

R. E. Howe of Wilkesburg— If He Lives He'll Be a Hero

PROBABLY no course in Fundamental Economics has ever been attended by so many implications of violence as that begun on October 8th in the Knights of Pythias Hall, Wilkesburg, Pennsylvania—with Instructor Richard E. Howe doggedly holding forth despite threats from left-wing electrical union members. A handbill widely circulated among electrical workers announced:

"Almost everything you hold close to you—your home, your job, your family—are inseparably bound up in economic laws. . . ."

Richard Howe was persuaded to take up this post in Pennsylvania by William N. McNair, who little realized what a stormy future his protégé would have. From time to time we are advised of certain milestones in his career, just "in case an accident happens."

Keep on reading this page for news from Howe at Wilkesburg! If you like adventure, not unmingled with danger, this is your dish. . .

Minneapolis

Fall classes got under way in the Twin Cities on "a-class-starts-with-every-15-new-enrollments" basis. Results of a campaign using an introductory letter, are promised for the next issue of the News. School offices and headquarters have been moved from 1340 Rand Tower to more spacious quarters at 3940 Colorado Avenue, Minneapolis 16.

The first semi-monthly meeting of the graduates took place at the Minneapolis YMCA late in September. This group meets in the evening on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month.

Active promulgation of George's philosophy is going forward in economics classes taught by Branch Director John Burger at one of Minneapolis's large private business schools. Students receive it well and with enthusiasm. Plans are being discussed to have lectures on Georgism included in philosophy, economics and social science courses at the University of Minnesota.

Problems of a personal nature encountered by those most active in the Twin City Branch in getting new houses settled and organized delayed the start of Georgist activities last fall and winter to a practical standstill. Future reports from the Upper Midwest, however, give promise of being increasingly encouraging.

Ohio, Inc.

Verlin Gordon of Lima cannot be pinned down to any one city. Here is a brief and incomplete report of his activities:

Cincinnati—One class opened in the Wehrman Avenue Christian Church, another in the Avondale Public Library and a third in the Hughes High School.

Zanesville—three classes including one in outlying Philo, in the Municipal Building, in a room furnished by the C. I. O.

Lima—one class in the Lima Public Library under the direction of Edwin Esten, Cost Estimator at the Westinghouse plant.

Toledo—class meeting in the staff room of the main library with 35 students enrolled under direction of Jasper Shuman assisted by F. Gordon Pickell of Detroit.

Hamilton has possibly completed its class by now and other extensions in Cleveland, Columbus, Akron and Dayton which were des-

igned to feel the touch of the highly successful Verlin Gordon, probably have!

San Diego

The new term opened with six classes, five of them basic and the sixth in Current Events, for graduates. In the first hour a study is made of some current economic ideology, comparing it with the George philosophy, and the second hour is devoted to a discussion of news events in the light of the economic knowledge gained in Fundamental Economics.

In the basic classes students are told that what they are to learn will give them a yardstick by which to measure what is happening around them. In this advanced class, they are shown how to use this yardstick. The class has excellent enrollment.

Four new instructors have been added to the San Diego staff (which formerly consisted of one, the director!): Captain Jesse B. Gay, U.S.N. Retired; Harry E. Bing; James L. Palmer, and E. B. Bush. Mr. Bush is an artist, and has contributed a number of visualized teaching aids.

"When Does a Special Privilege Become a Vested Right?" was the topic of a splendid lecture last month by Albert L. Johnson of San Francisco. Mr. Johnson is a nephew of the late Hiram H. Johnson, Republican Senator from California. Albert L. Johnson, however, has served through the long Democratic Administration, as federal attorney, in various Governmental Departments, including the Interior. He is a Georgist of long standing.

"I have just completed a small private, between-terms class of high school ages," writes Bessie Truchart, "a most stimulating class. I wish someone would figure out a way to reach more of these youthful, open minded groups. They were 100 per cent alert, intelligent and interested."

Los Angeles

Los Angeles opened its fall term the week of September 22nd with 20 classes in Fundamental Economics, and one advanced class in "The Science of Political Economy." Incomplete reports from the instructors show a total enrollment so far of 243 students in the fundamental classes, and nine in the advanced class.

The instructors this term are: Wm. H. Aho, S. D. Alrich, Mrs. Margaret F. Austin, Frank H. Bode, Donald R. Crawford, Mrs. Annie B. Davis, Philip Gordon, A. E. Hartmann, Robert Jorgenson, George E. Lee, Warren P. Leonard, Lester Lewis, Walter W. Lindsey, Virgil E. Loutzenheiser, Erik Miller, Edw. L. Stockbridge, Herbert Sulkin, Edgar C. Weisheimer, Mark Woolley, and Martin Zwick.

In addition to the above-mentioned classes, a Teachers Training Class is being conducted at headquarters by the director, Wm. B. Truchart, with an enrollment of fourteen.

A new experiment in class promotion was tried in Los Angeles this fall, which consisted of mailing 4,000 triple post cards to some of the high school graduates of the spring semester, who live near the class locations. It is too early to report on these results.

