

LAND & LIBERTY

MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

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The General Election

The Government has received a decisive majority in the House of Commons. It is true that this majority is out of proportion to the votes cast for the various parties, but even in the matter of votes there is a substantial majority on the Government side.

The number of votes cast for Conservative candidates has fallen as compared with 1931 by nearly a million and a half, but it is still not far from two million more than in 1929. The Labour Party vote is about a million and three-quarters greater than in 1931, but only just about equal to that of 1929. Counting the Liberal votes cast in the three elections and making comparisons is not so easy. The Liberals were all anti-Conservative in 1929. Most of them supported the National Government in 1931 and after that the Liberals split into Government and anti-Government sections. In 1935 only 151 anti-Government Liberals stood for election as compared with 500 Liberal candidates in 1929; and the extent to which the Labour poll in 1935 benefited by the absence of Liberal candidates is a matter of speculation.

The serious defects of our electoral system need not be elaborated. It causes violent fluctuations in the composition of the House of Commons, entirely disproportionate to the variation in the distribution of the total votes. Irresponsible majorities lead to irresponsible legislation.

The clear lesson of the Election is that, however much the people may have been disappointed in the performance of the Government, no alternative was placed before them which commanded their support. Whether the anti-Government parties will take this lesson to heart remains to be seen. We can only hope that they will learn now to concentrate upon the advocacy of those progressive measures for which there is a large volume of popular approval and which are immediately practicable, instead of dissipating their energies in the attempt to produce a programme which will do everything and please everybody and which in the end excites distrust and doubt, by obscuring the most urgent and vital issues.

The Municipal Campaign

As reported in our last issue, the resolution in favour of the rating of land values passed at the Conference of Welsh local authorities held in Cardiff on 25th September has been circulated to all county, county borough, borough, urban and rural district councils in England and Wales. To each of these 1,683 authorities the United Committee also sent a specimen copy of each of its publications, *Memorandum on Methods of Local Taxation* and *Cities held to Ransom*, and offered to supply additional copies for the use of members or officers of the Council. At the time we go to press, replies have been received from 140 authorities asking for a total of 2,964 further copies of each document.

Press cuttings of debates in a number of councils indicate that the Cardiff resolution has provoked lively discussion in some cases, although in others the council

was so unanimous that the resolution was endorsed without discussion.

Some of the arguments against adoption of the resolution are amusing. A favourite plea was that the matter was "political." The chairman of Deben R.D.C. said that "it was far too big a subject for them." The clerk of Salisbury and Wilton R.D.C. said that "it had caused a bit of an uproar and the Committee for the Taxation of Land Values Ltd. had circularized all local authorities forwarding them publications on the subject." At a meeting of Wycomber R.D.C., Brig-Gen Hoare Nairne said that water had recently been brought to his part of the world. He did not want the price of land to go up. "Why should taxation be forced upon them?"

This is the lighter side of the debate. It is encouraging to read many cogent statements by councillors in favour of the proposal.

Price Rings and Tariffs

During the election campaign a complaint was made that the London County Council had been buying German pencils. In an interview published in the *Daily Herald* (9th November) the Chairman of the Supplies Committee stated that the existence of a price ring had become evident in 1933 when it was decided to invite tenders from foreign firms. In April, 1934, the British offer for round pencils was 30 per cent, and for hexagonal pencils 45 per cent, above the foreign price. In July, 1935, the import duty on pencils having been increased from 20 per cent to over 40 per cent, tenders from British firms were 28 per cent and 35 per cent above the foreign offers, and were identical in character thus indicating the existence of a price ring. The committee unanimously rejected the tenders.

Two other curious cases were reported on the agenda paper of the London County Council of 29th October. Tenders for the supply and erection of the steel work of the front block of the new fire brigade headquarters were received from twelve firms. One of these quoted £20,688 10s. 4d. Three quoted £20,688 10s. 6d. Seven quoted £20,689. One quoted £20,764 15s. 5d. It may be said that these tenders were slightly below the architect's estimate.

Five tenders were received for the supply of wire ropes for the suspension cables of the new Chelsea Bridge. These tenders were identical, namely, £37,768 8s. The engineers' estimate, "based mainly upon information supplied to them in 1931," was £28,000. The excess over the estimate was 35 per cent.

In these cases no foreign tenders were invited owing to the nature of the work, but the conclusions to be drawn from the identical nature of the tenders are obvious.

One Hundred Years Ago

The following item appeared under this heading in the *Glasgow Herald* of 6th November:—

Highland Estates.—A striking instance of the increased value of Highland pastoral districts (thanks to improved roads and better means of communication) occurred last week in the sale of the Cromartie

lands in Ross-shire. The Fannich lot, which rents at 180*l.* per annum, sold for 6,550*l.*, being about 37 years' purchase. The Lochbroom lot sold for 9,200*l.*, being about 34 years' purchase. . . . The upset price of the two was 13,150*l.* . . . Before the opening of the Caledonian Canal the Glengarry property did not produce above one thousand pounds a year, and it now approaches to 8,000*l.* The property of Redcastle in Ross-shire in 1791 sold for 25,000*l.*; in 1824 it was resold for 135,000*l.*! Instances of a similar kind might be multiplied in scores.

It has a remarkably modern sound. The effect of public works (many of them undertaken to relieve the distress following upon the Napoleonic wars and the clearances which desolated Ross and Sutherland) was to increase land values. And so in recent years when more roads have been built to open up Glencoe and other parts of the Highlands to modern transport, land values have again increased.

Taxes on Mining Lands

One good result of the change of government in Ontario is shown in the following paragraph from the *Mining World* of 16th November.

"The Hon Paul Leduc, Minister of Mines for Ontario, announces that a forfeiture of mining lands in arrears for taxes is to take place, as provided for in the Mining Tax Act. The last day of payment of taxes to avoid forfeiture will be 30th June, 1936. The action of the Department is the result of representations made to the Government. There are a great number of Ontario mining locations, especially in the western part of the Province, which are now, owing to the revival of interest due to the increased price of gold, very desirable prospects. As these lands are idle and in arrears for taxes, it is only to be expected that the mining fraternity should demand that the Act be enforced and these lands be thrown open for staking."

It is to be hoped that the Ontario government will turn its attention to other classes of idle lands and enact the appropriate remedy.

The Profession of Landowning

Replying to a toast of "The Landed Industry" at the annual dinner of the Scottish Branch of the Land Agents' Society on 1st November, Sir John Stirling Maxwell referred to the "profession of landowning." He added that he was one of those fortunate people who had found in suburban development a compensation for loss of revenue from other sources.

