

August 1967

## To Extension Directors and Teachers:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE The 23rd Annual Conference of the Henry George School has come and gone like a whirlwind, but leaving an indelible impression. Held July 26-30 at the College Jean de Brebeuf in Montreal, it attracted a larger number of persons than usual, doubtlessly because of Expo 67.

The Conference is being reported in the August and September issues of the Henry George News, and here is a further report on the School sessions.

Directors attending the Conference included: Harry Payne (Montreal), Laurie Mannell (Toronto), James Ramsay (Alberta), Robert Clancy (New York), M.S. Lurio (Boston), John Tetley (New Jersey), George Collins (Philadelphia), Stanley Rubenstein (Long Island), William D. Buhr (Assistant Director New York and Director of Northern New Jersey extension), Robert D. Benton (Michigan), Mina Olson (Chicago), Loral D. Swofford (St. Louis), Robert Tideman (Northern California), Harry Pollard (Los Angeles), and Phillip Wallace (Jamaica, West Indies).

On Wednesday, July 26, a pre-Conference meeting of School directors was held in the afternoon, chaired by Robert Clancy. The main topic of discussion was, "What is the job of a Henry George School director?"

A round robin among the directors produced varying answers, but there was a core of agreement. The basic job of a School director is the conducting of classes in Fundamental Economics and related subjects. Around this, other jobs present themselves - attracting students, training teachers, raising funds, creating a good institutional image, and thinking in long-range terms - both with respect to the School and the economic philosophy it teaches.

There was some difference of opinion as to the responsibility of the director in holding the continued interest of the students after they have completed the basic course. Some felt it was up to the student to show interest and decide what he would do; others felt the School should try to stimulate the continued interest of the students, and a few felt this was the most important aspect of a director's job. However, all agreed that it is the aim of the School to spark active and continued interest on the part of its students.

There was also some discussion on the matter of related organizations in the same city as a School extension. What kind of problem do they pose, and how can they co-operate without getting in each other's way? One case is that of the Public Revenue Education Council in St. Louis. Another is that of the Institute for Economic Inquiry in Chicago, which also retains the use of the name Henry George School of Social Science, thus resulting in some confusion. It was agreed that frank and friendly discussions on the part of all concerned would be of mutual benefit.

On Thursday morning a School session on getting students was held, with Phillip Wallace serving as chairman. He commented that it is difficult to attract students in Jamaica as they either want regular academic education or training for job skill. Loral Swofford told of his efforts to get students and set up classes, including a special class in a business college in which 30 enrolled and 29 completed (one student having been dropped for infraction of school attendance rules). Mr. Swofford feels this is a fruitful avenue that has been opened and hopes to explore it further.

(over)

Stanley Rubenstein reported on plans undertaken to launch a new extension on Long Island, with 5 classes scheduled for Fall. He proposes to work closely with schools and other institutions, and to build up speaking engagements and discussion seminars as well as classes. Among his colleagues are the founders of H.A.L.T. (Homeowners Association for Lower Taxes) who are trying to call the attention of homeowners to the tax and assessment problem. This, however, will be kept separate from the School.

There was another special session for directors on Friday morning. One of the topics discussed was the matter of awards to be presented to outstanding Georgists. There was continuing interest in this subject which was broached at the 1966 Conference. It was felt that it could be an annual award (a plaque or medal) presented by the Henry George School to the "outstanding Georgist of the year". An alternative suggestion was that the International Union make the award every time an International Conference is held. The matter will be further pursued.

Another topic at this session was the situation in Toronto, where the Director, Laurie Mannell, says he finds it difficult to keep up many different chores, and be answerable to various persons and groups, including the Board of the Toronto extension, the Alumni Group and New York headquarters. Other directors concurred in urging that the "chain of command" be clarified and simplified, and that the director should consider himself responsible first and foremost for the job of forming classes, other jobs to be undertaken as time and facilities permit.

A School session on Saturday morning (William Buhr, chairman) was divided between reports from Alberta and California. James Ramsay told of his first school year in Alberta, where a School of Economic Science was formed and incorporated. He has finished a long course (the 3 basic courses) and considers that he is attracting high-calibre persons. A tuition fee is charged. Mr. Ramsay is stationed in Calgary, but is working in Edmonton and other centers.

