

PROGRESS

An Australian Journal to Advocate the Rights of the People in the Land

POLICY: 1. APPROPRIATION OF LAND VALUES OR GROUND RENT AS PUBLIC REVENUE.
2. THE ABOLITION OF TAXES NOW IMPOSED UPON LABOR AND LABOR PRODUCTS.
3. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL ELECTIONS.

No. 521

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

APRIL, 1951.

Price 2d. Subscription 2/- post free.
per annum,
Abroad: 3/- per annum.

A. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., Editor.

Henry George Justice Party

Candidates for Senate Election

The sudden dissolution of both houses of Parliament faced the newly formed Henry George Justice Party with immediate decision as to whether to contest this election. A special meeting was held at which it was decided that despite only four weeks being available to the election day, candidates should be put forward.

It was considered that the previous election a little over a year ago was so recent that much of the work done then would have residual value and that the opportunity should be taken to put the principles of Henry George before the public.

There being ten seats to be filled for the Senate, our candidates would require one-eleventh of the total votes to win a seat. It was considered unlikely that more than one candidate would be successful but that we should run a team of three in order better to focus attention upon the party policy.

The team selected was Mr. L. F. Bawden, Mr. L. J. Hutchinson and Mr. W. V. Tindall. Mrs. E. Serpell, who was originally nominated, had to withdraw before the closing date for nominations.

The campaign committee is dependent for its ability to put its case to the people upon both the financial help and active help which our friends are prepared to give to the cause. Manifestos have been printed and radio and newspaper advertising will depend upon the availability of funds.

If you are prepared to help in any way you are invited to write to the Secretary, Henry George Justice Party, 18 George Parade (off 113 Collins Street) Melbourne, immediately or phone Central 8035.

The Policy.

Taxation and Revenue.

Our objective is the abolition of all taxation upon labor and the things you buy. All necessary public

revenue to be raised by taxation of land values.

Our immediate policy provides for:

- (a) Substantial reduction in the level of government spending.
- (b) Complete abolition of Sales Tax and Pay Roll Tax.
- (c) All round reduction in tariffs with abolition of tariff taxes on housing materials and those goods which are in short supply.
- (d) Co-operation of State Governments to be sought to establish Development Funds from which interest charges on development works such as railways, tramways, water supply and sewerage would be met thus reducing the charges in freights, fares and rates for these services. The Development Funds to be raised by taxes on the land values created and maintained by such services. The Development Funds to replace and supersede existing land taxes.

Trade and Exchange.

Depreciation of the Australian pound has been a major contribution to inflation. We believe that governments should not interfere in trade, either internal or external. We accordingly press for the abolition of exchange control, removal of embargoes and government allocations of "quotas" of imports and exports and for the cessation of government buying and selling other than what is required to operate public utilities.

Monopolies.

We would abolish monopolies by the repeal of the legislation to which they owe their existence, and thus restore to the people the right to choose from whom and where they shall buy their needs.

Marketing Boards.

We believe in the absolute right of the producer to his product, to sell, give or exchange as he thinks fit. We therefore oppose the establishment of government boards, as distinct from voluntary co-operative marketing.

Communism.

We are opposed to Communism and all other forms of subversive action and dictatorship. Our objective will give Social Justice and strike at the root of Communism.

International Relations.

We believe that Foreign Policy should be decided by open debate in Parliament, and by what is called "open diplomacy." A major step towards improved international relationships would be removing the tariff and other barriers against international trade.

Electoral Reform.

We stand for the election of both the Senate and the House of Representatives by proportional Representation as the only just system of voting.

Referenda.

We maintain that a Referendum should be taken on any law passed by Parliament if a sufficient proportion of the total electors enrolled sign a petition asking for this to be done, and that the result of this Referendum should be binding. We also favor the introduction of the Initiative Referendum.

A JUST TAXATION AND LAND POLICY.

Present taxes are not in accordance with just principles. Pay Roll Tax, Sales Taxes and Tariff Taxes are passed on to the consumer in increased prices and are inflationary. They fall heavily on the family man with most bodies to clothe and feed and who can least afford them. They increase the cost of building and make homes scarcer.

Income Tax makes workers, home-owners and farmers who are using their land pay in proportion to their own sweat. Land speculators escape this tax entirely since no income appears in annual returns while land is idle, although the "unearned increment" is reaped on sale. In most districts nearly half the holdings are in this class with no buildings of any kind upon them.

Our policy is to leave the citizen the wealth he produces and instead to draw public revenue from land values. These are due to the presence and industry of the people as a whole and not to individual effort. Our policy is to bring taxation into accord with justice by shifting taxes from EARNED onto UNEARNED wealth.

This policy would solve most of the problems facing Australia today.

