

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

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. 583

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for December, 1956-January, 1957 Price 2d. Subscription 2/-, post free.
transmission by post as a Newspaper. per an. ym.

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Abroad: 3/- per annum.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

December, to the majority of people, is a month in which they look forward to the satisfaction of some desires according to their ideals of life. Youth looks forward to a good holiday. Business in general hopes for reward in Profits from a commercial Xmas. To the sincere Christian, it is a time of sacred joy as they approach Christmas Day, the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ and in thoughtful mood they just contemplate what this world would have been had that event not taken place. Christ's supreme example of a life sacrificed to bring Peace and Goodwill among men turned moral thought at a tangent from the standard existing in pre Christian times.

Throughout the years which have passed since the first Christmas, there have been many thousands of splendid men and women who have tried to emulate the perfect example and so keep alive and spread throughout the world the way of life we call Christian. Christianity has not spread by force. It has progressed under the guidance of Christian thinkers and teachers who discredited the doctrines taught by others who were opposed to them.

During the progress of Christianity towards the final goal, there have been many setbacks — mostly because progressive spiritual thought, which created progress in material things, could not explain why material progress did not reward each person according to his effort. This riddle remained a stumbling block to full Christian realization till there arose a great philosopher and teacher, Henry George.

Henry George to us, his followers, has become the teacher who set forth the way by which the Christian ideal of Peace on earth Goodwill among men may be attained — we believe the only way.

So at this happy time, let us as Georgists, forget that our Christian practice may vary a little, but when it comes to the fundamentals of a Christian life—Peace and Goodwill among men — they cannot be realised, other than by the way George has taught.

At this season when folks look to give and receive gifts, let us remember that the greatest giver is one who expects nothing material in return. We have a gift for all mankind. The facts of George's philo-

sophy. May we at this Christian season dedicate ourselves anew to give with unstinted effort to the spread of George's teaching without which the call for Peace and Goodwill among men has no meaning. Each and everyone of us has something which he can contribute to this great ideal.

No effort is lost. Some of our members are sacrificing their leisure in their endeavour to serve the cause. Are you one of them? If not, why not? Do you attend the League's meetings and by association with others, learn that enthusiasm is contagious. Your personal effort is most essential but if unable to give personal service, contributions of money are always welcome. All the workers are also consistent givers. Read "Progress" right through, study George's works again. Dedicate yourself to forwarding the great Christmas ideal of Peace and Goodwill among men and do it the Georgist way, and having set yourself on the path, follow the gleam. All those in the "Cause," wish you a Merry Christmas and may your New Year resolution be "I will become a more active member of the League."—A.R.P.

THE TARIFF BOARD SAYS:

The annual report of the Tariff Board had some particularly interesting and significant things to say regarding the Commonwealth pay-roll tax as well as other matters vitally affecting Australian consumers. The Board referred to the pay-roll tax as an example of a government impost, right at the base of the cost and price structure, that might be considered for removal. "It may be true" says the report "to say that every £1 of revenue received by the Commonwealth in pay-roll tax means an increase in price to consumers of at least £2."

One press comment describes the report as one of the frankest yet presented by the Tariff Board. We are not surprised to read this. Surely our present involved and chaotic economic position calls for frank statement from all concerned.

The "tariff" itself came in for comment and suggested that it may be responsible for some trade balance difficulties. If "some duties are so high that they result in unduly high costs to dependent indus-

tries, they should be reduced" the board says. "If others are too low to protect efficient and economic Australian industries they should be raised. But there is no evidence at present of widespread insufficiency of existing duties, as there is no pressure of piled up applications for new or increased duties.

The report further says that conditions inimical to Australia's interests in international trade were brought about by the import restrictions in 1952. Australia is being denuded gradually of prestige as a stable member of a group of countries to which freedom of international trade is important. With the ever-present risk of adverse seasons affecting exports the position is anything but satisfactory.

The report finally rejects suggestions that the tariff should be used as an alternative control to direct restrictions for reducing imports.

—W.A.C.

EGG BOARD LOSSES

The Egg Board takes from producers thousands of pounds to finance supposed stabilisation schemes, it appoints a liaison officer between the board and the consumer ostensibly to stimulate local sales and conducts an Egg Promotion Week with the same objective in view. The net result is a financial loss by the Board, lowered local sales and a petulant cry from the Board against those who would voice criticism of its many failings.

That great Prime Minister of England, the late Lloyd George, contended that the first world war was won through criticism.

Not so the Egg Board. This poor feeble body is to have no critics and no competition to expose its wrong principle or bad practices.

It is amazing that full blooded Australians have so long tolerated this misnomer in marketing of eggs, but it is to be hoped that financial necessity will soon free us from its continued existence.

VICTORIAN LAND TAX

Victorian Land Tax rates are fixed by Parliament from year to year. The current rate is 1d. in the £ of unimproved capital value with an exemption of £1000 for land not used for primary production and of £3000 for land mainly used for primary production.

The exemption tapers off so that it disappears at £1200 for non-farming and £3000 for farming land and the rate then is a flat 1d. in the £ up to £8,750.

Above £8,750 the rate in the £ increases steeply on a sliding scale.

The yield for the year ended 30th June, 1955 was £2,625,000. This represents 10 per cent. of the State taxation revenue for that year.

The exemptions are purely political in objective to avoid losing votes of home owners by the Government. The rising scale above £8,250 is not in accordance with our principles which call for a flat rate over the whole field.

Nevertheless, although most of the private homes are outside the exemptions and not subject to the tax

there are very few central city properties which are below £8,250 and the tax has therefore very powerful effect in inducing city holders to put their property to best economic use and in curbing land prices in the city area. If this tax were abolished land values in Melbourne would automatically be increased by about £30,000,000 as the ransom land users would have to pay for the opportunity to work.

The N. S. Wales Government is now debating a proposal to introduce a land tax on the pattern of the Victorian. The "Standard" in its last issue quotes very extensively from the parliamentary debates on this Bill.

THOSE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

RECKLESS RULERS CRIPPLE CITIZENS

From the commencement it was clear to Georgians that the Government's policy of restricting imports would constantly be under fire. Recently, Mr. R. T. Crossely, chairman of the importers' section of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, tendered some scathing comments. As reported in the press, he declared that import licensing was becoming a "fierce and insidious" substitute for protection. He added that the Commonwealth Government had claimed that import restrictions were a temporary measure to balance oversea trade and were never intended to protect Australian industry. "But" he continued "every time imports were restricted, it immediately provided a shelter for the local man, whether that was the intention or not." He cited the case of wall tiles and floor tiles. Less than three years ago the Tariff Board concluded that their production was uneconomic. "Yet" Mr. Crossely pointed out "administrative action has now, in effect, through import controls granted protection to an industry considered uneconomic by the Tariff-Board. The home builder was therefore being called on to subsidise the local industry!"

