

THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

During the week commencing September 18, the Autumn Session of economic study classes will open in Westminster and in some London suburbs. In the past weeks much publicity has been undertaken by way of bill-posting, press advertising, leaflet distribution, etc., by students of the School in a concentrated effort to get classes established in districts in and around London. It will not be possible to measure the degree of success resulting from these efforts until the opening day of the classes though indications are that Hampstead and Battersea will succeed in obtaining the requisite number of students.

A feature of the special preparation necessary to give wide publicity to the classes has been the regular "work nights" at Great Smith Street, where School notices and prospectuses and display bills have been despatched to organisations, educational institutions and individuals throughout London by a band of volunteers working often until 10 p.m.

On other evenings and week-ends, squads posted outside Evening Institutes, Public Libraries and other vantage spots have distributed thousands of leaflets, many of them being produced by the students themselves with the aid of the new duplicator. On other occasions students made a tour of shopkeepers in the chosen districts and succeeded in getting posters displayed gratis.

On September 25, a class for the study of the Basic Course will open in Lewisham under the auspices of the local Young Liberals Association who have asked the School for a tutor. The class will be conducted by Mr. P. O'Keeffe and the text book will be *Progress and Poverty*.

Classes at 4 Great Smith Street will be as follows:—

Tuesdays: Basic Course (opening September 19).

Thursdays: Basic Course (opening September 21).

Thursdays: International Trade (opening September 21).

The panel of tutors for the London area is as follows:— Messrs. V. H. Blundell, R. R. Blundell, D. S. Boothman, P. R. Stubbings, L. J. Hubbard, W. E. Fox, E. I. Miller, P. O'Keeffe, H. Pollard, R. Smith and P. O'Leary.

Manchester. Classes for the Basic Course will start on September 28 at the Houldsworth Hall, Deansgate, under the guidance of Mr. C. S. Lees. Publicity has been long and intensified and a good enrolment is expected.

Glasgow. A big bill-posting campaign was the feature of the publicity drive to recruit students for the Autumn Session which commences on September 26 at the Christian Institute, Bothwell Street. The class will be conducted by Dr. F. M. Smith. Associated with the special work of the School (which is organised by the Scottish League for Land Value Taxation) are Messrs. R. McGhee, R. J. Rennie, D. Cameron and J. C. S. Morgan.

Portsmouth. On September 26 a Basic Course class will open at the Forrester's Hall, Southsea. Conducting the class will be Mr. Stoakes, assisted by Mr. H. R. Lee and Mr. F. M. Miller.

Under auspices of the Crosby Henry George Fellowship, an Economic Class, with *Progress and Poverty* as the text-book, is in session every Tuesday, 7 to 9 p.m., at 48 Kimberley Drive, Crosby, starting on September 19. It is conducted by Mr. Edward Stephens. The Fellowship meets the first Friday of every month, at 7.45 p.m., at the same address for general discussions.

HARROGATE WEEK-END SCHOOL

Reservations for the Week-end School to be held at the Dirlton Hotel, Harrogate Spa, October 27-29, are now almost up to the requisite number. Enrolments will be received until the accommodation is fully booked, but intending participants will need to communicate with the School at 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1, right away (*and not with the hotel*). The charge is 35s. from Friday dinner to Sunday tea, plus 10 per cent. for gratuities. At extra charge, visitors can stay on till Monday morning. The Programme will include: 1—International Trade from Cobden to Cripps; 2—A Review of Economic Writings; 3—A Summary of George's Economics and Philosophy; 4—Land Value Policy and Free Trade as applied to Agricultural Land; 5—Brains Trust; 6—Miscellany, introduced by 10-minute Addresses. Discussion will be an essential feature of the gathering and with the above items on the programme there will be plenty of scope for it.

LETTER FROM AUSTRIA

Mr. Philipp Knab, of Salzburg, writes:—

"Thank you for the most interesting issues of *LAND & LIBERTY* also for the copies of your International Union's Declaration of Principle and Policy in German. They are very welcome and I am indebted to your correspondent who gave you my name.

"I am an old disciple. I stood in the crowds singing the land song when Lloyd George was first elected Prime Minister, I think it was 1909. He betrayed the idea, I am sorry to say, later on. As a prisoner of the first World War in Russia I crossed the plains of eastern and middle Asia trying to escape and that contact with primitive races taught me better than anything else the all-importance of the land question.

"Back again in Europe I gave up the oil trade where I had a leading position to take up land settlement work in Germany and Austria. Gradually I learned that the land question could only be solved by taxation. Henry George's writings were a sort of revelation to me, as to everybody else who earnestly tries to study human symbiosis.

"For twenty-five years I regularly met Siegfried Sitte, and his friends, Dr. Thausing and Pavlos Giannelias, trying to find ways and means to put Henry George's ideas into practice. We often seemed to be on the threshold of success, when we succeeded in convincing leading politicians or ministers who pledged themselves to carry out the reforms we suggested. But the repeated political repercussions prevented these often sincere intentions.

"Siegfried Sitte was a constructive genius who used his great experience in addition to the valuable data he had inherited from his father, the famous town-planner Camillo Sitte, to prove convincingly that it was taxation, bad taxation, which had engendered and is still engendering economic crisis, unemployment and housing shortage. He discovered that the old democratic peasantry of Austria, then part of Germany, had asked for land value taxation

instead of the tithe, when regular levies of money were first introduced as a consequence of the Turkish invasions at the beginning of the 18th century.

"Hitler's and Mussolini's strong points were unemployment and land. They derived their political strength from these unsolved problems. So does Stalin nowadays.

"The Bolsheviks won in 1918 because they promised land to the Russian peasants. Later on they took it away from them and so millions of Russians and Ukrainians welcomed the German troops in 1940, who first proclaimed restoration. If they had kept their promise, there would have been an end to Communism. Because Hitler had lied, Stalin had his chance. He is now winning Asia on the strength of the land promise. Atomic bombs versus life and land that is the issue at present. Unless Western Civilisation learns the lesson it is doomed, no matter what its technical superiority.

"Since the war we have been trying to spread the knowledge of the true solution of the social question for all we were worth. We were handicapped by many obstacles. It seems tragic that only a few people seem to be able to grasp it, still fewer to take it up and spread it. But the path of progress is narrow and toilsome. Yet some day the seed of truth will germinate quickly and humanity will be rid of its self-inflicted pains.

"In the 'Thirties I wrote an essay entitled *The Renaissance of Pacifism*. It was never printed but it contains conclusions derived from the experience of a lifetime. I have sent it to you. There may be some points fit for reproduction, many parts strike me as prophetic when looking back. If there should be a chance of publication, I would be glad of it.

"As an unknown soldier of a small but distinguished army I salute *LAND & LIBERTY*."