PREVENT INFLATION AND LOSS OF VALUE IN THE F

Every year since 1939, taxation has increased and with it there has been increasing inflation. This is not a coincidence. Increasing Government spending is one of the causes of inflation. Federal taxation now is more than twice that of the war budgets and eight times the pre-war figure. Expenditure, other than in public utility departments, should be drastically curtailed.

Another basic cause of inflation is the lack of goods to balance the money in circulation. This shortage of goods is largely a result of penal taxation on production. Our policy would restore the incentive to produce.

THE MENACE OF HIGH LAND PRICES.

Rising prices of land are causing reduced value of income. They make it difficult for new people of small means to engage in production of the wealth that would restore value. They add to the vicious circle of inflation because those who have bought land for use at these high prices already find the burden crippling and seek price increases for their products. Taxation of land values which we advocate, is the only effective means by which the price of land can be reduced, speculation discouraged and genuine farmers or home-seekers secure sites within their means.

HOW TO AVERT THE COMING DEPRESSION.

As soon as high world prices fall off those who have bought for production at present rising land prices will be ruined. Their failure will react and bring hard times to other groups. The bidding of land values beyond earning power has always had this result.

Our land value taxation policy is the only effective means by which depressions can be averted and full employment maintained.

ONLY THROUGH OUR POLICY CAN ALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS IN COMMUNITY CREATED LAND VALUES, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR POSSESSION OF LAND AND SECURITY IN POSSESSION OF THEIR PROPERTY.

Remember.—Every 1, 2, 3 Vote for our Justice candidates is a warning to other parties that basic reforms are needed instead of palliatives.

SITE-VALUE RATING ACTIVITY.**Phillip Island Rating Poll.**

We have now confirmation that in addition to the other places previously reported where polls were demanded with a view to a change to site value rating the Shire of Phillip Island is also to take a poll. The other places were the City of Heidelberg and Borough of Ringwood. Valuations are proceeding in all these places and the polls will be taken on the same day as the municipal elections at the end of August next.

Heidelberg City.

The motion of which notice had been given by Cr. Tuttleby, to change to site-value rating without taking a poll was debated in the council. It was eventually defeated on an eight to four vote. The four in favour were Crs. Tuttleby, Boyd and Sparks of the Ivanhoe Ward and Cr. Burke of the Heidelberg Ward. This is in strong contrast to the position four years ago when not a single councillor was in favour of this change. Cr. Sparks was then one of those most strongly against the change but has seen the light. He made the most striking plea for the change at the recent council meeting when he pointed out that annual value rating was imposing a crippling burden on home-owners.

The change in views of councillors is most welcome. Organisation is proceeding in the area.

Defence of the Realm

FIRST CHARGE ON LAND VALUES.

King Alfred the Great strove "to live worthily." For the defence of the Realm he organized military service by division of the Realm into five military districts. The militia was called "the fyrd" or host and comprised all the freemen, one half of the "fyrd" was on service in the field while the other half guarded the townships and fields. He created a navy which, later, was a fleet of 100 ships. As to finance, he instituted the "feu" or charge on the land; it was a good feature of the Saxon "feudal" system that every freeman had to pay this charge for the land he used as well as provide the arms and food for the militia.

WILLIAM THE NORMAN.

This Conqueror brought over as his financial adviser the Italian, Lanfranc. The Domesday Book is a record of holders of land, the amount of the "feu" due to the King and of the military obligations of the land holders thus bringing Alfred's work up to date in 1068. But William and Lanfranc allowed exemptions to the clerical orders and so undermined the better part of the feudal system. This was the obligation of all land-holders for the defence of the realm. The "National Debt" was unknown. Wars were largely paid off by current production.

The Court of Exchequer called twice a year the sheriff of each county to render the sum of fixed rents from royal domains, Alfred's land tax (called "Dane-geld"), and the feudal aids from barons' estates which formed the chief part of the royal revenue. Local disputes on the assessment of the town rents were settled by a circuit of the Court around the shires.

The feudal system admitted to no one the uncontrolled and exclusive right to land miscalled in our day "freehold." For a feudal "fief" was essentially a trust and to enjoyment was annexed obligation. Noblesse oblige. The sovereign, theoretically the representative of the collective power and rights of the whole people was, in the feudal view, the only "owner" of the land. Although land was granted by him to individuals as a possession, yet in its possession were involved duties, such as military service, by which the enjoyer of its revenues was supposed to render back to the commonwealth an equivalent for the benefits he received by this delegation of the common right.

The land holders of England got "their" land on terms which required them, even in the sparse population of Norman days to put in the field, upon call, sixty thousand fully equipped horsemen. There was the further condition, various fines and charges which amounted to a considerable part of the rent they received. It would probably be a low estimate to put the monetary value of these various services and dues at one half the rental value of the land.

FAILURE OF ENGLISH JUSTICE.

Had the kings been good and strong men and the land holders been kept to this contract, and no common land permitted to be enclosed except upon similar terms, then the income accruing to the Exchequer from English land today in London and

the provinces would have been hundreds of millions. Ample money for the defence of the Realm.

