

Annual Report

1949

Henry George School of Social Science

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1949 completed the 18th year of the Henry George School of Social Science, founded in New York on January 1st 1932. Year by year the great educational work of the School has advanced, and 1949 added its share to the record. There can be no doubt that the School is moving steadily toward its goal of a citizenry enlightened on the fundamentals of economics.

The year saw a number of notable events. Three Georgist conferences were held — one sponsored by the School and two in which the School took active part. Two new extensions were launched — one in Albany, state capital of New York, and one in San Francisco, birthplace of *Progress and Poverty*. The regular class work in all Extensions continued at a high level, some setting new records. The year was also marked in many Extensions by a number of special activities related to School work, including new projects to sustain graduate interest.

Conferences

The 1949 Annual Conference of the School — the fifth such Conference — was held in New York, July 22-24. From the point of view of attendance, interest and results, it was a great success. Delegates from nearly all the School's Extensions attended, as well as many friends and graduates. Sessions were held at New York and Newark School Headquarters and the Hotel Commodore. Press publicity was good. The New York Public Library exhibited part of its famous Henry George collection during the Conference. Besides School leaders, speakers included: Roy A. Foulke, vice-president, Dun & Bradstreet; Harold S. Buttenheim, editor, *The American City*; Jerome Joachim, publisher, *Berwyn Beacon*; Harry Carman, dean, Columbia College; George R. Geiger, professor, Antioch College; Ransom Noble, head, Dept. of Social Studies, Pratt Institute; and Maurice William, author who influenced Sun Yat Sen.

The seventh International Conference sponsored by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was held in Swanwick, England, August 14-21. Delegates from twelve countries discussed principle, policy and progress. J. Rupert Mason, one of the sponsors of the new San Francisco Extension, was elected President of the Union. The Henry George School in the United States was represented by Robert Clancy, Director, and the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation was represented by V. G. Peterson, Executive Secretary. Schools in Great Britain and Denmark were also represented, and plans were discussed for establishing new Schools in such countries as Belgium, Germany and New Zealand. Increased international cooperation in the educational work was one of the results of this outstanding Conference.

The third of the year's Conferences was held in Philadelphia, September 16-17, and was sponsored by the Henry George Foundation of America. School leaders were on the program and many graduates attended. The Philadelphia Extension especially deserves credit for helping make this Conference a success.

All the conferences were reported thoroughly in the August, September and October issues of the *Henry George News*.

New York

ROBERT CLANCY, *Director*

Basic and advanced classes were held four terms during the year at Headquarters and an increasing number of locations throughout the city and suburbs. 2,399 students enrolled for the basic course in *Progress and Poverty*, and 1,010 completed the course. Advanced courses enrolled 1,021 students, 685 completing them — the best year for advanced courses to date. One new course added in 1949 was Ethics of Land Reform, based on Henry George's *A Perplexed Philosopher* and *The Land Question*. All of George's works are now included in the School's curriculum.

The popular Friday evening programs at Headquarters continued during the year, with an innovation — lectures alternating every other week with film programs, the latter sponsored by S.A.G.E. (Society for the Advancement of the George Economy),

the New York alumni association. One of the films shown was Robert Flaherty's prize-winning *Louisiana Story*, by special arrangement with Mr. Flaherty. Among the lecturers were Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Philip H. Cornick of the Institute of Public Administration, Taneo Kaai, directress of Hawaii House, Dr. L. M. Birkhead, director of Friends of Democracy, David Marshall, professor at Fordham University, and others. The School also continued to send speakers to lecture at outside schools, clubs and other groups.

A highlight of the year was a dance recital for the benefit of the School, given in April and sponsored by Agnes de Mille, granddaughter of Henry George and America's leading choreographer. Outstanding personalities of the dance world contributed their services and the event created much public interest.

The nucleus of a Henry George collection was formed during the year with the acquisition of some precious items. Dr. Henry George III donated to the School mementos of Henry George, including the Bible he took to sea with him as a boy, and the pen with which he wrote *The Science of Political Economy*. A superb life-size portrait of Henry George painted by George De Forest Brush was loaned to the School for an indefinite period by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The School also acquired an author's edition of *Progress and Poverty*, of which only 500 copies were printed.

