

Signs of Progress

GEORGEIST ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Henry George School of Social Science

REPORT OF EDWIN ROSS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

SUMMER TERM—Enrollments for the Summer term of the School, starting June 17, are coming in at a rapid rate. The response was large even before names were circularized through the mails. This was due almost entirely to the work of students of the Spring term in distributing class announcements to friends and acquaintances. Large scale distribution of thousands of leaflets and announcements, at strategic locations throughout the city, has also been undertaken by volunteers.

The Summer term will include advanced courses to accommodate students of the Spring term. This was not originally scheduled, but numerous requests warranted offering them. During the Summer, classes will be held four days a week, Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 to 9:30 P. M.

RECOMMENDED NAMES—A campaign is now under way to secure names recommended by friends of the School, for the purpose of sending them class announcements. A study of the Spring enrollment revealed that no other source of circularization brings nearly so many new enrollments as the names supplied by students and friends. In charge of this campaign is Sidney Abelson, recently added to the staff of the School, in the capacity of Publicity Manager.

BUILDING COMPLETION—On the fourth floor of the School eight new class-rooms are rapidly nearing completion. These new rooms will give the School a capacity of four thousand per term (there are 3 regular terms per year). The auditorium on the fifth floor is also taking form, and programs to be held in it are already being planned. It is hoped that the auditorium will be in use every day of the week.

SPRING COMMENCEMENT—A Commencement Dinner for the graduates and faculty of the Spring term was held Monday, June 3, at 6:30 P. M., at the Cafe Loyale, 521 Fifth Avenue, New York City. The guest speaker of the evening was Hon. Francis Neilson, well-known author, and Member of the British Parliament during the last war. His topic was "Henry George, Scholar," a phase of George's character which Mr. Neilson feels has been neglected. Frank Chodorov, Director, summarized the achievements of the School, and its prospects

for the future. This dinner was also the occasion of the premiere of a new Georgeist play, entitled "No Sunday for Friday," written, produced and performed by graduates of the School.

SOCIETY FOR LONG ISLAND GEORGEISTS

The Society has been very active this Spring. Besides the regular Tuesday night Forums that are conducted, speakers, under the auspices of the Society, have lectured at various places. Among them were: Holger Lyngholm, who again spoke on "Cooperation and Democracy in Denmark," this time before the Flushing Cooperative Association; Spencer Heath, who addressed the Bureau of Economic Research of Brooklyn College; and Dr. S. A. Schneidman, who spoke before the Young Men's Club of Queens Village on "War and the Depression."

Four new classes have been initiated in The Principles of International Trade. These are conducted at the Sewanhakee High School, Floral Park; the Flushing Y.M.C.A.; the Jamaica High School; and the home of B. T. Conrad, in Bellerose Manor—all on Long Island.

The Society's sixth Reunion Dinner-Talk-Fest—characterized as "a hopeful interlude in a world of chaos"—was held May 18, at the Diplomat Restaurant in Jamaica. The attendance was good. Diplomas were awarded to graduates, and plans for increased activity were discussed. C. O. Steele officiated as the Master of Ceremonies, and the guest speakers were: William N. McNair, Pittsburgh's ex-mayor extraordinary, who spoke on his many interesting experiences, in his talk, "What Price Government?"; Harry Weinberger, distinguished lawyer, who delivered an eloquent address on the menace of "Liberty's Blackout"; and Spencer Heath, philosopher-economist, who gave a thoughtful talk on "The Science of Society."

A group of Long Island graduates, on their own initiative, have offered to rally workers in the Cause of Freedom, for the purpose of expanding the scope of the movement in a more organized and efficient way. Another instance of the fruits of education.

Following are the remaining lectures in the Spring series of the Society's Forums, held at the Jamaica Y.M.C.A., 89-25 Parsons Boulevard, Jamaica. Those interested are urged to attend.

June 4—Paul Peach, "The Money Problem."

June 11—John Luxton, "Is Economics a Science?"

CHICAGO, ILL.