But from the time of the Conquest, the centre of England had been covered with the castles in domain of great nobles whose longings were for "freehold" estates and financial independence.

When Stephen was king there was anarchy as the feudal party broke out in their old lawlessness and defiance of the Crown. Step by step, down the centuries the good kings were those who enforced the payment of feudal dues to the Crown. Sundry wars in defence of the Realm were financed from these ground rents and there was no such hangover as a National Debt. With changing times, had the form of these feudal dues been simply changed into one better adapted to the changed times then English wars need never have occasioned the incurring of stupendous debts; the laborers and capitalists of England need not have been taxed a single penny for the maintenance of the military establishment. All this would have come from ground rent.

THE CIVIL WAR

The King, Charles I, was defeated. He was not able to collect the feudal dues. Cromwell tried to do so but was foiled by clever lawyers with a new idea that estates were "entailed," and the Long Parliament failed badly on this problem.

Charles II was brought back from France to England by the land-holders and by Act No. 12 of year 1660, he pleased his backers by the abolition of the military tenure of land in England. The feudal land-owners thus appropriated the public revenues required for the defence of the Realm; they got rid of the contract consideration on which they held (as tenants) the common property of the nation; they saddled the cost of defence of the Realm on the people at large as the taxation of all consumers. Here is the source of the immense debts and heavy taxation of England.

And most serious results followed. Since then legal education has been dominated by these privileged land-holders; their gross evasion is still held up in the law books as commendable and their unjust "free" hold is falsely characterised as the spirit and essence of English "freedom."

TROUBLES AND BLUNDERS.

Having broken up the true basis of Crown revenue the later Stuarts borrowed from London merchants and then repudiated these debts. The last Stuart fled in disgrace to France. The next king, William III, thus had a war with France on his hands and no means of paying for it. The right course was to modernise the land revenue, starting with London, but a valuation was stalled and the land tax yielded insufficient revenue.

Then a Scotsman, William Patterson, reported at one time to be a buccaneer in the West Indies settled in London and gained the ear of the troubled King. He asked to be allowed to found the Bank of England as a monopoly, to be the only joint stock bank in the country and to inflate the currency (i.e., to raise prices of land and goods) by the issue of bank "notes." The

Government agreed and so the Bank of England came into existence in 1694 and loaned £1,200,000 at 6 per cent. interest to Government in perpetuity. This began the so-called "National" Debt, which, today, is above £26,000 millions. The directors of the Bank of England subscribed a large sum for the purchase of high-priced land in the City of London and for the erection of bank buildings. Patterson subscribed £4,000 and was appointed a director. He left within a year and organized monopolies of foodstuffs.

Defence of Australia is going to cost millions. If raised by cunning, back-hand, indirect taxes, which increase the friction of the working plant, then shortages grow and restlessness of citizens increase. If raised by Keynes' cunning modes of enlarging the government debts by expansion of credit then prices rise and citizens become more restless. But a levy on land values lowers the price of land, avoids friction in the nation's working plant and increases production. Since paid by land-holders to Government the land value levy reduces the pressure of money on scarce goods and so reduces the restless feeling.

Defence of Australia must be paid for and requires a prompt levy on land values. All machinery and staff already are operative for Federal Land Tax. So abolish exemption of £5,000, abolish graduation and make a flat rate of sixpence in the £1 on up-to-date valuations. This is the first step in the defence of Australia. Watch the politicians dodge it.—Chronos.

SALE OF A TOWN.

A few years back, the Marquis of Bute sold the ground rent of a large part of Cardiff to a finance company for an undisclosed sum — reported to be between £10 and £20 million. At the recent debate on the speech from the throne the Banner of Wales reports the following:

Mr. George Thomas, M.P. (West Cardiff), "Numerous leases are now expiring and at an accelerating rate. In a short time now the following will be lost to their owners: 20,000 houses, 1,000 shops, 250 public houses, several theatres and picture houses and a large part of the Cardiff docks. These are the products of the labour and industry of the people of Cardiff of which they will be callously robbed within a period of 5 to 10 years. Last week a man had to pay £10,000 for a business and building built by his father and himself. At the expiration of the lease of the Queen's Hotel the ground rent was hoisted from £30 to £600 immediately — this is done by soulless companies that never raised a finger to help create this value." — "Square Deal," June, 1950.

It is not reported what Mr. George Thomas suggested as a remedy, if any. Probably it would be the nationalization of land with compensation to the landlords. The true answer is that the ground rents have been increasing over the years as a result of the presence and industry of the people as a whole. They should all along have gone into the public treasury, relieving these citizens from the taxation imposed on the results of their labour. Such cases as the above show the fundamental injustice of the present system by which publicly created values go into some private pockets.

Englishman Robbed

THEN SENT TO GAOL.