Chicago

The Chicago Extension opened its 1947-1948 school year with a renewed offensive on the commerce and industry front. Luncheons for executives and business leaders who are friends of the School are being held on the second

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Wednesday of each month. At the first of these, in September, Walter Kester spoke on "A Practical Economic Program for Commerce and Industry." At the second luncheon, Louis E. Nelson, newly elected treasurer of Cook County and president of the First National Bank of Maywood, spoke on "A Banker Looks at the Treasurer's Office." The general School luncheons are being held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Speaker at the first of these, on October 22nd, was J. Rupert Mason of San Francisco.

The School is on the air every Friday at 9:45 P.M. on Station WCFL, "Voice of Labor," operated by the Chicago Federation of Labor. The program, "An Economist's Holiday," takes listeners on "An Economist's Bus Tour of Chicago," led by Walter Kester, who is a consulting economist and a volunteer instructor in the School. Interviewed by Mr. Kester in the first two programs were J. Christian Bay, head of the world-renowned Crerar Library, and Chief Corrigan of the Chicago Fire Department.

Advance enrollment for the fall term was 497.

St. Louis

"A series of free classes in basic economics will be given by the Henry George School of Social Science, 915 Olive street," we read in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. "Noah D. Alper, director, explained the school is a non-profit non-political institution chartered by the board of regents of New York State University."

These classes began with a fall program the week of October 29th. A total of 11 classes showed an enrollment of 161 students. The smallest class enrollment was eight and the largest 25. This term enrollment compares very favorably with an enrollment of 81 in eight classes in the fall of 1945, and 95 in 11 classes in 1946. It is possible that the highest term enrollment, that of the winter term, 1946, of 176 students in 12 classes, may have been topped since this report was sent in.

"Now that we have these students in class, the battle is to keep 'em coming until they receive that little piece of paper," writes Noah Alper who is rapidly regaining health and strength following a serious operation in the summer. "—the token of accomplishment. To supplement the excellent work of our teachers toward that end, a series of five reminder cards of an inspirational nature will be mailed to all students reaching them the day before or on their class day."

Philadelphia

The Philadelphia Extension opened its fall season with seven classes in Fundamental Economics all of which are well attended. Among the new students is one of the directors of the Dale Carnegie Course.

The chairmanship of the Committee on Finance is now in the capable hands of Captain Lester A. Jenks.

Friday evening, October 24th, saw the opening of a teacher-training course at the school headquarters in the Harrison Building. The class is being instructed by Joseph A. Stock-

Is Good News

man and judging from the turnout, the Philadelphia teacher shortage will soon be solved.

This combines a bit of old news with a bit of new: Last spring a class in Fundamental Economics was conducted by Anne Staub in Lamokin Village, Chester, Pennsylvania. One of her students was the Reverend John R. Reed who is also probation officer of Delaware County. When the graduates' certificates arrived, the executive secretary of Lamokin Village withheld Mr. Reed's certificate in order to present it to him publicly. The presentation was made on September 21st at a meeting of the Eastern Division of the ELKS. Miss Staub who had been invited to attend this gathering, was called upon to deliver a talk on civil liberties. As a result of the widespread interest promoted by this event, another class was requested for Chester in January.

Boston

Six classes in Fundamental Economics are being conducted in Boston and vicinity with a registration of 125. One of these is being held in the Students' House at Harvard University. The quality of the students seems to be above that of previous classes, and Sanford Parkas, recently appointed director of the Boston Extension, reports they are well pleased with the results of this campaign.

Classes have also been organized in Worcester, Massachusetts, 40 miles from Boston. Mr. Gerald F. Dingman of Palmer, Massachusetts, who teaches the Monday night class, drives a distance of 45 miles each way and has 19 students who gather round the director's table in the Chamber of Commerce Building.

Mr. Cecil Pasco of the School of Economic Science, London, addressed the faculty recently and told of methods used by the school of which he is Publicity Advisor; valuable ideas were obtained from his talk.

The Boston Extension is now in its new quarters in downtown Boston (294 Washington Street) and a house warming to celebrate the opening of the term and new headquarters was attended by friends and graduates.

Ottawa

The annual meeting of the Ottawa Branch of the Henry George Society was held on Monday evening, September 15th, with a fine attendance. This meeting is held prior to the official opening of the study classes each fall and winter, and as the past year proved such a success, we look forward to later reports from study classes, which will cover both the advanced and elementary students.

The secretary's report disclosed a good season recently closed, with two outstanding Georgeists as visitors—Mr. H. Bronson Cowan, who spent five years in Australia and New Zealand making a study of municipal taxation, and Mr. Ashley Mitchell, from England, who is the Honorary Treasurer of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Value and Free Trade.

The officers elected were Mr. Herbert T. Owens, President, Miss Marion Minaker, Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary, and Mr. H. G. Barber, Secretary-Treasurer.

A Publicity Committee was also formed comprising Mr. Harry Given as Chairman, Mr. Alex Mack and Mrs. L. P. Boudler. This committee will arrange for suitable advertising, study classes, and all plans for immediate activity.

