

3. Local Valuation Courts.—20 cases were contested before the Court as a result of assessments included in the Second 1958 and First 1959 Supplementary Rolls. The Court ruled that only one of the assessments should be altered. This had been agreed with the objector prior to the commencement of the hearing.

4. Valuation Committee.—59 entries in respect of Crown properties were discussed with the Land Office, and agreed amendments were submitted to the Committee on 19th November and confirmed.

5. Remission of Rates.—183 applications were received from religious, social, educational bodies, etc., for full or partial remission of rates. 150 applications were approved in respect of properties having a total site value of £2,306,916, and remissions amounting to £40,418 were granted.

9. Records of Sales.—During the year the Land Office notified 1,270 sales of property in Nairobi. This information was noted in our records and the sales were analysed.

10. Plans and Maps.—124 1:1250 plans sheets were prepared, and the tracings for all the City were printed. Information as to sale prices, file numbers, areas and street numbers was put on the plans and these now form a comprehensive record of all the plots in Nairobi . . .

Henry George School

TWENTY-FIVE economic study classes are at present in session. Now that records are complete — the Scottish branches began later than the rest of the country — they reveal that there has again been an increase in the enrolment figures over previous terms.

Scotland. A particularly good enrolment was secured at Glasgow where Dr. William Good is conducting the Basic Course. Plans are being made now for a follow-on course on Current Economic Theories to start in January. At Dundee, three classes are being held weekly, two are being conducted by Mr. M. H. Brownlee and the other by a new tutor, Mr. W. D. Campbell.

North West Kent. Under the auspices of the North West Kent branch an end of term Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday December 10 at the Royal Hotel, Mottingham (Southern Railway). Music and dancing will follow the Dinner. Previous students within or outside the area are cordially invited to attend. Tickets 15s. from Mr. T. J. Maxwell, 35, Spekehill, Eltham, S.E.9.

Headquarters. On December 6 and 8 classes at Victoria will combine to hear Mr. V. H. Blundell speak on "The Policies of the Parties — an Economic and Political Survey". A social evening for students attending the current classes has been arranged for the following week.

Cardiff. An end of term talk entitled "Freedom?" will be given by Mr. R. Spencer of the University College, Cardiff, to students and ex-students of the Henry George School on December 8 at 7.30 p.m. at 19 Newport Road, Cardiff.

NEW BILLS IN PARLIAMENT

London's Fruit Market To Be "Nationalised"

LONDON'S fruit and vegetable market is to be nationalised. This further nibble at economic freedom comes strangely from a Conservative administration which purports to believe in free enterprise. Yet it is logically consistent since, after all, by curtailing imports and fostering home production by grants and subsidies the Government has already tampered with the general market for agricultural and horticultural produce.

The stated object of the Covent Garden Market Bill is to create a streamlined and modernised market in which traders can have all the benefits of a rational layout and the whole range of up-to-date mechanical handling and storage facilities. This, it is claimed, will enable the market to handle a greater volume of business more speedily and more economically to the benefit of the growers, wholesalers, purchasers and all who work in the market.

No doubt that is so but why is Government intervention required to confer these benefits on those people? There are in Britain a great many "streamlined and modernised" undertakings of every kind which have put improvements in hand without prompting, aid or interference from H.M. Government. There are also a great many backward concerns; may we expect the Tories to step in and take them over in due course?

Two other major arguments are advanced officially in defence of the Bill. Reorganisation will relieve road congestion in the Covent Garden area, and reduce fire risks. It is proposed to store empty wooden boxes at the junction of Old Street and City Road on the five acre site of the St. Luke's Printing Works, which was sold recently by the Bank of England.

These secondary considerations are important but they could be met by enforcing stringent fire and traffic regulations. Traffic snarls are not peculiar to the Covent Garden area.

The market is at present owned by Covent Garden Market Ltd. who hold the charter granted in 1670 by Charles II to the Earl of Bedford, and is operated under provisions of an Act of 1828. This stipulated how the market was to be laid out to meet the conditions of those times. Something of a similar nature would meet today's needs. Instead a Covent Garden Market Authority is to be created, appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and consisting of a chairman, a managing director and from three to six other members.

The Authority will take over the market and compensate the present owners. It will not be a trading organisation. All premises used for wholesaling fruit, vegetables and flowers in the area will have to be