

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Three new classes, two on Basic Economics and one on International Trade, began on Tuesday, June 21, and will continue throughout the summer. Some students were unable to attend the last session and others, having completed the first course, wished to go straight on to the second. It is for these students that the classes are being specially run this session, instead of closing the School until the autumn as had been decided. In all, over forty students enrolled and attended the opening night. New tutors are Len Stevenson and Pat O'Keefe.

The Spring Session ended on June 14 when members from all classes joined in a Brains Trust. The panel handling the questions consisted of E. G. Popplewell, P. O'Keefe, D. Boothman, L. Stevenson and J. D. Layzell. The keen interest and intelligent understanding of the questioners said much for their tutors' efforts while the panel discharged their duties with zest and competence.

A generous offer of a prize of one guinea offered by the Rev. Mervyn Stewart to the students of the School for the best essay on the Malthusian Theory, resulted in the prize being awarded to Mr. D. Boothman. The competitors were few, but the standard high. Contributions by Mr. L. Stevenson and Miss Betty Walden were so commended by the judges that the final decision, according to merit was not an easy one.

Manchester:—At Holdsworth Hall, Deansgate, on June 16, an end of term meeting of students was addressed by Mr. Ashley Mitchell on the subject of International Trade. The Spring session had been a satisfactory one, excellent attendance being maintained throughout. The autumn session will begin on September 22.

Glasgow.—Preliminary arrangements for the autumn session, which begins on September 25, have now been made. Dr. S. M. Smith, a student of the earlier classes, will conduct the Basic Course and it is anticipated that a class for advanced students (Science of Political Economy) will run concurrently with it.

The "spare time" efforts of Mr. MacSwan, Mr. Cameron and their co-workers in establishing the School has met with encouraging response and the success to date in attracting and maintaining interest is particularly gratifying in view of the many difficulties which had to be faced.

LAND, HO!

By L. J. HUBBARD.

When I attended a Union meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, a number of young people stationed outside were distributing pamphlets to the gathering hordes. I never resist a pamphlet, but whereas I am usually impelled to consign it to the gutter a few minutes after perusal, the wording on the one I received that night was reacting on my mind throughout the meeting. For it was designated, "To Non-complacent People only," and I knew it meant me.

But what, after all, is a catch-phrase? Such bait is employed by every movement in existence. Good, bad or indifferent, you have to have a catch-phrase. What was behind the particular appeal I held in my hand?

I'd heard of Henry George through the writings of G. B. Shaw, and I was conscious of a desire to know just how much political science concerned me, as a member of society. I filled in the form and was enrolled as a student member of the Discussion Class, palming off on the H.G. School the job of convincing me that political science was the business of the ordinary citizen. I was never so surprised in all my life.

As a stickler for basic principles, and aware of the existence of fundamental human rights, I had never approached coherence on the subject. The odds against the substitution of a sane society for the one we have to put up with at present seemed so overwhelming that I was prepared to believe that my "non-complacency" was my own fault. I'd accepted the fallacy that "forty-million people can't be wrong."

The first Thursday I attended, both coherency and articulation were handed to me, as it were, on a platter. The impact of unassailable Truth on my rickety mental superstructure heralded a moral salvation. Others too, have gained the benefit of the ten lessons recently finished. The influence of the School is

certain to create a lasting impression on the minds of all who attended. The seed that is sown cannot fail to bear fruit in some positive form for, as I have seen, among my fellow-students there is no "stony ground." Students themselves have requested that classes continue throughout the summer, so after a break of one week we go on to the first extension: International Trade and Social Problems. There's hope yet for the tethered bull of Henry George's illustration.

LONDON GEORGEISTS

"Liberalism and the Liberal Policy" will be the subject of the next meeting to be held at Hope House, 45 Great Peter Street, S.W.1, on July 13, at 7 p.m. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. Oliver Smedley, prospective Liberal candidate for Saffron Walden, and author of "Second Thoughts on Compulsory Co-partnership in Industry." As the subject for discussion is of special interest, readers of LAND & LIBERTY and their friends are invited to attend. Refreshments will be available.

Among the items covered at the June meeting when the subject was "Current Events and News of the Day," were the Town and Country Planning Act, Street Trading, Unofficial Strikes and the new gold discovery in South Africa. The political, economic and ethical aspects of these subjects were fully explored, some contrasting views giving zest to the discussion. Welcome visitors to this meeting were Dr. Rolland O'Regan, of New Zealand, and Mr. H. R. Lee, of Portsmouth.

Open air meetings in Finsbury Park, North London, are now being held regularly each fortnight (the first and third Sundays of the month), from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Those already held have been well supported and regular speakers are Mr. W. J. Cadman, C. Aitken and V. H. Blundell. Recent engagements for speakers include talks to Sydenham, Putney and Wembley branches of the I.F.L. dealing with various aspects of the land question. Two of these requests for speakers resulted from the interest aroused at previous visits.

Other activities include an experiment with a literature stall in Bermondsey Market (managed by Pat O'Keefe) and lobbying at the House of Commons.

From Merstham to Reigate Hill:—On Sunday, July 3, the members will hold their annual ramble with its pleasant opportunity for much discussion and mutual instruction *en route*.

PRESS PUBLICITY

A ring on the 'phone by the popular columnist "John Bouverie" (*News Chronicle*) indicated we were not unknown, but more information was wanted about our doings. It led to the following piquant paragraph, May 19, with the caption BY GEORGE!

Who might the London Georgeists be? When Bouverie saw their notepaper, titled thus, he asked himself if this could be a manifesto from the remnant of Georgian poets, led by Sir John Squire and Sir Edward Marsh; the admirers of Georgian architecture anxious to preserve London squares; followers of the House of Hanover, or of David Lloyd George? No. They are 50 of the younger generation approving the teachings of Henry George (1839-97), the American printer and journalist who wrote "Progress and Poverty," advocating the taxation of land values. Every week they go to the House of Commons to lobby M.P.s. To-day's victims are Sir Waldron Smithers and W. J. Brown.

But that needed a little more elucidation and the *News Chronicle*, May 25, was good enough to publish the following letter from the Secretary:—

"In regard to John Bouverie's reference to this organisation I would like to correct a slight misapprehension. Whilst in substance his remarks are correct, he seems to imply that the lobbying of M.P.s is one of the foremost of our activities. This is a very minor aspect of our work, the most important being in the educational field—the holding of round table discussion classes in fundamental economics, social problems, free trade or protection, etc."

A writer, J. A. Milne, in the *Daily Telegraph* took occasion to say of the Town and Country Planning Act that it "collars all increment value of all land in this country." In reply, V. H. Blundell made correction in a letter published in the *Daily Telegraph* of June 3, explaining: "The development charge under the Town and Country Planning Act is levied only where a change