Balance of Payments Blunder

In the "Age," Mr. M. Collens exposed the unsoundness of the restrictions in a long and penetrating analysis. "Perhaps," says he "the clearest proof of this lies in the fact that throughout the years from 1930 to 1938, when there were no import restrictions as such, each successive year yielded a substantial excess of exports over imports."

"During that time imports were restricted only by tariffs and currency devaluation in conjunction, but we had enough sense then not to antagonise decent people by decimating their interest overnight. It is noteworthy also that the pound then had real value."

"Australia's biggest mistake was in not officially recognising that the drop in London balances in 1951-52 was the direct result of the Korean war scare, whereby positive action was taken by both merchants and manufacturers to ensure substantial stockpiles of goods should the situation get out of hand, the memory of the pathetically inadequate war time shortages being still fresh in their minds."

"When it became apparent that the Korean situation was reasonably under control, oversea vessels resumed their normal schedules, and although this permitted a rather unexpectedly quick delivery of a big back-log of firm orders, most parties who were awake were able to reduce further outstanding commitments to token limits only."

"As the pattern immediately subsequent has shown, the position wasn't nearly as bad as it looked on paper, as there also proved to be a big back-log of exports, which, as soon as they could be moved by the incoming ships, brought London balances up again and forced an early liberalising of licensing to prevent a further burst of inflation."

Consumers' Choice Denied

Had consumers' choice been allowed to operate in the first place there may have been some cases of self-inflicted hardship — the business risks.

But as there are the usual phenomena encountered in most cases of mis-judgment in the sphere of commerce, it is plain from the pre-stated sequence of events that Canberra government would have been wiser to let the situation find its own level. Over-stocked shelves could have been cleared by marking down with consequent benefit to the consumers and reduced pressure on C.O.L. or wage spiral, leaving a better margin for export by secondary industries. With the disruptive element thus modified we could have resumed our normal associations with overseas suppliers for that is the choice of consumers.

A few over-stocked firms would have failed and losses. But banks employ trained economists to rush losses. But banks employ trained economists to rush their sectional views before the Canberra rulers, so their clamour prevailed. Citizen consumers have no voice (except the Henry George journals) and once again their welfare was kicked downstairs by the Menzies Ministry.

LAND VALUES RESEARCH GROUP

Land Values Research Group Invites Assistance

The Land Values Research Group has made many important surveys on the incidence of site-value rating in various municipalities. It aims to continue and increasingly to help others to apply the method it has developed in making further surveys.

There is scope for volunteers willing to help dissect rolls and valuations. The Group would particularly welcome assistance from those able to machine-add figures or type off copies of minor surveys and drafts.

Here is an opportunity to play an effective part in this interesting research field. If you are willing to help get in touch with the Hon. Secretary (Mr. L. F. Bawden), 52 Guildford Rd., Surrey Hills, E.10 (Phone WF 2973).

UNBRIDLED POWER

For hundreds of years so-called civilised man has continued with appalling violations of the natural laws of the social body. Millions, beyond belief, have suffered hunger, poverty, and desperation in every generation. Governments have robbed, taxed and stealthily seized lawful rights and possessions of the people to appease the struggling masses. Now we have reached a point where it is requiring the keenest activity of all the grey matter of all governments in trying to adjust the social body to the violation of natural laws, or if you please, the laws of God.

Nemesis is on the wing and changes are rapid: It seems that we are to be overtaken and punished without remorse.

—EDGAR W. CULLEY.

HUNGARIAN BACKGROUND

Hungary has been the centre of world attention in recent weeks, and some aspects of its recent history are worth studying as they contain some valuable lessons.

Until the second world war Hungary had remained a feudal state for at least a thousand years. Despite revolutions at various times, the traditional social order persisted, relatively unaffected by trends elsewhere. In the first world war, the privileged classes, fearing the liberation of their Slav subjects, more than German domination, sided with Germany. However, after their defeat, the Allies, beset with fears of Bolshevism, actually bolstered the privileged classes, first with French arms, later with League of Nations loans. Hungary remained virtually uninfluenced by the agrarian reforms proceeding in neighbouring countries. According to Josua de Castro, formerly head of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Hungary had the most shocking and scandalous land monopoly in Europe — worse even than that of Spain. One third of the land was held by 4000 landed proprietors, yet one third of the population held no land at all. The living conditions of the rural workers were appalling; in 1938 the average daily wage was about 1/6, and that was in season when work was obtainable.

So it was not surprising that in 1945, when the Soviet authorities set up an interim national assembly, public opinion should have regarded it as quite natural to confiscate the large estates. Initially the communists sought to deceive the world by making false promises of compensation. No distinction was made between the economic rent of land, for which no compensation is ethically justified, and the value of improvements, for which the landholder is entitled to compensation. Actually no compensation was made.

These Communist so-called reforms were carried out in a state of anarchy without an elected Parliament by "distributive committees" dominated by Communists and composed mainly of the lowest strata of the population. During the division of the land, neither the capacity of the farms nor the ability of those who received them was taken into account. Often orchards and vineyards were practically ruined by minute subdivision. Further, the size of the landholdings only was considered, while the differential value of land due to such factors as proximity to markets and transport facilities, and fertility, was ignored.

Afterwards, oppressive measures, culminating in persecution, were directed against the independent farmers and landholders, while more and more favours were granted to the collective farms. The increasing streams of refugees bore testimony to the horrors of collectivization; then the western frontiers of Hungary were closed with barbed wire and machine gun posts.

Thus, as in Russia, land monopoly gave rise to compulsory collectivization and the last state was worse than the first.

The lessons to learn are these. Under land monopoly, where people are compelled to pay tribute to privileged individuals for permission to live and work on the earth's surface, the equal right of all men of access to Nature's bounty or to the land is denied. The true remedy is not nationalization of land, nor liquidation of landholders, nor compulsory acquisition of land with or without compensation and then distribution. It is, as Henry George convincingly and compellingly demonstrated, to collect the site values created and sustained by the presence and activity of the community. There is no need for clumsy and costly compensation schemes, for landholders will either put their land to full use to pay the site value contribution or else make way for others who would not then be compelled to pay huge sums merely to gain access to a site of land. Taxes on goods and earnings could then be progressively reduced, since the Government would be receiving revenue from the natural source. Thus productivity would be stimulated and prosperity for all increased.

