

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL MAGAZINE



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

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(Edited by a panel of Tutors)

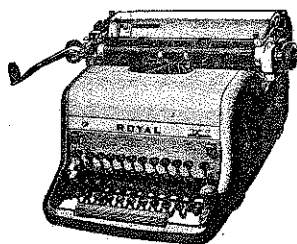
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Vol.4, No 5

May, 1955

Editorial



No idea is more persistent than that if the Government pays for anything then nobody really pays for it. The Government's purse, whether it be opened for the benefit of private individuals, pressure groups or local authorities, is at present filled in only one way - at the expense of the general taxpayer. With selfish or short-sighted disregard for this indisputable fact there is a move afoot through the municipal authorities in Lancashire to appeal to the Government to reduce the interest on loans for public works. What is being asked for is a subsidy at the expense of the taxpayer whatever euphemism it may sail under. On the other hand, local authorities may be fully alive to the economics of the matter, and see in the idea a way of diverting attention from their own hard-to-balance budgets to that of the National Exchequer. This would apply of course if all local authorities obtained relief in the same proportion - otherwise these with heavy expenditure on public works would stand to gain by the scheme. Whichever way the matter is looked at, it is not a good idea.

There are, however, other issues involved in the high cost of public works. So long as any element of monopolistic restriction exists, the costs of housing and public works will remain arbitrary and costly to the ratepayers, and free trade by the operation of the price mechanism (fluctuating according to supply and demand) in a free market is indispensable. What is also of importance is the way in which the expenditure of large sums of money for the provision of public services enhances the economic rent of land. This value, being created by the community, belongs to them and not to private individuals, who as things stand pocket the proceeds which result from civic endeavour. If rates were levied on the unimproved site value of land and taken off all buildings and general economic development, the advantages of civic enterprise reflected in land values would revert to the community. Public works in short could largely be made to pay for themselves.

Roots of Unrest

in Italy

By John Bathe

Will Italy turn Communist or Fascist? The Italians hope to thwart both these movements by Land Reform, assisted by a programme of public works.

The concentration of land ownership has much to do with Italy's agricultural decay. Of 5,000,000 peasant families, 4,200,000 possess no land or less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres. There are approximately 40,000 landowners owning 150 or more acres each.

According to Mr. Frank Meissner, writing in the "American Journal of Economics and Sociology", October 1954, the peasants of southern Italy have suffered most from landowners who care little for their estates. There have been many peasant uprisings and mass revolts, several suppressed not without bloodshed. In 1901 a national trade union for agricultural workers was formed (and later outlawed by Mussolini). Between 1900 and 1914 there were no less than 3,005 agricultural strikes.

Agrarian Reform has long been a topic of conversation in Italy, but until recent years no Italian government made much attempt to break up the large estates. In 1945 a new trade union, popularly called *Confederterra*, was formed. The workers' actions now made reform inevitable. In 1946 at Puglia there was the first "reverse strike"; labourers worked on the estates of owners who refused to employ them. On the Saturday, they forcibly demanded payment from the owners for the work they had done.

In post-war Italy the reverse strike has become a major weapon of union warfare. The most famous reverse strike precipitated the Land Reform Act of Fucino, a 40,000 acre estate in the central province of Abruzzi. This *latifundo* was owned by Prince Torlonia, who rented 14,000 acres to tenant farmers. The Prince received a large rent but did little to modernise his estate. The roads were bad, several fields were permanently flooded and the irrigation system was chaotic.

The Prince refused to utilise his land fully. The peasants who lived in the district, many unemployed, realised that if the estate was fully utilised, it would provide them all with employment. They decided to oust Prince Torlonia from his estate; this campaign started in February 1950. The struggle was fierce.

Everyone took part, including members of the clergy. Eventually the Government were forced to expropriate Prince Torlonia's estate.

In Sila, a plateau where 50% of the land was owned by 5% of the landlords, the Government was not to be forestalled - they had everything planned in advance. By January 1950 the Land Reform Act of Sila had been passed. It was decided to begin at the hilltop village of San Severo. The land distribution ceremony was performed by the Minister of Agriculture on 24th September 1950. The result was that over 400 citizens of San Severo left the Communist Party. Next day the Party's local headquarters was closed and a notice on the door said "Closed for shame."

Up to January of last year, the Italian Government had passed legislation enabling 3,000,000 acres of land to be distributed among 250,000 families. Expropriation decrees for over 1,250,000 acres exist and of these 500,000 acres have been distributed to some 40,000 families. The land reform has cost over £280,000,000.



The Communists, whose vote was increased by 4% to 34% at the 1953 elections, whilst criticising the Government for doing too little, too slowly, boast that if it had not been for them, the Government would have done nothing. The landowners feel that the Government has done too much.

