

The Henry George School in the News

ST. LOUIS held December graduation exercises in the County Library at St. Ann, Missouri, with Charles B. English, Regional Vice-President of the Springfield Monarch Life Insurance Company of Chicago, speaking on "A National Commission to Study Tax Reform with 'Scientific Detachment.'"

He said we were close to an urgent need for a remedy because of complete failure to find ways to stop injustices and loopholes and make our present tax system work. Taxes have become a depressant to personal incentive, he said, as well as to capital creation. We have so loaded our costs with taxes that we make it increasingly hard for people of other countries to buy our products—thus we weaken our competitive position.

Mr. English favored shifting taxation to land use and away from wealth, and advocated formation of a tax commission that would tap the best brains of business, labor and other fields. These men should be "imbued with the scientific philosophy and detachment," he said. Further, they should be made financially independent so their inquiry could be objective and free of bias and pressures.

The speaker told graduates the knowledge gained was for their own enrichment and the enrichment of society, and said they could now view the world's problems with greater enlightenment than before, and with spiritual composure springing from the knowledge that there is evidence of a solution to economic problems if men will seek with an open mind.

He believed one test of sanity to be common verifiable experience and noted that Henry George expressed this view when he heard that the French Physiocrats and others before

him had seen the same laws and glimpsed the same truths that he had but had not made them into a formal statement. We all need the reassurances of verified experience, he said, and one of the things that will give you pleasure will be verifying in your daily life the things you have learned in the Henry George Course. He said this had been his experience.

Loral D. Swofford of the Universal Match Company was chairman of the meeting. Class speakers were Lon W. Hickham, Robert E. Concannon, Jack Eugene Welch, John H. Smith and Scott Black. Mrs. Elizabeth Sausele reported on Henry George Woman's Club activities. Noah D. Alper, the director, presented certificates to the graduates.

SAN DIEGO's 29th commencement program took place on December 11th at Henry George House, with an enthusiastic audience present. Dr. George Babilot, Assistant Professor of Economics at San Diego State College, was the principal speaker. "The taxation of unearned increments would not only be the fairest means of raising public revenue but would also have the best effect upon production," he said.

Professor Babilot, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Oregon, is a member of the Advisory Board of Henry George House. His talk was entitled, "A Public Finance Specialist Looks at Site-Value Taxation." While suggesting the possibility of taxing additional types of unearned increment, the speaker endorsed the principle of socially collected site-rent as measuring up to the three criteria of justice, economy and certainty.

Twenty graduates of the fall semester *Progress and Poverty* classes were presented with certificates by Henry B.

Cramer, president of the school and well-known San Diego businessman. The classes were led by Fanya Jackson, E. J. Seeley, Captain J. B. Gay, Charles B. Adams and James L. Palmer. Four of the graduates also completed the class in World Trade led by Mr. Palmer. J. Page Dowden, prominent civic leader and member of the mayor's traffic commission, was chairman.

LAKEWOOD, Ohio, under the expert supervision of Verlin Gordon, the Ohio director, will have two classes beginning in January. William Krumreig, who studied economics before but never heard of Henry George, has heard of him now and will teach a class in Harding. James Hair will teach a high school class.

Five students completed the basic course in the Lakewood High School in November. Ivan Dailey, our correspondent, reports that Mrs. Sylvia Ratner is selling *Progress and Poverty* in the drug store to help the good word get around. She is another one who never heard of Henry George before.

NEW JERSEY friends sadly report the death of Joseph Susskind on

December 28th, a valued trustee who will be greatly missed.

DETROIT'S December meeting, with increased membership, heard Robert Z. Willson discuss "How Credit Unions and Consumer Cooperatives attempt to overcome the effects of land speculation. M. Frank Franczak presided.

NEW YORK basic courses begin the week of January 18th, with advanced classes starting a week earlier. These include Science of Political Economy, Applied Economics, History of the U.S.A., Public Relations, Public Speaking, Great Books, Comparative Philosophies and Dynamic Psychology.

Friday Evenings at Eight will have the annual glimpse at the stock market cheerfully rendered by Lancaster M. Greene, New York security analyst and trustee of the Henry George School. On January 29th Sydney Mayers, with a panel consisting of Dorothy Sara, David Sklar and Francis Nicosia, will give the correct economic approach to a number of present-day problems. "Big Train" is the film feature, in color, for January 22nd.

LETTER FROM KOREA

Eva (Mrs. Lloyd) Maxwell, former director of the Henry George School in San Diego, is again in Korea with her husband, teaching English classes and incorporating Basic Economics into the English conversation. She uses as a text the abridgment of *Progress and Poverty* made by Professor James L. Busey of the University of Colorado.

Mrs. Maxwell wrote on December 6th:

"Along with about 70 others we visited the DMZ (De-Militarized Zone) and Pan Mun Jom, where the Communists meet across a table with the U.N. representatives and exchange unpleasantness.

"I was especially interested in the free peasants that I heard of, and the free pheasants. No hunting is permitted in the DMZ, so many pheasants were feeding and paying no attention to us. They were free of fear.

"Our guide told us of the village of farmers that were permitted to stay in their homes and farm as usual in the DMZ. Once a week the army takes them to a market town with their produce and back home with their supplies. He said they were the richest peasants in Korea, for they *do not have to pay taxes*. The soldiers have named the home of the tax-free farmers, "Freedom Village."

Even soldiers know, apparently, that freedom is as much an economic concept as a military one.