Sussex Assizes on March 21st, 1951, saw an Englishman sent to gaol under the crooked laws of income tax-robbery. He was prosecuted by officials of the "Labor" Government of Mr. Attlee.

The judge said he failed to understand the case which was a muddle "on the part of the Inland Revenue (i.e. income tax) Department, which weighs so heavily on this country." "When income tax was only twopence in the £1, there was no pressure on people to avoid paying it but now, because of the appalling pressure of income tax, people sometimes wonder why they should work their fingers to the bone and give money to the Government to scatter about."

Taxation is Immoral.

The Englishman had endeavoured to keep his own earnings, but the Government had set out to rob him of an extra £500 over eight years and had now got it.

Speaking to the Englishman, the judge said he was very sorry for him. After his work and progress he might have been tempted (i.e., he might have expected) to keep what he earned instead of handing it to the Government to use as Government thought fit.

On the matter of his income tax returns between 1941 and 1950 the Englishman, a shop manager, 60 years of age was then sentenced to six months' gaol. The victim collapsed on the floor of the court.

His income has been re-distributed to the needy. Professors of Economics justify this robbery by explaining to their credulous, unadult students that, Taxation is just a re-distribution of incomes taking from those having ability to pay!

LAND MONOPOLY IN EGYPT.

Of the 17,000,000 inhabitants of Egypt, 15,000,000 do not own a square inch of land. One and a half per cent. of the landowners own 80 per cent of the land. They are the first, and in their own eyes, the all important class. . . . Apart from ministering to his (the landlord's) personal pleasures, he dabbles in politics to make sure that no legislation will interfere with him. . . . He ensures that all taxation is on the principle of soak the poor, and whilst taxes on such things as cars and alcohol are kept very low, it would worry no administration to put taxes on commodities like kerosene and lentils, which are the necessities of the poor. Income from land is naturally exempt from income tax.

These are the rulers of Egypt, the monarchy, the land-owning oligarchy, partly Turkish in origin but increasingly recruited from the big ones of cotton and commerce, and the religious heads of the Al Azhem University: money and Allah.

They are largely absentee landlords, who except for a few outstanding figures regard their estates purely as a means of income and charge exorbitant rents to the fellahin who sweat on them. — Dennetthorne Hughes, in "Three Classes in Egypt," "Fortnightly," July, 1948.

Tale of Kashmir

This State, tucked away in the folds of the Himalayas, covers 32,000 sq. miles (about same as Victoria), and has a population of 4 millions, of which 3 millions are Moslems.

The Vale of Kashmir is a wide valley where the River Jhelum (the Hydaspes of the Greeks) moves slowly before breaking out in a cataract to join the River Indus from which India gets its name. In this "beautiful vale of Some-where" pears, apples, peaches and apricots grow abundantly. From the local wool skilled craftsmen make the celebrated Kashmir shawls and carpets for export. The capital, Srinager, at an elevation of 5,200 ft. has been a famous tourist resort.

In the modern era, soon after Waterloo, Ranjit Singh, the Sikh, semi-Hindu ruler of the Panjab, using superior weapons, conquered Kashmir and set up Hindu rule over Moslem subjects. After battle of Sabraon, when the British mastered the Panjab, the throne of Kashmir was taken over by the Maharajah Gulab Singh, a Dogra Rajput and a Hindu. His dynasty continued until recent times. The Dogra Hindu class became land-holders, exacting unearned rents from Moslem subjects. One recent Maharajah figured as Mr. X in a sensational divorce court case at Paris where he was squandering the land rentals squeezed from the poverty-stricken residents.

Revolt in Kashmir.

In 1949 the Moslem majority, aided by weapons from Pakistan, revolted against minority rule by the 10 per cent. Dogra Hindu landed class, which, in turn received armed support from Nehru's India. The fighting has eased off but each side remains in the field in full military strength while these operations make a large demand on taxpayers.

The family of Mr. Jahar Lal Nehru is rooted in Kashmir, but his grand-father moved down to Delhi. As Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru maintains a keen interest in Kashmir affairs backed up by a large Indian Army in occupation of its Jammu Province for an indefinite future. Thus the usual Indian troops are not available for service in Mesopotamia to check the Communist expansion. United Nations made one of its confident, useless reports on the Kashmir conflict. Mr. Robert Menzies visited both sides in turn to urge "arbitration" but failed completely.

Blunders in Land Reform.

Kashmir's new Prime Minister is a Moslem, Sheikh Abdullah, and in July, 1950, he launched drastic land reforms. Hindu land holders had titles by force or by fraud. These estates were re-possessioned, without compensation, about 663,000 acres, estimated to provide farmland for 300,000 landless peasants. Since last October about 8,000 peasants have received their quota. Hindu land holders were allowed to retain 20 acres.