A Sicilian landowner shot dead the Mayor of San Gregorio when he recommended the distribution of the landowner's estate.

The Government's technical advisers think the scheme extremely expensive and likely to show little return on the money spent (mostly in compensation to landowners). Another criticism is that the scheme exists only in isolated areas and consequently its effect has not been generally felt. A more serious defect is that under the present scheme land values are left in private hands. If the Italian Government is not careful, the American capital poured into Italy's extensive public works programme will end up as increased land values and go into the pockets of private individuals. The fact is, the Italian Government's land scheme is no solution to poverty. Such schemes, even when practised on a large scale, in the long run cause fragmentation; as Dr. Pulvirenti, writing in the first number of the Italian magazine "Croglio" 1954, tells us, the holdings given to the peasants, even now, are too small to support them.

(continued over)

Extreme poverty still exists in Italy. There are over 2,000,000 unemployed and 2,000,000 on "short time". Dr. Pulvirenti, who is principal of the "Ethos" Institute of Milan, states that 232,000 families live in shacks and caves and over 1,078,000 families live three to a room.

If Italy could once solve her rural problems, it would do much to ease the conditions of her towns. The latifundian system of ownership has, over the centuries, pushed many thousands of peasants out of agriculture and into the towns and then restricted the necessary growth of the towns. The increased demand for what town land was available made its price artificially high, with the result that narrow streets and slum properties abound.

The real solution to Italy's problem is liberty - none being allowed to exploit their fellows. If the Italian Government were to collect the publicly created land values in lieu of taxes, the country would be well on the way to liberty and the end of involuntary poverty.

GIVING THE SHOW AWAY!

The following letter in "The Times", 21st April, 1955, attempting to justify government intervention on behalf of sectional interests, unwittingly reveals the amount of pressure that can be exerted by special groups to foster and entrench privilege at the expense of the unorganised consumer.

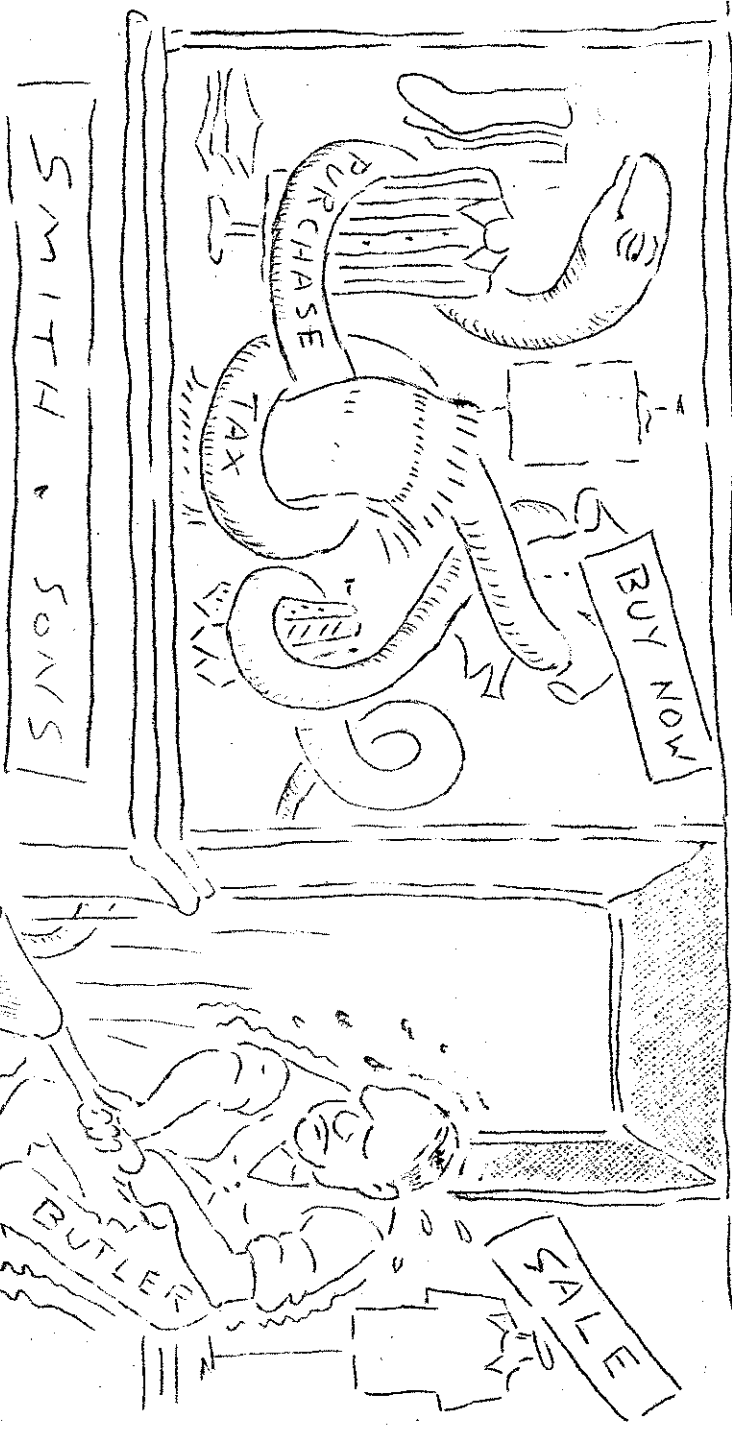
Sir: Do the critics of some of the so-called restrictive practices in trade and industry ever consider how trade agreements form the very basis of our economic life, as they do in every industrial country? The much-praised Schuman Plan community linking the iron and steel production of six European countries is, for

