

# **The School in '47 and Prospects for '48**

A Report to the Trustees, Directors,  
Contributors and Faculty of the Henry  
George of Social Science.

**HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**  
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## THE YEAR

1947 was the year of the Marshall Plan and the Cominform; strife in Greece, Palestine and India; at home, spiralling prices, continued shortages and paper prosperity.

A spectacular year on the world front, 1947 was a year of hard work and steady progress for the Henry George School. The work rolled forward with an increase in activities on all fronts. The Annual Conference at Chicago in May gave representatives of the various branches of the School an opportunity to meet, report progress and discuss mutual problems.

But the School and the Georgist movement suffered one serious loss in 1947. With the death of Anna George de Mille on March 17 we lost the last surviving child of Henry George and the President of the School's Board of Trustees since its beginning in 1932. John C. Lincoln was appointed President to succeed her, Otto K. Dorn became Vice-President and Leonard T. Recker Treasurer. On August 27 Robert Clancy was promoted from Acting Director to Executive Director of the School.

On June 25 a Henry George School Rally was held in New York, at which tribute was paid to Mrs. de Mille. Nearly 1000 friends of the School attended.

1947 also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Henry George on October 29. This was observed at Headquarters by a memorial meeting—and also by articles in several periodicals throughout the country. An exceptionally good article by Allan J. Wilson appeared in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, and it is being reprinted by the School.

The birthday of Henry George (September 2) was also remembered in many cities with appropriate ceremonies, including the traditional celebration at Arden, Delaware.

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The 1947 activities of the School and the outlook for 1948 may best be summarized by reporting city by city and branch by branch.

## NEW YORK

As in 1946, four terms were held in New York during the year—Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Most of the classes

were held in the Headquarters building. During the summer all classes were held outside, in locations throughout the city, to permit alterations in the building.

New advanced courses were added to the curriculum during the year, as follows: Public Speaking, American Labor Movement, and Monetary Theory. (Another new course, Housing Problems, is being offered in January 1948.) Advanced courses which had not been offered for some time were again given: Philosophy of Oscar Gieger, Review of Fundamental Economics, and the Economic Basis of Tax Reform. The variety of advanced courses has been a factor in reviving interest in the School on the part of numbers of former students.

	<i>Basic Course</i>		<i>Advanced Courses</i>	
	<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Graduated</i>	<i>Enrolled</i>	<i>Graduated</i>
January 1947	777	287	206	129
April 1947	573	232	376	223
June 1947	102	35	—	—
October 1947	608	245	258	162
Totals	<u>2132</u>	<u>798</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>514</u>

This represents a substantial increase over 1946 and we will try to top this record in 1948.

We are of course dissatisfied with the number of dropouts and are giving the problem serious study. Most adult education institutions are faced with the same situation. It has generally been agreed that a more simplified presentation of our subject and more interesting facts and illustrations would probably keep more students. Toward this end new classroom supplements were issued in 1947, "Comment on Henry George's Definitions" and "Henry George's Proposals in Application."

The long-awaited revision of the Teacher's Manual for the basic course ("Progress and Poverty") has been completed after three years of painstaking effort on the part of the Manual Committee, and it will be issued to instructors in 1948.

Lectures were held at Headquarters on Friday evenings during most of 1947. Among our guest speakers for the year were: Ralph Borsodi, noted decentralist writer; Phillip Cornick of the Institute of Public Administration; Dr. Henry George III, grandson of Henry George; Harry Seeve of the United Jewish

Appeal; and Cecil Pasco of the London School of Economic Science.

Exercises for students completing the basic course have been held at the end of each term in the School Auditorium. The all-student programs and the spontaneous enthusiasm impressed observers.

### CHICAGO

The Chicago Extension of the Henry George School was host this year to the Annual School Conference in May. Representatives from many of the School branches attended. It was a most profitable get-together and much was gained by an exchange of ideas and information. These Annual Conferences are doing much to stimulate School progress by means of "Association in Equality," and we look forward to another meeting in 1948.

In 1947 the Chicago School, under the able direction of John Monroe, launched an ambitious two-fold program—the establishment of community centers and fund raising. In the various neighborhoods of Chicago, centers were established at the homes of Georgist community leaders, where meetings are being held regularly. This is doing much to maintain the interest of former students.

