

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

There was a very satisfactory enrolment for the Basic Course classes this term and attendance is being maintained at a good level. In addition to the classes listed in our last issue, we are glad to report the opening of a new branch at Sidcup, Kent, where new tutor Mr. Michael Monk is conducting a class comprised of members of the local Liberal Association. The class was formed following a lecture given by Mr. Monk, on the work of the Henry George School, during the course of which he took the opportunity to put his audience through the first lesson as a demonstration of the School's method of teaching. The decision to continue by formally constituting a Basic Course class under the auspices of the School, was unanimous.

Annual Christmas Party and Dance. Readers of LAND & LIBERTY are invited to the School's 9th Annual Christmas Party and Dance to be held on Saturday, December 8—7 p.m. onwards. The place booked this year is the Westminster Arms Ballroom, Marsham Street, Westminster—Marsham Street is the continuation of Great Smith Street. Buffet and Licensed Bar. Master of Ceremonies will be Mr. John Bennett and music will be provided by Ted Legget and his Band. Tickets, 4s. 6d. available by post.

On Wednesday, November 21, Mr. V. H. Blundell will address the Bethnal Green Liberal Association on "The Taxation of Land Values."

On Wednesday, November 28, at Hope House, Great Peter Street, Westminster, at 7 p.m., friends and associates of the School will hear Mr. V. H. Blundell speak on "The Cult of the Planned Economy." The talk will be followed by "Your Questions Answered," when Messrs. V. G. Saldji, R. A. Ward and G. L. Birch, with Mr. A. L. Roberts as Question Master, will answer questions put by the audience. A period is also to be devoted to discussion from the floor.

Meetings at East Grinstead and Hendon

On Tuesday, October 30, Mr. V. G. Saldji addressed the East Grinstead Liberal Association on the rating of site values. He cited examples to illustrate his points, augmenting his remarks with local photographs he had taken himself some time prior to the meeting. The audience found very convincing this demonstration of the anomalies in rating assessments for well-developed properties and for vacant and poorly developed sites. Extensive reports were published in the two East Grinstead papers, the *Courier* and the *Observer*.

On October 31, Mr. Saldji similarly addressed the Hendon Ratepayers Association, again illustrating his argument by exhibiting photographs of a number of sites in the immediate neighbourhood.

The *Hendon Times* reported:

"Only a score or so of people attended. This was a pity because, whatever views one held about the subject matter of the address, it had to be conceded that Mr. Saldji knew his subject and put his case with knowledge, conviction and ability. There was not a dull moment throughout the meeting.

"From the source of the lecture, no surprise was evoked that the case for the reform of local rating was based entirely on the taxation of land values—a proposal with which we have been familiar for many years and which, for one reason or another, has not been adopted by successive Governments. Examples given by the speaker of its adoption in Australia, New Zealand and Scandinavia were certainly

thought provoking. The prospect of resultant relief to rate-payers sounded so attractive that one questioner suggested it was too good to be true.

"The lecture was replete with illustrations and statistics from near and far and was at least interesting and informative; and the line of thought so ably presented might well have aroused an intelligent interest in a subject so closely touching so many and yet so little understood."

Good Publicity in Surrey

At the request of the publishers of a series of five local monthly news magazines, circulating in Surrey, an article on Land Value Taxation was submitted to them. This appeared as an editorial in the September issues. It was due to the enterprise of a reader of LAND & LIBERTY, resident in Walton where one of the magazines circulates, that the editor was persuaded to commission the article.

Scholastic Testimony

The well-known Swedish economist Professor Eli Heckscher, in his book *Gammal och Ny Ekonomisk Liberalism* (Old and New Liberalism), has this to say: "Land or building sites of various kinds, water power, mineral deposits, etc., have a value or command a price, and in many cases a very high price. The question, however, is not whether the natural resources should command a price, but whether this price should create an *income* for their owners, and there is all the difference in the world between these two questions. The interest on capital is not only a necessary price but is also *required as an income*, because otherwise saving would be very much reduced, but nothing similar applies to the income derived from natural resources, ground rent or whatever you will call it. In other words: Saving is a result of endeavour, of conscious human acting; but land, mineral deposits, water power, etc., are not in any sense the result of human activity. If interest on capital disappears saving will, to a more or less degree, stop; but if the rent attaching to natural resources is withheld from their owners, not a single acre of land, or ton of ore, or horsepower in a waterfall, will cease to exist. Therefore, the price of natural resources as an income for their owners can never become part in a "harmonious" economic system . . .

"It therefore seems to me that it is impossible for a new economic liberalism to reject in principle the idea of the community appropriating the rent of natural resources."

Referring to the school of thought which is called *Georgeism*, Professor Heckscher comments: "It is a belief sometimes met with even amongst politically educated liberals, that Georgeism more or less coincides with socialism. No mistake could be greater. Far from coinciding with socialism, Georgeism is the most pronounced old-school liberalism which now exists. It is even scarcely an exaggeration to say that the social view represented by Georgeism is that the State should collect the economic rent, but not be further concerned with economic or social life . . .

"The appropriation of the ground rent is often proposed to take the form of land value or ground rent taxation . . . Its possibilities and limitations would necessitate an extensive discussion which does not belong here. What concerns us here is only the point of principle that this programme must form part of the new economic liberalism, which cannot fulfil its mission or live up to its teaching without it."