instance, nothing more than a typical trade agreement, as can be found in British industry, transferred into the international field. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is another example of an attempt to bring order into trading. Why are such agreements not branded as "price rings"?

What is good for international trading can obviously not be bad for domestic trading, and it is of interest to note that in the past British Governments of all political colours have encouraged self-protective measures designed to safeguard the interests of industry and its employees. Frequently they have intervened to enforce such measures as licensing, fair wages Acts, trade boards and redundancy schemes. Furthermore, many of the newer trade associations owe their existence to direct requests from the Government to the industry concerned to act together. In view of these considerations, it is impossible not to draw the conclusion that much of the criticism voiced today is prompted by short-term party political considerations.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS SPENCE,
Managing Director, Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd.

SMITH & SONS
TEXTILES
HAIRDASHERY



Wm. H.

What Others Have Said

(No. 2)

JOSHUA WILLIAMS An English subject may enjoy the absolute ownership of goods, but not of land. The king is the supreme owner, or lord paramount, of every parcel of land in the realm.

- "Principles of the Law of Real Property".

LORD CHIEF
JUSTICE COLERIDGE All laws of property must stand upon the footing of the general advantage; a country belongs to the inhabitants.

- "Laws of Property".

SIR FREDERICK
POLLOCK No absolute ownership of land is recognised by our law books except in the Crown.

- "English Land Laws".

SHELDON AMOS The land cannot be looked upon, even provisionally, as a true subject of permanent individual appropriation.

- "The Science of Law".

J.A. FROUDE Land was never private property in that personal sense of property in which we speak of a thing as our own with which we may do as we please.

- "History of England".

PROFESSOR PAUL
VINOGRADOFF There seems to be hardly anything more certain in the domain of archaic law than the theory that the soil was originally owned by groups, and not by individuals.

- "Growth of the Manor".

EMILE DE LAVELAYE It is only after a series of progressive evolutions, and at a comparatively recent period, that individual ownership, as applied to land, is constituted.

- "Primitive Property".

WILLIAM PALEY The land was once, no doubt, common; and the question is, how any particular part of it could justly be taken out of the common, and so appropriated to the first owner as to give him a better right to it than others, and what is more, a right to exclude all others from it.

- "Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy".

ADAM SMITH The wood of the forest, the grass of the field, and all the natural fruits of the earth, which, when land was in common, cost the labourer only the trouble of gathering them, come, even to him, to have an additional price fixed upon them, when land has become private property. He must then pay for the licence to gather them, and must give up to his landlord a portion of what his labour either collects or produces. This portion, or what comes to the same thing, the price of this portion, constitutes the rent of land.

- "Wealth of Nations".

RICARDO Rent is that portion of the produce of the earth which is paid to the landlord for the use of the original and indestructible powers of the soil.

- "Principles of Political Economy".

JOHN STUART MILL The essential principle of property being to assure to persons what they have produced by their own labour and accumulated by their abstinence, this principle cannot apply to what is not the produce of labour, the raw material of the earth. No man made the land: it is the original inheritance of the whole species. ... The land of every country belongs to the people of that country.

- "Principles of Political Economy".

PROFESSOR J. E. CAIRNES Sustained by some of the greatest names -- I will say by every man of the first rank in political economy -- from Turgot and Adam Smith to Mill, I hold that the land of a country presents conditions which separate it economically from the great mass of the other objects of wealth.

- "Political Economy".

J.B. SAY The earth is the only agent of nature, or nearly so, that one set of men take to themselves to the exclusion of others; and of which consequently they can appropriate the benefits. Happily no one has yet been able to say, "The wind and the sun are mine, and the service which they render must be paid for."

- "Economie Politique".

