

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

Westminster. The weekly attendance of students for the current term of economics classes is 60. Of these, 30 are new students taking the Basic Course, and 30 are advanced students who are taking either International Trade or The Science of Political Economy. Tutors are Messrs. C. A. E. Aitken, E. H. Baush, V. H. Blundell and V. G. Saldji. The Students' Club (formed to provide opportunities for new students to meet informally) had an excellent meeting at 4 Great Smith Street, on Sunday, April 12. The subject chosen for discussion was "The Functions of Government." 27 attended. The next meeting was held on Sunday, May 10, at 6.30 p.m., when various aspects of Land Value Taxation were debated. These monthly meetings and the country rambles organised by the Club, through the opportunities thus provided for discussion, help to maintain, extend and develop the education so well begun in the classes. On Monday, April 20, Mr. Charles Aitken addressed the Harrow West Young Liberal Association on "Free Trade." The meeting was arranged by Miss Sylvia Pocock, a previous student of the Henry George School and Vice-Chairman of the Association. On the same day Mr. L. J. Hubbard, another member of the School's Speakers' Bureau, addressed the Richmond Branch of the International Friendship League on "An Approach to Economics."

A talk on Central African Federation will be given by Commander Fox-Pitt on May 26, at 7 p.m., at Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, Westminster. Commander Fox-Pitt has recently returned from the post of District Officer in Northern Rhodesia, held since 1937. Questions and discussion will follow the talk. The meeting is open to students and all LAND & LIBERTY readers.

Croydon. Regular Monthly Meetings are now being held by the Croydon group of school students. On Wednesday, May 20, Mr. V. G. Saldji will address a meeting to be held at the Croydon Adult School on the subject: "The Tragedy of Kenya" (a survey of the causes of the present unrest). Members of the local Liberal Association have been invited to attend. The subject for the June meeting is "The Long-Suffering Rate-payer"; Speaker: Mr. C. Nelms. The new session of economic study classes will begin in September.

Ilford. The first class for the study of International Trade began on April 15. This new class, which will last for ten weeks, is made up of students from the previous Basic Course classes. Mr. C. A. E. Aitken is the tutor.

Hornsey. Students of the previous Basic Course held in this area are now meeting regularly at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Crouch End, to hear a series of weekly Discussion Lectures, given by the Speakers' Panel of the School. The meetings, which began on April 15, are held at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. Speakers and subjects are as follows: April 15, "Monopolies" (Norman Gardner); April 22, "The Land Question in Kenya" (V. G. Saldji); May 6, "Social Problems" (P. R. Stubbings); May 13, "Free Trade and Protection" (Charles Aitken); May 20, "The Welfare State" (L. A. Stevenson); May 27, "The Weapon of Taxation" (L. J. Hubbard); June 3, "Introduction to Economic History" (H. Tasker); June 20, "Rating of Site Values and Local Government" (C. Nelms). Chairman is Mr. J. Wehrfritz.

A mile or so away, in the Muswell Hill district of Hornsey, two new classes for the Basic Course are being conducted. These opened on April 15 at the Muswell Hill Public Library. Tutors are Mr. Ron. R. Blundell and Mr. V. H. Blundell. The enrolment exceeded the number anticipated, so that an additional room had to be taken. Mr. V. H. Blundell, the Director of Studies, who attended on the opening night to introduce students to the School, found himself with a class on his hands before the end of the evening. Total enrolment was 35. In September these students, together with those of the previous term, will join in a class for the study of International Trade. An analysis of contacts revealed the success of the advertisements which were displayed in the local buses.

Enfield. On April 15, a new Basic Course class opened at the George Spicer School, Southbury Road. It is being conducted by Mr. Oliver French, a new tutor and previous Enfield student. Mr. W. J. Cadman, senior tutor and organiser in this area, is conducting a class on International Trade which began on April 14. This is also being held at the George Spicer School.