The Chicago Extension of the School moved to larger headquarters on May 1. The new address is 64 West Randolph Street, which has double the space of the former headquarters. The added room was needed to serve the rapidly growing number of classes in Chicago and suburbs. In leasing the new headquarters, the Chicago group were unaware that they were repeating history. In the early days of the movement, this address served as headquarters of the old Single Tax Club, focal point of Georgeist activities in the Middle West. This latest revival stirred the memories of old-timers who recall that the attendance at the Single Tax Club meetings was large, often 500, and that a dance on one occasion packed the hall beyond capacity.

Graduates of the Chicago School are formidable in their acolyte activities, and they will be given an increased opportunity to serve at the new headquarters. They have been distributing thousands of announcements of new classes, with a great saving of postage. Among the fields covered were the Jane Addams Houses, where two thousand announcements were distributed.

Reports from Chicago indicate that "Progress and Poverty" is becoming more duly recognized. At the University of Chicago, one-fourth of the Master's examination of the English Department, to be held this Summer, will be devoted to a critical analysis of the idea structure of that book. Recognition also comes from the B.L.T. Club, a group of professional book reviewers. Mrs. Ruthann Bassler spoke before the Club, on "Literary Masterpieces of the Ages." The only masterpiece to evoke questions and discussion was "Progress and Poverty." As a result twenty names were secured for enrollment in the Henry George School.

BERKELEY, CALIF.

Commencement Exercises of the East Bay Extension of the School were held at the Alden Library in Oakland, on April 29. J. Rupert Mason writes of this meeting, "Last evening was a happy one, across the Bay. Many graduated from Miss Grace Johnston's fine classes. Wallace Kibbee gave an inspiring talk on 'The Ideals of Henry George.' I brought a friend, who is the head of a big accounting office, and who goes over the accounts of many Irrigation Districts. He has been a 'moneycrat,' and now marvels that he could have been so mistaken. He wants to take the course at the School."

Robert Schalkenbach Foundation

REPORT OF V. G. PETERSON, SECRETARY

NEW LITERATURE—New editions of "Social Problems" and "Protection or Free Trade," both by Henry George,

have just come from the Foundation's press. This makes seven thousand copies of "Social Problems" published by the Foundation and nine thousand copies of "Protection or Free Trade."

Both these books have had dramatic careers. It was "Social Problems" which caught the interest of Tom Johnson and started him on the crusade to which he later dedicated his life and his fortune. The warning words of "Protection or Free Trade" have echoed through our domed Capitol on numerous occasions. Tom Johnson and others have read passages, even chapters, from the floor of both Houses. Practically the whole book has appeared in the Congressional Record.

"The Life of Joseph Fels," by Mary Fels, his wife, is the latest event in contemporary Georgeist literature. And a most interesting event it is. The book is being adequately reviewed elsewhere in LAND AND FREEDOM, so there is little for me to say except that I enjoyed the story very much. Every Georgeist will be interested in this book of less than two hundred pages in which one gets to know and understand an exceptionally generous and democratic character, a rare man of good will.

In the June issue of the *Atlantic*, Albert Jay Nock has written a penetrating analysis of Max Hirsch's book, "Democracy vs. Socialism." With many a barbed thrust, Mr. Nock makes war upon his favorite enemy, State Collectivism. His recommendation of the Hirsch book is unequivocal. "Of the innumerable books on economics and politics published in the last seven years," he says, "the one which is most important at just this moment, at precisely this juncture in our public affairs, is this reprint of a book which fell by the wayside fifty years ago."

THE HALL OF FAME CAMPAIGN—We are now in the midst of our campaign to have Henry George admitted to the Hall of Fame. Varied and interesting are the letters which are being written to the electors. One very famous Rabbi wrote them as follows: "Few Americans will be voted into the Hall of Fame more entitled to a place within that Olympian Hall than Henry George. Henry George was an American prophet, a man with a realizable program which will yet be adopted by civilized peoples." Another man, a well known editor and author, wrote to twenty electors: "I have been in general sympathy with Henry George's economic views for many years—in fact since my young manhood. There can be no question of either his powers as a writer or his very widespread influence upon public thought. For what it is worth to you, I record my hope that when the matter comes before you, you will give his candidacy serious and favorable consideration." Later it may be possible to publish the names of these prominent men who have thus expressed their admiration for Henry George and his doctrines.