

The Henry George School in the News

ST. LOUIS mounted a double barreled attack on the forces that create inflated land values at its spring term graduation, when both Perry I. Prentice of Time, Inc., and Harry Gunnison Brown, spoke. Sixty students received certificates for completing the basic course and 22 for advanced work. Included in the latter group were six from the "Human Rights" course offered for the first time in St. Louis.

Mr. Prentice pointed out that in St. Louis "every \$5000 you have to pay some suburban landowner to let you build on his land just enables that owner to convert to his private profit a community investment of much more in the highways, roads, sewers, water supplies without which his land would be inaccessible, unlivable and unsalable. He said what is good for the landowner is bad for everybody else, and what's bad for the landowner is good for everybody else.

Speaking before the Home Builders Association he said St. Louis builders had told him that "despite soaring wages the price per square foot of a house is 4 percent lower than in 1954, but a 120 percent increase in land values has added to the construction costs, rocketing the final price. Landowners are under no tax pressure to sell their under-used land, so they have created an artificial illusion of shortage in the midst of plenty. This is pricing thousands of good new homes out of the market.

Dr. Brown, professor emeritus of Economics from the University of Missouri, spoke with vigor and conviction, cautioning students against an over-critical opinion of the communist system in Russia, while overlooking or actually sanctioning many things in America which are almost identical.

(See page 16. Conference programs will be mailed to all HGN subscribers.)

LOS ANGELES HGS is enjoying coast-to-coast attention as its director, Harry Pollard, continues to be seen and heard on the syndicated TV Joe Pyne Show. On the KPFK-FM station, Mr. Pollard presented a guest, Tom Sanders, on a "Dialogue" series of interviews, May 2nd and 16th. The subject announced was "New Individualism" related to the somewhat esoteric science of Praxiology. The Alumni Group conducted four open-air forums at Pleasure Faire benefiting KPFK-FM at the Paramount Ranch.

A Progress and Anti-Poverty panel discussion was the exciting feature at the May 6th Friday at Eight in May. Participants were Tom Sanders, computer specialist; Marvin Schacter, Civil Liberties Union board member; Ernie Smith, Afro-American Citizens chairman; and James Raigoza, sociologist with Neighborhood Youth Corps. Alumni Group interrogators were Craig Kirkpatrick and Margil Wadley, specializing in metallurgy and physical chemistry, respectively. Harry Pollard presided.

RIPON, WISCONSIN'S extension was closed at the end of the college term when George Menninger, Jr. discontinued his experimental effort. Although somewhat disappointed, George is far from discouraged, and hopes to extend Georgist activities in other directions.

NEW YORK headquarters library had some new visitors recently, when a dozen or so students from Trinity High School came to do research on Henry George. The class of 42 in social studies was assigned to write papers on various phases in Henry George's work. Less than a third of them had the bright idea to come and peruse the books in the Henry George School library, but one who did returned with a pleased expression—he got an A.

TORONTO finds it graduated the highest percentage of any adult group in Ontario for a course of 20 weeks or more. Also they found there was no handicap in using more than one teacher to a class—some had as many as five. At present the Alumni Group is stirring up the membership for new action under the direction of Laurie Mannell, who is struggling with a painful back. The Square Deal, supplier of Canadian news to Georgists for many years, will be taken over by an Alumni Group committee, and will be issued quarterly.

CALGARY, Alberta, will have a school extension at 706 Fifteenth Avenue S.W. in apartment 706, the home of James Ramsay, former director of the Toronto extension.

NAIROBI'S director, Kul Bhushan of the New Era College, who believes that miracles occur even in the 20th century, has sent a copy of his New Era magazine For Young Kenyans. It contains a pleasant variety of news—local and national—along with a simplified introduction to basic economics. In a forthcoming issue there will be an article on the life of Henry George.

This native of India, now living in Africa, will be remembered by all who met him in the U.S. in 1964 at the international conference. He has been selected as one of 20 journalists from all over Africa to take a five-month course in magazine editing at the University College of East Africa. Meanwhile he will be producing his new student publication, with a view to learning how to make it better.

Urgency and the Amateur

by TOM SHERRARD

In *Henry George, Dreamer or Realist?* Professor Steven B. Cord carefully keeps his title man in context. From this the reader can get a good perspective on his subject without common distortions. It should help satisfy a long felt want.

In the reconciliatory spirit of the author, we trust Georgists will have no trouble in accepting the book substantially with necessary reservations about its shortcomings.

As an ethical argument for land value taxation George has observed that only the community gives land its value. Professor Cord indicates there is no ethical reason to single out land since laws of supply and demand set the value of everything, land included. See his page 232. Apparently he overlooks the meaning of "supply" in the expression "supply and demand." As distinguished from products, no one

has anything to do with creating a supply of land. People restrain its availability to others, but how can this be ethically equated to providing a supply of products? Only when there's compensation to the community for the right to possession does the ethical equation seem to be in balance.

Also, the author does not emphasize the *priority* nature of land reform. Perhaps he deleted this to avoid an atmosphere of urgency. To some professional economists urgency and advocacy are sure marks of the amateur. Steven Cord is obviously no amateur. We amateurs hope his fellow professionals will appreciate his contribution.

***Henry George, Dreamer or Realist?* by Steven B. Cord, a Georgist student who went "professional" is in steady demand at the special price of \$5 a copy—at the Henry George School, 50 East 69th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.**