This is an arbitrary and mistaken mode of re-distribution of the land which leaves untouched the major requirements. First of these is a direct levy on rental values for the State's revenue with abolition of all tariff and excise taxes on commodities. This levy is

essential to persuade all new land-holders to utilize fully bazaar locations, housing sites, cottage plots and farming areas thus making the land-holders to be competitors for the labor of all laborers.

The second is a cadastral survey of Kashmir like Wingate's work in Burma (see Bombay Land Revenue System), carried out by educated, honest and competent officers. These perhaps were trained in Tyndale Biscoe's famous school. See "Progress," Feb., 1951, on Fate, Food and Farthings.—Eleos.

FOOTSCRAY ECHOES.

Sir.—Some time ago an attempt was made to have the rating in the City of Footscray changed from Capital Value to Land Value Rating, and there was good reason to believe that the change would be carried inasmuch as the Council majority were elected on the Labor Party policy and platform of Rating on Unimproved Land Values; yet strange as it may seem, the poll was lost because the Councillors had to obey an outside junta of the A.L.P. (not Labor) who are opposed to Land Value Rating and control pre-selection ballots. During the canvass of the electors these Councillors were conspicuously silent on their attitude towards the poll until the last week when they publicly announced their opposition, because an industrialist like Sir Wm. Angliss would be a big gainer on account of his improvements, but they failed to state that Sir Wm. had some 4,000 vacant building blocks on which the rate would have gone to an amount approximating any loss on the industrial undertaking.

But a more amazing somersault was to follow, for within a few months these Councillors were negotiating with Sir Wm. for his vacant land at £1000 per acre which was accepted and the coffers of the Council deprived of its peppercorn rates, but withal, the ratepayers were loaded with a £25,000 debt and added interest over many years, and the capital value rating is going to the limit of 4/- in the £ on a new valuation that has been ordered.—J. D. HENDERSON.

SWANSTON STREET CENTRAL.

Town Hall is on east side, and reaches to Little Collins St., next is a city council office building of seven storeys and then a block of six out-moded shops of only two storeys, Nos. 138-150. Ward Bros. cutlery, a Tarax bar are some of the tenants. The land has frontage of 9t ft. 8 1/4 ins. to Swanston St. by 68 ft. 6 in. depth to Rainbow Alley at rear. A final bid at auction of £200,000 was very near the reserve. The buildings have only demolition value and the bare site value approximates £137,000 per square chain, over a million to the acre.

Gross annual rental of 6 shops is £8794. Since $£200,000 \times R\% = £8794$ the value of R is 4.4 per cent. Thus the expectation of a further rise in unearned capital gains is so great that purchaser is prepared to accept 4.4 per cent gross return and pay running expenses out of that.

THE MENACE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Ernest J. Farmer.

It is possible, it is true, for a Government, fairly elected by a majority of the people, to be corrupt and oppressive. As Henry George shows in Book X of "Progress and Poverty," a democracy may become corrupt. There is nothing worse than a corrupt democracy, which inevitably passes under despotic rule. A fairly sound populace may be deceived by a wholesale campaign of lies and false promises. In practice, governments can never perfectly represent the people who elect them. Almost invariably they are of lower ethical standards than the average of the people whose affairs they administer. The more misrepresentative the government is, the smaller the proportion of the people by whom it is elected, the more it falls short of the general standard. A corrupt government has a corrupting influence not only upon its favorites but upon the whole people.

A case in point is the present Government of South Africa. In the present South African Parliament, the Negroes, who constitute about three-quarters of the population, are represented by but three members, who must be of European descent. "Colored" people—including Indians and persons of mixed race—might formerly have their names upon the Common Voters' roll, but only a few were actually enfranchised. Of the minority (almost all white), who did vote, only a minority supported the Malan Party.

If the Proportional Representation system of voting had been used in the recent South African elections, Pro-British Smuts and his followers would have been elected. Unfortunately, however, the "first-past-the-post" system was used, and that led to the election of "Not-So-Pro-British" Dr. Malan and his associates. The figures were: Smuts Parties, 547,437 votes, 60 seats. Malan Parties, 442,338 votes, 78 seats.

A minority government, knowing it lacks the goodwill of the populace, is particularly likely to resort to corrupt and oppressive means to continue its power. The Malan Government, placed in power by a serious fault in the electoral system, has recently passed legislation for which there is no parallel in any English-speaking State since the evil days of slavery in the United States.

Under this legislation citizenship has been graded, into first (White or European), second (Colored), and third (Black or African). Blacks are further subdivided according to tribe and whether they speak English or Afrikaans. Classification is made arbitrarily by Government officials, who are in a position to place political opponents in a lower classification regardless of actual origin.

Every city, town, village and country district is divided into corresponding zones. Whites may trade in any zone. Black and colored miners, factory workers and domestic servants may, by special permission of the Minister of the Interior, reside on the property of their white masters. Otherwise no person may reside, conduct business or own property outside of his own zone. To Whites, less than one-quarter of the population, is allotted three-quarters of the land—including all the most valuable land; to the Blacks, some

three-quarters of the population, is allotted but one-eighth of the land.

