

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## U.S.A.

## The Henry George School

Mr Frank Chodorov, the Director, has issued a report on the work and expansion of the Henry George School of Social Science since, in September, 1932, it obtained its provisional charter from the University of the State of New York. It is quite a remarkable record of growth. It is particularly gratifying to see the financial support which the School has been successful in attracting. The balance sheet as on 30th September, 1939, showed total assets of \$203,650, including \$150,720 in investments and investment funds and the five-storey school building and other property at cost of \$49,451. The work is being maintained on a great scale; the classes keep growing, and to accommodate students it is now necessary to equip the two top floors, heretofore not used, an expenditure calling for more funds and therefore justifying an appeal to all who have the future of the School at heart. The new premises at 30 East 29th Street were taken over in August, 1938, by which time the former premises at 211 West 79th Street had proved all too inadequate. The School's charter was made absolute in July, 1937, and power was granted also to conduct extension and correspondence courses. In addition to the fundamental course on *Progress and Poverty*, there are now basic courses on *Social Problems* and *Protection or Free Trade* and a number of advanced courses as on the *Science of Political Economy*, the *Philosophy of Henry George* (G. R. Geiger's book), the *Economic Basis of Tax Reform* (Gunnison Brown), *Democracy and Socialism* (Max Hirsch); teachers' training courses and courses on public speaking and writing. Another great adventure was the launching in August, 1937, of the monthly journal *The Freeman*, which now attains a circulation of 3,200.

The School was founded by the late Oscar Geiger some years previous to 1932 and from that modest beginning an institute has arisen with a capacity when fully equipped for over 5,000 students at once-a-week classes. In the year ended 30th September, 1939, the total expense was \$30,711 including the extension department, the correspondence courses and the cost of *The Freeman*. The expense of the New York School, as such, was \$18,078. As 3,478 students were enrolled in the year and 1,505 went through the course, the expense "per head" works out at something like \$5 and \$12 respectively. One can judge from this what the tuition fees ought to be if instead of the tuition being free, as it is, the students were required to pay for the instruction; and the sum would be greater still if the School had to have a salaried staff, whereas the tutors all give their services voluntarily.

Since the correspondence study was started in February, 1937, altogether 921 have gone through the course, of whom 376 during the latest year. In the extension department, the classes and courses outside headquarters building, there have been altogether 13,801 enrolments since September, 1933, and 6,599 have gone through the courses.

## AUSTRALIA

The latest enterprise of the Henry George Foundation of Australia is to publish in booklet form (64 pages, price 4d. in Australia), the full text of *Back to the Land*, the letter of Bishop Nulty to the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Meath. The publication is well done. It contains extracts from some of the prefaces to American editions and a Memoir on "Dr Nulty and His Times," by Mr P. J. Markham. Considering the

favourable Sterling rate of exchange as against Australian, but adding freight charges, it should be possible to market this book in Great Britain at 6d. per copy. We will book orders for delivery at that price (postage paid) when our supplies arrive.

## HOLLAND

## The Henry George School

The Dutch extension of the Henry George School of Social Science was opened at Gronigen on 3rd January with 17 students, under the tutorship of Councillor H. Kolthek. For the introductory study there was an interval of a fortnight and the class continues weekly on Wednesdays (8.30 to 10.30 p.m.) from 17th January forward. Already the room being used is more than full and with others making enquiry about the study it is possible that another class will be formed in Gronigen.

News of classes being formed in two other places is also received; namely, at The Hague, conducted by Dr M. A. Lindenburg (doctor of classical literature of Delft University) and in Stolwijk by Dr B. J. Kanis.

## FLORIDA

*Only Yesterday* (2 vols.), by F. L. Allen, Pelican Books A26, price 6d. each, gives a picture of the whole life of the United States, 1920-1930, including a vast and legitimate development in Florida which was ruined and frustrated by land monopoly. We quote:

"The cheerful custom of incorporating real-estate developments as 'cities' and financing the construction of all manner of improvements with 'tax-free municipal bonds,' as well as the custom on the part of development corporations of issuing real-estate bonds secured by new structures located in the boom territory, were showing weaknesses unimagined by the inspired dreamers of 1925. Most of the millions piled up in paper profits had melted away, many of the millions sunk in development had been sunk for good and all, the vast inverted pyramid of credit had toppled to earth, and the lesson of the economic falsity of a scheme of land values based upon grandiose plans, preposterous expectations and hot air had been taught in a long agony of deflation."

Mr F. L. Allen deals ably with the calamitous inflation of farm prices (up to £200 an acre) about 1920 which struck at the very life of the nation by universal ruin to producers. This was culminated by the official "fixing" of wheat, after the war, at 11s. a bushel—the exact counterpart of the British Corn Production Act. "Undoubtedly," he says, "many of the little country banks which suffered so acutely [by the ruin of their clients] would never have gone down to ruin if there had been no boom in farm lands."

Unfortunately he does not point the moral nor suggest how such speculation, so disastrous, could have been prevented or how it is to be avoided in future. Throughout his book the words "land values" are used but once. But they are the key to the whole picture. If he had seen that himself he would have related his facts to the sound advice and direction he could have given to his readers. Alas, it is so often true, "if land values were a dog it would bite them."

## FORM OF BEQUEST

*I bequeath (free of duty) to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Limited, the sum of £.....*