In all the trouble spots of the world recently — China, Kenya, the Middle East, and the rest, the land question has been prominent. The United Nations must include in its charter of human rights in no uncertain terms the equal right of access of all men to land, the source of all wealth. Otherwise we can never hope for lasting peace. The Henry George movement has the practicable method of achieving this reform, and we urge you to do something concrete and get in touch with us without delay.

ECONOMICS OF TATT'S LOTTERY

Five shillings invested in oil, gold, etc., is used to purchase capital to aid the production of oil, gold, etc., and therefore is entitled to its just share of the production.

Five shillings invested in Tatt's purchases a chance to appropriate, by a ruse, 40,000 similar investments, many honestly earned by others.

There may be risks taken, and the aim — satisfaction of desire — may be the same in both kinds of investment.

However, in the one case the wealth invested aids production, whereas in the other there is no production, but all labor expended is directed towards appropriating wealth from the many for the benefit of the few, described by one school of thought as "exploitation."

Does this justify a course of action designed to allow some to gain wealth by the losses of others?— (Mr. A. Baker, "Age.")

To which we add note that prominent land holders such as Sir Chester Manifold have advocated Tatt's lottery for hospital revenue.

This plan reduces the prospects of further State Land Rental tax to meet Government subsidy to hospitals which is the honest method of finance.

SPARRING WITH SHADOWS

A prize example of academic obscurantism in which side issues are magnified and vital issues are blurred is contained in the June, 1956 issue of the "Australian Quarterly."

The article in question is on the South Australian electoral system by A. J. de B. Forbes, of Adelaide University. It examines whether the peculiar features of this system are really due to the desire of the Liberal and Country Party to keep itself in office and so control the Treasury benches. Eventually, after digressing along various side tracks, the author reaches the momentous conclusion that it is doubtful whether the reluctance of the Liberal Country League to change the present electoral system is due to a Machiavellian desire to retain office at all costs, and it is stated that "the arguments for the present system, even if mistaken, must in most cases be assumed to be sincerely held." Some of these arguments are examined by Mr. Forbes who takes good care to make nothing but neutral comments about them. The display of fence-sitting is truly outstanding.

Mr. Forbes evades the crucial issue that a minority of votes can achieve, election after election, a majority of seats (even granting that the minority is not so small as it seems when allowance is made for uncontested seats and other factors). He avoids committing himself about the elementary democratic principle of "one vote, one value," although this occupies his attention more than once. He is, of course, quite ignorant of the use made of Parliament to cushion the effects of site-value rating on the privileged interests served by the Playford Liberals. The essential point is not to disclose any error which may possibly be committed by those (i.e. the A.L.P.) who are alleged to ascribe disreputable motives to the policies of the Playford Tories, but to ascertain whether the South Australian electoral system is mathematically sound and democratically fair, and if not, how to remedy it.

Mr. Forbes has shown convincingly that academic detachment and suspended judgment can be carried to extremes. Of course, to seriously suggest proportional representation as an alternative to South Australia's existing electoral system would make a blot on the escutcheon of impeccable impartiality.

SOMETHING TO COGITATE

Greek economics was built on slavery, and in modern years, slavery has an ugly connotation; but it is yet to be proved that there are fewer people doing what they are told, not because they want to but because they have to, in America and Russia than there were in ancient Sparta, and it is doubtful whether it would be pleasanter from the point of view of freedom to be in a labor-camp or an Australian union than to be a slave in the household of Pericles of Athens.—Sydney "Bulletin," 18/4/56.

[Ed's Note.—History abundantly confirms Henry George's contention that economic freedom is impossible unless and until the rental values of land are taken for public purposes.]

WIDENED HORIZONS

By A. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., A.M.I.E. Aust.

My last three annual holidays have been spent in travelling through various districts in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria mainly by car and plane.

The main objective was pleasure but a secondary one has been observation and comparisons of the differing degree and type of development in various centres.

These visits have taken me through all the main towns of New South Wales as far west as Dubbo and Wagga Wagga and on the coast route of Queensland as far as Rockhampton with some of those inland to Toowoomba and with Townsville, Mackay and Cairns thrown in for good measure in the far north.

The result has been invaluable in widening my appreciation of the effectiveness of the principles for which this movement stands. My observations may be helpful to those not able to supplement theory with practical observation.

Our fundamental claims are that taxation or rating of site-values will induce holders to put land to best economic use at least to cover the tax while the exemption of their buildings and cultivation from rates will encourage them to invest in improvements of various kinds.

Where these principles have been applied continuously for a long period of years it is reasonable to expect some visual evidence of better development as compared with places taxing and rating buildings and other improvements.

Site-value rating with exemption of buildings and cultivation has been in force for 48 years in New South Wales and 66 years in Queensland. That is long enough to warrant expectations of visible differences. That there are in fact substantial differences (whether visible or not) is evident in statistical returns comparing development between the states.

My observations are that development in New South Wales and Queensland towns generally is better than for Victorian. They are more compact and the larger ones have relatively little ribbon development or distention of services because of vacant lots scattered between built ones. This is characteristic of Victorian country towns of which Mornington, Rosebud, Inverloch, Healesville, Lilydale are examples, their shopping areas being spread over a very long road frontage.

There are also very few really derelict buildings in the interstate towns compared to Victorian. The differences are particularly notable in extent of modernization of shopping centres with the interstate towns compared to Victorian towns of about the same size.

The best yardstick to study the effects of exemption of buildings and other improvements from rates and taxes is the extent of modernization and re-development of shops in the business centres. Shops are close together in a compact area and the effects of

competition in bringing modernization are far more rapid than with residential development.

There are two clear-cut stages of modernization of shops that can be pin-pointed. The old and now obsolete types had wood or stone frame windows and verandahs supported by wood or iron pillars.

First stage of modernization was to supplant the old with the new metal-framed windows. With these came tiled fronts. The next stage was replacement of the pillar supported verandahs with modern cantilever types. There are further refinements with offset windows and others beyond these but the two basic stages are sufficient to show some startling differences in development between the towns according to whether they exempt or tax improvements.

