

## The Ohio Conference

AT THE peninsular summer resort of Lakeside, on Lake Erie, was held the Second Annual Conference of the Ohio Henry George School of Social Science, the weekend of August 22-24.

A number of unscheduled appearances and events helped to enrich an already interesting program. John C. Lincoln, the School's president, attended with his wife the first evening and gave a fine talk on "Natural Law," pointing out that stealing, whether by individuals or government, is a violation of natural law and brings its own punishment. The economic ills we are suffering are due to this violation and can only be stopped by observing the moral law.

Besides about 35 Ohioans present there were 9 from Chicago including Mrs. Emma Hildebrecht and others from the Henry George Women's Club; Mr. and Mrs. George M. Menninger and son; Ben Russell and Edwin Hamilton. These, plus Robert Benton of Detroit, Joseph Stockman and Lucia Cipolloni of Philadelphia, John Tetley of Newark, Robert Ritchey of Albany, Robert Clancy of New York and J. Rupert Mason of San Francisco, made this Conference look like another national School Conference.

The first session on Friday evening which was honored by Mr. Lincoln's impromptu talk, opened with an address of welcome by John W. Weir of Cleveland who asked the delegates to consider making common cause with other groups having aims harmonious with ours. Walter Rybeck of Columbus gave a review of the annual conference in Montreal. The evening ended with a "buzz session"—a stimulating discussion on the question "Do Natural Rights Exist?"

Saturday was a full day, beginning with a demonstration of teaching techniques by Harry Kuck of Cincinnati, followed by open discussion, with Carl Strack as chairman. In the afternoon, Mildred Loomis of Brookville, editor of *The Interpreter*, explored problems of "normal living" and proposed that Georgists exchange views with other groups working toward the goal of free individuals in a free society. Sharing this session, Robert Benton spoke of his work in Detroit and the progress made by cooperating with other educational groups. Mrs. Hildebrecht, another unscheduled speaker, gave an encouraging picture of the work of the Henry George Women's Clubs in Chicago and St. Louis, and proposed that every school extension have a women's club.

The day culminated with a banquet at which J. Rupert Mason was the guest speaker, with Joseph Stockman as the unscheduled and unpredictable chairman. Mr. Mason, recently returned from the International Conference in Denmark, gave a summary of the progress of land reform around the world, pointing up the need for increased application of Georgian principles if civilization is to survive.

The Conference ended with a Sunday morning session at which Robert Clancy spoke. John Tetley, as chairman, first explained some of the economic definitions developed at the New Jersey Henry George School, then introduced Mr. Clancy, who told the group about the Conference in Denmark. The session ended with a discussion as to the relative merits of education and politics in attaining the Georgist goal.

On the recreational side, a boat ride was taken in the waters where the naval battles of

the War of 1812, under Commodore Perry, took place.

Verlin D. Gordon, the Ohio School director, was modestly absent from the program, but very much present at the Conference, and his influence and inspiration were apparent throughout. Miss Kathy Shoaf of Columbus was the planning wheelhorse of this excellent "little national" conference. R. C.