The CORRESPONDENCE COURSES offered by the School continued to extend the educational work to locations where there are now no Extensions. Of the 2,140 correspondence enrollees in *Progress and Poverty*, 821 completed the first lesson and 231 completed the course — an average which is better than that of most correspondence schools but with which we are far from satisfied. There were also 98 graduates of advanced correspondence courses. During the year a special Teacher's Training course by correspondence was developed, with a view to developing leaders of new Extensions.

The HENRY GEORGE NEWS expanded its circulation. Special arrangements were made with Extensions to encourage circulation, and arrangements were also made to include on the

subscription list those contributing \$5 or more to the School. Among the writers for the News during the year were Ashley Mitchell, John S. Codman, Charles Johnson Post, Joseph S. Thompson, and other outstanding writers.

The School's expanding activities necessitated a special drive for funds toward the end of the year. John C. Lincoln, President, launched the appeal with a letter to School friends and it is confidently hoped that the funds needed to carry out the 1950 program will be secured.

Chicago

JOHN L. MONROE, *Director*

The monthly Commerce and Industry luncheons sponsored by the School during 1949, which built up to an attendance of over 600 executives to hear Miss Vivien Kellems on December 14th, were milestones toward acquainting industrial leaders with the potentialities of the School's class program as a means for achieving economic freedom. Interest created by the luncheon symposium on "How to Make Free Enterprise Work Better" last March was enhanced still further by the other programs which included as speakers Harry Gunnison Brown in June, Samuel B. Pettengill in October, and Ashley Mitchell of England in November. Lancaster M. Greene, trustee of the School in New York, spoke at the annual Cobden Day dinner on June 20.

The first class formed as part of the School's Commerce and Industry program, composed of 11 executives of the Benjamin Electric Manufacturing Company and led by Jerome Joachim, concluded on December 19th with plans being discussed for expanding the classwork throughout this plant of 500 employees and to other industries.

An inquiry into the condition, prospects and needs of the building industry in Chicago was launched during the year by graduates in the industry. The inquiry has already heard several leaders in the industry, including Edward G. Gavin, editor of the *American Builder*; Charles W. Nicol, architect; and Thomas L. Slater, secretary-treasurer of the Carpenters Union, Local 1.

Outstanding during the year were the lecture series of Frank Chodorov in January; the premier of Mrs. Henry J. West's chalk-talk on "Our Hungry World"; three lectures by Dr. Ernest B. Zeisler on socialized medicine and other topics; three economist's bus tours; monthly community meetings of graduates; and the Chicagoland Conference in May which formulated plans for the 16th year fund and class promotion campaigns.

Commencement exercises on December 19th, addressed by Hiram B. Loomis, President, marked the close of 50 terms in Chicago since 1934, during which the School has conducted a total of 1,602 classes in the basic course with 6,666 graduates. During 1949, 130 basic classes added 287 graduates; 35 advanced classes were completed by 129 graduates.

Los Angeles

WILLIAM B. TRUEHART, *Director*

The enrollment in the basic classes in Los Angeles took a definite upward turn, increasing about one-third over 1948. An all-time high of enrollments per class was reached in the Winter term with an average of 23 students in each class. The same term also saw another record set — the average of graduates increased to 59 per cent of the enrollments. The total enrollment for three terms, covering 33 basic classes and 15 advanced classes, was 629 in the basic classes and 121 in the advanced. There were 281 graduates of the basic course and 82 of advanced courses.

The year saw important contacts made with leaders of organized labor and business. The Central Labor Council (A.F.L.) cooperated by distributing, each term, class announcement folders to delegates at their meetings and by mailing 1,000 folders to labor leaders. The chairman of a national association of advertising agencies, Mr. Don Belding, of Foote, Cone and Belding, became actively interested in the School.

During the latter part of the year, groundwork was laid for the launching of a Commerce and Industry program similar to the one operating in Chicago. Also formed during the year was a Speakers Bureau to train and book speakers to appear before various organizations and stimulate interest in the School.

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Early in 1949, a new secretary, Miss Gwyneth Jones, was added to the staff.