It is impossible to do full justice to the idea that landowning is either an industry or a profession—terms which are associated with honourable effort or service rendered to one's fellowmen. By way of analogy one may suggest that in the days of chattel slavery the owners should have referred to the profession of slave-owning, or that Dick Turpin and Captain Kidd, in pursuing their activities, might describe themselves as the gentlemen of the roads and the seas.

"Henry George and After"

The three books, *Land and Unemployment* by Dr Muirhead, *Labour's Way to Use the Land* by Tom Williams, M.P., and *Back to the Land* by C. S. Orwin and W. F. Drake, are reviewed together in the *Glasgow Herald* of 22nd November. The reviewer gives first place to Dr Muirhead's book and pays the tribute to Henry George that his works deserve restudy, accepting Dr Muirhead's challenge. "The emergency legislation," the reviewer says "with which all parties are now becoming preoccupied, the quotas, marketing schemes,

tariffs, subsidies, minimum wages de-rating, restrictions upon production, and the rest, are in no way to their mind, in many instances. And since *Labour's Way* will only seem to many of them like an attempt to remedy this overwrought complication by adding more complication, there is a certain attractiveness in the proposal to look again at anything which even has the semblance of being a scientific study of the problem as a whole. It is not for nothing that Bernard Shaw credits Henry George with having given him the perception that politics and science can be associated." After dealing with the *Back to the Land* proposals of Messrs Orwin and Drake, the reviewer concludes: "All this isolated study of agriculture, apart from industry, and politics apart from economics, seems to be leading nowhere. One is thrown back on Dr Muirhead's challenge. The only hope is in a scientific study of the problem as a whole. And from that point of view Henry George's conspectus, limited as it is, is better than none."

We will pass by the final reflection of the reviewer, for has he not just proved the depth and breadth of Henry George's conspectus? It is not "better than none" but better than others. On the whole, a significant review appearing as it does in the staunchly Conservative *Glasgow Herald*.

Our readers are referred to the notice we give to Dr Muirhead's book on page 186.

A Voluntary Press Clipping Service

Here is where our readers can render most effectual aid and we earnestly invite it. Send clippings from local newspapers of anything published which is considered worth notice or comment in *Land & Liberty*, references to housing, unemployment, land prices, local rating, public works, tariffs, letters to editors, debates, political speeches etc. that have relation to the principle and policy of land value taxation or offering opportunity to state the case. The clippings should mark the title and date of the newspaper or journal from which they are taken. If name and address only of the sender is given, an unsealed envelope with halfpenny stamp is sufficient, posted to *Land & Liberty*, 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1. The clippings might be gathered and sent regularly once a week. Professional agencies cannot be expected to give just what is wanted under given heads such as "land" or "taxation" or "local rates" or "housing," and usually supply very much more than has any economic bearing on these subjects from the point of view of land value policy. Besides, the expense per clipping actually exceeds the price of a whole newspaper. Desirous both of administrative economies and of the competent help our many correspondents can give, we suggest this *Voluntary Press Clipping Service* as something deserving the interest and goodwill of all concerned.

The building boom has put tens of millions into the landowners' pockets, which the owners and tenants of the new houses have had to pay.

In 1931 I got an Act passed which dealt with this scandal. But this Government could not stand any interference with the landowners' powers to exploit the community. One of their first acts was to repeal this measure.

If this Government had committed no other crime than this, it is sufficient to condemn them as unfit to be trusted to protect the community from exploitation.

—LORD SNOWDEN, in a special article in the *London Star*, 13th November.

IRISH FREE STATE

Land Value Taxation Discussed

At a meeting of the Dublin branch of the Irish Leaseholders' Association on 12th November, reported in the *Irish Times* and other Dublin papers, Mr Erskine Childers stated that £12,000 per acre had been paid by the Dublin Corporation for land in the Mercer's street area. This was, he said, because of the amenities which had been introduced, and because people wanted to live there. The Corporation would never find a way to purchase land at a price which would enable houses to be built and let at reasonable rents until something was done to tax the profits of landowners in the extra urban areas.

The Rev J. McCarroll, James's street, Dublin, the Chairman, said that the fight which they were prepared to put up was not against individuals, but was against the system in the country at present, which was wrong, unjust and fossilised.

Mr Erskine Childers gave a lecture on the question of ground rents and advocated the taxation of incomes derived from such rents, which, he said, should bear a heavier burden of taxation than any other. That taxation would make land more easily available for industry.

THE NEEDED LEGISLATION

They should call on the Government to initiate measures to end that system of uncontrolled land value monopoly once and for all. Land should be revalued on the basis of its actual value to-day and a tax imposed on the basis of the new valuation. The proceeds of the tax could be used to relieve housing and other improvements, and a revaluation should be made every five years. The unjust distribution of taxation produced an unjust distribution of wealth and built up fortunes for a few. Land taxing had been found beneficial in many countries.

In Denmark land was valued on the basis of its value if it were developed as far as possible. Land near the towns was valued as building land, with the result that the owners got rid of it at the first opportunity that offered a better return than they got for it while inadequately developed. Building land was, consequently, cheaper, and the standard of living rose. The City of Sydney, in New South Wales, was an example of the benefits to be derived from the system.

OUTCOME OF LAND PURCHASE

The Land Acts in Ireland had transferred the land from 600 English landlords to 300,000 smaller Irish landowners, but the agricultural labourer had not benefited by the change. There were fortunes being built up for the urban proprietor to-day.

The taxation of land values provided a simple means of putting an end to that injustice. The tax would be paid by the landowner, and could not be passed on to the tenant. The owners would be forced to use the land, or to let others use it, and more land would be available for building. Houses would be cheaper, rates would be less, commodities could be sold cheaper to consumers, and the whole community would benefit.

Dr Con Murphy, a member of the Dublin Corporation, referred to the Pembroke estate, Dublin, which, he said, now brought £400,000 to the Earl of Pembroke in ground rents. This land, he said, had been leased for 100 years to the then Earl of Pembroke at £60 per year. The Vernon estate, Clontarf, fifteen years ago had been let at about £5 per acre, and now it brought £160 per year in ground rent per acre to an English insurance company which had spent nothing on it.

Alderman C. Breathnach, T.D., cited the case of a

man in North Dublin, not a builder, who, he said, bought a plot of land for £100 a few years ago. He sold it to a builder on condition that he retained the ground rents and now gets £40 a year from it. He could not see why there was not legislation on that subject.