Montreal

The Montreal Henry George School opened with four classes in Fundamental Economics the week of September 29th. The outstanding feature of these classes is that one of them is a French class being taught in that language, using the French translation of *Progress and Poverty*. Mr. Marcel Spivain, the teacher, is a radio announcer at the largest French station in Montreal, CKAC.

The other classes, which were enrolled by means of notices sent in the mails, newspaper advertising, and friends who had taken the course, are being taught by the following: Mr. John Ferguson, Mr. Phil Blackwell, and Mr. James Turner.

The Henry George Public Speaking Club commenced its season by an opening meeting on October 7th. It includes many new students who intend to join a class in Public Speaking taught by Mr. Pat Hadden.

New York

The fall lecture series was appropriately inaugurated with a visit from Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington, who addressed a capacity audience in the school auditorium on "The Menace of Malthus."

"Malthus is not dead," said Dr. George, "we suddenly find he is the Phoenix bird who is animating the world around us." If you can face hard facts, here are some to consider: We now have about two billion 500 million people and in less than 100 years we may have four billion. Careful investigation has shown that top soil in the State of Iowa has lessened in thickness in 80 years from four feet to four inches and in some places is entirely gone. Experts have determined that two and a half acres are required to support one human being. This is dark arithmetic, but the figures on timber conservation are equally disturbing. "What," asks Dr. George, "do we propose to do about it?"

Malthus made a statement that we don't seem to find the normal balance for man—he believed there were certain types of men who were "meant to be better." When we get into indirect taxation we're getting into Malthus, because we're afraid the world isn't big enough to support us all.

If we want to kill Malthus we'll have to recognize "that the world is big enough to support us, and we'll have to conserve the soil, otherwise man may by his very nature destroy himself" and, in the words of Henry George, "will revert to a less brutal animal."

"Views of the News" was the topic of Sydney Mayers' talk, second in the series, and this popular contributor to the Henry George News revealed with skill and left humor his uncanny technique for analysis of the news. "How to Read a Newspaper" is something all of us should know more about. "Even the most responsible newspaper," he said, "can be no more than a hodge-podge of miscellaneous information, but if the reader possesses a solid background of economic knowledge, the application of fundamental principles to news reports, no matter how confusing, can cut through the mass of wordage and disclose clearly the essential

cause, meaning and effect of any news item. "The reader," he said, "is the important member of the reader-writer relationship."

October 29th of this year marked the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Henry George. This was signalized in the New York school auditorium by a Memorial Celebration at which Morris Van Veen, one of the few survivors of those exciting days of the campaign of '97 was the principal speaker. James Donnelly, easily the greatest public speaking instructor of the country, scaled unprecedented heights by reading passages from Henry George's books.

John Cromwell Lincoln, the school's president, graciously waived his usual reluctance to accept speaking engagements and, on October 31st, addressed a New York group on "Freedom," the limiting of which he pointed out, is contrary to moral law.

"It is true," said the president, "that very few of the authorities understand George's premise that wages come from production and not from capital—if they did we could make them see that collecting community rent and abolishing taxation would bring prosperity and a just redistribution of wealth. . . . There was a time," he added, "when slavery was accepted—now hardly anyone believes in property as man. Our job is to make people see that property as land is just as wrong."

Enrollment Increases

Twenty-one classes in Fundamental Economics began at New York's headquarters early in October with an enrollment of about 650. Including the six neighborhood classes there is an increase of nearly 100 over last fall. The enrollment of 250 for advanced classes also exceeds last year's figure.

Edward Billet, who is teaching the basic course, asked his students at the opening session to write their reasons for coming to the school, offering as a prize for the best answer a copy of *Progress and Poverty*. This was won by Ernestine Haig who stated that "the 'shrinking' world presents many increasingly acute and complex problems of an economic and social nature, and any adequate solution to the economic and social demands must carry with it moral responsibility to a degree not evidenced up to this time. Henry George was the originator of moral economy and might well become the 'Man of the Hour'." Another student, Elsie Nuttall, wrote, "I believe something can be done by me—perhaps in my writing—towards better world conditions; and I want basic economics as one foundation stone in my thinking, since I believe the world's ills are bound up in its economics."

Two classes in Fundamental Economics with an enrollment of more than 50 are being taught by David Targ and Bernard Goldstein. Other members of the current teaching staff are: Leo Arpin, H. D. Butler, Jay Carton, Bennett Chellis, Andrew P. Christianson, Robert Clancy, Richard Connor, Domenic Della Volpe, James Donnelly, Xavier Drexler, R. M. Dreyfuss, John Pesano, Dr. Eugene Friedberg, Edwin Friedman, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Grant, Lancaster Greene, William Leon, Donald Le Vor, S. R. Mandal, Eva Maxwell, Sydney Mayers, Jonathan Slater, Phillip Stern, Sonia Swirsky, and Richard Van Horn. Most of the teachers report that their students are of unusual caliber and this is borne out by the better-than-average attendance.