organizations; it was against taking any political sides, Miss Bateman declared, for according to Henry George

correct thought, not parties or revolutions, was the only way to secure social reform. The one thing they were opposed to was totalitarianism. In her statement, Miss Bateman referred to one of the new and widely circulated publications of the School being the pamphlet "On Human Rights," consisting of extracts of speeches by the Rt Hon Winston Churchill (this includes the famous Edinburgh speech on the Land Monopoly); and she recalled that Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., whose criticism of isolationists during a visit to the U.S.A. led an American first chapter to demand that he be ousted from the United States, had represented the School at the round table discussion of public affairs at the University of Virginia last July. The chairman of the board of trustees is Mrs Anna George de Mille, the daughter of Henry George; other trustees are mostly business men, some retired, and one is Francis Neilson, a former member of the British Parliament.

REAL NATIONALISM

BY A nation Grundtvig understood not only a number of people who happen to live within the same frontiers or under the same ruler, but a real spiritual fellowship between people of the same descent, the same way of thought, and the same purpose in life—an organism embraced and held together by the bond of the mother tongue. "National" meant for Grundtvig not merely "popular" in opposition to "aristocratic," nor merely "democratic" or "national" in a purely political sense. It signified the conscious fellowship of a people united around its historic and spiritual values. This unexplainable but unbreakable fellowship was due to a hidden but active life-force, which Grundtvig calls "the national spirit." The national spirit is not the result of the fellowship but the cause of it. It is this deep hidden life-force which calls forth and stamps itself upon the life of the nation. The flourishing of national life demands a free and fruitful interaction between the different generations and social classes of the nation, not only a historic fellowship between past, present and future, but also a social fellowship which transcends all class differences. All Grundtvig's activities as a clergyman, poet and educator of the people were directed to create this fellowship within the Danish nation.—From *The Folk High School in Denmark and its Extension to Other Countries* by Borup and Manniche. International Observer, 1939-40.

TRUE ALSO OF INDIA

IN DEALING with those families of the British Empire who were not able to stand on their own feet, care should be taken that they should not be the victims of monopolists. The activities of the big monopolists which affected the lives of millions should be controlled. In most of the countries he had served in, he said, the big question was not political but economic.—Sir Selwyn Grier at a conference in London of the Fabian Colonial Bureau, *Manchester Guardian*, 24th March.

SOUTH AFRICA

MR F. A. W. LUCAS, K.C., writing on the work being done by the journal *The Free People*, says: "Every day we get fresh encouragement. The Army Education Chief has taken 50, 70 and 70 copies English and Afrikaans of the last three issues to send to his Information officers 'with a suggestion that they discuss them with the soldiers and encourage the men to subscribe.'" He quotes the letter to this effect from Lt H. J. Rousseau of the Department of Defence who had received specimen copies of the journal from Major E. C. Malherbe. The *Farmer's Weekly*, the most influential paper for farmers, and other periodicals, give the views of *The Free People* much space and prominence. The sale of Henry George's works is growing in volume steadily and surely, and to replenish stocks Mr Lucas sent payment for a further large supply. In the January issue of *The Free People* the main article, by Mr Lucas himself, is entitled "When the war is over, shall we get a better world?" It states so well the general argument of *Progress and Poverty*, how to ensure the equal rights of all to the use of land, and for all the whole produce of their labour, that we can say it is a message those soldiers "fighting for the land" will most appreciate.

The Johannesburg *Star*, 27th January, gave a full column report to Mr Lucas's address at the Johannesburg Rotary Club on post-war reconstruction problems in the course of which he said "we must prevent speculation in land values and break the power of the land monopoly, the mother of all other monopolies . . . if there had been no poverty in Germany there would have been no war, and if there were no poverty here, racialism and the fear which led to repression of the natives would wither away."

ARGENTINA

MR ABELARDO J. COIMIL, who recently translated and caused to be published in Spanish Mr W. R. Lester's *Natural Law in Social Life*, has now translated two other of his pamphlets, namely, *Unemployment and the Land and Free Trade and Laissez Faire*. Publishers of *Natural Law in Social Life* are the Bernardino Rivadavia Lodge of Buenos Aires and a Member of Parliament is being interested in the publication of the other two. In a letter to the author, Mr Coimil writes in high terms of his clear and convincing style and the pleasure that the work of translation has given. Mr Coimil also states that the booksellers, Mitchell's, of Buenos Aires, impressed by the book *Why the German Republic Fell*, had decided to order a supply.

One Penny Each. THE ONLY WAY OUT OF UNEMPLOYMENT, by H. G. Chancellor; WHAT IS LAND VALUE TAXATION? by W. R. Lester, M.A.; CITIES HELD TO RANSOM, by M.; THE FUTURE IS TO THE GANGSTER—UNLESS; NOTES FOR SPEAKERS, a pocket folder; and the following Lectures and Addresses by Henry George: JUSTICE THE OBJECT, TAXATION THE MEANS; LAND AND TAXATION; THE LAND FOR THE PEOPLE; THE REAL MEANING OF FREE TRADE; THE STUDY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY; WHY THE LANDOWNER CANNOT SHIFT THE TAX ON LAND VALUES.

Twopence Each. LAND VALUATION AND LAND VALUE TAXATION IN DENMARK. By K. J. Kristensen, Chief of the Danish Land Valuation Department. THE CRIME OF POVERTY, by Henry George; UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LAND, by W. R. Lester, M.A.; MOSES, by Henry George; THE NEW POLITICAL ECONOMY, by John B. Sharpe; Also (by Henry George):—SCOTLAND AND SCOTSMEN, THOU SHALT NOT STEAL, and THY KINGDOM COME.