Mr J. J. Byrne, T.C., said there should be a national campaign against ground rents. The Corporation was seriously handicapped in its housing schemes for the poor by the excessive price charged for sites. For that reason there had been an annual loss of £30,000 to the ratepayers in respect of houses let at rents of 7s. 6d. and 10s. a week.

Total volume of houses sold this year is about the same as last year, but with a larger number of people in the business the average profit per company has been reduced.

Rising land values have been another adverse factor. I am told that land obtainable three or four years back at £500 per acre is now fetching £1,000. Less than ten years ago it could have been bought at £100 per acre.

A number of speculators who have eschewed the stock markets in favour of buying undeveloped land have made fortunes from this "unearned increment."—(*The Scottish Daily Express*, 29th October, 1935.)

* * *

The Australian journal, *The Standard* (15th September), has a two-page review speaking with highest commendation of Mr W. R. Lester's examination of Social Credit in his pamphlet (price 1s.) entitled *Poverty and Plenty*. The writer, S. V. L., says: "There is a neatness and completeness about Mr Lester's writings which make them entirely satisfying, and this, his latest pamphlet, is no exception. It is a clear, simple, and convincing exposure of the shallowness of the Douglas theory by one who has pierced the 'veil of money,' who sees things as they really are and not as they seem to be."

* * *

A fact to which little publicity has been given within the States, and less outside, is that the American Government is rapidly becoming one of the largest landowners in the world.

Large portions of cities and states from coast to coast are coming under government ownership, to be used for housing, game preserves, rural re-settlement, etc.

In the fiscal year 1935 twenty million acres were bought for about twenty million dollars. The 1936 estimate provides for the purchase of some sixty million acres—almost twice the area of England.

Catholic Herald, 15th November.

THE REAL CAUSE OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS

*Address delivered at the
Cambridge Liberal Summer School*

By Capt. Arthur R. McDougal
(of Blyth, Lauder, Berwickshire)

NEW AND REVISED EDITION

Price Two Pence

*A Pamphlet that should be in the hands of every student
of the land question with special relation to agriculture.*

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THE ELECTION AND AFTER

There was a singular repose about the Election and absence of polemic. The general comment was that meetings were not largely attended and few seemed to take a live interest in what was going on. Radio broadcasts were accepted as items at the news hour or as interruption of some favourite music, cutting into the usual evening entertainment. Certainly there was little in the contest (saving in some constituencies) to arouse attention or excite zeal for or against any great fundamental or dividing issue. And nothing of the kind was put before the country by the organized parties, nothing to alter opinions that were obviously made up before the election campaign began. The Government chose a suitable moment to appeal for a renewed vote of confidence, turning to good account the international situation and the stand it has lately made for the observance of the League of Nations Covenant. As if mindful of the adage that the eyes of the fool are on the ends of the earth it dragged its coat with great success, and far far away were found to be the causes of war and of the industrial depression here at home. The disputants were invited to step on the several tails of the coat; they obeyed most obligingly and as they argued the given topics of national security and the strength or weakness of the British navy, some voices were heard warning everybody against last minute scares. There was no occasion for the Government to produce any eve of the poll "Red Letter." It created a war atmosphere to begin with, and the alarm "your country in danger" served to throw a veil over its domestic policies. If the leaders of the organized parties had even tried to penetrate that veil and exhibit the things the Government has done to concentrate wealth and power still more in the hands of the few, they could have reversed the roles and fought on different ground with very different results.

Another tail of the coat was the Government's programme of proposals to help the unemployed and mitigate poverty. Indeed, if there were no such thing as a land question, if the private appropriation of the rent of land and the speculative withholding of land from use were never to be regarded as a social wrong, if it did not matter how revenue was raised or who or what bore the brunt of taxation, if no distinction may be made between what belongs to the community and what belongs to the individual, if free commerce or tariff barriers made no difference either way, there is nothing politically in sight to better the plans announced by the Government: the only question is the degree of application. In principle they are right, one side outbidding the other in promise or performance. The impartial spectator could not help getting that impression as the debate proceeded. The agricultural worker thrown out of

work was to get the benefit of unemployment insurance; very good, and the only thing to do, if the idea was absurd that land monopoly had some connection with his circumstances. Mining royalties are to be unified, which is in exact parallel with nationalization by purchase, the interest on the bonds continuing to rob the community of so much rent of land; yet there are hands that clap when the proposition is stated in these terms and voices growing indignant because the Government intimates no more than "unification." The contributory pensions scheme is to be extended; the school age raised; maternity and child welfare services extended and improved. All these things are good in themselves but they are not solvents of the poverty problem. They are the doing of everything for the working classes, as Tolstoi said, except getting off their backs. And when somebody complains that the Government has been vote-catching with other people's thunder, the voter has no qualms about voting the Government a thumping majority. The sincerity of the promise can be put to the test.

But more thunder was stolen when the Government gave out schemes to create employment by guaranteeing £30,000,000 for railway extensions or improvements and promising to spend £100,000,000 on the roads. Whether the money required is to come out of current revenue, or whether as some sages sing it may be got from idle hoards in the banks, was not the point at issue. Nor did it seem to matter what taxes were imposed to provide either the revenue or such a rate of interest that the hoards would be enticed out of the vaults. The Government was scolded for encouraging a good policy after having roundly condemned it, and voters were informed about the lavish sums the true friends of the unemployed would spend in providing work. Again be it said that if there were no landed interests in the way, if such schemes did not simply harden the price of land and shower gifts of increased values on idle privilege, there would be no serious objection to spreading out work on the most magnanimous scale. Parliament might dissolve for good and never trouble the nation again with a General Election to decide such a paltry question as the number of millions the Treasury or the banks or a printing machine should pour out.

Needed public improvements should, of course, be made but there is no blinking the fact that they cost much in ransom to the land monopoly. Many have been abandoned in face of the prohibitive terms demanded. At best they can only give temporary employment. When the new road has been built or other works are completed, when the State-endowed wages have ceased, the situation is as it was before, so far as the unemployment problem is concerned, if it has not been made worse. All this has been proved abundantly by the experience of the last ten years, during which many hundred millions have been spent unavailingly in the hope or expectation of employment so stimulated that the problem itself would disappear. Who ignores these considerations? Who pretends that crooked and stupid taxation has no bearing on industrial stagnation, or maintains a silence about the mischief of land speculation, which is virtually the silence of consent? It is not without significance that Mr Lloyd George's Council of Action now lies buried in the ruins of the Liberal temple where it was given entry to pull away the remaining pillars. Perhaps it had to come to this, and a new and reformed Liberal Party can now rise out of the ashes. Nor is it surprising that Labour leaders are making a post-mortem examination of policies that must have held too much or too little to win a better measure of support from the people.