Contemporary Comments 1888

From Henry George's "The
Standard", New York,
Saturday, 26th May.
1888

That titled pauper, the Duke of Bedford, who is allowed to maintain a private custom house in London under the pretence of a public market, is having a pretty strong light thrown upon him by the London "Star". Recently the lease of a public house on his Grace's property expired. The tenant was a widow, a Mrs. Best, whose husband had paid \$2,500 for the goodwill of the business years before. She received a peremptory notice to quit, and, applying for a renewal of the lease, was told that she would be accepted as a tenant, but of course must pay several thousand dollars for the goodwill, which now belonged to the Duke of Bedford. She left her house ruined and broken-hearted. Another case was that of a salesman retiring from business. He had sold his goodwill to the incoming tenant for \$4,000, but the Duke's agent demanded that the money should be paid to him, and refused to give the new tenant a lease until this was done. Take it altogether, the Duke of Bedford seems to be doing a good deal for the cause of land reform in England.

SOCIETY NOTES. Some of the very poor of Philadelphia get their small children taken care of in public institutions during the winter and draw them out in the spring.

FISHING DISPUTE

(Continued from
last issue)

DIARY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS. June 1949. The Icelandic Government invited all countries represented on the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to a Conference in Reykjavik, to take place on 15th August 1949. The purpose of this Conference was to place Faxe Bay under an international control for a period of ten years, with a further five years in which to give Treaty effect to the findings resulting from the ten years' control. This Conference did not take place because the British

Government, in a letter dated 6th August, 1949, refused to take part, but postulated the desirability of these matters being handles by the Over-fishing Convention.

October 1949: The Icelandic Government notified the United Kingdom Government of its intention to terminate the 1901 Agreement between the United Kingdom and Denmark. In acknowledging this Note, the United Kingdom Government obtained an undertaking from the Icelandic Government that Iceland would post-pone any action in the matter until the Anglo-Norwegian dispute had been settled at the Hague.

October 1950: Great Britain submitted her case against Norway to the International Court at the Hague, objecting to the Norwegian claim that the Scandinavian principle of four miles from headland to headland was appropriate for Norway to use in defining her territorial limits. On the 18th December 1951, the verdict was given in favour of Norway.

January 1952: The Icelandic Minister of Fisheries and his officers were in London for over a fortnight, attending meetings at the Foreign Office to discuss the whole matter and define and explain Iceland's proposed boundaries. Discussions took place between Departmental Chiefs and the British Fisheries' authorities.

March 1952: The Icelandic Government published its Regulation for the conservation of the fisheries off the coast of Iceland, based on the findings of the International Court in the Hague in the Anglo-Norwegian dispute, namely, a base-line drawn between the outermost points, bays and rocks off the coast of Iceland and across the openings of the bays, the conservation line being drawn four miles seaward. Experts in this field of International Law were consulted before the final decision in drawing these lines was taken.

In these areas all trawling and seine-netting, Iceland as well as foreign, is prohibited. The statement concluded,

"The Policy of the Icelandic Government in this matter is inter alia based on the decision reached by the International Court at the Hague in the dispute between Great Britain and Norway on the 18th December, 1951. "

Notes between the Governments of Great Britain and Iceland were interchanged in May 1952 and on 18th June, 1952. Both Governments having defined their points of view, it was mutually agreed that further correspondence was not called for.

There the matter remained.

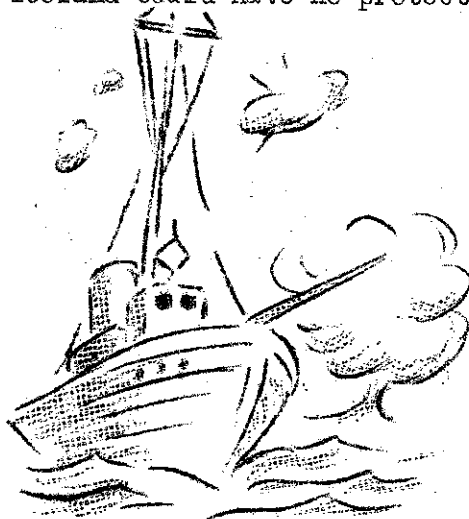
At the instigation of the British trawler owners large-scale propaganda against Iceland began, and step by step this had to be dealt with. Iceland spends normally in the United Kingdom two to two-and-a-half times as much as she sells here, and traditionally has looked to Great Britain for a wide range of products for her

industrial and domestic use. Regulated landings of Icelandic trawlers at a time of the year when the fish was needed by the British housewife have provided not only substantial sterling to pay for these purchases, but employment and trade during the winter period of great value to the ports at which the landings have taken place. This tradition is of approximately forty years' standing, and has provided a good example of reciprocal trading activities.

