

## One Man Builds a Henry George School (In the Merseyside Area of Britain)

Vaguely feeling that the success of the Georgist movement required "Progress and Poverty" classes, I suggested such classes at the International Conference at Oxford in 1923. I saw that League meetings, addresses, letters to newspapers, sale of literature, etc., did not produce results commensurate with the efforts made. Closer and more continuous contact with those to whom the subject was introduced seemed necessary.

From June to September, 1935, I conducted a Reading Circle for George's "Social Problems" in the room of the Liverpool League. In January, 1936, I formed a similar Reading Circle in Waterloo to study "Social Problems" before proceeding to "Progress and Poverty." I had read of the HGSSS in "Land and Liberty," but did not perceive the great possibilities of the school until I heard Mr. Lancaster Greene at the International Conference at London in September, 1936, and later when Mrs. Anna George de Mille addressed the Liverpool League.

A Liverpool class was formed with a nucleus of League members, with Mr. F. R. Jones, then Secretary, as the class-guide, in September, 1936. Four other courses have since been held. Mr. Curzon Newhouse opened a Birkenhead class in October, 1936. Since then he has conducted four or five courses. An offshoot of this class is one which opened in Bebington last January.

I opened the Waterloo and District class in September, 1936. Since then, I have formed and acted as the class-guide of eight consecutive classes; there have been no breaks in class meetings, except during the summer months. The ninth class finished the course on the 12th of July last. I expect to open the tenth class in September.

The members of these classes have been secured chiefly by visits to likely people. At the beginning I had to plough a lonely furrow, having no one to assist me. Funds did not permit the adoption of the American procedure for securing students. I made, and keep making, a card index of people who I think might be interested. This consists of

the names and addresses of persons whom I meet, of newspaper correspondents whose letters indicate liberal thought, of those who propose and second the purchase of books of a serious kind in the Public Lending Library, etc. Also, I attend meetings of progressive bodies, selecting and finding the names and addresses of those who I think should be visited.

Believing that the number of class-guides should be an ever-increasing one I encourage students to form classes. Accordingly: Cecil S. Craig, B.A., has formed and conducted four Crosby classes; J. Wilkenson has formed and conducted five Crosby classes; E. P. McManus (my son) has formed and conducted two Crosby classes; F. Sutton has formed and conducted one Crosby class. During the last two and a half years the School work in Crosby has been the means of introducing "Progress and Poverty" to over 200 people.

A class for the study of the "Science of Political Economy" will open this month. Mr. Cecil S. Craig, B.A., has consented to be the class-guide. This class has been recruited from the members of the Crosby Henry George Fellowship.

The Crosby Henry George Fellowship was formed in July 1938. So far as I know it is the first Fellowship in Britain and, perhaps, the only one. It maintains the association of the students of the Waterloo and District classes by means of monthly discussions on economic and political subjects, relateable to the principles of "Progress and Poverty."

Since May, I have been promoting correspondence course of the School, doing the preliminary work which makes it easy for a student to enroll—viz., supplying him with a copy of "Progress and Poverty," of the blue questionnaire, of the first lesson sheet, and of the directions for the study and transmission of the lesson sheets to London. During the last six weeks this has been the means of my introducing "Progress and Poverty" to thirty people.

E. G. McMANUS.