Wilbur Freeland of Peace River supplemented Mr. Ramsay's report with some of Alberta's historical background, showing that there is a good basis for Georgist progress there. It is the only Canadian province that has no sales or income tax; the mainstay of public revenue is the real estate tax and the royalties from the oil fields.

Robert Tideman told of special activities in Northern California. He considers the branch system set up a few years ago to have proven successful. Within the past year the Sacramento branch has been enlarged to take advantage of the interest aroused by the election of Irene Hickman as assessor. Mr. Tideman has made appearances on radio and TV, and the Northern California extension has sponsored two TV shows - one on property assessments and one on land tenure problems in Vietnam.

In Los Angeles too, the director, Harry Pollard, has been active in broadcasting. He put in 23½ hours in July on KPFK alone (a subscription FM station), and has appeared on other radio and TV shows. Mr. Pollard assisted in obtaining newspaper publicity for the Montreal Conference, and this led to the suggestion that at future Conferences there be workshop sessions on such matters as publicity.

Sunday morning was the final session, chaired by John Tetley, and included evaluation and future plans. It was readily agreed that this was a constructive and heartening Conference. For future Conferences the following suggestions were made: Have separate work sections on different subjects which delegates can choose. Do not take off so much time for recreation (e.g., Expo could have been visited before or after the Conference). Tap more talent, make more use of the people who attend.

It was agreed that the 1968 Conference would be held in Miami Beach early in July (probably July 3-7). There will also be an International Conference in Wales, September 8-14, and it is hoped that many can attend both Conferences.

The Sunday morning session wound up with an unscheduled panel discussion on the ghetto problem and the recent riots, with Robert Tideman, Robert Benton and Benjamin Smith participating.

In the afternoon Strethel Walton held open house at the Montreal School headquarters, and several visited.

As we drifted away, we could well feel inspired by a top-rate Conference, and by the many sincere and dedicated Georgists whom we met and with whom we exchanged views.

Back at our jobs we might find inspiration too in a poem by Matthew Arnold, read by Phil Wallace:

"We cannot kindle when we will  
The fire that in the heart resides;  
The spirit bloweth and is still.  
In mystery our soul abides.  
But tasks in hours of insight will'd  
Can be through hours of gloom fulfill'd.

"With aching hand and bleeding heart  
We dig and heap, lay stone on stone;  
We bear the burden and the heat  
Of the long day and wish 'twere done.  
Not till the hours of light return,  
All we have built do we discern."

Sincerely,

Robert Clancy

Below is a list of delegates who registered in advance for the Montreal Conference. It is not a complete list of all who attended. (There were 178 persons at the Conference Banquet.)

A. Violette Allen, New York, N.Y.	Helen Chisholm, Hartford, Conn.
Noah D. Alper, St. Louis, Mo.	Lucia Cipollini, Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. & Mrs. R.V. Andelson, Auburn, Miss.	George Collins, " "
G.W. Anderson, Detroit, Mich.	Mrs. George Coleman, N.J.
Mrs. M. Auerbach, New York, N.Y.	J. Collins, Ottawa
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Bea, Toronto, Ont.	Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Cramer, San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Irma Belliak, New York, N.Y.	Alice Davis, New York, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. R.D. Benton, Detroit, Mich.	Mr. & Mrs. A.F. DeMaria, New York, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bergen, " "	Jerry Enright, Syracuse, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. W. Berry, Long Island, N.Y.	Mr. & Mrs. J. Esty, Detroit, Mich.
Misses Roma & Neva Bianco, New York, N.Y.	Dr. & Mrs. G. Esty, Princeton, N.J.
Rev. H.E. Blackman, " " "	Ian Evans, Hamilton, Ont.
Dr. George Borchard, Montreal	Mrs. Carol Fekieta, New York, N.Y.
William D. Buhr, Mahwah, N.J.	J. Fisher, Toronto, Ont.
Mr. & Mrs. Wm Camargo, New York, N.Y.	Mr. & Mrs. W. Freeland, Peace River, Alta.
Mr. & Mrs. Wm Cartile, Montreal	Regina Frank, New York, N.Y.
Mr. & Mrs. Heman Chase, Alstead, N.H.	Ted Frank, New York, N.Y.
Robert Clancy, New York, N.Y.	Rose Ganser, Montreal
R.E. Cozad, Dayton, Ohio	Mr. & Mrs. H.A. Gieffers, New York, N.Y.

