



HIGHLIGHTS OF 1948

ANNUAL REPORT

to

Trustees, Directors, Contributors and Faculty

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chartered by the University of the State of New York

Headquarters: 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

Highlights of 1948

1948 another year of progress for the Henry George School! Some notable advances were made toward recognition as an educational institution. Since it was founded in 1932, the School and the educational method have proven to be the most effective means yet conceived for the propagation of Henry George's philosophy. Doors open and entrée is gained where other methods have usually failed.

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Highlights of 1948 include the following:

- The Annual Conference, which is always a highlight, was held at Chicago, July 23-25, in the Sheraton Hotel. Even better attended than the 1947 Conference, delegates from all leading Extensions were there as well as other faithful friends of the School from all parts of the country and Canada. Speakers at the Conference banquet included Joseph S. Thompson, President of the Pacific Electric Manufacturing Corporation, John C. Lincoln, President of the Board of Trustees, Henry George School, New York, and Hiram B. Loomis, President of the Board of Trustees, Henry George School, Chicago. Informative reports and stimulating exchanges of views and experiences inspired the delegates to work with renewed zeal on returning home.

- The new manual (fifth edition) for teaching *Progress and Poverty* was completed and distributed, after three years of work by a Manual Committee. An endeavor was made to incorporate in the new manual the consensus of opinion, advice and experience on the part of teachers and leaders in the effective teaching of *Progress and Poverty*. It is hoped and anticipated that it will aid in achieving more widespread understanding of the truths set forth by Henry George.

- *Democracy versus Socialism* by Max Hirsch also appeared in 1948. Out of print for several years, this definitive Georgist answer to the fallacies of collectivism was published in a fourth edition by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. A course based on this book is again a regular part of the School curriculum.

- Besides increased activities at Headquarters and all the regular Extensions, classes were held at the following locations during the year — Albany, N. Y., Oak Ridge, Tenn., Sioux Falls, S. D., and Grand Rapids, Mich. A new Extension was opened in Columbus, Ohio, with Robert D. Benton as Director.

- The Henry George School was legally registered in all but eight states in 1948, with a view to developing new Extensions and protecting the School's name.

- Several Extensions initiated new fund-raising programs largely as a result of the stimulus of the Chicago Conference. The Chicago Extension had already developed a fund-appeal system in which individuals are called upon personally for contributions and pledges. The Boston, Newark, St. Louis and Los Angeles Extensions have been working on a membership plan, whereby contributors would become members of the Henry George School.

THE PRESS

Georgists have always been good writers of letters-to-the-editor, and 1948 produced a bumper crop of letters printed in various newspapers and magazines. Among the items were letters written by Noah D. Alper (Director, St. Louis) and Robert Clancy (Director, New York) in the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Will Lissner, editor of the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, wrote an article, *How Much Truth in Henry George?* for the September 29 *Christian Century*. Professor Glenn Hoover's speech on *Henry George and the Problems of Our Time* at a Los Angeles School dinner, was printed in the October 1 issue of *Vital Speeches*.

In the press, the current revival of the Malthusian theory has been getting much attention. It was therefore refreshing to note in the November 8 issue of *Time* magazine, an excellent refutation of the overpopulation fallacy. At the request of the School, *Time* generously donated 1000 reprints of the article gratis, for School use.

The Henry George School's own press was, of course, quite flourishing in 1948. The monthly paper of the School, the HENRY GEORGE NEWS, continued under the able editorship of Alice E. Davis. In addition to complete coverage of advancing Georgist activities, the *News* carried articles by Foster Kennedy, professor at Cornell University; C. O. Steele, editor of *The Individualist*; Arthur W. Madsen, editor of *Land and Liberty*; C. Villobos Dominguez, Argentine Georgist leader; and A. G. Huie, Australian Georgist leader.

Some branches of the School published their own organs. The Chicago School issued *On the Campus*. The Newark and Boston Schools also issued bulletins.

Besides letters to the editors, nearly all branches of the School issued releases to newspapers on the opening of new classes, thus obtaining much valuable free publicity. The Chicago School, for instance, reports that from January to September 282 news items covering 1,082 inches appeared in 73 local and metropolitan newspapers in Chicago.

In addition to free publicity, the School placed paid advertisements announcing classes. The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation also engaged in an advertising program. During the year four advertisements were placed in the *Wall Street Journal* and one in *Life Magazine*, resulting in the sale of about 1600 copies of *Progress and Poverty*.

The American Institute for Economic Research, of Great Barrington, Mass., publishes a weekly bulletin in which the editors show understanding of fundamental economics as taught by the Henry George School. We learn, too, that *Progress and Poverty* is used in classes conducted by this Institute.

