

MORE than 125 delegates and interested on-lookers represented schools from Canada and the United States at the Ninth Annual Conference of the Henry George School in Boston, July 1st to 4th inclusive. Of this number 26 were from New York. At the final session it was agreed, by popular acclaim, that the 1954 conference, which will mark the 75th anniversary of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*, should be held in San Francisco where that book was written.

The Boston conference began with an informal dinner on July first at an open-air restaurant, with Lidia Alkalay as hostess. This happened to be the birthday of Cary Richard Colburn, a young "old-timer" from California, and a birthday cake was presented to him.

The conference proper opened Thursday morning at the Hotel Vendome where all sessions were held. This substantial old hotel faced tree-lined Commonwealth Avenue near the statue of William Lloyd Garrison. Noah D. Alper of St. Louis was chairman of the first session which was a round-table discussion on "The School and the Community." Extension directors and other school leaders sat at a large table with other guests seated immediately behind them and occasionally participating. This method was followed at all workshop sessions.

There were lively discussions at all the round-table sessions which will be reported more fully in a special communique to school leaders in the near future. If a copy of these proceedings is desired it may be obtained, on request, from the Henry George School in New York.

Those Enthusiastic Georgists!

At the first session there was discussion on the prospects of securing more press publicity for the school and for the George philosophy. An amusing sidelight was cast by Rhoda Hellman of New York, who is engaged in a study of the Georgist movement. She called at the Christian Science Monitor office in Boston, where they told her that they run articles on Henry George because of the large number of readers interested—but that they hesitate to do it often because then Georgists pay so many appreciative calls at their office that they take up too much time.

At the Thursday luncheon, M. S. Lurio, Boston director, served as chairman. Miss V. G. Peterson spoke on "The Land Tax is the Best Tax," reviewing the application of land value taxation throughout the world, and showing, by the results even of partial application, why it is the best tax. This talk, with additional valuable material gleaned through a year of research by the executive secretary of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York, will be the subject of an article in the September Henry George News, which no Georgist can afford to miss.

Robert Clancy, New York director, the second luncheon speaker, chose for his subject "The Emperor's Nightingale," after the story by Hans Christian Andersen. Quoting Dr. Viggo Starcke, Danish Georgist leader, that "he who reads 'The Nightingale' once a year will not believe in a planned economy," Mr. Clancy proceeded to give a reading of Andersen's story and then drew an analogy between the live nightingale and a free economy, and the artificial nightingale and a planned economy.

The Thursday afternoon work session was on "Teaching the Fundamentals." John T. Tetley, New Jersey director, was chairman. In the course of the session, Mr. Tetley gave a demonstration of the new teaching materials and methods developed by the New Jersey school for the basic course in Fundamental Economics. Other developments were discussed. It was felt by many that better teaching materials are needed than are at present available, though there was also agreement that such materials could never replace individual effort and development on the part of the teacher.

At the Thursday evening dinner, with Paul Winsor of Boston as chairman, Colonel E. C. Harwood, director of the American Institute for Economic Research, spoke on "The Great Semantic Delusion." Reviewing the development of logic and scientific method from Aristotle on, Colonel Harwood observed that today's scientific investigator no longer ignores facts in favor of predetermined absolutes, but changes his theories as the facts require. Serious students of semantics may read this address in a forthcoming issue of the quarterly published by the Schalkenbach Foundation, the American Journal of Economics and Sociology.

Ho Hum, Time To Relax

The evening concluded with a theater party at the Boston summer theater, the play being the sprightly fantasy, "Bell, Book and Candle."

For early birds on Friday morning there was a conducted tour of the Boston Public Library, which, in addition to its regular display of rare items, offered a special exhibit of books by and about Henry Geoge. Another of Boston's tributes to the conference was a welcome banner at the city hall. (Page eight).