Trawler Owners' Monopoly of Landings' Policy.

British trawler owners have always had in mind the elimination of landings from all vessels except their own. At Grimsby in 1935 they sought to extract a promise from the merchants that they would limit their buying to fish landed from British ships. The merchants' reply was that they were serving the best interests of the British trawler owners by maintaining and developing a strong market, and for that purpose they had to obtain good fish from whatever source. They therefore refused to give the requested assurance.

During the war British trawling interests were obviously unable to pursue this policy. The Icelandic fleet was effectively controlled by the British Admiralty from 1940, when Great Britain occupied Iceland. Throughout the war Icelandic ships had to cease supplies to their customers in other countries, and concentrate wholly upon Great Britain; they were paid in accordance with prices negotiated with the British trawling industry through the Ministry of Food, and were instructed at which port to land. All these arrangements were covered by agreement, subject to annual revision. As a neutral, Iceland could have no protection whatever for her vessels, which



sailed unarmed and unconvoyed. By the end of the war she had lost 42% of her cargo boats, 21% of her trawlers, and had made 2,000 trips to Great Britain under the agreements, bringing 75% of Great Britain's war-time fish supplies. She lost 261 men in so doing. At the time her Sea Rescue Services saved the lives of 697 Britons.

With the war ended, by arrangement and largely at the suggestion of the British Government, the credits accumulated in this country were used to rebuild her fleet, but only after all the berths in the builders' yard had been offered to and refused by the British trawler owners (with one exception).

The time was now ripe for the British trawler owners to take the next step in their long-term policy, that of discrimination against foreign trawler landings, in breach of established

international practices. This discrimination involved berthing after British trawlers, withholding of labour, and loading the charges for the hire of facilities owned by the British trawler owners at the ports. In this way the already heavy handicap of 10% duty to the Icelandic trawlers was increased by her ships being held up for upwards of 48 hours before being unloaded, and hire charges for gear providing a substantially increased revenue to the British trawler owners as compared with the revenue obtained from their own ships for those services. In the last full year Icelandic trawler owners paid Grimsby trawler owners £32,000 for hire of gear!

Total Boycott. This policy of discrimination was replaced by one of total boycott, which became effective in November 1952. In order that the matter might be taken to the Hague - a course of action which Iceland has always been willing to accept - the then Mr Anthony Eden interviewed for three hours the British trawling interests without effect. They had secured the elimination of Icelandic landings in this country, and had made it abundantly clear that, whatever the decision at the Hague, they would not withdraw their boycott.

In January 1953 they made an "offer", which was to the effect that if the Icelandic Government would cancel its conservation policy and territorial limits and revert to the previous position, they would be prepared then to consider lifting the ban, and discussing with the Icelandic Government what steps should be taken.

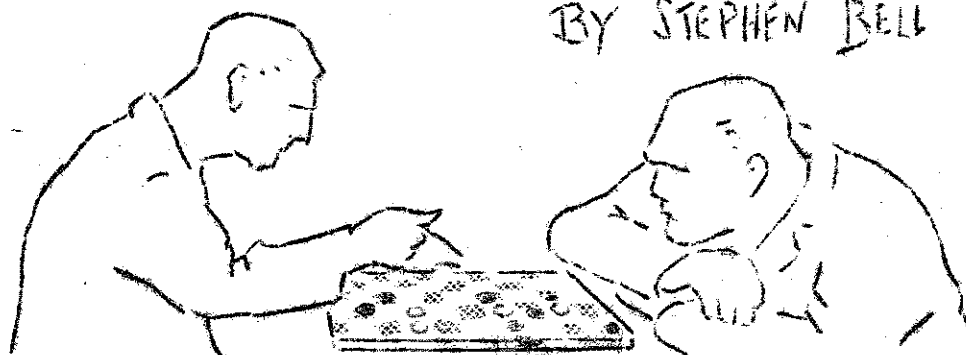
Throughout these proceedings the tendency has been to endeavour to get the Icelandic Government to deal with the British trawler owners; and Iceland has had to protest that these matters are issues to be dealt with between Governments. Great Britain's latest Note has sought Iceland's agreement to take just one detail to the Hague, namely, the line across Faxa Bay, while maintaining intact her objections to the rest of the Icelandic policy as defined in her Regulations. Iceland's reply has been to express willingness to see this matter dealt with by the International Court, but she has requested Great Britain as a condition that this total boycott organised by the British trawler owners, be rescinded.