NEW YORK

During the year 2,623 students enrolled for classes in *Progress and Poverty* at New York Headquarters and locations throughout the city, and 1,025 completed the course. Year by year, the enrollment is steadily increasing, and 1948 was the best year since before the war. Enrollment for advanced courses was 920 and 557 completed these courses. Among the new advanced courses given in 1948 were Monetary Theory, Practical Writing and Assessment of Real Estate, the last conducted by Lawson Purdy, one-time Commissioner of Taxes in New York. A revival of the course in *Democracy versus Socialism* was made possible by the reprinting of the book.

Friday evening lectures at Headquarters continued to be popular. Among the outstanding speakers during the year were: Emanuel Celler, Congressman for New York; Algernon D. Black, leader of the Society for Ethical Culture; and Prof. Eduard C. Lindeman, outstanding leader in adult education.

An annual banquet held on June 23 was attended by 250 friends of the School. Guest speakers were Harry Gunnison Brown, professor of Economics at the University of Missouri and Henry L. T. Tideman, Dean of the Henry George School in Chicago.

Lectures were also given by School leaders before various outside groups. The School is listed with the Speakers Bureau of the Herald-Tribune and filled many assignments in 1948. Lancaster M. Greene gave a talk before a group of engineers of the International Business Machines Corporation in Binghamton, N. Y.

In 1948 the Henry George School became a member of the New York Adult Education Council. One advantage of membership is close contact with developments in adult education. The Council has launched a campaign to bring more adult education to the communities and suburbs of New York. In line with this plan the Henry George School augmented efforts to conduct more classes in the city's neighborhoods. This program was launched in the Fall with a full-time secretary, Arthur Lea, in charge.

A group of the Henry George School alumni in New York have formed into a group by the name of S.A.G.E. (Society for

the Advancement of the George Economy). This group has helped the School in publicity work, and has been a means of sustaining graduate interest.

The CORRESPONDENCE COURSES offered by the School reach people not only in remote places in the United States but in foreign countries as well. During 1948 nearly 3,400 students enrolled for the basic course in *Progress and Poverty*. A good percentage of the graduates of this course continue their studies with advanced course in International Trade and Science of Political Economy. Several graduates of the correspondence course are already active conducting Henry George study groups in their communities.

During 1948 there were correspondence students in Canada, Venezuela, Argentina, Ireland, British West Africa, Australia, Germany and Spain. One of our overseas enrollees is Umberto di Savoia, ex-king of Italy.

One of the pieces of literature issued during the year was *The Georgists of New York*, a survey of the movement from 1898 to 1948 in commemoration of the Golden Anniversary of Greater New York.

CHICAGO

1948 added 380 graduates of the basic course in Chicagoland, bringing that Extension's total to 6,379. Among Chicago's well-attended advanced courses, a new one added was *The Thought and System of Henry George* conducted by Gustave Carus.

The Chicago School, also a member of the Adult Education Council in that city, held classes in all parts of the city and suburbs as well as in "The Loop." Graduates of the community classes showed keen sustained interest and Chicago's community program continued successfully during 1948 with regional monthly meetings of friends and graduates, particularly in the Northwest and South Side.

In addition to being host to the national Annual Conference, Chicago held its own local Chicagoland Conference, May 29-30. Among the guest speakers was Frank Lloyd Wright, America's

outstanding architect. Shortly after the Conference Chicago's 15th year Pilot fund-raising campaign was launched with a corps of well-organized volunteers soliciting funds.

One of the Chicago School's most promising activities is the monthly Commerce and Industry luncheon and meeting. Business leaders inside and outside School circles are invited to these occasions and their popularity is attested to by increasing attendance. Among the guest speakers at these luncheons in 1948 were F. Dewey Anderson, president, Wilmette State Bank; Klaus L. Hansen, inventor; Harvey S. Perloff, of the University of Chicago; and Harlan Eugene Read, author.

Another Chicago activity growing in popularity is the Economist's Bus Tour. Revised and improved, the tour was offered for the first time as a Commerce and Industry feature in October.

The intelligent and forward-looking direction of the Chicago School by John Lawrence Monroe promises even greater strides in 1949.

ST. LOUIS

Under Noah D. Alper's direction, the St. Louis School continues to flourish. There were 249 graduates of the basic course during 1948.

Thorough instruction is provided by Mr. Alper to his teachers in the form of notes on the use of the manual and in much valuable supplementary teaching material.

During the year a new staff member was added — Mrs. Elizabeth Angell, who has helped to organize plans for more effective circularizing of invitations to prospective students through a system of personal follow-ups.