Classifying shops with metal-framed windows and cantilever verandahs as "modern"; those with one or the other but not both these stages as "semi-modern" and those with both wood-window-frames and pillar supported verandahs as "obsolete" surveys were made in many towns.

It became immediately apparent that modernization in N.S.W. had gone a long way further than in Victoria. There were very few in the former with pillar supported verandahs. There were none at all in Goulburn and only an odd two or three in many others to give an evidence that it was not due to council by-laws prohibiting them.

The actual technique of the surveys was not developed until the last of my tours. Hence the statistics do not include some of the most highly modernized of the towns according to my observations.

Among those where modernization and re-development had gone furthest but not covered in the tables were Tamworth, Bathurst, Lismore, Katoomba, Casino, Wollongong (N.S.W.) and Warwick, Toowoomba in Queensland.

The surveys show the extent of modernization and re-development reached after up to fifty years of exemption of buildings and improvements in the one group compared with that under local taxation of improvements in the other.

The method does not distinguish between remodeling of old buildings and erection of new ones. New buildings are usually modern style hence the places developing more rapidly tend to have a higher proportion of "modern" shops. There is therefore some range in the proportions within the groups.

The number of towns studied are large enough to enable reliable conclusions to be drawn from comparisons. These are made in groups according to the number of shops contained in the business centres of the towns.

For each group it is seen that where buildings are exempt the proportion of fully "modernized" shops is nearly double that where they are taxed. On the other hand the proportion of "obsolete" shops where buildings are exempt is less than half that

SHOP SURVEYS IN PROVINCIAL TOWNS

Showing How Exemption of Buildings from Rates Has Stimulated Modernization of Shopping Premises

A. VERY LARGE TOWNS (MORE THAN 90 SHOPS)

Township	Date Checked	Percentage of Shops which are:				
		Total Shops	Modern	Semi- Modern	Obsolete	
BUILDINGS EXEMPT FROM RATES (U.C.V.)						
MACKAY (Q'land)	May, 56	156	71	26	3	(66 yrs. exempt)
TOWNSVILLE (Q'land)	"	151	34	49	17	(66 " ")
MARYBOROUGH (Q'land)	"	134	87	9	4	(66 " ")
SOUTHPORT (Q'land)	"	104	47	20	33	(66 " ")
ALBURY (N.S.W.)	May, 56	180	68	28	4	(48 " ")
GOULBURN (N.S.W.)	"	187	87	12	1	(48 " ")
GOSFORD (N.S.W.)	"	103	95	4	1	(48 " ")
GRAFTON (N.S.W.)	"	103	57	18	25	(48 " ")
WAGGA (N.S.W.)	"	194	70	24	6	(48 " ")
FRANKSTON (Vic.)	June, 56	143	59	36	5	(6 " ")
DANDENONG (Vic.)	"	96	63	24	13	(35 " ")
CHELSEA (Vic.)	"	92	80	14	6	(33 " ")
RINGWOOD (Vic.)	"	98	73	14	13	(5 " ")
ECHUCA (Vic.)	"	149	18	53	29	(7 " ")
HAMILTON (Vic.)	July, 56	151	50	28	22	(15 " ")
PORTLAND (Vic.)	"	111	36	42	22	(35 " ")
Average (16)		134	62	25	13	
BUILDINGS RATED (N.A.V.)						
WANGARATTA (Vic.)	May, 56	115	36	43	21	
BENALLA (Vic.)	"	135	40	38	22	
CASTLEMAINE (Vic.)	Dec., 55	132	17	39	44*	
WARRAGUL (Vic.)	May, 56	106	55	27	18†	
SALE (Vic.)	June, 56	134	38	30	32*	
MILDURA (Vic.)	"	198	52	32	15	
MORNINGTON (Vic.)	"	91	57	24	19	
SHEPPARTON (Vic.)	"	195	61	32	7†	
KYNETON (Vic.)	"	123	7	29	64	
BAIRNSDALE (Vic.)	May, 55	112	36	36	28	
COLAC (Vic.)	July, 56	125	38	42	20	
CAMPERDOWN, (Vic.)	"	93	19	26	55	
WARRNAMBOOL (Vic.)	"	234	50	21	29*	
MARYBOROUGH (Vic.)	Oct., 56	131	24	45	31	
ARARAT (Vic.)	"	104	21	68	15	
WONTHAGGI (Vic.)	Nov., 56	98	13	37	50	
Average (16)		133	35	36	29	

*Changed to U.C.V. in 1954 or 1955; part of development shown is since change.

†Abnormal Housing Commission development in these areas.

where they are taxed except for the very smallest townships where the difference is not so marked.

Victorian municipalities rating site-value for some years show higher degree of modernization than where buildings are rated. Their proportion of fully modernized shops is generally less than in N. S. Wales, reflecting the fact that buildings are exempt from water and sewerage rates in the latter State as well as from general rates.

For space limitations only, the largest towns with more than 90 shops are detailed in the table below:

* * *

Californian scientists
Say that they have found
Eggs aged forty-million years
Underneath the ground:
There's always been an Egg Board,
And always there will be
While eggs remain as dear to you
As eggs are dear to me.

—"Bulletin."

Pioneers in Australia "had established private ownership of millions of acres of land in an amazingly short time. They brought to Australia the British legal system, its governing institutions and substantial shadows of its social hierarchy."—J. F. Cairns, M.Com., M.H.R. for Yarra.

[Ed's Note.—But they failed to bring the best element of the feudal system where defence of the realm was a charge on land holders.]

* * *

Fundamental.—"Let it be observed that when land is taxed no man is taxed; for the land produces, according to the law of the Creator, more than the value of the labour expended on it, and on this account men are willing to pay a rent for land."—P. E. Dove, Scottish Philosopher, (1850), "Theory of Human Progression."

* * *

Budget Centenary.—N.S.W. revenue for 1855 was about £1,000,000 of which tariff taxes brought in £310,000. Estimates for 1856 included £70,000 "for roads to the interior" (and boost the Wentworth land values) to be raised as a loan for public works, but Charlie Cowper said "many are prejudiced against the system of direct taxation."—"Bulletin," 10/10/56.

[Ed's Note.—Tariff taxes for revenue were then shuffled to be tariff taxes for "Protection" and new import restrictions are Prohibition.]

SOUND PUBLIC FINANCE

Georgists consider that in high land prices we have the key to the whole of the economic and production problems facing Australia.

Land is too dear to purchase for farming — too dear for home sites — too dear for factory and shop sites.