The Minister of the Interior is empowered to acquire and occupy any land or premises the Government may require. He is to appoint a Land Tenure Board, which shall employ inspectors, who are privileged to enter and inspect any buildings at any time, to enforce the Minister's orders. The right to challenge his powers in the Courts is expressly denied.

The small representation the Blacks have in Parliament is abolished and the colored are disfranchised. The Government has strengthened its position by annexing (in defiance of the United Nations) the formerly German South-West Africa, in which are many persons of German descent and Fascist sympathies.

While declaring itself anti-Communist, the Malan Government has adopted much of what is worst in the Communist regime. Except that the Soviet Government has eschewed racial discrimination, there is little in principle to distinguish the Malan Government from the Soviet regime of a dozen years ago. If the Malan Government is able to stay in power for any length of time, it will undoubtedly progress, as that of the Soviets has, towards a complete despotism. And, as the Soviets are gradually reintroducing racial discrimination, the difference in that respect will lessen. The religious difference is purely nominal; both are inveterately anti-Christian.

The Malan Government claims that its legislation is necessary for the survival of the white races in South Africa. Actually, it is aimed against human freedom; it aims at subjugating not only the blacks, but all workers. White workers in the former slave States have not yet fully recovered from the evil legislation of slavery days. So far from helping the white races to survive in South Africa the Malan legislation places it in a position of peril. The Whites are less than a quarter of the population of South Africa and a far smaller fraction of that of all Africa. So small a minority has two chances of survival. It may place itself in a position of leadership, showing the masses the way to better things; or it may resign itself to utter insignificance and inoffensiveness. Otherwise it must oppress the majority more and more, itself degenerating in the process, until it is swept away in a cataclysm.—"Square Deal," Oct., 1950.

Freedom and Law.—The law will never make men free; it is the men who have got to make the law free.—Thoreau.

Formosa.—In 1938, of the agricultural families, 31 per cent. were owners, 32 per cent. part-owners, and 37 per cent. tenants; two-thirds of the landlords owned 2.4 acres each, while 5.7 per cent owned half the cultivated land. There is active competition among tenants for land, and rents are high, in 1938 averaging 28 per cent. of the crop taken from dry fields and 49 per cent. from paddy, from which two crops are taken—Current Affairs Bulletin, 18th December, 1950.

Profit.—The abolition of profit will bring about a universal state of loss. In the process, it will abolish all economy, efficiency, and expedition; it will place the consumer in slavery; it will stop up the source of capital and dispel all hope of progress. The very best that can happen if the anti-profit is pursued, is that we shall go on sharing the profits of the past, until they being exhausted, there is nothing more to share. The old trouble between the haves and have-nots will then disappear, in the simplest of all possible ways, by turning us into have-nots.—Sir Ernest Benn.

THE ONLY PATH TO TOMORROW.

(From the Reader's Digest, February, 1944)

From the beginning of history, two antagonists have stood face to face; the Active and the Passive Man. The Active Man is the producer, the creator, the originator, the individualist. His basic need is independence — in order to think and work. He neither needs nor seeks power over others — nor can he be made to work under any form of compulsion. Every type of good work — from laying bricks to writing a symphony — is done by the Active Man. Degrees of human ability vary, but the basic principle remains the same: the degree of a man's independence and initiative determines his talent as a worker and his worth as a man.

The Passive Man is found on every level of society, in mansions and in slums, and his identification mark is his dread of independence. He is a parasite who expects to be taken care of by others, who wishes to be given directives, to obey, to submit, to be regulated, to be told. He welcomes collectivism, which eliminates any chance that he might have to think or act on his own initiative.

When a society is based on the needs of the Passive Man it destroys the Active; but when the Active is destroyed, the Passive can no longer be cared for. When a society is based on the needs of the Active Man, he carries the Passive ones along on his energy and raises them as he rises, as the whole society rises. This has been the pattern of all human progress. —

FOOTSCRAY ECHOES.

Sir.—Some time ago an attempt was made to have the rating in the City of Footscray changed from Capital Value to Land Value Rating, and there was good reason to believe that the change would be carried inasmuch as the Council majority was elected on the Labor Party policy and platform of Rating on Unimproved Land Values; yet strange as it may seem, the poll was lost because the Councillors had to obey an outside junta of the A.L.P. (not Labor) who are opposed to Land Value Rating and control pre-selection ballots. During the canvass of the electors these Councillors were conspicuously silent on their attitude towards the poll until the last week when they publicly announced their opposition, because an industrialist like Sir Wm. Angliss would be a big gainer on account of his improvements, but they failed to state that Sir Wm. had some 4,000 vacant building blocks on which the rate would have gone to an amount approximating any loss on the industrial undertaking.

