

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

The classes now running in Westminster and in the suburbs of London are making good progress. Particularly gratifying has been the consistent attendance maintained at the new branch in Welling where more than 20 students have enrolled.

The course on International Trade is being expanded so as to include reading assignments and discussion on Sound Money, Inflation, Foreign Markets and the Full Meaning of Free Trade. The new reading assignments, attractively produced in booklet form, have been adapted from papers which were specially produced for the 1952 and previous International Conferences. The titles are: The Economics of the Dollar Shortage (Sven Rydenfelt); Sound Money versus Inflation (E. J. Holloway); Essays on Free Trade (W. R. Lester), and Wages versus Land Monopoly (F. Dupuis and E. J. Craigie). The booklets are available, together with a series of questions and answers, from the School, price 6d. each.

BURTON MANOR CONFERENCE

From Friday, October 9, to Sunday, October 11, supporters of the Henry George movement met in Conference to discuss a programme of subjects ranging widely over the economic problems of the day. Attendance came mostly from the Merseyside area but the conference was supported by others living as far away as London and Derby. Friday evening was devoted to a survey of the different activities taking place in various parts of the country. Mrs. M. Willott, of Liverpool, was in the Chair. From the Merseyside area came a report by Mr. Leslie Craig of the successful response to a circularising campaign to bring to the notice of the various associations in his area the ideas of land value taxation and free trade; a number of meetings had been arranged. Mr. W. J. Cadman spoke of his experiences in organising classes in the Enfield area and referred to his methods of maintaining interest among students after they had completed the Basic Course.

An overall survey of the development of the Henry George School was contributed by Mr. V. H. Blundell, the Director of Studies. He emphasized the necessity of arranging classes in a businesslike way so as to win the confidence of new students who needed to be satisfied with the efficiency and standing of the School from the very beginning.

The activities of the Land Value Taxation League in its work of leaflet distribution, public speaking, etc., was referred to by Messrs. C. H. Batty, G. Musson, Mrs. F. Sumner and others in their reports.

The Saturday session opened in the morning with a talk by Mr. V. H. Blundell on "Teaching Economics." Examples were given by him of how to deal with particularly difficult points which arose not only in the classroom but in the day to day work of persuading others of the validity of George's arguments. Later in the morning was shown the coloured film strip produced by Encyclopædia Britannica that argued the case for the establishment of full employment by the method of Public Work schemes. Mr. Blundell, in introducing the film, pointed out the necessity for teachers and others to have a good understanding of what was being advanced by other schools of thought. His audience quickly and ably revealed the flaws in the arguments advanced in the film, the discussion taking place during the showing. Mr. C. S. Craig presided.

A brilliant paper entitled "Individual versus State Productive Organization" was read by Mr. Jack Eastwood at the afternoon session. The essence of his subject was Henry George versus Karl Marx. In his historical survey of the growth of socialism and his economic analysis of Marxian theory he revealed the many inconsistencies, fallacies and dangers contained in the

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Henry George School Christmas Party which will include an hour's entertainment from the stage, and square dancing will be held on Saturday, December 12th, from 6 p.m. A record attendance is anticipated and tickets (4s. 0d. including refreshments) are obtainable from Miss Jessica Baker, at 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

Marxist dogma. Step by step he compared this with the clear-sightedness and logic of George. This was no mere condemnation on the one hand and praise on the other, but a scholarly analysis of two contrasting philosophies. The discussion which followed showed clearly the enthusiasm with which Mr. Eastwood's paper was received.

Perhaps the liveliest meeting of the Conference was the one in which the problem of inflation was discussed. Mr. C. H. Batty was in the Chair. This not so easily understood subject was well dealt with by Mr. Frank Jones in his address. He succeeded in stripping the subject of all ambiguity and showed inflation for what it was—a subtle form of taxation which falls with cruel incidence on those least able to bear it. Though agreement on the gold standard was unanimous, the question of how and when it could be introduced gave rise to much lively discussion and centred mainly round the question whether or not we in this country should wait for America to release its gold stocks before establishing a currency based upon gold. Mr. J. D. Slater presided.

A team consisting of Messrs. J. D. Slater, F. R. Jones, V. H. Blundell and Mrs. F. G. Sumner, with Mr. W. J. Cadman as Question Master, set the stage for the evening session of "Any Questions." Mr. Cadman, always with an eye on opportunities for propaganda, had earlier publicized this meeting among members of another Conference which was being held concurrently with ours in the same building. Some 30 or so of these people, accepting the invitation to attend and put their questions, swelled the audience during the latter half of the meeting. In welcoming them Mr. Cadman gave a succinct survey of the problems facing the world to-day and invited questions on any facet of social problems. The result was a most rewarding evening for all.

On the Sunday morning Mr. A. W. Madsen spoke on "The Law of Rent in Modern Society," with Mr. George Musson in the Chair. His address, however, extended beyond the bounds of its formal title. Of particular interest to his audience was his description of the technique of land valuation and rating as now applied in various parts of the world. With his blackboard illustrations and photographic examples he gave sharp point to his exposition of site value rating in practice. The contributions from members of the audience which followed this talk indicated that Mr. Madsen had given them much to think about.

Mr. Ashley Mitchell, who was present with his wife together with Mrs. Culley and Miss Stridgeon, opened the discussion in his usual forthright manner. He himself though not for one moment undervaluing the importance of theoretical speculation as to the future trends that George's ideas would take when once established, nevertheless felt more at home with the slogan "The Land for the People." He wanted to see all eyes on the immediate objective but stressed the necessity of a sound knowledge in the practical matters of valuation, site value rating, etc., as outlined by Mr. Madsen.

Special thanks are due to Mrs. O'Leary from London and Miss Hand from Liverpool for organizing what must be regarded as a most successful and enjoyable week-end.

EXTRA MURAL ENGAGEMENTS

City of London College: Overseas League

The students of the Sixth form at the City of London College, Blackfriars, London, were addressed on October 25, by Mr. V. H. Blundell on the subject of "The Economics and Ethics of the Land Question." The Economics master, Mr. C. E. Haynes, was in the Chair. It was a most responsive audience; many searching questions were put to the speaker and the discussion was lively. The view was expressed that a different approach had been taken to the study of economics which made it more closely allied to political questions of the day. Three members of the class are or have been attending the courses at Great Smith Street. Through the recommendation of the economics master, the School has been asked by the Overseas League in Piccadilly for a speaker to address their members on November 6. Mr. V. G. Saldji will represent the School on this occasion.