The General Election was precipitated by the events that followed the Italian invasion of Abyssinia. The British Government found in the obligations of the League of Nations Covenant a concern that the military security of this country was in doubt, and exploited the fears it evoked. The League of Nations has imposed sanctions on the Italian people by way of inducing the Italian dictatorship to call off its murderous assault. The two-edged weapon of a commercial blockade is being employed to bring loss or ruin to the Italian trading community; but as trade always benefits both parties, its stoppage will injure the merchants outside Italy as well as those upon whom this punishment is supposed to be inflicted. It is a course of action that will in the long run contribute to embitterment, giving the Italian Government a still greater hold over its people, and exciting the national and individual resentment of which war is the inevitable outcome. But that is the case with all the economic sanctions that have been meant to strangle trade. The League of Nations is employing Satan to cast out sin. International strife has been fostered by trade barriers, which are the sanctions that the nations have imposed upon one another. The protectionist poison has worked to establish the thought that trade is aggression and imports a disaster. At Ottawa it turned the British Empire into a League for imposing sanctions against the rest of the world. Its mission is to spread more terror if foreign produce were dropped from the sky than if bombs were falling as in Abyssinia. It has invented the quotas to stop this barrage and bombardment. And at home we have the sanctions of a similar order in the marketing schemes for punishing those who produce or deliver things for consumption. No one may put new land under hops, produce more than a certain quantity of bacon, or sell potatoes grown on tabooed land or open an unlicensed dairy shop for the sale of milk, save at the risk of fine and possible imprisonment. But these are the least of the infringements of liberty and obstructions to industry in the monopoly-ridden world the present Government has been called to administer for another term. Tariffs, quotas, restrictions and taxation direct and indirect that takes toll of the producer's earnings are all part of the edifice which the land monopoly, a law unto itself, has erected. The harshest of all the sanctions is that which prohibits the use of the natural resources unless rent be paid to the owner. These then are the issues that should have been foremost in this late appeal to the nation, and in the name of peace and security. But the votes have been cast and a new Parliament sits dominated by the forces of reaction. It is a matter to deplore but not to despair of. Far better get busy at once on renewed endeavour to educate the public opinion that alone will elect a different House of Commons.

A. W. M.

The *Manchester Guardian*, 6th November, reports:—

An important scheme for the widening of the Rhyl-Prestatyn Coast road has been abandoned owing to the prices for land demanded by landowners. The scheme provided for the extensive widening of the road from Prestatyn to Rhyl and was considered to be the first part of an even bigger scheme for the construction of a ring road around Rhyl which would by-pass all the traffic-congested streets of the town. When the negotiations for the necessary land came to be considered by the Flintshire County Council (who were undertaking the scheme) it was decided "that as the offers of the owners concerned were prohibitive, they be informed forthwith that no further action would be taken."

POPULATION & WATER SUPPLIES

At the Public Works Roads and Transport Congress held on 21st November, a paper was presented by Dr S. Vere Pearson, "The Distribution of Population with Special Reference to Water Supplies." The subjects dealt with included not only water supplies, but water and sewage disposal and the reasons for uneconomical concentration or dispersal of population and consequent undue expense in handling these matters. Space permits us to quote only a small part of this valuable paper:—

"The causes which lead to greater centralization and overcrowding are essentially economic. People congregate where money is to be made, or where they think money can be most easily made and where life is relatively hectic. Economic causes draw people from rural surroundings and occupations to the cities. The lower standard of living, the low wages, and the poorer amenities and excitements of rural districts are constantly drawing people to the towns. The attraction is progressive, for more and more persons are needed to move people about in the large towns, to govern and control society in these days of socialism, and to cater for the town-dwellers' recreations. People leave the food producer miles away from cities in thinly inhabited regions. Such internal migrations of population are not voluntary, though sometimes they appear to be. They are primarily dependent upon the economic consequences of adherence to the present-day practice of governments. These consider it their duty to 'keep the ring' for the landlords to collect the rent of land. Instead they should reverse that practice and collect such dues as attach to sites as can be shown to arise from the needs, growth and public expenditure of the community, basing their practice always upon a distinction between an 'improvement' value and one which belongs to the community. It is only the latter which should be collected to finance the public services. If that were done all that a man produced by his own effort could be left intact and taxes could be abolished. The present methods of collecting funds for the public services are not conducive to the best interests of the community. As long ago as 1885, Edward VII, then Prince of Wales, as a member of the Royal Commission on the Housing of the Working Classes, pronounced against our plan of raising rates and pointed out that it was unfair in its incidence and hampered progress, besides permitting public values to accrue to private individuals.

"When people can obtain good public services they will be willing to pay more to occupy a site for their habitation or their place of work. Therefore, a site value, or what the economists call the economic rent of land is the just measure of the benefits to be received from living in society, and this value should be that which is collected into the common pool instead of taxes and should not be allowed to flow into private pockets. The best plan is to include all public services in the site rent paid, so that even water, sewerage and drainage rates should be assessed on the basis of unimproved values. Then water would be supplied to water users and its payment included in his local land rent levy just as the use of a lift is included in the house rent of a flat paid to a house-lord. But in England we are far from such ideal arrangements as yet. The first step must be to transfer local rates to site-value assessments."

FORM OF REQUEST

I bequeath (free of duty) to the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Limited, the sum of £.....

GENERAL ELECTION—SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Parties	Nominations Including (40) Unopposed Returns*	New Members (Including Unopposed in brackets)	Previous House At Dissolution 25th October†	Net Gains (G) or Net Losses (L)	Votes Cast
<i>For the Government :</i>					
Conservative	561	390 (23)	462	72 (L)	10,583,140
Liberal National	45	33 (3)	38	5 (L)	866,624
National Labour	20	8	13	5 (L)	339,811
	586	431	513	82 (L)	11,789,575
<i>Against the Government :</i>					
Labour	552	154 (13)	60	94 (G)	8,325,446
Independent Labour Party	17	4	3	1 (G)	139,517
Liberal	147	17	30	13 (L)	1,377,962
Independent Liberal (Lt. George)	4	4	4	—	65,150
Communist	2	1	—	1 (G)	27,117
	722	180	97	86 (G)	9,935,192
<i>Independents</i>	38	4 (1)	5	1 (L)	272,683
Government Majority		251	416		

* In the constituencies returning unopposed candidates, the total electorate is 1,798,252, of which (splitting the English Universities electorate half and half between the Government and the Independent member) 1,166,468 belong to the constituencies where supporters of the Government were returned. Adding the unregistered votes, where there was no contest, to the 21,997,450 votes cast at the election, it appears that on the average every Government member represents 30,037 voters, whereas every anti-Government member represents 58,700 voters. † Including seats vacant at the time of the election : 3 Con, 1 Lib Nat and 2 Lab.