Glasgow. Fourteen students enrolled for the basic course which commenced at the Christian Institute in January, 1953. Four were unable to complete the course through circumstances beyond their control and seven students completed the whole course in eleven weeks. The opening meetings of the classes were taken by the Vice-President of the Scottish League for Land Value Taxation, Dr. F. M. Smith, who gave the students an introductory talk on the organisation and methods of the School. Dr. Smith acted as tutor of the class which met at Partick. As tutors Mr. A. E. Woodiwiss acted for the autumn class at the Christian Institute and Mr. N. Hopkins for the class which started at the Christian Institute in January, 1953. Throughout the whole winter session Mr. D. Cameron attended the Christian Institute Classes regularly and provided valuable assistance to the tutors and students in discussion.

Week-End School at Dorking. 70 people attended the successful Dorking Week-End School, on March 28. The speakers impressed the audience with their grasp of the subjects and made it evident that much research and study had gone into the preparation of their talks. Outstanding among the sessions was that on Colonial Problems, the different facets of which were presented by Messrs. F. Dupuis, L. J. Hubbard and V. G. Saldji. A condensed transcription of the lectures by Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Dupuis appear elsewhere in this issue.

The opening talk was given by Mr. Antony Fisher who spoke on "Food and Agriculture." Mr. Fisher, who was the Guest Speaker at the Conference, came out uncompromisingly for the free economy. He had the complete sympathy of the audience as far as he went, but many felt they would have liked to have carried the session to its logical conclusion by discussing the prerequisites to a successful free economy, *i.e.*, the just and equitable distribution of wealth. The speaker, nevertheless, provided much that was worthy of discussion and gave some revealing examples of his experience as a farmer, subjected to the orders, controls and directions of the State.

Messrs. A. W. Madsen, C. Nelms and W. E. Fox, who spoke on Local Government and the Rating System provided a comprehensive survey of the inevitable and evil consequences of retaining a manifestly unjust and grossly inefficient method of taxation. Evidence that there was concern all over the country at the failure to provide radical reform was given by Mr. Madsen when he displayed armfuls of newspaper cuttings reflecting the mood of the people. "We know the answer lies in the Rating of Site Values," said Mr. Madsen, "We must see that the people know it too."

The session on the Keynesian Theory of Unemployment presented by Mr. V. H. Blundell with the aid of a film strip, evoked caustic comment and much hilarity. Mr. Blundell's remarks that the film would teach much, though not what the producers of the film intended, were borne out by the indignation of many when they learned that the film entitled "Basic Economics," produced by *Encyclopædia Britannica*, was offered as a serious contribution to economic thought among schools and study groups throughout the country.

The spectacle of masses of unemployed amid the observable bounty that nature had provided on the "Enterprise Island" of the film was bad enough, but when it was pontifically asserted in the text that the "lack of work" was due to the lack of spending, the Chairman had difficulty in keeping order.

The last session took the form of an impromptu Brains Trust, questions being invited on the Town and Country Planning Act, the new Bill and other allied subjects. The

session could not be held as originally planned, as Mr. Charles Aitken, who was to be the chief speaker in this session, was unable to attend. Chairmen for the sessions were: Messrs. K. Baynes, J. Osborne, D. K. Mills, H. Pollard and W. J. Cadman, who, carrying out their duties with zest, good humour and good sense, contributed much to the success of the Conference.

The next Week-End School will be held at Burton Manor, Cheshire, in October. Details will be announced later.

THE GEORGEISTS (LONDON BRANCH)

Freedom Day Rally. The joint Rally for Freedom organised in association with the Free Trade Union, the Cheap Food League, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and the Land Value Taxation League which took place in Trafalgar Square, on Saturday, May 2, arrested the attention of a wide audience throughout the whole afternoon and into the early evening. During the five hours that the meeting was in progress there was a continual succession of speakers whose subjects ranged over a wide field, each having special relevance to the fundamental principles of freedom. Speakers included S. W. Broder, Roy Douglas, W. J. Cadman, S. W. Alexander, Enid Lakeman, Stephen Martin, David K. Mills, Harry Pollard, Oliver Smedley, Victor Saldji, and George Winder. Chairman for the whole session was Edwin Malindine. The loudspeaker equipment functioned well, making it possible for the speakers to be heard to the extreme limits of the Square and the attention was captured of those who on the main thoroughfare were leaning over the parapets. It was a perfect day, the sun shone brilliantly on the banners and posters with slogans urging land value taxation and free trade which hung at the base of Nelson's column. A strong band of supporters from the various associations was on continuous duty distributing leaflets. By special arrangement the fountains were turned down so that spray would not fall upon the audience. Speaker after speaker reiterated the need to untax labour and industry and directed attention to the proper source of public revenues, the rental value of land, emphasising that political freedom was useless without economic freedom. The special protagonists of Free Trade made it clear that there could be no half-measures on this strong moral issue.