Under our present system of financing developmental works and raising Government revenue, all developmental works such as railways, irrigation projects, etc., increase the price of land.

The very increase in population increases the price of land. As one man very aptly put it, land values follow a man like his shadow. Every new family in Australia creates a greater demand for goods and services as well as for a home site.

Even subsidies and guaranteed prices increase the price of land. Let us take an example.

Some dairy farmers feel that they are not getting a sufficient price for their butter, so the Government is approached and a campaign launched for a subsidy on butter. As soon as it becomes apparent that a subsidy is to be paid, butter production becomes more attractive. More people will desire dairying land and of course those already owning the land will require a greater inducement to sell their property. So the price of dairying land increases and any newcomer to the butter industry is in a worse position because of the increased land prices, than if the subsidy had never been paid.

The subsidy has not been very helpful to the dairying industry despite the fact that it costs the taxpayer more than £15 million pounds annually. According to the 1955 year book there were 200,000 less dairy cows in Australia in 1953 than there were 14 years earlier. Neither does the subsidy help the Australian consumer, the price of dairy produce is too high for the average wage earner to purchase as much as he should or would like to.

Developmental works such as railways, irrigation, etc., increase land prices. The increases are far greater than the capital cost of the works; for example, the railway to the Mallee cost £2 million and increased land values by more than £8 million.

A year ago the enlargement of the Eildon Weir was completed at a cost of £24 million. This will enable an extra £20 million worth of produce to be produced each year, consequently land prices will increase at least 10 times the amount of increased annual production.

Under our present methods of finance, four fifths of the cost of the irrigation works are borne by the taxpayers while as a result of this project alone £200 million will go into the pockets of private land holders. This will make the price of irrigated land too dear for new farmers to purchase. Irrigated land in the Weribee district recently sold for as much as £600 per acre.

It is not only the actual water user who benefits through irrigation. New townships spring up, old townships treble in size with some shop sites selling

for hundreds of pounds per foot, and then extra business goes through the city of Melbourne. According to official valuations, 70% of the land values in the State are in the cities and towns.

Now what is the Georgian remedy? We do not claim that land should be nationalised or socialised, but we do claim that because the expenditure of public monies has increased land values, the land owner should contribute towards the capital cost of the works.

A State Developmental Fund should be established to meet the interest and sinking fund charges of all State Developmental works. This Fund to be financed by a land tax levied upon the unimproved or bare site value of land. This tax to be levied at a flat rate in the pound of value of all land in the State without any graduations or exemptions. This would enable the crippling taxes on industry to be reduced. With a land tax to pay, no one could afford to hold land out of use, so the land speculators would be forced out and more land would become available to genuine land users, at lower price. The costs of production would also be reduced and the public would reap some of the benefit of the public works programme.

The reduction in suburban land prices would stimulate home building and the cheaper factory sites would leave more money to be spent on machinery, plant and raw materials.

With the railways relieved of capital costs, freights and fares could be reduced as they would only have to meet the actual running costs. In the past, road transport has been restricted, taxed and even prohibited in order to force business to the railways, but with the railway finances on a sound footing, road transport could be left free to compete, the public would then get the benefit of both a competitive service and competitive prices.—L.F.B.

I PUT IT TO YOU

National Broadcast Discussion

Arrangements have been made between the Aust. Broadcast Commission and the Australian School of Social Science to record a programme using the members of the School as an audience at which Mr. R. W. C. Anderson, Tariff Officer of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures will put the case "That Tariff Protection Is A National Necessity."

His talk will occupy about six minutes followed by comments and questions from the audience.

The programme will be recorded and rebroadcast on Wednesday, 12th December, at 8.15 p.m. on 2BL and other national relay stations throughout the Commonwealth. In all it will occupy about 45 minutes.

This will be well worth listening to.

* * *

Planned Economy.—Road Transport Development is supported by a road maintenance tax — e.g., on trucks loaded with 10 tons of onions. A truck load with 10 tons of cauliflowers is exempt. "What Goes On?"—"Argus," 20/7/56.

[Peter Golding comments: "Which obviously explains why onions make you weep."]

SITE - VALUE RATING

Major Extensions to Water, Sewerage and Irrigation

The last month has seen several developments of first magnitude in the extent of site-value rating in Victoria. The first of these has been the adoption of site-value for water and sewerage rating in two Victorian municipalities following the recent successful polls.

For most Victorian municipalities water and sewerage services are handled by separate trusts and not as part of the normal council functions. The composition of the trusts varies in many cases being composed of the members of the council meeting on a separate occasion and thus being technically a separate body although in fact the same personnel.

Until amending water and sewerage Acts were passed in 1946 these water and sewerage bodies had no powers to adopt site-value rating. With the amendments those districts which had adopted site-value rating for council purposes were given the option of using that basis also for water and sewerage.

The metropolitan councils whose water and sewerage services were under the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works were excluded from this option. This restricted the numbers which could take advantage of it, particularly since there were not many country towns possessing sewerage rating site-value.

Sale City should have put their water rates on site-value but did not do so. Although the rating poll had been carried by 3 to 1 the majority of councillors and the town clerk remained hostile to site-value rating.

This year demands for polls specifically covered water and sewerage as well as general rates. Mildura City announced before the poll that if it were carried sewerage rates would be put on the site-value basis as well as general rates. This has now been done.

Wangaratta has now decided to place its water and sewerage rates on the site-value basis. Ararat also had decided to put its water rates on site-value but this is deferred as described later.

The other major development has been the change-over to site-value rating by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission for its irrigation districts. This is easily the most important development in Victoria for many years. These various developments are dealt with in more detail elsewhere in this issue.

WANGARATTA

With only three dissentients Wangaratta Water Trust and the Sewerage Authority decided to levy their rates on site-value instead of net annual value. The dissentients were Commissioners Bicknell, Lowe and Richards.

Commissioner Howell moved and Donovan seconded the change. The latter pointed out the poll had been carried by 4 to 1. He said he realised that some people would suffer by the change but we must have progress.

Commissioner A. Jackell said he would support the new scheme "on principle."

Closing the debate Commissioner Howell claimed that the new rate would necessitate his paying more, but he felt the scheme should be adopted as a result of the poll.

MILDURA

Mildura City decided to strike its first site-value rate at 6d. in the £ of U.C.V. and the sewerage rate at 2½d. in the £. We expect great development in both Mildura and Wangaratta with the almost complete exemption from rates on improvements.