RESULTS IN CERTAIN CONSTITUENCIES

The following results in constituencies fought by advocates and supporters of Land Value Taxation will be of particular interest to our readers. It is a case of congratulating the victors and expressing regret where success was not attained in return to Parliament, although even in defeat there is the satisfaction of a hard fight fought and opinion made which must tell in the end.

Successful.—Rt Hon J. C. Wedgwood, Andrew MacLaren, H. G. McGhee, Rev James Barr, G. D. S. Hardie, W. T. Kelly, D. Hopkin, D. R. Grenfell, C. H. Wilson, Sir Robert Young, *H. Holdsworth, G. Oliver, *Sir P. A. Harris, H. Graham White, B. Riley, W. Whiteley.

Unsuccessful.—Ashley Mitchell, Capt A. R. McDougal, R. R. Stokes, G. F. Sawyer, *Sir M. Mackenzie Wood, Dr P. McDougal, T. Atholl Robertson, J. McCulloch, F. McGhee, Dr Somerville Hastings, *Sir Robert Hamilton, Milner Gray, W. G. Hall, Joseph Toole, Tom Myers, Dr C. R. Cooke-Taylor, S. R. Daniels, R. R. Fairbairn.

Successful

Rt Hon JOSIAH C. WEDGWOOD (Labour) Newcastle-under-Lyme, returned unopposed. Also in 1931.

ANDREW MACLAREN (Labour) Stoke-on-Trent, Burslem : 18,030 ; *W. Allen (Lib Nat) 15,227. In 1931, Lib Nat majority 2,399.

H. G. MCGHEE (Labour) Penistone : 23,869 ; *C. W. H. Glossop (Con) 20,783. In 1931, Con majority 4,972.

Rev JAMES BARR (Labour) Coatbridge : 17,535 ; T. D. K. Murray (Con) 13,121. In 1931 Con majority 1,501 in triangular contest.

G. D. S. HARDIE (Labour) Glasgow, Springburn : 20,286 ; J. McNicol (Con) 11,859. In 1931 Con majority 341 in triangular contest.

W. T. KELLY (Labour) Rochdale : 22,281 ; G. Murray (Con) 20,486 ; G. Elliot Dodds (Lib) 11,311. In 1931 Con majority in triangular contest 7,017. The Liberal candidate, Mr ELLIOT DODDS also stands strongly for Land Value Taxation.

D. HOPKIN (Labour) Carmarthen : 18,146 ; *R. T. Evans (Lib). In 1931 then Lib Nat, 12,911 ; E. O. Kellett (Con) 7,177. Lib majority 1,241.

*D. R. GRENFELL (Labour) Gower : 26,362 ; G. C. Hutchinson (Nat) 13,239. In 1931, Lab majority 2,806.

C. H. WILSON (Labour) Sheffield, Attercliffe : 18,663 ; *C. F. Pike (Con) 11,034. In 1931, Con majority 163 in triangular contest.

Sir ROBERT YOUNG (Labour) Newton : 19,992 ; *R. C. Essenhigh (Con) 14,201. In 1931, Con majority 381.

*H. HOLDSWORTH (Liberal) Bradford S. : 24,081 ; W. Hirst (Lab) 17,121. In 1931, Lib then Lib Nat majority 15,537.

G. OLIVER (Labour) Ilkeston : 23,851 ; Sir C. Markham (Nat) 13,250. In 1931, Nat Lab majority 2.

*Sir P. A. HARRIS (Liberal) Bethnal Green, S.W. : 9,011 ; G. Jeger (Lab) 7,945. In 1931, Lib then Lib Nat majority 6,253.

*H. GRAHAM WHITE (Liberal) Birkenhead, E. : 16,548 ; S. J. Hill (Con) 9,854 ; Mrs M. A. Mercer (Lab) 8,028. In 1931, Lib then Lib Nat majority 17,073 in triangular contest.

B. RILEY (Labour) Dewsbury : 14,066 ; J. Fennell (Nat Lab) 8,798 ; *Sir W. R. Rea (Lib). In 1931, Lib then Lib Nat majority 8,562.

Unsuccessful

ASHLEY MITCHELL (Liberal) Halifax, 8,736. Elected : *G. Gledhill (Con) 24,193. A. W. Longbottom (Lab) had 21,471. In 1931, Con majority 16,380 in triangular contest.

Capt A. R. McDOUGAL (Liberal) Roxburgh and Selkirk, 12,264. Elected : Lord W. Scott (Con) 18,342. C. Thompson (Lab) 6,099. In 1931, Con (*Lord Dalkeith, now Duke of Buccleuch) majority 3,974.

R. R. STOKES (Labour) Glasgow Central, 13,186. Elected : *Sir W. Alexander, 16,707. In 1931, Con majority 10,091.

G. F. SAWYER (Labour) Birmingham, Duddeston, 8,884. Elected : *O. E. Simmonds (Con) 12,146. In 1931, Con majority 6,543 in four-cornered contest.

*Sir M. MACKENZIE WOOD (Liberal) Banff, 11,168. Elected : Sir E. Findlay (Con) 11,771. In 1931, Lib returned unopposed.

Dr P. McDOUGALL (Independent) Manchester, Rusholme, 2,525. Elected : *E. A. Radford (Con) 19,678. A. Knight (Lab) had 9,258. In 1931 by-election, Dr McDougall had 2,503.

* Member in the previous House.

T. ATHOLL ROBERTSON (Liberal) Finchley, 8,920. Elected : J. F. E. Crowder, 26,960. C. G. Lacey (Lab) had 6,533. In 1931, Con majority 27,846.

J. McCULLOCH (Labour) Glasgow, Hillhead, 8,566. Elected : *Sir R. Horne, 18,367. In 1931, Con majority 13,740.

F. MCGHEE (Labour) Liverpool, Walton, 14,079. Elected : *R. Purbrick (Con) 22,623. In 1931, Con majority 19,952.

Dr SOMERVILLE HASTINGS (Labour) Reading, 22,949. Elected : *Dr A. B. Howitt (Con) 27,540. T. W. Todd (Lib) had 2,685. In 1931, Con majority 15,162 in triangular contest.