But a more amazing somersault was to follow, for within a few months these Councillors were negotiating with Sir Wm. for his vacant land at £1000 per acre which was accepted and the coffers of the Council deprived of its peppercorn rates, but withal, the rate-payers were loaded with a £25,000 debt and added interest over many years, and the capital value rating is going to the limit of 4/- in the £ on a new valuation that has been ordered.—J. D. HENDERSON.

SOCIALISM IN OPERATION.

Lord Beaverbrooke, who opened the 1950 Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, related something of the difficulties of a farmer under Socialist administration. He operates a dairy farm in Surrey and Somerset. A drain pipe broke and flooded his dairy sheds. He applied to the proper Ministries for a permit to buy some new pipe and employ men to install the same. Applications refused; he was warned that if he proceeded without permits he would be prosecuted. Then an Inspector from the Ministry of Health ordered him to cease selling milk until the stables were drained. Soon a Food Ministry official warned him that if he didn't market his quota of milk he would be prosecuted. In all, ten different inspectors called at the farm, including a pest inspector. "The Beaver" considered that the only pests of any consequence from which the farm suffered were the ten inspectors. (We hope he told the pest inspector so.)

GREAT POSSESSIONS.

On September 1st, the London "Daily Telegraph" reported that the Duke of Sutherland is to sell six of his sporting estates totalling 98,720 acres, or 154 square miles.

It is a pity that history books are so concerned with the genealogies of kings and Bruce's encounter with a spider, and the like, that they omit such matters as the Sutherland clearances and the depopulation of the highlands.

Then there is the ever-recurrent cry of shortage of land in Britain. But to probe too deeply into this might cause an uproar! — From Land and Liberty, Oct., 1950.

WHO PAYS THE RENT?

You may Hooverize the produce and make some simple gains,
You may organize the labor and industrialize the brain,
You may penalize the profits, causing plutocratic pains,
But the Mother of Monopoly is laughing as she reigns.

Rent! Rent! Who is it pays the rent?

A dozen days in every month the worker's back is bent;

Figure it in dollar bills or work it by per cent,

But with his dozen days he pays just rent, rent, rent.

You may "minimum" the wages, you may let the women vote,

You may Regulate the railroads with a legal antidote,

You may jail some Rockefeller, or get a Morgan's goat,

But the Mother of Monopoly is laughing in her throat.

Rent! Rent! Who is it pays the rent?

A hundred days in every year a business profit's spent;

Figure it in "overhead" or state it by per cent,

But all your hundred days are gone for rent, rent, rent

You may institute Foundations, you may educate the duds,

You may liberalize the Bread Line, and establish Slummy Clubs;

You may ostracize the Demon Rum and eugenize the cubs,

But the Mother of Monopoly is smiling at your snubs.

Rent! Rent! Who is it pays the rent?

A score of years in life you spend to get one document;

From your cradle to your coffin you must bow to its assent;

And that's your little old receipt for rent, rent, rent.

I look across the rented world and idle land I see,

Whose owner doesn't work it, for he's working you and me,

And on the first of every month all tenants bow the knee,

And pay the rent of vacant land, in great or small degree.

Rent! Rent! Who is it pays the rent?

The worker's hands are busy and the business back is bent;

The idle lands advance in price and every single cent

Of that advance is paid by us in rent, rent, rent.

—E. V. COOKE.

Notes from Various Sources

South Melbourne.—City Councillors are making a revaluation of all wards on nett annual value basis. Then rates will go up. Owners of good houses and modern factories will be slugged. Slum properties will secure a better bonus. Unless the rate-payers wake up now and instruct their servants, the councillors, to change to site value basis and exempt the buildings from municipal penalty rates.

Australian Transport Advisory Council wants Canberra Government to remit tariff taxes on steel rails, locomotives and rolling stock to meet the needs of public transport.—Age, 28/2/51.

Gold Standard price of one pair of woollen blankets bought from Read's Chapel St., Prahran on Nov. 11, 1899, was £1/5/-—52 years ago—and still in use—of better quality than those sold today.—Herald, 27/2/51.

[Eminent economist, Prof. J. M. Keynes, was "the proud destroyer of the gold standard" and its stable, low price structure.—Ed.]

Toorak.—Vacant block adjoining 528 Toorak Rd., 100 ft frontage by 350 ft. deep, sold at £10,000 and price £100 a foot is believed to be the record for this district.—Age, 15/2/51.

[Perhaps high prices for wool are reflected also in price for town land.—Ed.]

Upper House.—Victorian Legislative Council electorates were disproportionate, some had 40,000 votes while others had more than 120,000. It is difficult to justify the present voting system for Legislative Council and so Mr. Hollway says the Liberal Party advocates Proportional Representation for the Upper House.

[But why not for the Lower House?—Ed.]

Brunswick West.—Vacant block next 231 Union St., 66 ft. x 132 ft. sold at £14/5/- a foot.—Age, 3/2/51.