One would have thought that it was in the interests of Great Britain to get her own door-step clean before appearing before the International Court to arraign another and smaller Power; but the British Government's last Note makes it abundantly clear that it is prepared to take no further steps in the matter, and in effect accepts the boycott which the trawler owners have not ceased in any way to associate with Iceland's territorial policy, but which is clearly would-be monopolistic commercial interests' attempt to get rid of an unwanted competitor.

Since then no discussions or an exchange of Notes have taken place between the Icelandic and United Kingdom Governments.

THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED

BY STEPHEN BELL



Devotees of the game of chess are prone to regard checkers (draughts) as "baby game", not to be compared with the more complex game of kings with its many pieces of varied powers. They are not justified in so regarding it, for checkers has depths which few have plumbed. There are "problems" in the game which will tax the ingenuity of the ablest chess masters to solve. There is one in particular with which I have had considerable fun showing it to chess players, and never yet found one of them to solve it - "Black to play and win." It looks so easy that most of them think they have solved it after a hasty glance, but their solution is no good - white can beat it and play the game to a draw. The one winning move looks so suicidal, so much like throwing the game away, that it is seldom even considered. So it looked to me when first confronted with the problem, and not until it was played against me to a win could I see its crushing power.

So it seems to me, is the age-old and world-wide problem of peace and good will among men. There is a way to win it, and a few men in all ages have seen it, but because it looks like national suicide to most men, they have not believed it practicable, and no nation has accepted it.

Though the keenest and most powerful statesmen and politicians in the world have devoted themselves to the solution of this problem of attaining and maintaining the peace of the world, and some of them have considered and even flirted with the one "move" which would re-orient civilization and lead the nations to the state when they would have no reason to learn war any more, they have drawn back into their shell of nationalism rather than take the step which, they

imagine, would mean national suicide.

Never in all human history has more attention been bestowed on this problem than during and since the first World War, when Germany, sensing acutely that her position in the forefront of civilization was precarious, sought to fortify it by force of arms. Let us therefore consider Germany's position and what she might have done to make it secure.

She was a nation of seventy to seventyfive millions of people, inhabiting a territory about four-fifths the size of the State of Texas. Her territory was not so rich in natural resources, either agricultural or industrial, for the sustenance of so large a population was that of some of her neighbours - not as rich as Texas, which was and is better able to support half that number. What wealth Germany possessed had been made by the hardest of hard work, and no one ever claimed that the Germans were not industrious.

A nation in such a position must of necessity be a manufacturing and trading nation. It needs industrial materials from many or all parts of the earth, and markets in which to sell its own products in order to pay for these materials and supplies of all kinds. She saw abroad the materials and markets she needed, and, being a nation of what Frank Vanderlip called "Economic Illiterates", thought the only way she could acquire them was by the might of her arms. Had not other nations before her done the same?

By strange perversion of right reason all nations seem possessed of a belief that the interests of men and nations are incompatible - even conflicting - antagonistic. God never made the world on so diabolical a plan. They are taught - by implication if not explicitly by their dominant schools of economics - that the bringing of goods into a country tends to its impoverishment - while the sending of goods abroad enriches it. "Buy at home" is their well-nigh universal slogan. To sell more abroad than they buy abroad is the aim of their commercial policies, and an excess of imports over exports is regarded as "unfavourable". In their pursuance of this policy they have erected a maze of mutually exclusive tariff barriers cunningly contrived to keep imports at a minimum and encourage exports. Germany was particularly adept at this game of excluding imports and "dumping" exports. Such were the conditions in which international trade had degenerated into a general game of "beggar my neighbour" in which all nations were more or less impoverished, the "have not" nations suffering most.

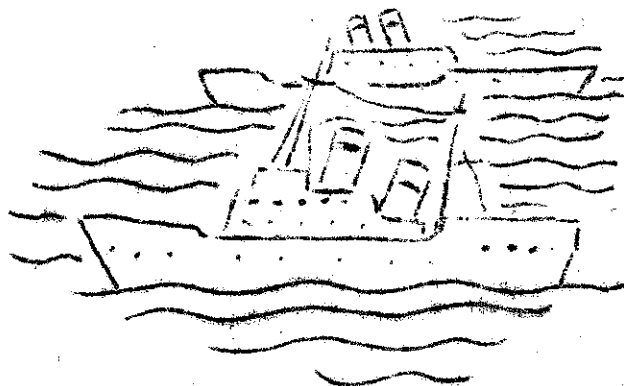
Many centuries ago a man whose name has become a synonym for wisdom wrote: "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty". No saner counsel of liberalism in trade relations was ever uttered, but no nation has ever heeded it - Germany least of all. Had she but used

the wit God gave her she would have seen that the true way to get in fullest measure the supplies of materials and the markets that she needed was to tear down the barriers to trade which she had herself erected, regardless of what other nations did.

