

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE IN NEW YORK

Change in the Directorship

IN A letter from Mr Lancaster M. Greene, member of the Board of Trustees, we are informed that Miss Margaret E. Bateman, former Canadian promotion director of Standard Brands Inc. and former extension secretary of the Henry George School of Social Science of Montreal, is now the director of the Henry George School of Social Science of New York. Miss Bateman made a world survey of Henry George progress for the 1938 Henry George Congress in Toronto. She was especially impressed in her travels to Europe and the Scandinavian countries with the results of the Danish Folk Schools, which have been supplemented by Henry George Schools as a result of the Fifth International Conference in London in 1936.

The new Editor of *The Freeman* is C. O. Steele, four years a teacher at the School in N.Y. and a much sought after member of the Speakers' Bureau for gatherings and for the radio. He is giving his work as editor as a voluntary contribution to the Georgeist cause; professionally he is a member of the editorial board of a statistical service. Mr Greene adds: "While we are losing many of our faculty to the military services, we have secured a fine response to our invitations to classes. We have over 800 students in our spring classes now in session. Three keen business men that I have been asking for years have felt impelled to start class at this time in order to understand the grave situation in which they see the world. This seems a not uncommon reaction."

The School has had much publicity as the result of complaints made against the attitude of the School's journal, *The Freeman*, in its references to the war. Allegation was that it was taking a political line not in conformity with the charter under which the School had to eschew politics, a former teacher of the School, Mr Michael J. Bernstein, having filed complaint to that effect with the State Education Department, the F.B.I. and the Treasury. The *New York Sun* and the *New York World-Telegram* give much space to the case. Meanwhile the School, owner of a former telephone building at 30 E. 29th Street, has been removed from the tax-exempt rolls, an automatic procedure pending an investigation which was then nearly completed. We eagerly await, and in suspense, the outcome of this serious development which Mr Bernstein has brought to a head. The statements on which his charges were based were, all made before America entered the war, the trustees maintaining they were ripped from their context and their meaning distorted. The School categorically denies that it "disseminated anti-democratic and pro-appeasement propaganda" and they wish and welcome investigation by any group in the United States. The School is supported by voluntary contributions; its teachers and most of its staff serve without pay; it offers free classes in fundamental economics and social philosophy with the works of Henry George as texts; it espouses no political ideology and sponsors no organizations; it was against taking any political sides, Miss Bateman declared, for according to Henry George

correct thought, not parties or revolutions, was the only way to secure social reform. The one thing they were opposed to was totalitarianism. In her statement, Miss Bateman referred to one of the new and widely circulated publications of the School being the pamphlet "On Human Rights," consisting of extracts of speeches by the Rt Hon Winston Churchill (this includes the famous Edinburgh speech on the Land Monopoly); and she recalled that Josiah Wedgwood, M.P., whose criticism of isolationists during a visit to the U.S.A. led an American first chapter to demand that he be ousted from the United States, had represented the School at the round table discussion of public affairs at the University of Virginia last July. The chairman of the board of trustees is Mrs Anna George de Mille, the daughter of Henry George; other trustees are mostly business men, some retired, and one is Francis Neilson, a former member of the British Parliament.