Delegates from the St. Louis and Chicago Schools met in Springfield, Ill. on October 31 for discussion of mutual problems.

NEW ENGLAND

In September the Boston School acquired the full-time services of an Executive Secretary, Archie Matteson, Jr., well-known in many branches of the School. Sanford Farkas continued as Director.

The Boston School had about 280 graduates of the basic course. This includes classes in Worcester and Fall River. The great increase over previous years has been due to diligent application and well thought out publicity campaigns.

Hartford, Conn., continued to be active under the direction of Nathan Hillman. There were 24 graduates in 1948.

NEW JERSEY

John T. Tetley became director of the Newark Extension in 1948. A graduate of the New York School, Mr. Tetley has ably managed affairs in Newark, which also organizes and services classes in other cities of New Jersey.

In New Jersey, the text for the basic course is *Economics Simplified* by E. E. Bowen and G. L. Rusby. A new and revised edition was published in 1948 by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. During the year 112 graduated the basic course in New Jersey classes.

An ambitious publicity campaign was undertaken in Newark with the issuance of half a million match books advertising the School. Another venture was undertaken in cooperation with the School in New York. In December both Schools sponsored a 5-minute news broadcast over WVNJ, New Jersey's newest and largest radio station.

A new course given in Newark was one which undertook a critical analysis of Karl Marx's doctrines. Another new course was a revised 15-week Teacher's Training class conducted by Alexander Coldfinger, Dean.

CALIFORNIA

The two active Schools in California continued to be conducted by the Trueharts — William in Los Angeles and his mother, Bessie B. in San Diego. A new Truehart added during the year promises further Truehart-School activities in California — Gloria Christine was born to William and Marcile on October 20.

In Los Angeles there were 262 graduates of the basic course and San Diego produced 88 graduates.

At the Annual Conference in Chicago, William Truehart exhibited a new and interesting film-strip which he and his associate director, David Simmons, produced. It was designed to stimulate interest in the course in *Progress and Poverty*. Plans are being made to further improve the film-strip idea.

PENNSYLVANIA

The movement and the School suffered a serious loss in the death, on September 9, of William N. McNair, former mayor of Pittsburgh. School leaders there met and decided to take over the offices of Mr. McNair as School headquarters — a fitting tribute to the departed leader. Director Richard E. Howe has also endeavored to interest members of the United Electrical Workers Union in the George philosophy. This important work may give us the key on how to approach and gain the understanding of labor.

Pittsburgh produced 15 graduates of the basic course during the year, but other activities extended the influence much further.

In Philadelphia there were 112 graduates of the basic course. During the year the *Hungry Club* was organized, with a program of weekly dinners and meetings to keep graduates together and actively interested.

Besides directing the Philadelphia Extension, Joseph S. Stockman was busy filling lecture engagements before many groups in and out of Philadelphia.

OHIO

The opening of an Extension in Columbus with a Director has already been noted. Verlin D. Gordon, in charge of School activities in the entire State, also organized classes in Cleveland, Toledo, Cincinnati, Lima, Hamilton, Zanesville and Sidney. Total basic course graduates for Ohio were 67.

The Georgist movement which was strong in Ohio in earlier days became inactive later. The School has been responsible for a considerable revival of interest in the movement on the part of those who were active in the early days, and many of them are now assisting the School work.

CANADA

Chief of the Schools in Canada is the Montreal Extension, incorporated in the Province of Quebec and under the direction of Strehel Walton. There were 76 graduates of the basic course in 1948. A course in *Progress and Poverty* in French, begun in 1947, was continued in 1948. Monsignor L. G. Ligutti, Executive Secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference was among the guest speakers at the Montreal School during the year.

In the Fall, the Montreal Extension embarked on an experiment of charging a fee for the course instead of offering it free, as is customarily done. This experiment resulted in fewer students, but there were also fewer dropouts. Montreal is repeating the experiment in 1949 for more conclusive results.

Classes were also held by Herbert T. Owens and others in Ontario.

J. B. Ellert of Milk River, Alberta, a community which collects economic rent, told of this town at the Annual Conference. He reported that the system is backed by an educational program to teach the people of the town the principles of public collection of rent, and that it has the support of the people. On the other hand, in other towns of Canada that have instituted land value taxation, where there is no educational program there is no public interest in the system, and in many cases land value taxation has been repealed. This is a good illustration of the great need for education in economic fundamentals in order for lasting reform to take effect.

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Again we pay tribute to all those who, by contributions of funds and services, are making possible the progress of the great educational work of the Henry George School of Social Science.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Clancy
Director

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