The Friday work session was on "Financing the School," with Strethel Walton, Montreal director, as chairman. For those not desiring to participate in this round table, there was an interesting bus tour, with commentary, of historic Boston and Cambridge. Quite a few, however, stayed at the work session, at which recent developments in fund-raising were discussed. (Acknowledgment must be given to Irving Faust of New York, who was so inspired by the discussion that he gave \$20 on the spot!)

At the Friday luncheon, the speakers were J. Rupert Mason, of San Francisco, president of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and Alexander Goldfinger, dean of the New Jersey school, Newark, with Dorothy Sara of New York as chairman. Mr. Mason, speaking on "The Grand Procession of Causes and Effects," called upon our nation's leaders to take note of the beneficial effects of public collection of land rent, as evidenced by the California irrigation districts; and he warned that leaving today's system unchanged, is inviting disastrous effects from harmful causes.

Mr. Goldfinger asked, "What Do Modern Economists Think of Henry George?" and answered by quoting from some modern economists and commenting on them. An article on this subject has been promised for an early issue of *The Henry George News*.

The Friday afternoon work session on "The School and the Graduates" was presided over by Verlin D. Gordon, Ohio's state-wide director. This started with a review of what current organizations of interest to graduates were doing. Representatives of the various groups were called on to give a brief resume of their activities. These included: Steven Cord, vice-president of S. A. G. E., New York; Joseph L. Richards, former president of S. A. G. E., Boston; Sidney Evans, San Diego, who reported on the San Diego Alumni Association and also the Los Angeles S. A. G. E.; James A. McNally, who told of the Hartford Henry George Fellowship; Mrs. Claire Menninger, former president of the Chicago Henry George Women's Club; Noah D. Alper, who outlined the progress of the St. Louis Women's Club and also his Public Revenue Education Council; Percy R. Williams of Pittsburgh, executive secretary of the Henry George Foundation; Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, president of the Association for Economic Justice; Leon Caminez of New York, vice-president of the International Union; and R. M. Dreyfuss of New York, of The Municipal Revenue Survey.

The ensuing discussion concerned largely the question of education vs. politics. There was unanimous agreement that the educational effort should steer clear of political involvement, but some division of opinion on which was which. There was wholehearted assent as to the prime importance of continuing the basic educational work as the chief task before us.

"Some Antics" from Joe

At the Friday dinner, the chairman, Joseph A. Stockman, Philadelphia director, delightfully surprised everyone with a rollicking satire on semantics, after which he introduced the speaker, John Burger. (See page one).

The evening's recreation, in addition to Mr. Stockman's laugh marathon, was a pleasant moonlight cruise to Nantasket, at the south of Boston Bay.

Saturday morning was reserved for matters arising at the conference on which discussion was desired. By request, two items were placed on the agenda—a demonstration of a teachers training class by George Royal, dean of the New York school; and a discussion initiated by John S. Codman, Boston school president, on presenting the Georgan remedy as a payment for privilege and not as a tax.

Robert D. Benton, Detroit director, served as chairman. Mr. Royal addressed the group as though it were a class of teacher trainees, and

set forth certain principles of good teaching. He recommended Gilbert Highet's book *The Art of Teaching*, and Lancelot's *Manual of Teaching Skills*. Mr. Royal followed his talk with a series of questions or problems put to various members of the group, e. g., select an item from today's newspaper and comment on it from the Georgan point of view.

Mr. Codman presented his thesis that the "single tax" and "land value taxation" are serious misnomers. We do not want any taxes at all, said Mr. Codman, and the cause of the public collection of land rent will be harmed by being so presented. There followed comments by various members of the group, some agreeing with Mr. Codman, some disagreeing. Mr. Goldfinger expressed his agreement, saying that by the method of land value taxation, the tax base would be destroyed. Mr. Mason argued that the method of taxation is the only method authorized by the United States Constitution for the collection of land rent. We have a perfectly good and legal method for doing it, he said, so why make things difficult for ourselves, in addition to incurring the unjustified criticism that we are not believers in the Constitution.

