



Lawson Purdy

New York

NEW SURPRISE feature among advanced courses in New York is the three-week lecture series by Lawson Purdy on "The Assessment of Real Estate," on September 30th, October 7th and 14th at 7:30 P. M. This is indeed a "rare opportunity to learn about assessment practices." All who studied the thoroughgoing article on this subject by Lawson Purdy in the April, 1948, Henry George News, will appreciate the practical aspects of this lecture series and the seriousness and capability of the lecturer. Five hours of field work will be required of students. Mr. Purdy hopes especially to meet with teachers, as he feels their work will be easier if they understand the techniques of assessment. Lawson Purdy, during his term of office as President of the Department of Taxes and Assessments in New York, rendered a service which will redound to his credit for all years to come. He is a man of distinction whom we are proud to welcome to our teaching staff.

Other advanced courses include Public Speaking, also beginning September 30th, and again under the tutelage of James Donnelly, whose successful work here in preceding seasons has necessitated expansion, and he has taken a studio in Carnegie Hall to offer additional courses of especial interest to salesmen.

"Practical Writing," another course, being resumed under direction of Sydney Mayers, affable "Views of the News" columnist on The Henry George News, promises to be a sell-out again. Assignments are handled on the informal workshop basis—and the noteworthy premise behind this course is "that simple writing can be effective writing." One has only to examine the brilliant cleanness of line exemplified in this widely copied column to realize what an excellent craftsman he is. The matter of his uncanny selection of material is something else again. This comes under the head of genius which we fear cannot be learned or taught.

We have repeatedly tried to wheedle the busy Sydney Mayers (who makes motion pictures in the daytime) into giving us a digest of his course for the benefit of News authors. Being, like all artists, something of a prima donna, he has so far resisted us. Is there perhaps a reader of these lines who would be interested in such a writing guide? If so, why not bring pressure to bear upon the Practical Writing Instructor?

Democracy Versus Socialism by Max Hirsch

is again available in book form—the text will be used for a 12-week course on Tuesdays at 6 P. M. to be taught by Marshall De Angelis. This is a piercing examination of socialist doctrines, particularly those of Karl Marx, and presents the only alternative to socialism. If you are too far away to enroll for the course you may order a copy of the book from Shalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York.

Philosophy of Oscar Geiger is another 10-week course being repeated by request with Robert Clancy, the school's director, and former pupil and close associate of Oscar Geiger, in command. This is a "large" course, including in its subject matter the "atomic theory, social philosophy, and a guide to better living."

"American History" is a rugged and parentally popular course under the steady guidance of Richard M. Connor. This is a fascinating 15-week presentation of the basis of American history and its economic aspects, reference being made to the text, *Basic History of the United States* by Charles and Mary Beard.

With such a feast being presented in the advanced field we have very little space left for the all-important basic classes of which there will be 22 in a choice of morning, afternoon and evening hours throughout the week. Nightly classes in "International Trade and Social Problems" have already begun, as well as two classes in *The Science of Political Economy*.

Early in 1947 the registrar listed the Henry George School with the Herald Tribune Speakers' Bureau, and since that time 34 appointments have been received. These have been filled by instructors either from the Newark or New York schools, with the exception of one request in Berks County, Pennsylvania, which was taken over by Joseph Stockman of Philadelphia. That was one of the largest audiences addressed since it was the annual meeting of the Berks County Federation of Women's Clubs with a group of high school students added. Others have been: the Faculty Women's Club of Lehigh University and the Women's City Club of Norwalk, also various Lions Clubs and Kiwanis Clubs. At present engagements are being scheduled as far ahead as March, 1949.

The S. A. G. E. group is sponsoring the sale of Christmas cards carrying quotations from Henry George's writings. John Howard selected quotations from *Social Problems* and *Progress and Poverty*, which read as if expressly intended for this purpose. A sample assortment containing the following items is available on request: a sample card, sheets showing replicas of the other quotations and illustrations, and an order blank. A box of 25 cards is \$1.50. Inquiries and orders received at the News office will be forwarded to Mr. Howard.

Correction

In the September Henry George News, the lower photograph on page seven was "reversed." The caption under it should have read: "Standing, from left to right: David Simmons and George Cartwright; seated: Mrs. William B. Troehart, Mr. William B. Troehart and Mrs. Bessie Beach Troehart."

This error was called to our attention by Dave Simmons, who, by the way, has learned his basic economics very well. He recently journeyed to British Columbia to subscribe for the News, sending us a Canadian dollar in payment. Thanks, just the same!

In the Garden of Arden

ON SEPTEMBER 5th in the nave of a natural and idyllic cathedral in Arden, Delaware; where the leaves of towering trees glittering in the sunlight meet overhead, a small but faithful group once more paid tribute to Henry George and the enclave's founders. These founders, Frank Stevens and Will Price, lie buried beneath a boulder in this quiet spot appropriately named "The Robin Hood Theater."

Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington, as chairman, introduced the speakers, Mrs. Katherine Ross, Don Stevens, Joseph Stockman and Lancaster M. Greene. Mrs. Ross spoke with feeling of those things which impinge upon the just liberties of people and force them into a state-controlled way of life. Said Mrs. Ross, "Basic monopoly must come to a reckoning with natural law."

Joseph Stockman, Philadelphia director, with the aid of Chinese calligraphy and a blackboard, talked of economics as it might well be taught. He made it interesting, simple and graphic.

The faint odor of wood smoke drifted across the Arden meadows as Lancaster M. Greene of The Henry George News staff spoke informally of his recent visit among the Pueblos (who are astute enough not to want to become American citizens, chiefly because they don't like the tax system). Several times during his talk little gasps of surprise were emitted by auditors in the semi-circle, such as Ann Ross who was amazed at the uncanny perception of these extraordinary Indians who for hundreds of years have practised with marked cultural and economic profit, the very things we teach.

The Pueblo philosophy is much like that expressed in these pages some time ago by Monsignor Luigi Ligutti, namely, that man is a steward of the land only.

Mr. Greene, one of the school's trustees, said in reply to a good-natured sally from the chairman, that the Henry George School is like a mousetrap. A girl never chases a man. Neither does a mousetrap. Said he, "The Henry George School is like that!"

WEALTH Incorporated held its first meeting of the season on September 13th at Le Marquis Hotel on East 31st Street, New York, with various committee chairmen reporting on club activities and with Richard Van Horn presiding. A welcome guest was J. Rupert Mason of San Francisco, who reported informally on the system of land value taxation in certain irrigation districts in the Modesto Valley, California. An example of the pure application of land value taxation, within limitations, is furnished by these communities, and no one has been more zealous than Mr. Mason in bringing before the public the historical as well as the practical advantages of this system.

Mr. Mason, who also visited the Henry George School, was on his way to Hershey, Pennsylvania for the Fifth Annual Conference of the National Decentralist Institute, where he spoke on "Taxation and Land Tenancy."

Mr. Van Horn, president of Wealth Incorporated, recently announced that this group is engaged in making a survey of economic opinion, and that preliminary field testing has indicated that collective ideas are capturing the American mind. "The same questions put to George school graduates," he said, "reveal that they understand and believe in a free economy."