[Ample supply of printed paper money means high bids for vacant land — the "idle factor."—Ed.]

Bacchus Marsh.—20 Acres of irrigated lucerne flats for dairying with 5 room wooden house 3 miles north of town sold for £5,300.—Age, 13/2/51.

[Allow £800 for house then land value of £225 an acre is probably a district record.—Ed.]

Box Hill South.—Canterbury Road shop sites sold at £34 a foot and £33 a foot.—Age, 15/2/51.

[Recent adoption of Site Value Rating was followed by prolific home building with large increase of retail shopping hence high values in shop area. Rates on these shop sites will mean increased revenue for the Box Hill Council.—Ed.]

Aspendale.—Nepean Highway, 75 ft. frontage block of land with three room wooden cottage and depth of 353 ft. extending to the beach sold for £4,300.—Age, 12/2/51.

[Allow £300 for cottage then site value (including the beach) is £53 a foot believed to be a record for the district.—Ed.]

Planned Economy.—Some government (probably Germany) will see bankruptcy staring it in the face, and the easiest way out will seem a great war. Bankruptcy before a war would be ignominious; after a war it could be charged to "Glory."—Walter H. Page, London, Feb., 1914.

Elwood.—473 New St., close to Head St., vacant land 50 ft. by 130 ft. fenced, passed in at £1,400; reserve, £1,500 or £30 a foot.—Argus, 16/3/51.

[For many years past Brighton Councillors have awarded a bonus to the owner for keeping vacant this desirable building site. If the new owner builds on it he will be penalised.—Ed.]

Closer Settlement.—All Australian experience shows that irrigation settlers expect the State Treasury to meet the entire cost of interest and redemption and believe that they are doing the State a favor if they pay part of the maintenance charges. In many cases the attitude of the irrigation farmer degenerates into a mentality: "You have brought me here — now look after me." Colin Clark, M.A., Queensland Economic News, Aug., 1950.

[Mr. Colin Clark, the eminent economist, evidently is not aware of the Melb. Univ. publication, "Financing Developmental Works," obtainable from this office at 8d. posted.—Ed.]

Pacifism has passed from a policy of war resistance pure and simple to one which calls for far-reaching social and economic re-construction; changes which affect the roots of social life everywhere, its culture, content, and aims; and seek by educational and practical means so to transform our social order as to remove the causes of war which are today an essential part of it.—Harold F. Bing, M.A., 1950.

["Progress and Poverty" is recommended reading.—Ed.]

Canterbury Land Peak.—High level ridge mid-way between Canterbury railway and White Horse Rd., carried Mont Albert Rd. eastward from Burke Rd. to Balwyn Rd. The outlook is splendid, the homes are some of the best.

Near Belmont Park vacant land changed hands at £9 a foot in depression year 1931 and almost opposite a block reached £13 a foot in 1934. Since then the Keynes economy of ample paper money has carried the price to the record of March, 1951, which was £61 a foot for No. 104 house site.

Housing.—While production in this field in the United States and Canada is about 80 per cent. Australia is less than 30 per cent., above the 1938 figure. Before the war, 700 bricks was a fair daily average for an Australian bricklayer; now 300 or 400 is usual.

Idleness Pays.—Employed, or unemployed, all are taxed in one way or the other while the man who leaves his land lying idle and prevents his fellowmen from getting to work on it, pays nothing towards the expenses of the state.—The Free People, Oct., 1949.

Related.—Unemployment and war are not unconnected. In our time millions are finding that preparation for war results in regular and well paid employment, and makes labour something valuable and sought for. Unless the alternative, the only sane alternative, for full employment is implemented, all international machinery for preventing war will avail but little.

Land.—The first bedrock fact is that man can make a living only on and from land; and that without land there can be absolutely no employment whatsoever. We allow land monopolists to bolt and bar the door to Nature's one and only storehouse, and then we declaim against poverty in the midst of plenty.—Arthur Withy.

Unheeded Warning.—Tacitus, the Roman historian, said to the Roman patricians: "The Roman people ask for justice, they demand freedom from taxes, they demand land. But you give them laws and more laws, which are new collars for them, because each day the legions are increasing in order to aggravate the oppression of the masses. You must know that the corruption of the State is in the number of its laws. The more laws, the worse the government."

Eastern Chambers.—An ancient building at 13-15 Collins St., East., on valuable land 50 ft. by 120 ft., received a bid of £48,500.—Argus, 22/3/51.

[Bare land value is about £32,600 per sq. chn. Such owners say they lack "ability to pay" a just levy on land values. Why believe them?—Ed.]

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF VICTORIA.

18 George Parade, (off 113 Collins Street, near Russell Street), Melbourne, C.I. Telephone: Central 8035. Secretary: Mr. R. N. Collison.

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Next Executive Meeting, Tuesday, May 1st, 1951, at 6.45 p.m.

Next Members' Evening, May 15th, 1951, at 8 p.m.