Boston

SANFORD FARKAS, *Director*

During the year, 48 classes in the basic course were held, with 539 enrollees and 260 graduates. There were also 16 advanced classes with 68 graduates. These figures include those for Worcester. Toward the end of the year plans were begun to establish a separate Extension in that city, which has hitherto been served from Boston.

An encouraging advance was made in funds raised. Nearly twice the amount of 1948 contributions was received in 1949 from local sources.

Miss Lidia Alkalay became full-time secretary in September, replacing Mr. A. C. Matteson, Jr.

Three commencement dinners were held during the year — in March, with George Duncan as the guest speaker on taxation; in June, M. B. Thomson speaking on "single tax enclaves"; and in December, the speaker Robert Clancy discussing the background of Henry George's ideas. Other events included lectures by Sgt. C. B. M. Knowles and Frank Chodorov, and a debate on surplus value between M. S. Lurio and George Lynch of W.S.P.

Ohio

VERLIN D. GORDON, *Director*

During the year classes were held in Lima, Cincinnati, Toledo, Cleveland, Springfield, Troy, Columbus, Dayton, Hamilton, Zanesville, Sidney and Lorain. The Ohio faculty now boasts 23 instructors, 9 having been added in 1949.

Throughout the State, 340 students enrolled for the basic course and 216 completed the study; 27 enrolled in the advanced classes and 26 completed. Radio stations, about 40 Ohio newspapers, personal letters and several thousand postal invitations were used to attract new students.

Increasing recognition is being given to the School in Ohio by public officials in charge of libraries and other meeting places. The obtaining of class locations no longer presents any serious problem in most cities. Recognition by the press is also encouraging, many items on the School having been printed in various newspapers. Speaking invitations came to Ohio Headquarters (in Lima) from churches and other organizations in a number of towns and cities.

St. Louis

ELIZABETH ANGELL, *Acting Director*

Four terms produced 175 graduates of the basic course out of 477 enrollees.

In September, Miss Angell became Acting Director, temporarily replacing Noah D. Alper who came to New York to study for one year at Columbia University and to work at Headquarters, in order to more effectively promote the School work when he returns to St. Louis.

At the 1949 School Conference in New York it was agreed that the St. Louis Extension will be host to the 1950 Conference.

Special events during the year included the launching of a Commerce and Industry program, a special lecture by Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown, and the reprinting by popular demand of the brochure on the late William N. McNair.

New Jersey

JOHN T. TETLEY, *Director*

A total of 29 classes in the basic course were held in Newark and 15 other cities of New Jersey, with 246 enrollees and 122 graduates; also 3 advanced classes with 11 graduates.

In the basic course, *Economics Simplified* by Bowen and Rusby is the text book, and a new advanced course was offered in the Fall — Analysis of Economic Thought, with an enrollment of over 50 (course not completed by the end of the year). Classes are announced as being offered by the Economics Education Institute in cooperation with the Henry George School.

Monthly faculty meetings continued during the year and there were three commencement exercises, guest speakers being H. Jerome Sisselman (on "Land Tenure in Israel"), Robert Claricy and Noah D. Alper.

The membership plan of financing has been adopted by the New Jersey Extension. Friends and graduates are invited to become members of the School at an annual fee set by themselves. Results in 1949 compared favorably with previous appeals for funds.

Philadelphia

JOSEPH A. STOCKMAN, *Director*

31 basic classes in 1949 enrolled 261 students and graduated 103. Advanced courses enrolled 60 and graduated 43. Among the advanced courses was a new one, "Which Way, America?", a current affairs discussion class. In addition to the above, there were four "unofficial" *Progress and Poverty* classes with over 60 in attendance.

The influence of the School has been growing slowly but steadily, and the interest of groups in Philadelphia — including city officials — heretofore seemingly indifferent, has been aroused.

A number of community projects have started in the Philadelphia area, along the lines of the Arden enclave, with the rent of land collected for the community and houses exempt from taxation. The Philadelphia Extension has offered help and guidance to these groups, which consist mostly of veterans.