That the results for Mildura have been great and immediate is shown by the building permit figures quoted elsewhere for the two months which have elapsed since the change.

ARARAT

This City decided to change to site-value rating by its own resolution the decision not being challenged by ratepayers with a demand for a poll.

However it was later pointed out that the procedure laid down had not been fully complied with by the Council, mainly because the full valuation details had not been available for inspection for the full time allowed. The Council therefore got advice that it would be unwise to strike its rate on site-value this year.

It decided to defer implementation till next year. However, the Mayor (Cr. De Crespigny) made it quite clear in the daily press that they intend to go on with the change next year using the valuation taken for this year.

The delay is regrettable particularly since the council had already decided to put its water rates on the site-value basis.

TRARALGON SHIRE

A move has been made to demand a site-value rating poll in Traralgon Shire, 97 miles from Melbourne. The General Council for Rating Reform convened a meeting of those interested in seeking rate relief for home-owners by pressing for this change.

It was attended by 40 persons of whom 27 signed the register of foundation members. An executive was formed and petition forms distributed among those present for collection of signatures to commence.

NORTHCOTE CITY

A petition is now in circulation here for a further site-value rating poll and will be presented in December. This is the only municipality in Australia which has reverted after using site-value rating.

The main reason for reversion lay in the altered basis of voting in reversion polls by which houses carry less votes and vacant land more. But in addition the claim was made that rates go up under site-value more rapidly than under net annual value.

The falsity of this is now evident in Northcote, since the N.A.V. rate has risen since reversion from

2/11 to 3/9 per £ on a valuation more than double that under U.C.V.

FERNTREE GULLY SHIRE

Here again there is a nucleus of persons desiring to press for change to site-value rating and the General Council for Rating Reform has convened a meeting to bring them together to form a local organization.

State Rivers and Water Supply Commission
CHANGES TO SITE-VALUE RATING

We are pleased to report that the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission has now decided to change to the Site-Value (unimproved capital value) rating basis.

This decision was made after ascertaining the views of the Advisory Boards of the various irrigation districts. Of those expressing preferences, 11 favoured site-value while 7 favoured net annual value as the rating basis.

A further important factor in the decision was the data supplied by the General Council for Rating Reform giving the results of the most recent polls in districts rating site-value, showing that the very great majority of voters in recent polls favoured Unimproved Capital Value Rating.

Below is a summary of the ratings for the various districts as now made for 1956/57:

MOVES ELSEWHERE

Other places in which initiation of petitions is either under way or being considered are shires of Maffra, Lilydale, Mornington, Flinders, Swan Hill Borough. Polls held over from this year will be taken in 1957 in Keilor and Wodonga Shires and in Wonthaggi Borough. The last is apparently a plebiscite decided upon by the council not as a result of petition.

classification of the lands — the classifications being based on service given by channels and drains.

In addition to the general and drainage rates, irrigators in these districts all pay for water on the basis of so much per acre-foot of their water rights and any additional water purchased under sales conditions. In these districts the general and drainage rates will amount to a total of £192,869 for the year 1956/57 and the revenue from water rights and sales of water is estimated to amount to a further £848,301.

It should be noted that the charges for water rights are in accordance with our principles in themselves for they are a charge based on the amount of water the owner is entitled to draw irrespective of whether he does or does not draw that amount.

Undeveloped land with an entitlement to draw water is obviously much higher in sale value due

Schedule of Commissions Districts in Which Rates for 1956/57 are Being Assessed on Unimproved Capital Values

System	Area	Valuation U.C.V.	General Rate Range	Rates 1956/57 Drainage Rate Range	Revenue from Rates	Estimated Additional Revenue from Water Rights & Sales
	(acres)	£	in £	in £	£	£
Supplied from Goulburn System (13 districts)	1,277,904	13,902,091	1d.-2d.	1½d.-4d.	96,800	284,064
Supplied from Yarrawonga Weir Murray Valley	267,324	2,133,689	1d.	—	8,785	98,130
Supplied from Torrumbarry Sys- tem (8 districts)	341,210	2,714,513	1d.-2d.	2d.-6d.	23,823	139,551
Southern Districts (4 districts)	148,094	6,370,143	1d.	½d.-2d.	39,278	89,835
Supplied Direct from River Murray (4 districts)	35,730	1,165,291	2d.	4d.	24,183	250,957
Totals (30 Irrigation Districts)	2,069,362	26,285,627	1d.-2d.	0-6d.	192,869	862,537
Carrum Drainage District	15,980	1,213,454	—	5d.	14,236	62
GRAND TOTALS	2,085,342	27,499,081	1d.-2d.	0-6d.	207,105	862,599

The irrigation districts now brought to the site-value rating basis cover a total area of 2,069,362 acres and the properties concerned have Unimproved Capital Valuation totalling £26,285,627.

In these districts the general rates now struck on site-value range from 1d. to 2d. in the £, and the drainage rates from ½d. to 4d. in the £. Rating is not uniform throughout each district but varies with the

to that entitlement. Being undeveloped there will be no water drawn for such land and if water charges were based only on water drawn such lands could contribute nothing more than the rate. By charging according to their water entitlement they pay their fare share.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE

POVERTY — WIDESPREAD, BUT UNNECESSARY

It is several years since "The Geography of Hunger" by Josue de Castro, a Brazilian, formerly head of F.A.O., was published, and a brief review appeared in "Progress" soon after the book was available. The book is so informative and stimulating, however, that it is worthwhile presenting some of its details at greater length.

Two-thirds of the world's population live in a permanent state of hunger. Hunger (like, we may add, the land question) has been directly avoided in discussion, for reasons not difficult to ascertain.

De Castro points out that, according to competent authorities, 16 billion acres can be cultivated on the earth's surface — roughly 8 acres for every individual. Yet cultivated land had not (about 1950) reached 2 billion acres, or one-eighth of the earth's natural possibilities. de Castro insists that the problem is of distribution rather than production, and points that primitive human groups often do not reveal signs of dietary deficiencies; it is when difficulties of distribution of natural wealth occur that hunger appears.

Malthusianism is vigorously repudiated. Not without foundation does de Castro suggest that the guilty may be those who "go in for neo-Malthusian theories while they defend and benefit from the imperialist type of economy." He considers that long-range predictions of population changes are pure speculations and of no practical value.

De Castro debunks alarm at soil erosion, adequate protective measures are quite practicable. He refers to the Yellow River Valley in China; the river carries away 25 million tons of soil each year. Yet for 5000 years a human anthill has lived there, on the basis of agriculture.

