

Committee. Newstad Epstein will be Chairman of the Committee on Pamphlet Literature. Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, Executive Secretary of the Robert Schalkenback Foundation, is expected to be present to have charge of the book exhibit of that organization.

Percy R. Williams, now serving as Chief Assessor of Pittsburgh, is continuing to function as Secretary of the Henry George Foundation and has been conducting all correspondence from Pittsburgh headquarters and formulating the programme in cooperation with the Convention Committee, and will, as heretofore, be active in the conduct of affairs at the convention in Chicago.

## The Henry George School

**F**RRIENDS and students of the Henry George School of Social Science are actively at work in preparation for its re-opening during the week of September 24, under the directorship of Mr. Norman C. B. Fowles, with Mr. George R. Geiger, son of Oscar H. Geiger, beloved founder of the School, as Associate Director.

Amongst those who will conduct classes as they are needed are Mr. Stephen Bell, Mr. Will Lissner, John Luxton, Otto K. Dorn and Mr. Charles Joseph Smith. The Correspondence Courses will be in charge of Mr. William W. Moore.

The School is most fortunate in having, thus far, 230 Free Scholarships to offer to unemployed teachers, college students, or ministers.

The members of the Student-Alumni Council have been requested to send in names of persons eligible for these scholarships.

Mr. Spencer Heath will officially represent the School in personally visiting the heads of the economics and allied departments of colleges in and near New York City, to present to them an opportunity of offering courses at our School to those whom they consider eligible. Some of the Welfare Agencies of the city have been notified of the availability of these free scholarships for social workers.

Announcements and regular registration blanks have been sent to 5,000 teachers at present employed in the New York City service, and a special "Please Post" circular announcing the regular courses has gone to the head of every New York City Public School.

At the Chicago Convention in October Mr. Frank Chodorov will address the convention on behalf of the School.

May we not hope that more and more of the followers of Henry George will come to realize with one who lately sent a donation to the School that—"It seems the most hopeful work yet undertaken for our Cause." That, we know, is Mr. Chodorov's conviction.

A few days before his passing, Oscar Geiger said, "I believe our movement needs a spiritual home, and I believe that home should be the School."

This we would make it.

The Henry George Fellowship, lately established, will be the great family sharing that 'spiritual home'. Have we your name?

HELEN D. DENBIGH, President Student Alumni Council, Henry George School, 211 West 79th Street, New York City.

## Petroleum Royalties

HOW THE LAND LORDS WERE BAULKED OF THEIR PRE

**T**HE passing into law of what is now the Petroleum (Production) Act, 1934, may recall some of the events that prepared the way for the declaration with which it begins, that "The property in petroleum existing in its natural condition in strata in Great Britain is hereby vested in His Majesty, and His Majesty shall have the exclusive right of searching and boring for and getting such petroleum."

In 1917 the Coalition Government introduced the first Petroleum (Production) Bill, which treated such petroleum as the property of the local Land Lords, and provided for royalties on it being shared between them. Some of us who were then in the House of Commons challenged this proposal from the outset, and succeeded in defeating it in the Division of October 25 of that year on the preliminary Payment and Expenses Resolution, which led to the Government dropping the Bill. In the following year they brought in another, which became the Petroleum (Production) Act, 1918; it resembled its predecessor in some respects, but had nothing about petroleum royalties for Land Lords, and left the question of the ownership of ungotten petroleum to stand over.

In that Division of 1917 the tellers against the Government proposal were Mr. Denman and myself, and the present Prime Minister among those who voted against petroleum royalties for Land Lords. Not content with a negative attitude, some of us also placed on a Notice Paper of the House of Commons for "an early day" the following Resolution:—

"Petroleum.—That, in the opinion of this House, all Petroleum under the soil of the United Kingdom should be treated as belonging to the Crown; that the Crown should have the exclusive right of boring for and getting it and should have power to enter on and use any land for these purposes; that full compensation should be paid for any resulting loss or damage to property; but that no payment should be made in respect of the Petroleum."

It is satisfactory to see that our successful stand against the proposals of 1917—though it laid us open to the charge of outvoting Government during the War—has prevented the creation of a new and detrimental vested interest, and that the principles set out in the Resolution—though we had no opportunities of debating it—are carried into effect. The difference between the 1917 proposals treating ungotten petroleum as the property of the Land Lords and the present plan of treating it as the property of the Crown indicates an advance of public opinion. It also suggests that similar principles may yet be applied to other things which Nature herself has provided and points in the direction of requiring those who hold the natural resources of the country to make appropriate payments for them to the Crown, and of relieving improvements and industry from taxation.

JAMES DUNDAS WHITE in London *Commonweal*

**T**O attempt to apply the Single Tax would be for many statesmen to risk political death. To gain economic liberty at the risk of political death does not appeal to the statesman. The statesman who said "give me liberty or give me death" met death long ago and was not a practical politician anyway.