(over)

Mr. & Mrs. A. Goldfinger, Newark, N.J.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gosselin, Montreal  
 Lancaster M. Greene, New York, N.Y.  
 Ted Gwartney, Southfield, Mich.  
 Josephine Hansen, New York, N.Y.  
 Ilse Harder, New York, N.Y.  
 Dorothy Hartman, New York, N.Y.  
 Rhoda Hellman, " " "  
 Julian Hickok, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Ruth Hilling, Montreal  
 Tom Hindle, Ontario  
 Miss F.D. Hoffman, New York, N.Y.  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. Hutzler, Toronto, Ont.  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Huckabone, Detroit, Mich.  
 Mr. & Mrs. S. Jaffrey, New York, N.Y.  
 Gilbert Kaminsky, " " "  
 James Kaunas, " " "  
 Mr. & Mrs. C. Kinsella, " " "  
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Klag, Montreal  
 Heinz Koern, Toronto, Ont.  
 Alice Kreppel, New York, N.Y.  
 Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Lapham, "  
 Geo. Learn Sr., St. Louis, Mo.  
 Mr. & Mrs. M.S. Lurio, Boston, Mass.  
 Wayne Luney, Calif.  
 Dr. Edith McBrady, Chicago, Ill.  
 N. J. Maltz, New York, N.Y.  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Mannell, Oakville, Ont.  
 Madeleine Marceau, Montreal  
 Maria Marchan, Chicago, Ill.  
 Chris Markland, Montreal  
 Messrs. H. & W. Marquis, Toronto, Ont.  
 Terry Mazalik, Toronto, Ont.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Melzer, New York, N.Y.  
 Mrs. Claire Menninger, Chicago, Ill.  
 George Menninger Jr. " "  
 Howard Morris, Bellbrook, Ohio  
 James A. Murphy, New York, N.Y.

Mr. & Mrs. H. Nesbitt, Toronto, Ont.  
 Mrs. Mina Olson, Chicago, Ill.  
 Mr. & Mrs. H. Payne, Pointe Aux Trembles  
 Vi Peterson, New York, N.Y.  
 Julia Pigin, " " "  
 Mr. & Mrs. P. Pogovitch, New York, N.Y.  
 Harry Pollard, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 H. Proschansky, New York, N.Y.  
 Roy Raby, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Ramsay, Calgary, Alta.  
 Edith Reichert, New York, N.Y.  
 Zita Rodriguez, " " "  
 Mary Rotkowitz, " " "  
 Stan Rubenstein, Long Island, N.Y.  
 Mary Salucci, Detroit, Mich.  
 Dorothy Sara, New York, N.Y.  
 Dr. Sam Scheck, Long Island, N.Y.  
 Mrs. Toby Schacht, New York, "  
 Jerry Schleicher, Long Island, N.Y.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Sevak, Montreal  
 Sam Slawsby, Boston, Mass.  
 Mr. & Mrs. B.F. Smith, Gr. Rapids, Mich.  
 Robert Stevenson, St. Laurent, Que.  
 Mr. & Mrs. L.D. Swofford, St. Louis, Mo.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Tetley, Newark, N.J.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jos. Thompson, San Francisco  
 Marion Thompson, Toronto, Ont.  
 Mr. & Mrs. S.N. Tideman, Chicago, Ill.  
 Robert Tideman, San Francisco, Calif.  
 Phillip Wallace, Kingston, Jamaica, W.I.  
 Strethel Walton, Montreal  
 Albert Wells, Pointe Claire, Que.  
 Mrs. E. Wickberg, New Jersey  
 Margaret Wilcox, Martha's Vineyard, Mass.  
 Woodrow Williams, Columbus Grove, Ohio  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Wilson, Ont.  
 Trilby Wolff, New York, N.Y.  
 Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Zwicker, Boston, Mass.