Far more serious, de Castro contends, is the erosion of humans through hunger. In the Far East, 90 per cent. of the population are undernourished; in Latin America two-thirds. (In England before World War II it was 50 per cent.).

From 20 years' experience observing nutrition problems in Brazil and also his United Nations experience, de Castro asserts that hunger, though universal, is not due to natural necessity. His thesis is that overpopulation does not cause hunger, but that starvation is the cause of overpopulation. (He builds up a strong case for causally relating low protein consumption with a high birth rate.)

At present 300 million people have malaria; faulty diet of course plays its part as a cause. These unfortunate people are too weak to work. If malaria were ended, more could take part in the battle against hunger. Hunger, of course, may be qualitative as well as quantitative.

The interesting fact is quoted that the world has 350,000 vegetable species, but only 600 are cultivated by man. The diet of a small African "primitive" community includes 114 species of fruit, 46 of leguminous seeds, and 47 of greens; compare with the diet of "civilized" man. Reference is made to the

wide range of diseases caused by hunger. de Castro considers that faulty diet may often cause apparently undesirable character traits and also so-called "racial" characteristics like temperament and stature.

An instance of the deleterious effect of economic factors was the elimination of pellagra in two United States orphanages, but then the required protein foods to maintain this conquest were too expensive!

In South America, de Castro considers that latifundia are an important cause of the appalling dietary deficiencies there prevailing. In Buenos Aires, 320 aristocratic families, in a population of 3½ million, monopolise 40 per cent. of the land. In Curico province, Chile, 437 plantations take up 83 per cent. of the land, leaving 17 per cent. of the province for 5,937 small proprietors. These are only two of a number of instances where monopoly of land and natural resources exists; this is accompanied invariably by shocking dietary conditions.

De Castro considers that the United States policy in Central American countries of supporting great landholders has markedly contributed to the persistence of poverty in this area. The United States technical proficiency has contributed little ultimately because it has been counteracted by political and economic factors.

He also mentions the well-known fact that after the liberation of the West Indies slaves, the great landowners erected a thousand obstacles to keep the "free" negro from growing his own food; thus they managed to shackle the slaves anew, and kept them on the plantations working at starvation wages. This illustrates, of course, the general truth that political freedom is a mockery and a farce without free access to natural resources.

Jamaica has better dietary conditions than other British colonies of the Caribbean; this is associated with a more equitable distribution of land.

Concerning Puerto Rico, de Castro comments: "... the most destitute people under the American flag," and quotes Preston James — "in no small part the poverty of the people is due to the fact that Puerto Rico is behind the tariff wall of the United States." (Protected, no doubt, from the perils of prosperity!) He quotes also the American nutritionist, N. C. Sherman, who said that he had never seen any place in the world "where the profits of a rich land go into so few pockets (largely those of absentees) and the people who work the land are not only kept so poor in money, but also are so inadequately fed and housed."

He reveals hunger in southern U.S.A. as a man-made plague, even though the region is eminently suited by nature to the production of adequate food supplies. The economic troubles of the south, arising from colonialism and slavery, has been impoverished in modern times by the activities of land speculators. Of the 2 million families living in the Southern United States cotton belt, de Castro states, more

than half own no land. The share-cropping system often results in people not getting enough to eat. The power of land monopoly to promote dietary disease is demonstrated by the fact restrictions were imposed on slaves and later tenants against using the land for raising fruit and vegetables.

De Castro states that the nutritional situation in this area since 1900 has been worse than that of slaves in colonial times; land exploitation also led to expulsion of large numbers of tenants and share croppers. However, in recent years there have been improvements.

"Geography of Hunger" is an outstanding book. It scientifically analyses a great social wrong, and is written with the moral indignation of one who holds the conviction that this should not, must not, be so. It contains a mine of information on diet, economic geography, political history, and recent scientific advances in agriculture and allied fields. Despite the apparent failure to recognize the public collection of ground rents as the remedy for land monopoly, Georgists must be grateful for the convincing debunking of the "Malthusian scarecrow," for the demonstration of the pernicious effects of trade restrictions, and above all for the extensive exposure of the evils of land monopoly.

MILDURA CITY BUILDING BOOST

Unsolicited Testimony to Site-Value Rating

"Sunraysia Daily," (12/11/56) under the heading "Mildura City Building Boost Under Rating System" gives the following building development figures for the months of September and October under the change to site-value rating giving credit to that change as cause.

"Increased home building activity at Mildura has followed Mildura City Council's changeover to unimproved capital value rating.

Both number and value of houses to be built have increased in comparison with average figures for building permits issued during the first six months of the year.

Home building permits issued by council for October — the first full month since the new system was introduced — totalled £30,700. Ten permits were issued for the month to home builders.

For the first six months of this year council issued 32 permits for homes costing a total of £90,000. Broken down, these figures represent a monthly average of 5.33 new homes built from January to June at a cost of slightly more than £2,800 each.

Not only was nearly double this number of homes built in October but their average cost of £3,070 was almost £300 more.

Supporters of UCV rating claimed before the poll that increased home building would follow its adoption.

Apart from home building, permits were issued for renovations and additions to homes and a permit granted for a recreation hall."

It might be added that the day before the poll the Sarnia Packing Coy. applied for a permit to build a new packing house to cost £60,000.

ECONOMIC PRACTICE EXPLAINED

Prof. Harold J. King holds the chair of Economics at Duquesne University, Pittsburg, U.S.A. He wrote on 8th March, 1956, to explain why instruction in economics is so inferior to that which prevails in engineering.

1. There is no economics laboratory to serve in the elimination of absurd theories and the practitioners who hold them. With no such laboratory to contend with the chicanery of superior intellects such as Marx and Keynes can find ready victims.

2. Many economists take a look at the trend and conclude that the path of personal progress must be paved with bricks of conformity.

3. Many conscientious practitioners see in the teachings of Marx-Keynes a note of charity. They tell us that we should develop a "collective conscience." They forget that charity has to do with individual voluntary giving.

4. Many conscientious practitioners see in Marx-Keynes a note of justice. For it is a point of Communist ethics that goods should be distributed according to need.

5. All successful politicians in the United States know that the depression and hydrogen bomb have infected the electorate with a security craze. Economic practitioners have not been immune and instead of pointing the way to genuine security they stand idle while citizens trade more of their economic freedom for a false security marketed under the name of "social security."

