

New York Commencement Packs Hall as 650 Get Certificates

NEW YORK—The Engineering Auditorium, 29 West 39th Street here, was packed to capacity the evening of Dec. 13 for annual commencement exercises of the Henry George School of Social Science. More than 900 persons attended, of whom the majority represented the 650 students who had just completed courses in fundamental economics and social philosophy in the metropolitan classes of the school.

Eckert Speaks

Representative Charles R. Eckert of Pennsylvania, the principal speaker, himself an instructor of the school, pointed out that the celebration was being duplicated in 110 cities throughout the country in which the School maintains extensions and declared that the success of the institution as a device for mass education, typified in these gatherings, was an augury of success for the cause to which the School is dedicated.

"This celebration is a duplicate of others all over the country," he said.

"Greatest Step"

"I have been a student of the Georgist movement for the past forty years and I am satisfied that this is the greatest step yet taken to correct the social problems with whom we are confronted. The message of Henry George cannot be other than a stimulation to higher and better things. It has made a profound impression upon the economic thought of the world."

Other speakers were Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington, Del., Stephen Bell of Clifton, N. J., and Colonel Victor A. Rule of Chicago.

Mrs. Anna George de Mille, beloved daughter of Henry George and president of the School board, welcomed the gathering. The Rev. George Duff, pastor of the Riverdale Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation. Lancaster M. Greene, member of the School board, presided.

For the graduating classes, two students, Dimitri Soussloff, an engineer, and R. Joseph Manfrini, head of the investment brokerage firm of Manfrini & Company, 50 Broad Street, spoke. Mr. Soussloff, who was born in Moscow, where his father was the American vice consul, and educated in Brussels and at Columbia College and Columbia University Engineering School, urged his fellow students to take part in the effort to bring the philosophy of Henry George from the drawing room to the masses. Mr. Manfrini, who is known as the writer of an outstanding bond letter and of financial articles, said that he had reached the conclusion after taking the School's course that it would free the minds of the intelligent.

Following the exercises there was an informal reception and dancing in an adjacent ballroom. The program was arranged by a committee designated by Sidney Tobias as president of the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship, headed by Miss Claudia Pearlman, aided by Frank Chodorov, director of the School, and Miss Teresa McCarthy, secretary. The reception was arranged by Dr. S. A. Schneidman.

Wire Greetings

Abe Waldauer, City Solicitor of Memphis, Tenn., sent a telegram of greeting to the graduates, expressing regret that an unexpected injunction suit involving the State Election Commission of which he is president, prevented him from delivering his scheduled address. Governor Herbert H. Lehman of New York sent a telegram expressing regret that official engagements at Albany prevented his attendance and said:

"May I ask you to convey to the members of the graduating class my hearty greetings and good wishes? I hope they will meet with full measure of success and attain satisfaction and contentment in their work."