Annual General Meeting. At the Annual General Meeting, which was held at 4 Great Smith Street, on Sunday, April 26, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year. President, Wilfrid Harrison; Vice-President, W. E. Fox; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. V. G. Saldji. The Secretary's report and financial statements for the year 1952/53 were presented and adopted. Membership was now 57, all in the London area.

Open Air Meetings. Meetings in Finsbury Square during the lunch hour continue to be held each Tuesday. Speakers are V. G. Saldji, W. J. Cadman and E. I. Miller. Some useful contacts have recently been made at these meetings.

Mr. Ashley Mitchell addressed the Wakefield Liberal Association, on March 26, and the Yorkshire Young Liberals, at Leeds, on April 18. The former was an excellent meeting, the latter was not so well attended, but the group of Young Liberals showed eager interest in the principles and policy of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. At Wakefield the interest was such that many said, "We wish to know more about it," and the likelihood is a ten-weeks economic study class in the autumn with *Progress and Poverty* as text book.

Mr. Mitchell is on his way, on May 5, to Canada and the United States, returning on May 26. He will visit, among other places, Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, San Francisco and New York—a business trip, but joined with it the pleasure of meeting many friends in the Henry George movement during his travel.

Mr. S. Cuthbertson, of Brighton, a member of the United Committee, had an attentive audience when he addressed the Shoreham Liberal Association, April 17, on the economic and political significance of the taxation of land values. Those who already understood and favoured the reform were very much in the minority, but the quality of the questions asked, and the amount of literature that was taken indicated that Shoreham Liberals are anxious to understand more fully the subject that has for so long been to the forefront of their Party's programme.

We regret to announce the deaths of Mr. John Bush, of Smethwick, and Mr. G. G. Houghton, of Birmingham. Both were members of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values and both were long associated with the work of the Midland League, being valuable colleagues of the late Chapman Wright. Mr. Bush took an active part in public affairs. He was a member of the Smethwick Town Council from 1928 to 1931, and latterly was President of the Smethwick Liberal Association. As a speaker he was always heard with much acceptance. To Mrs. Bush and Miss Houghton and the bereaved relatives, we extend our sincere sympathy.

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The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd. (proprietors of LAND & LIBERTY, postal subscription 10s. or \$2 from U.S.A. and Canada), the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and the Leagues listed below are maintained by the voluntary support of those who believe in and would seek to advance the principle and policy which the Committee, the Union and the Leagues advocate: Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in its fulness, with removal of the tax burden on industry and abolition of all monopolies and special privileges that interfere with the production of wealth and prevent its just distribution. Cheques, etc., may be made payable to R. W. Frost (United Committee), Ashley Mitchell (International Union) or to C. H. Batty (The Land-Value Taxation League), 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

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ADDRESSES

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Scottish League for Land-Value Taxation, R. J. Rennie (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), 220, Mill Street, Rutherglen, Glasgow. *Edinburgh League*, W. N. Alexander (Hon. Secretary), 23, Baberton Crescent, Edinburgh, 11. *Welsh League*, Eustace A. Davis (Hon. Secretary), 206, Newport Road, Cardiff. *Crosby Henry George Fellowship*, C. C. Paton (Hon. Secretary), 11, Tudor Road, Liverpool, 23.

Office of the President of the International Union:
Mr. J. Rupert Mason, 1920 Lake Street, San Francisco, 21.