Still Going Strong

At the Saturday luncheon (in place of the scheduled speaker, Klaus Hansen, who could not come), there were three speakers: Ezra Cohen, trustee of the school in New York; Jerome Joachim, publisher and editor, of Chicago; and Benjamin Stolow, of Staley College, Brookline, Massachusetts. (Brief summary on page four).

The afternoon session continued right after the luncheon in the same room (the pleasant solarium of the hotel). Robert Tideman, San Francisco director, read a report on the Los Angeles school from its director, William B. Truehart, who was not present but who outlined recent activities in his extension—classes, fund-raising, alumni activities, etc. Another letter was read from Mrs. Eva Maxwell, newly appointed director of the San Diego extension, who said that "peace and prosperity" ought to be the keynotes of our teaching this year.

This was followed by a report by Robert E. Allen, Jr., on the recently opened extension in Washington, D. C., of which he is director. The trials and tribulations of a new extension are familiar enough to most directors, but Washington presents its own unique problems and the ingenious ways in which Mr. Allen met them confirmed his membership in the growing family of school directors. Mr. Allen made a further contribution to conference doings by taking frequent photographs.

John L. Monroe, Chicago director, brought the conference up to date on the Commerce and Industry program in full swing in Chicago, especially the Clearing Industrial District. Pre-

senting his report as the ABC of his program, Mr. Monroe cleverly used letters of the alphabet to designate key personalities in the development of the program. He concluded with a summary of the present Chicago school staff and its preparation for expansion during the coming year. (See page seven).

The afternoon ended with an evaluation of the conference by school directors. The consensus was that the conferences are improving year by year and that this one was the best yet. Our Boston hosts were applauded for

their skillful handling of the entire program. There was some complaint of the crowding of the schedule, and it was felt that the next conference should not be quite so cramful and fast-paced.

The Saturday banquet climaxed the conference, with John S. Codman as chairman and Francis Goodale, prominent Boston attorney, and Salom Rizk, author, as speakers. Music was provided by a small orchestra, thanks to John Gray. One of the features was the playing and singing of *The Land Song*, last heard at the rally in New York on June 24. Mr. Goodale's address is reported on page one.

Salom Rizk reviewed the experiences he has related in his book *Syrian Yankee*, about his hard life as a youngster in Syria, his joyous discovery that he was an American Citizen, followed by eventual entry into the U. S. and gradual acclimitization to the fabulous country of which he had so long dreamed.

The spirit and enthusiasm of delegates held up throughout the conference and characteristically it ended with a looking to the future. Next year it will be California here we come—again!

[We are indebted to Bernard Kushner of Newark for his tape recordings, and to Kathy Shoaf of the New York staff for her transcriptions.]

A Conference Impression

By DOROTHY WORRELL

IT WAS my privilege to attend the opening session of the annual conference of the Henry George School in Boston. I regretted that it was only one session, but felt privileged, as I said, to attend that one.

Of course, I listened with interest to the two addresses that were given, but underneath the subject matter was running through my mind some such ruminating thought as this . . .

It's thrilling to be in a room full of people who are all Georgists and from different parts of the country and the world, all here for the single purpose of promoting a better economic order through putting into practice the philosophy and economic principles of Henry George. In this respect we all believe alike.

Then my mind encompassed another thought, an exploratory one.

All of us have other interests and yet here at this moment in this room each of us is all-Georgist. How many sides to our lives we have! And in the capacity of each of our interests we help to make up a new composite personality. We become a different being with each human contact we make.

At our table were present those from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Hampshire and Washington, D.C. And our table was doubtless a sample of all the tables.

It was a stimulating experience, made so not only by the diverse places represented, but also by the impact of diverse minds on one another with the fundamental agreement of Georgist purpose.

There is no such thing as absolute ownership of land. The individual title to land is an invaluable opportunity. All use of land is an opportunity. If those opportunities are held by individuals, those who do not have them are not sharing equally—the first necessity is equal access to the land. The Declaration of Independence implies this common right to land. How can people possibly be equal unless they have equal opportunity?

—JOHN S. CODMAN
