

A 3078

School Denies Anti-War Teaching

"It would be just as absurd to take the Bible and conclude that all Christians must be pacifists," said Miss Margaret Bateman. "Or interpret it the contrary, that they have nothing to do but go to war."

Miss Bateman, director of the Henry George School of Social Science, was commenting today on the complaint filed with the State Education Department, the FBI and the Treasury that the school is disseminating antidemocratic and pro-appeasement propaganda.

Off Tax-exempt Rolls.

As a result of the complaint, made by Michael J. Bernstein, who was let out as a volunteer teacher by the school last September, the Education Department has removed the school, owner of a five-story former telephone building at 30 E. 29th St., from the tax-exempt rolls. This is automatic procedure pending an investigation now nearly completed.

"We no more teach anticonscription or opposition to the government's policies than the Bible," she continued. "In fact, we're absolutely against taking any political sides. According to Henry George, politics is not the way. Education is."

"Why, on one day five of our teachers joined the military forces and now our bookkeeper is going. We've offered our classrooms to the OCD for training air wardens."

'Out-and-Out Georgist.'

Prominently displayed on a rack of pamphlets in the school's student room is one called On Human Rights. It is by Winston Churchill, whom Miss Bateman characterized as "an out-and-out Georgist."

As an indication of how unsubsversive the school is she cited the fact that its honorary president is John Dewey, the philosopher. And among its graduates—some 25,000 since 1932—are S. Warren Sturgis,

master of Groton School; L. T. Recker, executive vice president of John S. Swift Co., and Lancaster M. Greene, a trustee, who is an investment broker from Wall St.

Most of its teachers—all voluntary, since the school charges no tuition for the fundamental course, Progress and Poverty, and only \$2 for the advance courses—are doctors, secretaries and other professional people, with lawyers predominant.

Pickets School.

Others on the staff say Mr. Bernstein had his eye on the directorship "before his services were dispensed with." In any event, he recently has been picketing the school and handing out verbose mimeograph statements. From them it's evident he does not oppose the Henry George philosophy as such. He accuses the school of "spurious Georgism and recommends three other groups that follow the single tax theories."

On the basis of statements from The Freeman, the school's magazine, he contends the school forfeited its charter rights. These statements were all made before America entered the war and, according to a statement of the trustees, "were ripped from their context and their meaning distorted."

"On the whole," the trustees said today, "The Freeman has maintained that political democracy without economic democracy is inadequate, as has President Roosevelt; and that free trade should be the normal policy and

the goal of our country, as has Secretary Hull."

George's Kin Heads Board.

Whether or not the school represents the true Henry George, the fact is its chairman of the board is the daughter of the printer-philosopher. She is Mrs. Anna George de Mille, sister-in-law of Cecil B. de Mille. Other trustees are mostly businessmen, some retired; one is Francis Neilson, a former member of the British Parliament.

"The one thing we're opposed to is totalitarianism," commented Miss Bateman. "Above everything Henry George teaches the ethical basis of private property and importance of capitalism; and opposes all forms of Socialism."

As to its war attitude, she pointed out that last July the school was represented before the University of Virginia Round Table of Public Affairs by Col. Josiah Wedgewood, one of the leading labor members of Parliament.

One of Best Teachers.

"Here," she said, "is one of our best teachers." She was Miss May Mason Speed, whose great, great, great grandfather, George Mason, wrote the Virginia Bill of Rights which was taken almost word for word from the Bill of Rights in the Federal Constitution.

"I like to say George Mason wrote the Bill of Rights for the United States," commented Miss Speed, "and Henry George wrote it for the world."