The concentrated fund-raising drive was designed to get a maximum number of friends and students to pledge regular support to the School, and it is succeeding in this direction.

We have received no total student figures for 1947 from Chicago, but they issued a report for the fiscal year (July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947) which gave the encouraging news that for the period the Chicago School has a record of 675 graduates of the basic course. During the same period another record was established — 642 contributors subscribed \$26,540.77 to the School.

### LOS ANGELES

After the Chicago Conference, Director William Truehart of the Los Angeles School lost no time in establishing a community program in his own territory. An active group there is

continently at work on improving teaching methods and increasing enrollments.

An outstanding contribution from the Los Angeles School was a set of voluminous and fascinating instructor's notes, pertinent stories and illustrations for key questions in every lesson, which should go far in holding interest and clarifying the principles.

Los Angeles had 477 enrollments for the basic course during the year, and 224 graduates. There were 97 enrollments for advanced courses.

### **ST. LOUIS**

The St. Louis School, under the direction of Noah D. Alper, also embarked on an interesting program for the year. A concentrated drive for new students was launched. Graduates were asked to submit names of friends. These names were circularized with an invitation and two follow-ups. Telephone calls were also used. Results were good.

Mr. Alper, who promoted the idea of supplementary classroom material at the Chicago Conference, also developed a set of valuable instructor's notes - as did the Los Angeles School.

For the year, St. Louis had 494 enrollments for the basic course, with 306 graduates, or 62% of the enrollees. This is a remarkable record and bears out Mr. Alper's thesis that pertinent supplementary material is invaluable for holding student interest.

### **BOSTON**

Previously associated with the Free Market Institute, the School in Boston separated from that organization last summer and is now operating independently at its own Headquarters, with Sanford Farkas as Director. Though Mr. Farkas is managing the Boston School in his spare time, he has done considerable work and has achieved remarkable results. Basic course enrollments for the year were 301 and graduates 163. Steps are being taken to incorporate the Boston School, and it is felt that this will make its work more effective.

## NEWARK

The Newark School acquired the services of Miss Marjorie M. Sweet as Director in March 1947, and she has been effectively forwarding the School's work there. Good use is being made of the School building, acquired in 1946, and classes are also held in many other towns and cities in New Jersey. The Newark School uses "Economics Simplified" by E. E. Bowen and George Rusby as its text for the basic course. They feel that this briefer and more up-to-date presentation is more effective than "Progress and Poverty". Most other extensions, however, feel that Henry George's book has not yet been surpassed, and continue to use it as the text.

For 1947, Newark reports 419 enrollees for the basic course. This includes extensions in other New Jersey cities. (Graduate figures incomplete.)

## PHILADELPHIA

Space for Headquarters was secured for the Philadelphia School in July, in the business of the city. Formerly the School operated from the residence of Director Joseph Stockman. This step forward has had a stimulating effect, and more local support for this branch has been gained.

Philadelphia student figures for 1947 are as follows: Basic enrollments, 295; graduates, 145. Advanced course enrollments, 65; no graduate figures, but the dropouts in Philadelphia's advanced courses are negligible.

## MONTREAL

With Miss Strehel Walton as Director, Montreal is the most active of our Canadian branches. Miss Walton also periodically visits other eastern Canadian branches and encourages School activities there.

For the first time, "Progress and Poverty" classes were offered in the French language for French-Canadians. This promising innovation will continue in 1948.

There were 121 enrollments for the basic course in Montreal in 1947.

## OHIO

Early in 1947 Verlin D. Gordon was added to our list of Extension Directors to take care of not only one city, but the whole State of Ohio. He has been equal to the task, and has succeeded in getting classes established in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Hamilton, Zanesville, and of course his own city of Lima. He has had excellent cooperation from Georgists in those cities, particularly Robert Benton of Zanesville.

Ohio, with a network of good-sized cities scattered more or less evenly throughout the State, is well adapted to this type of Extension activity. Mr. Gordon's work will serve as a model for future extension plans. Total 1947 figures have not as yet been received from Ohio.

## OTHER EXTENSIONS

HOUSTON, TEXAS is seeking to incorporate. Foxhall A. Parker is the leading worker there. Judge Fogle, also of Houston, has generously put up prize money for an essay contest to be offered to those who have taken the course. The contest will be held early in 1948.

PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA is carrying on under Richard Howe, who has penetrated the United Electrical Workers union with the course in "Progress and Poverty." He is experiencing difficulties with left wing opposition, but is continuing his valiant efforts.

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA has the benefit of the enthusiasm of Mrs. Bessie Truehart, the mother of Bill Truehart of Los Angeles. She is undertaking to operate the School entirely from local support - and never misses a term.

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT continues to function regularly with Nathan Hillman in charge, aided by a group of friends and graduates who form a Henry George Fellowship.

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We haven't the complete records from all branches of the School as yet, but from reports already received we estimate that during 1947 over 6,000 students enrolled for classes in "Progress and Poverty" throughout the United States and Canada, and over 2700 completed the course. (Correspondence course figures are not included.) This represents a considerable advance over 1946.

## THE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The Correspondence Course, administered from New York Headquarters, offers great possibilities, for by this means we can reach people where we have no branch schools, also those who are unable to attend classes.

During 1947 we sent special letters announcing our Correspondence Course to special lists, including engineers, business executives, recommended names, subscribers to periodicals, etc. By concentrating on such lists we have secured some outstanding students who are certain to be of value to our cause.

The services of Bennett Challis were secured as Director of the Correspondence Department. Mr. Challis, besides handling a large volume of students' papers, also conducts a special training class for correspondence instructors. With the development of more teachers we will be able to augment our work in this important department.

In 1947 the Correspondence Course in "Progress and Poverty" had over 2700 enrollments. Of this number only about 10% completed the course during the year, but since we have instituted new procedures in the Correspondence Department, including more personalized instruction, we expect better results in 1948.

For the first time, a Correspondence Course in Henry George's classic "The Science of Political Economy" is being offered. Hitherto, the mail course was available only for "Progress and Poverty" and "Protection or Free Trade."

## HENRY GEORGE NEWS

The News continued to improve under the capable editorship of Alice Davis. Besides serving as an invaluable organ for news of interest to Georgists and exchange of views among them, the News has gained the active interest of several outstanding leaders in various fields. During 1947 feature articles were written for the News by Melvin J. Fox of the World Trade Foundation; Monsignor L. G. Ligutti; Harrison Smith of the Saturday Review of Literature; Frank Lloyd Wright; Prof. G. R. Davies of the University of Iowa; as well as prominent leaders within the Georgist movement.



The international coverage was notable, featuring news from England, Denmark, France, Germany, Australia and other countries. The steady growth of all branches of the School in the United States and Canada was also thoroughly reported.

In the spring of 1947 a large mail circularization was undertaken, soliciting subscriptions. This and other promotional work, together with the steady improvement of the News which speaks for itself, resulted in a substantial increase in subscriptions.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Among the visitors to Headquarters in 1947 were Ashley Mitchell of the International Union for Land Value Taxation & Free Trade, and Cecil Pasco of the School of Economic Science, both of London. We learned of the activities of our British colleagues in both fields. The School of Economic Science, as Mr. Pasco informed us, has done significant educational work, and we profited by learning of the methods employed by this London Geogist School. The International Union proposes to hold a Conference in 1948, probably in Denmark, the first since the 1939 Conference in New York.

Our colleagues on the European continent are endeavoring to carry on the educational work, though beset by many difficulties. Deserving of mention are: Rudolf Schmidt of the *Bund für Land und Freiheit* in Germany; A. Daude-Bancel, who has revived the periodical *Terre et Liberte* in France; and Marcel Cortvriend, who is working on establishing classes in Belgium. Friends in Denmark and Australia are continuing the educational work they have sustained for many years.

### ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION

The Foundation, whose editions of Henry George's works are used as text books by the School, has offices in the School Headquarters.

All of George's works were reprinted in 1947. Two new books were published during the year; "Modern Man and the Liberal Arts" by Francis Neilson, and "Free Trade—Free World" by Oswald Garrison Villard. Mr. Villard's book has received much favorable notice and promises to be of great service in furthering free trade principles.

As we look over 1947 and forward to 1948, we pause a moment to realize how much toil and sacrifice it requires to keep a venture like the School not only going but growing. Yes, it takes a great deal - and the friends, contributors, teachers and workers of the School are giving what it takes. We pause and pay tribute to these friends . . . to you.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Clancy, *Executive Director*