*Sir ROBERT HAMILTON (Liberal) Orkney and Shetland, 6,180. Elected : B. H. H. Neven Spence (Con) 8,406. In 1931, Lib unopposed.

MILNER GRAY (Liberal) Mid-Bedford, 11,623. Elected : *A. T. L. Boyd (Con) 16,054; T. H. Knight (Lab) had 4,224. In 1931, Con majority 1,487 in triangular contest.

W. G. HALL (Labour) Norwich, 24,670. Elected, in this two-member constituency : *G. H. Shakespeare (Lib Nat) 36,039 and H. G. Strauss (Con) 34,182. C. J. Kelly (Lab) had 22,055 and Fenner Brockway (I.L.P.) had 6,737. In 1931, Lib Nat majority 12,630; Con majority 10,588.

JOSEPH TOOLE (Labour) Salford, S., 15,932. Elected : J. J. Stourton (Con) 16,236. In 1931, Con majority 6,838.

TOM MYERS (Labour) Stretford, 19,278. Elected : A. C. Crossley (Con) 34,874. In 1931, Con majority 26,206.

Dr C. R. COOKE-TAYLOR (Liberal) Dulwich, 3,743. Elected : *Bracewell Smith (Con) 16,870. J. V. de la Haye (Lab) had 7,142. In 1931, Con majority 17,005 in triangular contest.

S. R. DANIELS (Liberal) Bath, 6,650. Elected : *T. L. B. Guinness (Con) 20,670. G. G. Desmond (Lab) had 7,185. In 1931, Con majority 16,455 in triangular contest.

R. R. FAIRBAIRN (Liberal) Worcester, 6,885. Elected : *W. P. C. Greene (Con) 13,398. J. Ferguson (Lab) had 6,152. In 1931, Con majority 9,746 in triangular contest.

* * *

Among other candidates named in our issue of last month, were : *Successful* : *George Daggar (Labour) Abertillery, returned unopposed; L. McNeil Weir (Labour) Clackmannan and Stirling E.; W. S. Senders. *Unsuccessful* : A. S. Comyns Carr (Liberal), W. Bennett (Labour), C. W. Gibson (Labour), A. Gilzean (Labour), J. H. Hudson (Labour), Miss Dorothy Osborn (Liberal), D. C. Thompson (Labour).

* * *

Ministers in the former Labour Administration (1929-1931) elected were : A. V. Alexander, *C. R. Attlee, J. R. Clynes, *Sir Stafford Cripps, *Arthur Greenwood, *George Lansbury, F. W. Pethick-Lawrence, H. B. Lees-Smith, Herbert Morrison, F. O. Roberts, E. Shinwell. *Unsuccessful* : were W. Adamson, *Dr C. Addison, Wedgwood Benn, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Miss Susan Lawrence.

* * *

The Rt Hon Ramsay MacDonald was defeated at Seaham by 20,498 votes. Sir Herbert Samuel, Liberal leader, lost his seat at Darwen in a three-cornered contest. Sir John Simon only scraped in by a majority of 642, whereas in 1931 his majority was 12,956. In Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mr Walter Elliot, the "food dictator," won in a three-cornered contest (Labour vote 14,951; Liberal vote 1,004) by 149, his majority in the 1931 election being 9,066.

* Member in previous House.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME ELECTION ADDRESSES

ANDREW MACLAREN, M.P.

(Burslem—Labour)

Every social malady from which society is suffering we can trace to its source; we know that it springs from a cruel and unjust law created in the past and enforced by Governments down to this day.

Will you use the vote to end this system of exploitation of man by man, the monopoly of land at home, and the robbery of other people's land abroad, which leads to war? Will you vote for Peace and a strengthening of the League of Nations, the removal of tariff barriers and the outlawing of conquest by the sword? If so, your duty is to vote Labour on the Election day.

It is my special intention if returned to Parliament to promote a Bill giving powers to Local Authorities to abolish all rates levied on houses and improvements, and to impose *these rates* on Land Values.

The main points of the programme which I will advocate if returned to Parliament would be: the removal of all economic causes which tend to create war; wholehearted co-operation with the League of Nations and other States outside the League to promote a collective peace system; strict State supervision of all armament production.

DOMESTIC POLICY : The removal of all taxation from the food and necessities of the people: the direct taxation of land values.

NATIONALIZATION : It is to the Nation's interest that all sources of coal supply, railways, canals and other forms of national transport should be nationalized. All forms of production, services which enjoy special privileges, that tend to become monopolies, should be brought under the supervision of local and national authority. . . .

H. G. MCGHEE, M.P.

(Penistone—Labour)

Despite the lavish promises of the Tory-National Government to reduce unemployment and increase wages by the application of tariffs, so far, after four years of trial, the only effect has been to increase food prices and profits. I am resolutely opposed to tariffs and their insidious alternatives, quotas and subsidies.

The whole system of taxation and rating should be overhauled. The present antiquated system of levying rates and taxes on the results of human labour is punitive, destructive and obstructive. It discourages the industrious and penalises the thrifty. It makes for high profits and low wages. It prevents the fruitful use of the bounties which a Beneficent Creator gifted to all men.

Every public enterprise adds to the value of land. The making of new roads at the public expense, improved transport and communication, the extension and betterment of social services all give an added value to land.

I support the Labour Party's policy of levying a substantial proportion of taxation on land values. The ascertained value of the land should be made available to the local rating authorities, and the land value rating system substituted for the present method of raising local rates.

ASHLEY MITCHELL

(Halifax—Liberal)

The policy of economic nationalism pursued by this Government has immeasurably worsened the international situation, the economic crisis was largely caused by the stranglehold of tariffs and quotas on world trade. This country, with its Free Trade system, under which it grew and prospered, was the great oasis in a stricken

world, the world economic conference assembled in London in 1933 under the gloom of the newly erected tariff barriers of this country, with a gloating crowd of Tories raving that they had killed Free Trade. By the Ottawa agreements in 1932 the Tories blazoned forth the mad doctrine that the British Empire, representing one-quarter of the surface of the globe, intended to shut its doors to the trade of foreigners.

Canada under its new Liberal Government will shortly reduce her tariffs to the joy of British traders. Let us follow suit quickly. I have never swerved from adherence to Free Trade. Send me to Parliament to help in removing these tariff barriers.

