

## UNITED STATES

## Henry George School

THE BOARD of Regents of the University of the State of New York formally voted on 30th July the grant of an absolute charter to the H.G. School of Social Science in place of the provisional charter under which the School has functioned, so that the School is now officially and fully recognised as one of the educational institutions of the State and it now goes forward with its work with added prestige and influence.

In submitting their application for the full charter, the Board of Governors presented a report on the inception of the School, its growth, its equipment, and its courses and methods in the teaching of Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy. The text of this report appears in *Land and Freedom* (New York) for July-August. The following table of the enrolments year by year and of gross expenditure gives a graphic picture of a remarkable development:—

Year	No. of local and extension classes	No. of Students enrolled	Expense \$
1933 (1)	11	84	1,618
1934	22	383	5,534
1935	104	2,249	9,464
1936	210	4,265	14,070
1937 (2)	164	2,781	12,826

(1) Local classes only.

(2) Five months—1st January to 31st May.

At the headquarters, 211 West 79th Street, the School Library now consists of 4,107 volumes dealing mainly with economics, sociology, government and philosophy. Three rooms are equipped with the usual classroom furniture. A fourth classroom, used only for advanced courses and for board meetings, has removable chairs, in addition to desks, and office library. The office for the local work, on the first floor, contains several desks, office files, typewriters, dictaphones, etc. The extension class and correspondence course offices are similarly equipped.

In 1937 the faculty at the School, not including extension courses, consisted of twenty teachers. The strain upon its excellent staff of devoted volunteers having become too great for the work, it was necessary to supplement this with several full-time secretaries. This was made possible by the increase in the number and size of the donations and by several generous bequests. Mr Frank Chodorov, A.B. (Columbia) a former school teacher and an experienced business man, was engaged to take charge of the School. He is assisted by five secretaries, in addition to the usual complement of past-student volunteers, to say nothing of the five trustees who meet weekly for the purpose of formulating and directing policies. A correspondence course was added to the curriculum in February of this year, in which to the present over 400 students have enrolled.

The School sends a request to interested friends in all parts of the world, a request we are glad to broadcast, for gifts of books on economics, social philosophy, political science, etc., which any one may be able to spare from his or her own library—thus to increase the library at the School.

In our July issue we published a sheet circulated by the School in New York named a Budget for the twelve months from 1st July, 1937, to 30th June, 1938. It should be made clear that the expenditure outlined by the School in this estimate, making a total of \$35,102 was a matter of hope—what could be done if the

revenue were forthcoming—and not a matter of the equivalent revenue being actually in sight. The *Budget* is an estimate submitted for the consideration of all possible subscribers who have the vital work of the School at heart. It is the basis of a frank appeal for the necessary funds for a wide extension of the teaching, which we hope will be adequately supported. By the same token, we plead for the financial support that the British Henry George School can use most effectively in promoting the study circles in this country.

## MRS LEWIS H. BERENS

MANY MEMORIES will be stirred in the minds of the older members of the English League and of the United Committee by the news of the death, at Harrogate, on 1st September, of Rita Berens, after a long illness. She was married in 1889 to Lewis H. Berens, then engaged in business in Australia, where he was one of the pioneers of the Georgist movement. They had the pleasure and privilege of acting as hosts to Henry George on one of his visits to Australia. In 1891, Berens retired from business and came with his family to England. He lived for some years at Ilkley, Yorks., got into touch with the English League, founded the Bradford Branch of it (now the Yorkshire League) and organized the first Conference on the Taxation of Land Values. Soon after his removal to London (1899) he was elected to the Executive of the League and he became its Hon. Treasurer in 1902, retaining that office till the day of his death (2nd November, 1913). At the next Annual Meeting, his son Herbert A. Berens was elected as his successor. The lady who has just passed away was therefore the wife of one Treasurer and the mother of another.

Those who were Berens' colleagues on the United Committee will still remember the inspiration and help he gave to its activities, and to the movement generally, especially by his own writings and by his fine work in promoting the sale of Henry George's books.

Those who knew the family best, know how much Lewis Berens owed to the devotion of his wife, whose constant care, sympathy and support made it possible for him to do the great work for the movement which made his name a household word wherever Henry George's name was held in honour. Her interest in the cause remained unabated till the end of her life. Her gracious and dignified presence made her a welcome visitor to our meetings, so long as her failing health made attendance possible, and it is known that she sometimes came to us even against her doctor's advice.

Her son and his wife were with her during most of the last weeks of her life till she passed away without pain. The sympathy of a world-wide circle of friends will be with them in their bereavement. F. V.

THIS MAD WORLD.—The Australian Federal Government will provide £334,000 and the N.S.W. Government will invest £166,000 for a scheme to produce oil from the Newnes shale oilfield.—*Glasgow Herald*, 12th May.

The company working the concern will receive protection of its product over imported petrol, Customs concessions in respect of plant, and preference in Government purchases. The protection will involve a loss of revenue of £240,000 a year.

"The Commonwealth Government is prepared to make these substantial concessions as a contribution towards security," said the acting Prime Minister, Dr Page.

Truly the war psychology is driving the peoples mad.