Marx might complain about the pace of our "progress," but he could certainly have no moan about the direction in which we are moving.

HAVE YOU READ

Progress and Poverty, by Henry George. Condensed edition. 7/6 (Postage 9d.).

The Wages of Labour, by Henry George. 6d. (Postage 3d.).

Calling All Citizens (Justice Party Broadcasts). 6d. (Postage 3d.).

The Land Question and Christian Justice, by Rev. W. H. Howard. 4d. (Postage 3d.).

Municipal Justice (The Case for Site Value Rating), by E. J. Craigie. 6d. (Postage 3d.).

The Fallacies of Protection, by E. J. Craigie. 6d. (Postage 3d.).

Significant Paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty." Selected and compiled by Prof. Harry Gunnison Brown. 6d. (Postage 6d.).

Dictator Democrat. (How Equality of Opportunity Brings Freedom). By L. H. Berens and Ignatius Singer. 6d. (Postage 3d.).

Public Charges on Land Values. (A Study of the Effects of Local Government Rating Systems Upon the Social and Economic Development of the Australian States.) 6d. (Postage 3d.).

Available from Henry George League, 18 George Parade, Melbourne, C.I.

Notes From Various Sources

M.M.B.W. Advice.—"If it is within your financial resources, always purchase land in areas where sewerage and water facilities are immediately available: there are over 13,000 vacant blocks of land in the Greater Melbourne area which come under this category." Mr. Frank J. Foy, of Real Estate Institute comments: "These will obviously be more expensive than the outlying unsewered areas."—"Age," 12/3/56.

[Ed's Query.]—Then why, oh why, does Metro Board avoid Site-value rating as basis of its charges? Are some commissioners implicated in land speculation with these vacant blocks?]

Merrie England.—Our peasantry and artisans once had a culture. They knew how to cook, to eat, to converse, and to enjoy their leisure. But by the destruction of our countryside through the Enclosure Acts and the driving of its inhabitants into the slums of the industrial towns, this culture was torn-up and they were reduced to a rootless amorphous and disease-ridden mass."—Gerald Brenan of Manchester Guardian.

Hobart Bridge.—Mr. Orchard, M.L.C., stated that the "Sunnyslands" Estate was purchased for £13,000, before the Hobart Bridge was built, and that the purchasers, including three Labor politicians, sold the Estate back to the Government for home building for £72,000.

Mr. J. Heckley (Queenstown) comments: "This unearned increment should have gone into the public treasury, not the land speculators. Labor policy has been amended to suit the disciples of monopoly."—"Examiner," (Launceston), 27/4/56.

Storekeepers — are you one of that necessary band of the self-employed, working long hours and conscripted by the Government to collect Sales Tax from your customers? You know how heavy taxation hinders business, how Government Arbitration makes service ever more difficult. The only solution is the complete elimination of the Sales Tax.—J. M. Atkinson.

Municipal Justice: No community can justly take a revenue from a man-made improvement, or fail to take a revenue from the land value itself has created.—"Denver Digest," (U.S.A.), 31/7/56.

[Ed's Note.]—This theme is developed fully in a booklet, "Municipal Justice," by E. J. Craigie. Price 9 pence posted from this office. Stamps accepted. Send now.]

Question.—"When Mr. Menzies promised to put value back into the Australian 'pound' did he have in mind the 'pound' of potato, pumpkin and onion?"—Senator Ashley, 20/9/56.

[Ed's Note.]—Menzies "squibbed" on that question for his Senate spokesman gave no reply.]

"Introducing Ringwood" — An excellent brochure put out by local Chamber of Commerce, shows that erection of houses has increased 3½ times in past eight years. (1947-1955).

[Ed's Note.]—Four years ago the citizens by poll changed municipal rating system from a burden tax on buildings to be a stimulating freedom for improvers. Croydon, take note.]

Proportional Representation is the system designed to secure equality of representation for equal sections of political thought. P.R. provided for majority rule and for minority representation. P.R. took the power of selection of members out of the hands of the underground controllers in the political parties and placed it in the hands of the electors, who should always have control.—E. J. Craigie, Former M.P., (South Australia.)

[Ed's Note.]—Premier Playford and his Tory-type Liberals are a minority group ruling by mis-representation.]

HENRY GEORGE JUSTICE PARTY.

Broadcast Session, 3DB each Sunday, 12.10 p.m.

Committee Meeting, Friday, 8th February, at 8 p.m.

Radio Broadcast Session

Conducted weekly by speakers of the Henry George "Justice" Party from

RADIO STATIONS 3DB & 3LK

Every Sunday at 10 minutes past noon.

LISTEN AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO LISTEN

Donations to the Broadcast Fund will be appreciated.

EXTENSION OF BROADCASTS

Evening broadcasts have now commenced from Stations 3DB & 3LK

at three-weekly intervals. Next being—
Wednesdays, 2nd & 23rd January, 1957, at 10.05 p.m.

Donations to the Broadcast Fund are invited

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE AFFAIRS

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of members will be held on Tuesday evening, February 19th, 1957, at 7.45 p.m. in the Henry George League rooms, 18 George Parade, Melbourne. Make a note of the date and be sure to attend.

Nominations for Executive

Nominations are called for election to the Executive to be held at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for the thirteen vacancies should be in the hands of the Secretary by February 6th. They should be seconded, and bear endorsement of consent by the person nominated. Election is by proportional representation, the offices of President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer being filled from the Executive members.

Mr. R. J. Crowe has indicated he will not be available to continue as Honorary Secretary next year, so nominations are called also for this specific office at the same time.

Executive Meetings

The Executive will meet on Tuesday, January 22nd, 1957, and on Tuesday, February 5th, 1957, at 6.45 p.m.

Christmas Closure

The League rooms will be closed from Monday, December 24th, and will reopen on Monday, January 7th, 1957.

HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE

18 George Parade, (off 113 Collins Street, near Russell Street), Melbourne, C.I. Telephone: MF 4635. Hon. Secretary, Mr. R. J. Crowe; Office Supervisor, Mrs. Jones.

The Annual Membership Fee is a minimum of £1.

The subscription to Journal "Progress" is 2/- per annum. Stamps Acceptable.

If you appreciate this Journal, you are invited to obtain new subscribers.

Next Executive Meeting, Tuesday, 22nd January, 1957, and Tuesday, 5th February, at 6.45 p.m.

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday, 19th February, 1957, at 8 p.m.