

unfair practices. The Economic Commission for Europe recently published a survey of the steel industries of Europe in which it was pointed out that at the time (in the last few months) the prices of coal for export were in many cases 50 per cent. above the internal price and that in some cases the price of iron ore for export was nearly double the internal price.

"I agree that it is highly desirable that these trade discriminations should be eliminated and that some steps should be taken towards placing the trade of Europe upon a fair and equal basis. It is no doubt especially important for the French, who are dependent to a very great extent upon the importation of coking coal in order to utilise their resources of iron ore, that these discriminatory practices should cease. It is, I dare say, important also for the Germans that they should be able to get any iron ore which they require to import at a fair and equal price, and that they should not be subjected to price discrimination or to the other devices by which the equality of trade is interfered with.

"But is it true that in order to secure these ends it is necessary to create this super-national authority? I should have thought that the abolition of customs duties, quotas, differential transport charges and other interferences with trade in these basic materials of coal and iron ore, could easily have been secured by treaty and agreement between the participating countries, without the creation of any super-national authority whatsoever. To take that step would, in itself, lead automatically to uniformity of prices, equal conditions for the purchaser of the products of this industry, again without the necessity of introducing into the matter any super-national authority.

"I am, indeed, alarmed at the idea that in order to obtain these comparatively easy and simple objectives—simple in principle at any rate, not always simple in practice because there are many divergent interests at work who have a stake in the system of discrimination and of inequality—it is necessary to create this authority. If Governments are prepared to attain these ends by creating a super-national authority, I should have thought it would be equally easy for them to attain them by the mere creation of binding treaties between them which prevented the exercise of these discriminatory and restrictive practises.

"It is said also that one of the objects is to secure a greater production of steel and iron products. That again, it seems to me, can be obtained without recourse to this device of a super-national authority.

"It is proposed that the authority should draw up programmes of development and modernisation and should provide funds by way of loans. Such programmes could be drawn up by other bodies not possessing such drastic powers. Funds can be and have been provided for many such purposes without the creation of any super-national authority.

"It is said to be an object of the Plan that there shall be equalisation and improvement of the living conditions of the workers. If it is desired to secure that, I should have thought that one of the first steps to be taken was to allow workers to migrate with freedom from one country to another in order to take up employment in those countries in which the efficiency of production and the level of wages were highest. But I have yet to learn that there is any proposal of that kind afoot, though that again is a simple solution. If it is desired to equalise

the rates of earnings of the workers who are concerned in the industry throughout Europe, again no super-national authority is needed.

"This I say in all seriousness, without questioning the good spirit and the high intentions which have animated the French Government in making the proposals which they have made. I feel that the creation of a super-national authority of this kind is in effect the creation of a gigantic cartel which will be beyond the control of any Government and which it appears can never be got rid of because Governments are not to be allowed to recede from the undertakings which they are asked to enter into in creating it."

## THE NEED FOR ENLIGHTENMENT

By L. J. Hubbard

(From a paper read at the Dorking Conference of the Henry George School of Social Science.)

Mankind has lately recognised the power of education in creating unity of thought and belief. But this, too, is a power susceptible to much abuse and has been, in our own time, dragged down to the level of a blatant propaganda. However, it has been well stated that all real education is self-education and it is equally apparent that education, like labour, is a means to an end, and not an end in itself. If a teacher's job is well done, the impression his teaching makes, good or bad, will be a lasting one. The burden of previous schooling may prove hard to shift, nevertheless when two opposing doctrines are brought together in the brain-box of an intelligent person, one of them must go under.

It is here that the Henry George School of Social Science enters the field, and pits itself against the very foundations of contemporary habits of thought. By the somewhat unique practice of gaining initial agreement of, and continual adherence to, the definitions of terms, the Henry George School sets an example which our venerable oppressors dare not emulate. This fundamental requisite of clear thinking, more preached than practised now-a-days, would be fatal to the objects of the popular economist, if employed by him.

Experimenting only last week, I found a book, written in 1948 by a late head of Civil Service classes under the Middlesex Higher Education Committee. It was intended partly as a guide to examination entrants, complete with specimen exam. questions at the end of each chapter. After long dissertation on the importance of clear definition, the writer informed me that, although there are three factors in the production of wealth (in order of appearance: Demand, Labour and Capital) its distribution fell subsequently into four categories (namely, Wages, Profits, Rent and Interest). This treatise, the prototype of many, was foisted on an unwary public under the engaging title, *Everyday Economics*. Perhaps I was unlucky, but my immediate comment is; "Heaven help the Georgeist who takes a Civil Service exam."

To return to the Henry George School. The lot of the newly-fledged student, fresh from his Basic Course in Fundamental Economics, is not at first a happy one. His newspaper—whatever be its name—is still plugging away at shopworn fallacies that he never quite trusted, anyway; counterfeit economists are still expressing alarm whenever imports look like catching up with exports; melancholy underlings still deplore the dangers of increasing population, while crocodile tears are sanctimoniously shed over the notion that there are not enough

jobs to go around. If the mind of the fledgeling is sufficiently made up, he feels tempted to give his new-found philosophy an airing and, after trying it out on the cat, wades confidently in on the first argument that seems in need of his guidance. Others like himself have been brought nearer to the understanding which beckons like sunshine through a rift in the clouds, reviving hope, and a will to combat the dead inertia of a flabby complacency. The voluntary demand for such enlightenment is growing and will keep on growing. It is in the power of the School, by patience and education, to bring that form of enlightenment to those who seek it. Step by step; from the bottom, up.

To find the cause of a social ill, as with bodily ailments, is to be halfway towards a cure. Society to-day is at the mercy of quacks and witch-doctors. It is like a man who complains of difficulty in walking. Whilst being reviled for not reacting reasonably to delicately performed brain operations, the fact that somebody has chained his ankles together is pooh-poohed as irrelevant.