This is the "move" which the nations will not take because they fear the "unfavourable trade balance", and that it leads to national economic suicide. That the truth is the exact contrary is abundantly proved by the world's experience of the past thirty years.

Trade - the exchange of goods and services - is the genesis of civilisation, for without trade we would be but solitary savages. The need for evaluating equivalent values in trade has played a

large part in developing our sense of justice. Trade is co-operation, and the vast co-operations which life civilised life above the savage state could not be carried on without trade.



The nation which first arrives at a true realisation of the nature of trade and shapes its policies accordingly will reap a rich reward. Trade is a two-way traffic, to stop which one way stops it both ways. It is the exchange of goods for goods. Money is legal tender and circulates freely only in the land

of its origin. It does not go abroad in payment for imports, for it is a medium of exchange only at home. The nation which first abolishes its own tariff barriers and opens its doors to the free importation of goods from all the world need fear no "deluge" of cheap goods from abroad. They will not come unless wanted and can be paid for, and to pay for them will require a corresponding movement of domestic goods abroad. In ridding itself of the high costs of production which "protective" tariffs impose it will gain a tremendous competitive advantage over its fettered competitors which retain their tariffs, from which handicap they can escape only by themselves adopting the same policy.

Talk of "annexing" the territories, resources and markets of other nations! Germany could have practically "annexed" the resources and markets of the world overnight merely by abolishing her own trade barriers, if she had possessed the wit to see it. Because she did not see it, and no voice to which she would listen was raised to tell her about it, she turned pirate, poisoned the moral atmosphere of the world, wrecked a great portion of it, including herself, and

CONTEMPORARY COMMENTS

THE PRICE OF MONEY Lieutenant-Colonel Lipton asked how many farthings were minted in 1953 and 1954. Mr. H. Brooke (Financial Secretary, Treasury) replied: "6,330,000 in 1953, and 6,566,400 in 1954!" Colonel Lipton: "Are you aware that two years ago it was admitted that it cost a halfpenny to make a farthing and it probably costs even more now? When is the Government going to abandon this unprofitable enterprise and stop wasting money on the creation of farthings?" Mr. Brooke: "It is the duty of the Royal Mint to seek to meet reasonable public demand, and of course the Mint does make a profit in other directions and has to take the swings with the roundabouts." House of Commons, 30th March, 1955.

(Ed: The profit "in other directions" is of course the pumping out of treasury notes at relatively no cost. As the pound is steadily losing its value by about 2/6d every three years, how long will it be before it costs a shilling to make a penny, we wonder?)

SELLING THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has made an Order under the Agricultural Marketing Acts, 1931 to 1949, approving certain Amendments to the Hops Marketing Scheme. The Amendments came into operation on 1st April. They enable the Hops Marketing Board to accept surrender of basic quota made by registered producers and to allot corresponding basic quota to registered producers and others, at any time instead of only on a general review of basic quota as at present. The Board may pay registered producers for surrendering basic quota and require payment for allotting additional basic quota. (Under the scheme, basic quota determines the registered producer's share of the estimated total market demand for hops and is allotted according to past production.)

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT The moral law is unlike statute law, which can be broken. It is unlike statute law in that punishment is not inflicted after indictment, trial and judgment. The punishment is an indissoluble part of the law itself. The unlawful act carries its own punishment with it.

Senator Flanders, V.T.

THIS MEANS YOU! ... We are inclined to relax and let these famous persons do the job. But the truth is that the final course of human affairs is determined by the small, everyday acts of millions of inconspicuous and unpretentious men and women.

Hubbard & Isabella Hoover.

her last state was worse than her first.

That she learned nothing from her experience is evident, since she went at it again, and induced Italy and Japan to join her in the same course, overlooking the move that would win for them and all civilisation more than any nation has yet aspired to.

Nor has the rest of the world learned adequately the true nature of trade. The "winning move" I have set forth for Germany was and is open to all other nations, but they still fail to see it, and it is still as true as when Isaiah said it : "My people are destroyed because they lack knowledge and understanding."

Commercial and industrial freedom is the stone which the builders of civilisation have rejected. When will they take it up and make it the cornerstone thereof? If, like Solomon, their statesmen truly seek "wisdom to govern this great people," they may be sure that not only wisdom but all manner of good things will be their reward.