The acid test of successful government is the condition of the masses of the people, two million people unemployed is a certain sign that the wages of those in work are low. Unemployment of willing workers is unnatural, it can only exist when land, the source of all wealth, is kept out of use. I have consistently advocated the taxation and rating of land values. Experts have estimated that the annual land value of this country is over £400,000,000, that value is created by the presence and activities of the community. I advocate that we take £50,000,000 of that value as soon as possible. We could then abolish the food taxes, reduce the petrol and transport taxes, and other irritating levies, and so leave people with more money to spend that would quickly stimulate trade, land would be brought into use by the pressure of the tax, creating a demand for labour and causing wages to rise. Site values should be made the basis of assessment for local rates, abolishing all rates on houses, buildings and improvements. Many great cities of the Dominions, e.g., Sydney, Johannesburg, and Wellington raise their local revenues in that way. The Tories by the derating swindle made local authorities into beggars at the door of the Ministry of Health.

CAPT ARTHUR R. McDOUGAL

(*Roxburgh and Selkirk—Liberal*)

The Tory National Government have sought by hampering trade by tariffs and quotas as regards overseas trade and by thrusting upon agriculture the infamous marketing boards, endowed with statutory powers to control and make scarce and dear the staple foods of the people.

They have imposed savage taxes on your food and necessities of life and have taken the money thus raised and given over £38,000,000 a year to Agriculture. This sum has been almost entirely absorbed in rent and price of land and cannot possibly be of any permanent benefit to those who live and work on the land. This sum is equal to 19/- per week for every farm worker employed, yet, since 1931, farm wages have risen only one halfpenny per week over England and Wales, equal to 2/2 per year per head as the farm worker's share. In spite of this huge subsidy the acreage under the plough has gone down, and fewer workers are employed since 1931.

They have taken no steps to stop profiteering in land whenever the community requires it, and by repealing Lord Snowden's Act for the Taxation of Land Values they repealed the one thing that would have helped.

Their policy of Protection and Retaliation has been a hopeless failure. Since 1931, hardly a single country has lowered her tariffs against us, and in 1934 alone tariffs were raised against us in 15 countries and lowered only in three small countries—Latvia, Esthonia and Lithuania.

I support the Liberal Policy as follows: (1) Free Trade; (2) Abolition at once of new food taxes imposed since 1931; (3) Abolition of subsidies; (4) Abolition of

all protective duties and tariffs and of the compulsory powers now possessed by the tyrannical Marketing Boards; (5) Attack the problem of starvation amidst plenty as one of under-consumption and not of over-production, and try to increase the purchasing power of the consumer and reduce the costs of the producer. This as a start to be tackled by (a) derating houses, thereby providing each house with £10 per annum extra spending power and stimulating house building, thus causing more employment in all trades and giving us more and better houses; (b) taxing land values and using the money to pay the house rates relieved. (6) Attack agricultural depression as a problem, not of low prices but as one of excessive rents and land values.

RICHARD R. STOKES

(*Glasgow Central—Labour*)

It is not sufficiently realised that labour is the producer of all wealth, and that those who work with their hands and their brains in the direct production of wealth are performing the greatest service to the community and deserve the highest reward.

We live in an age when wealth is more easily produced than ever before, yet, in spite of this fact, a large proportion of our people are living in extreme poverty and the vast majority, if not in actual poverty, have no security and have little means of pleasure and advancement.

This is a state of things which is utterly wrong, and an insult to anyone's intelligence. It is due to the unjust social conditions brought upon us by man-made laws, which allow one group of people to prey on the rest . . . its removal would do away with the inequalities which poison our lives to-day and drag us into war.

Wealth can only be produced by the application of labour in some form or other to land, using the term in its broadest sense. If land is held as private property those who own no land are put at a great disadvantage as compared to those who do, and cannot get the just reward of their efforts. The great problem of our time is to deal with the evils which arise from poverty. Abolish poverty and the problem disappears. I believe that this can be done by . . . collecting the revenue necessary to run the country from a tax on land values levied on land whether used or not, and at the same time gradually abolishing all taxes which penalize industry and effort. The Labour Party paved the way for this in 1931 by introducing the scheme in the Finance Act. The National Government, subsequently, not only suspended it but removed it from the Statute Book. It would be a simple matter to bring it in again.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND DISTRESSED AREAS: If the natural resources of our country were to be opened up to industry and labour, the nightmare of unemployment and bad conditions arising therefrom would disappear for ever.

THE COAL QUESTION: The appalling conditions under which the coal miners live could be set right once it was admitted that the coal of this country was the property of the people.

PEACE OR WAR: The question of peace or war is at bottom an economic one; by the abolition of poverty the nations of the world would have no need to fight each other.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS: . . . Even the work of the League will be ultimately defeated unless we set the example to the rest of the world by putting the economic structure on a sound footing. Once this is done the desire for foreign conquest would disappear, as the natural resources of each country would be developed unburdened by the dead hand of land monopoly. . . .

FREE TRADE is what I look forward to; freedom to produce and freedom to exchange. Let Glasgow, the greatest industrial and ship-building centre of the world, lead the way to FREEDOM, PROSPERITY, and PEACE.

T. ATHOLL ROBERTSON

(Finchley and Friern Barnet—Liberal)

I stand for a return to freedom of trade, not by any sudden transition, but by boldly facing the danger of our present position, and repairing the foundations of economic prosperity. Every woman knows now that food prices have risen. Bacon, butter, lard, cheese; all are dearer, and this is a direct result of the Government's policy of Quotas and Tariffs.

Another vital reform is that of our antiquated system of taxation and rating. Household and tradesmen are thronging the Assessment Appeal Courts seeking relief from the colossal burden of rates. Value of land is steadily rising, due to the presence and activity of the community. A Tax on Land Values would enable us to untax and derate houses, shops and factories. How fair to all, to collect the land values we all help to create. No confiscation of the efforts of men's hands and brains, but social justice.

GEORGE F. SAWYER

(Birmingham, Duddeston—Labour)

It is well to remember the result of the stampede election of four years ago . . .

By Tariffs and Quotas put 30 million pounds of taxes on the people's food. . . . Reduced the Income Tax on the rich and well-to-do by that amount. . . . Postponed and then removed from the Statute Book in the interest of rich landowners the Land Value Tax, passed by the Labour Government. Granted subsidies of many millions of pounds from the public purse to vested Capitalist interests, Sugar Beet Companies, Shipping Companies, Farmers and Landowners.

I stand for . . . work to be found, with decent wages, for all people anxious and willing to do it, by compelling people who own land to put it to the fullest possible use or be glad to let someone have it who will, by introducing Land Value Rating; for the abolition of all rates on houses and shops . . . for the removal of all taxes on the people's food.