The abolition of poverty (which means the abolition of the right to appropriate somebody else's labour) is as certain as was the abolition of chattel slavery. Nothing is more certain than that this reform is in the scheme of things. But it must be striven for. If we can hold the world together long enough to determine, once and for all, who the owners are and who the trespassers, it may even come in time for us to enjoy.

The student would be blind indeed if he could not perceive the substratum of Georgeist philosophy which does exist below a surface of confusion and misrepresentation. You can see it, to-day, if you look for it. Yes, even in your daily newspapers; in the same way that Henry George saw glimmers of the greatest truths in the works of Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill; the truths that those eminent thinkers grasped, to let fall again for inconceivable reasons. At best, it is but a voice in the wilderness and can claim no marks for prominence, but in every outcry against unfair monopoly; in every fearless wage-claim made on behalf of industry's lowest paid workers; in every call for the lowering of the barriers which restrict home and foreign freedom of trade; in all these things there exists the demand for economic justice, evidenced by people who have never yet heard of Henry George, nor read his works. What other proof need we of the correctness of the path, or of the certainty of ultimate attainment?

Also read at the Dorking Conference was the instructive Paper "Belief and Action" by Mr. E. I. Miller, which is in print for appearance in our next issue.

**Progress and Poverty.** By Henry George. An inquiry into the causes of industrial depressions and of increase of want with increase of wealth—the remedy. Pocket-size edition 3s. 6d. Large-type library edition 8s.

**The Theory of Human Progression.** By Patrick Edward Dove. Abridged by Julia N. Kellogg. 2s. 6d.

**Land-Value Policy in Theory and Practice.** By J. Dundas White, LL.D. With outline of legislation presented in the form of a Parliamentary Bill. 2s.

**How the English People Became Landless.** A brief history that should be in every senior pupil's satchel. 2d.

**Conference Papers of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.** A world survey (in 17 papers) and with the outstanding "Declaration of Principle and Policy"; complete set in special Wallet. 10s.

## FRIENDS WHO MET US

By Charles H. Batty

The recent visit with my wife to Australia and America was an opportunity to meet many friends who are in distant association with us in London, and it gave us an inspiring experience of the close fellowship expressed in the very warm welcome extended to us on every possible occasion.

We had the quayside welcome to Australia at Fremantle from Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hart and Mr. and Mrs. Standing—quite unexpected, as they had learned of our visit from Mr. Craigie, who had written them from Adelaide. A happy day was spent in Perth in their care with news of their progress in the Henry George League of Western Australia. We looked forward to arriving in Adelaide and before the ship was tied up we had the thrill of an immediate recognition of Mr. and Mrs. Craigie, bedecked with rosette and streamers. Our few hours with them, driven round the countryside in the car dating back to Mr. Craigie's election days, his reminiscences, continuing activities and their homely welcome, will remain a vivid recollection, now that the loss of Mrs. Craigie has broken the long partnership of those grand folk, and our deepest sympathy goes out to him. Rain spoiled our stay in Melbourne, but it did not hinder Mr. Noar and Mr. Howden tracking us out as soon as they could get on our ship—having news of its arrival from Perth—and doing their best in sightseeing and a very hospitable welcome. The Commonwealth Elections were imminent and the Henry George League were running candidates for seats in the Senate under a newly devised system of vote transference, but the result was unsuccessful. This election activity was bringing together a numerous group for daily luncheon meetings and set a pleasant occasion for our exchange of views and greetings. With freehold offices and plans for extensive development the Henry George League in Melbourne is well equipped for future progress.

Our journey ended at Sydney, giving longer time to meet friends there, and firstly to carry fraternal greetings to the veteran Mr. Huie. Despite his years, he continues as Organising Secretary of the Free Trade and Land Values League with the monthly issue of *The Standard* and his recent candidature for a seat in the Commonwealth Senate indicates his continuing vitality.

An invitation to the Christmas Social of the Australian School of Social Science made a pleasant occasion to meet Mr. Dowe, Dr. Pearce, Mr. and Mrs. Akeroyd, amid the fellowship of their students and enjoy the genial hospitality.

Legislative recognition of "site value" in Australia for local purposes would suggest progress in State and Federal tax reform, but neither political party there gives any support to our proposals. Opposition to any retrogression is largely fostered by the active vigilance of adherents of the Henry George philosophy. The study courses now arranged by all the Australian Leagues are spreading knowledge of the economic effects of fiscal changes to strengthen this opposition, and to bring wider understanding of site value taxation as the just basis of development in their expansive country.

From Sydney our journey continued across the Pacific Ocean to Vancouver where a welcome awaited us from Mr. and Mrs. Hollins and their family, to renew the friendship made at last year's International Conference at Swanwick. An enjoyable evening was spent at Mr. and Mrs. Woodward's fireside, conversation touching upon the campaign (thus far fruitless) to repeal the iniquitous sales tax imposed for municipal purposes instead of rating land values. A long train journey south brought change from the wintry conditions of Canada to the sunshine of San Francisco, and with it the kindly care of Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Mason to ensure our enjoyment of their lovely country; and, meanwhile, the refreshing experience of contact with his dynamic personality and energetic leadership. Another two days of train life carried us across to Chicago, truly "the windy city," now steeped in snow and temperature at zero. We had now come under the tutelage of the energetic John L. Monroe, with an evening fixed for friendly entertainment and talk with Messrs. Tideman and Carus, and the monthly supper lecture the following evening to listen to Mr. Craig Ralston, the author of *Shovelcrats*, ask "Why is China red, and what is ahead?"