HOW HENRY GEORGE ELECTRIFIED A GENERATION
AND INFLUENCES THE WORLD TODAY

A definitive biography of one of America's most exciting social thinkers and crusaders for reform, "Henry George" by Charles Albro Barker, will be published by Oxford University Press on April 21. The author, who is Professor of American History at The John Hopkins University, vividly re-creates the atmosphere of mid to late nineteenth-century America. He tells of Henry George's period of wanderlust at sea and throughout the West, his career in California journalism and politics, his rise as a theorist in the field of political economy, and his phenomenal impact on contemporary social thought and on labour and reform politics, following publication of his world-famous "Progress and Poverty." He had a strategy for America's war on want, and with conviction and energy he pitted himself against the slavery of poverty. Not only was he the chief crusader for reform in his day; Henry George's challenge is still exciting.

(From a News Release, Oxford University Press. Pub. in 2 Vols. Price 75/-)

A trained economist planned
To live without access to land;
And would have succeeded
But found that he needed
Food, clothing and ...
Somewhere to stand.

Progress (Australia), April 1955.

LIVING ON RENT? Few retailers are so unrealistic that they ignore the fact that wages are rising in industry, but their attitude has to be dictated by their ability to pay. Already rising overheads are a genuine worry. Rents have shot up, in some cases by 200%, where leases have had to be renewed, and rates are soaring. The rising costs of other things in everyday use in running a retail business look small beside these major items. No wonder so many retailers say that their resources are at full stretch!

The underlining is ours. The quotation is from "Men's Wear" the trade paper of the outfitting trade with the largest circulation. This extract is evidence to support Henry George's theory of the trade cycle, that slumps are mainly caused by land speculation which forces rents, etc., so high that productive industry cannot carry on.

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY AND LAND VALUES At Tyburn, the place was always packed for an execution, and the provision of seats became an excellent investment. Around the gallows on a plot of land belonging to the widow of a cowkeeper named Proctor, was built a row of wooden boxes that were known as "Mother Proctor's Pows". The price of seats was fixed according to the rank of the applicant, and the notoriety of the criminal to be hanged. A first class execution was a very profitable affair. When Earl Ferrers was hanged by a silken rope in 1766, Mother Proctor netted more than £500.

"The Shadow of the Gallows" by Lord Templewood.

HAVING IT BOTH WAYS Mr. Wilson (Lab. Huyton), in the debate on the cotton industry in the House of Commons, April 22nd, said that in Lancashire there was evidence of more seriously developing unemployment and still further falls in production. Losses of workers were so serious that it would be more difficult to get them back if at any time there were a recovery in the industry. It was clear, Mr. Wilson said, that the Government had decided not to introduce quotas to protect Lancashire from "unfair" competition.

The "serious loss of workers" is significant, but more so the statement that it would be more difficult to get them back to the mills! Is it not better that people find and keep jobs outside the mills than be dependent upon public charity for their wages? For this is what it means if import quotas are imposed. We see little difference in principle between asking housewives to contribute to say a "Lancashire Workers' Fund" and asking them to pay extra for cotton goods because of import restrictions designed to keep people in their jobs. Let the Lancashire workers be helped in every way possible while they are changing jobs, but import quotas solve nothing - they only postpone the inevitable at the expense of all.

MORE ABOUT PUERTO RICO

AND LAND MONOPOLY

Being further extracts from
"Latin America in the Future World"
(G. Soule; D. Efron & N.T. Ness, Pub. Farrar and Rinehart)

....It is generally agreed that the appalling Puerto Rican mortality rate is in large measure directly related to widespread food deficiencies among the people of this island, resulting from the monopolisation of land in the interest of monoculture. The situation is aggravated by a disproportion between land resources and population density, as well as by tariff restriction imposed by the United States, which force the island to purchase a substantial part of its food and some of its other necessities in the world's most costly markets. ("In no small part the poverty of the majority of the people is due to the fact that Puerto Rico is included behind the Tariff Wall of the United States." James, "Latin America" - New York and Boston 1942) About 60% of the foodstuffs consumed in Puerto Rico are imported from the United States.

During the Spanish rule, more than three fourths of the arable area of the island was in small landholdings (average 12 acres per farm) devoted to the production of sizeable amounts of the local food requirements. "This general ownership of farms", reported the United States Military Census Commission of 1899, "has unquestionably had a great influence in producing the contented condition of the people of this island, as contrasted with the restlessness of Cuba, where a large proportion of the cultivated area was in the hands of comparatively few landlords." Today, in violation of the Organic Act of Puerto Rico, 367 large farms alone (.7% of the total number) of 500 acres and more each, including the best alluvial soil, comprise about 32% of all the farmland, being chiefly used for cash crop purposes. Whereas in 1899, with a population of 953,000, the per capita utilisation for food crops was about .22 acres, today, with a population almost twice as large, it is only .16. The acute restrictions imposed by the recent shipping shortages upon the importation of foodstuffs brought the situation to a breaking point, dramatically highlighting the lack of wisdom inherent in the policy of land monopoly and monoculture.