Pittsburgh

RICHARD E. HOWE, *Director*

A series of lunchtime classes in the Pittsburgh local of the United Electrical Workers Union produced good results, strengthening a Georgist nucleus in that union. In all, there were 90 graduates during the year, out of 112 enrollees. The small drop-out was due mainly to the successful lunchtime classes.

In December, a new board of officers was appointed for the Pittsburgh Extension, which continues to use the offices of the late William N. McNair. Optimism marks the outlook for 1950.

San Diego

BESSIE B. TRUEHART, *Director*

Largest of the Extensions operating entirely on a voluntary basis, this California Extension enrolled 158 in the basic course and graduated 88. Advanced courses — including "Democracy Versus Socialism" offered for the first time in San Diego — enrolled 42 and graduated 39.

For the first time, classes were offered as part of the city's public adult education program. Another event of the year was the formation of an alumni association.

Montreal

STRETHEL WALTON, *Director*

After having had to move out of former Headquarters, the Montreal Extension found new quarters in the City of Westmount (part of greater Montreal). A special campaign has assured the funds necessary for carrying on.

In the early part of the year, the experiment of charging for the basic course was renewed, but after a study of results, was discontinued and the tuition-free method resumed. During 1949 there were 64 enrollees and 32 graduates of the basic course.

Hartford

NATHAN HILLMAN, *Director*

The most promising 1949 development in Hartford was that this Extension secured its own Headquarters, with ample office and class space. (Hitherto, the business office of Mr. Hillman had been used.) A growing group of enthusiasts assure the continued success of the Hartford Extension. During the year about 85 enrolled for the basic course and about 40 graduated.

Albany

ROBERT H. RITCHEY, *Director*

This new Extension, launched in 1949, serves also Troy and Schenectady, and marks a penetration of School work into the important upper New York State region. The first term, in the Fall, produced 56 enrollees and 24 graduates of the basic course. The remarkably well attended commencement dinner in December

included as guest speakers, Gilbert M. Tucker, John S. Codman, Robert Clancy and Rev. W. Wylie Young.

San Francisco

ROBERT T. TIDEMAN, *Director*

This Extension was formed at the close of the year, but before 1949 was over, meetings of sponsors were held, a Headquarters was established, funds were pledged, and plans laid for launching the work in 1950. The Director, formerly with the staff of the Chicago Extension, has been developing methods that will prove valuable in the formation of new Extensions.

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During 1949 a class in Fundamental Economics was held in LINCOLN, Nebraska by Ada Shafer with 5 graduates, and one in OAK RIDGE, Tennessee by Dan Brink with 7 graduates.

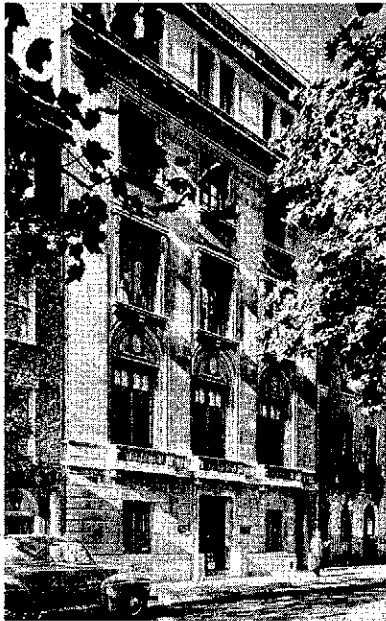
The total number of those who completed the study of *Progress and Poverty* in all Extensions (including New York and the correspondence course) during 1949 was 2,971. (Unreported classes should bring the figure to well over 3,000.) Many of the students were definitely of leadership quality.

We should also take into account the still greater numbers of students who enrolled for the course purchased the text book, but did not complete the course. No doubt most of them read *Progress and Poverty* on their own. Bear in mind, too, that there are thousands of others who purchase the book each year without enrolling in the course. Nor does the influence end there, for it is well known that one who has read *Progress and Poverty* must talk to his friends and associates about it! We must add to the picture the expanding work of our sister schools and publishers in other countries. Year by year, the total results are not inconsiderable.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Clancy

Director



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Chartered by the University of the State of New York

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N. Y.

Telephone: RHineland 4-8700

JOHN DEWEY, Honorary President

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