

## The Appeal to Logic

**C**OLONEL E. C. HARWOOD, director of the American Institute for Economic Research, Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and a trustee of the Henry George School in New York, was a visitor in San Francisco at the time of the conference and spoke briefly at a luncheon session.



Col. E. C. Harwood

Exploring reasons why the Henry George philosophy has not gained wider acceptance in academic circles, Colonel Harwood read from a report by the Social Science Research Council, excerpts of which appear in a booklet published by the American Institute for Economic Research:

"Social science departments in general appear to be so fearful of deterring potential students that they tend to adapt their requirements to the tastes of the least competent. Consequently, verbal facility, rather than a scientific attitude and mastery of scientific principles and techniques, is too generally the criterion of achievement in what are called the social sciences in undergraduate colleges; and this criterion carries over perceptibly into the graduate school.

"Failure to get adequate training in these subjects before receiving the Ph. D. degree is certainly attributable in considerable measure to the fact that little or no statistical and mathematical competence is required of undergraduates majoring in social disciplines."

"About a tenth of our applicants rank with the top 17 per cent of college applicants, and two-fifths above the general college applicant mean. The other three-fifths apparently do not have the general command of elementary mathematics that is present in the average college applicant when applying for admission."

In the social sciences, the speaker said, there has been a group of people which has placed so little emphasis on thinking logically that applicants who have fallen out of the tougher subjects (mathematics and engineering) have been accepted as teachers of economics. Since Henry George is logical, his philosophy is grasped most readily by those who have training in logic.

## Economics a Retarded Profession

Colonel Harwood sees economics as being in the same backward position medicine occupied 150 years ago. That, he pointed out, is why you find things like the Keynesian philosophy accepted though it lacks a logical basis. You wouldn't expect to find two-thirds of the chemists of the country dropping into outmoded ideas, ventured the speaker, as you find two-thirds of the economists accepting branches in economics which have not been tested.

Believing that the science of political economy is in its infancy the speaker made a plea for more evidence subjected to facts. He would like to see Georgists making more detailed studies and elaborate surveys like those initiated in Pennsylvania. These could be shown to people in the community and would demonstrate that the Henry George theories have the advantage of squaring with facts. "We should," said the Colonel, "regard Henry George theories as hypotheses."