F. L. MCGHEE

(Liverpool, Walton—Labour)

LABOUR AIMS.—To establish public ownership and control of monopoly industries and services, including banking and credit, and to deal effectively with the land question, so as to break the monopoly value of those industries which we propose to socialise. And for this purpose all my life I have been firm in the demand for the Taxation of Land Values—values which the people have created and from which only Landlords profit. The land should belong to the people. Land monopoly is the basic monopoly which must be destroyed. The Labour Party is pledged to do so.

If we would be free from the terrible fear and dread of war, if we would banish war as an instrument of policy, the economic causes of war must first be eliminated. Only international trade and commerce, freedom from all tariff barriers, such international economic adjustment and arrangement which the Labour Party is consistently pressing for, will give us collective security and create the conditions for a lasting peace, and bring serenity, well-being and happiness for our common humanity.

FROM CANDIDATES' SPEECHES

Councillor G. W. Crawford (Labour Candidate for North Edinburgh) said the National Government had given short shrift to the Labour Party's policy on the taxation of land values. One instance might be given in the case of Edinburgh. At Granton Mains a piece of ground which was rated at £600 rose to £37,500 when it was required for public purposes. The owner of such land put no social value on the ground, which received its enhanced value through the efforts of the community.

Mr E. J. Thornley (Liberal Candidate for Central Portsmouth) described the taxation of land values as one of the main planks in his platform for the following reasons: "It will check speculation in land; force valuable sites into the market; stimulate employment by cheapening areas of national resources; raise wages; take rates off houses, shops and other places; reduce rents and remove slums; and provide public revenue without hampering industry."

Mr D. Cleghorn Thomson (Labour Candidate for Leith) in the course of what the *Edinburgh Evening News* called a rancorous attack upon his opponent said: "Mr Ernest Brown had been a capable advocate of land values taxation, but had backed the Government which abolished Labour's statutory provision for putting land values taxation across."

Dr C. R. Cooke-Taylor (Liberal, Dulwich) gave special prominence to land value taxation both in his literature and in his speeches. A fair system would return to the community some part at least of the new value its enterprise had created. "Tax the site, not the use to which it is put."

Think how many burdensome taxes could be alleviated, leaving to each individual worker by hand or brain more to spend, if, for a start only, we placed a tax on the rental value of all land to bring in £250,000,000 annually. One could abolish the wicked taxes on food—the so-called breakfast-table duties. The greater part of the motor-car duties could go. Then at least something could be knocked off the lower ranges of income tax. Unemployment contributions could be reduced. Unemployment is aggravated by land monopoly. The entertainment tax could go. The rates should fall on land values and not on a mixture of land value and house value, with the present exemption to those who hold up land in our towns for a rise in value and have nothing to contribute so long as they do not use it. Rating authorities have asked for this reform and the Tories have always turned it down.—Miss MURIELLE NICHOL, Labour candidate for North Bradford, in a letter to the *Yorkshire Observer*, 13th November.

In the slum-clearance schemes houses were being put up at an increased burden of rent. Why? Because the land had to be bought, and because there was a monopoly in land. The fact was that those owning land could get any price they liked if they only held on long enough, and up to the point where the community had to purchase.—E. T. HUMBY, Labour candidate for North Portsmouth, *Hampshire Telegraph*, 8th November.

Suggestions for your Christmas or New Year Gift:—to your friends; one of the books published by the Henry George Foundation. To "Land & Liberty," as your friend also, the contribution we specially invite on behalf of the Sustentation Fund.

CANDIDATES' REPLIES

Among candidates who wrote to the United Committee expressing support of land value taxation or mentioned it in their election addresses were: Wm. T. Adams (Labour, South Hammersmith); Stanley Awberry (Labour, Clitheroe); J. W. Bowen (Labour, Crewe); L. G. Bowman (Liberal, S.E. St. Pancras); F. G. Bowles (Labour, North Hackney); George E. G. Catlin (Labour, Sunderland); Fred Chilcott (Labour, South Molton); Thos. Crawford (Labour, South Croydon); S. R. Daniels (Liberal, Bath); John Dugdale (Labour, Central Cardiff); Richard Ellis (Liberal, Folkestone); Hew T. Fraser (Liberal, Wood Green); Ben Gardner (Labour, Upton); W. G. Hall (Labour, Norwich); J. Hamilton (Labour, Liverpool, Kirkdale); J. Erskine Harper (Labour, Montrose Burghs); Miss E. Jacobs (Labour, St. Marylebone); C. W. James (Labour, Hemel Hempstead); E. J. Johnson (Liberal, West Fulham); C. J. Kelley (Labour, Norwich); F. V. King (Labour, Ormskirk, Lancs.); A. Knight (Labour, Rusholme); F. J. Knowles (Labour, Horncastle); Leslie Lever (Labour, Moss Side, Manchester); D. W. A. Llewellyn (Liberal, South Croydon); W. Davies Lloyd (Labour, Wandsworth, Balham and Tooting); J. M. MacDiarmid (Labour, Ross and Cromarty); Mrs Leah Manning (Labour, Sunderland); L. W. Matters (Labour, Kennington); Norman Mickle (Labour, Bedford); Stanley W. Morgan (Labour, Watford); M. W. Moore (Labour, Grantham, Lincs.); Harold Paton (Labour, Horsham and Worthing); Mrs Mari Power (Labour, Hornsey); David J. Pryde (Labour, Midlothian and Peebles Southern); H. G. Purchase (Liberal, Blackpool); M. Shinwell (Labour, Bute and North Ayrshire); Ivor Thomas (Labour, Spen Valley); H. Thorneycroft (Labour, Blackpool); J. W. Todd (Liberal, Reading); Aiken Watson (Labour, Putney); Miss Monica Whately (Labour, Wandsworth, Clapham); John Wilmot (Labour, East Fulham); Alex Wood (Labour, Cambridge); S. Wormald (Labour, Wirral, Cheshire); H. J. Baxter (Liberal, Hornsey); John W. Fawcett (Liberal, Portsmouth S.); B. Goldstone (Liberal, Hendon); Will Thorne (Labour, Plaistow).

Additional to these are 31 candidates favourable to Land Value Taxation mentioned in the reports of the English, Scottish, Welsh and Portsmouth League—see *News of the Movement*, pp. 189-191. Among these candidates are two Conservatives: O. Temple Morris (elected) and E. O. Kellett, and one Communist, H. Pollitt.

CAMPAIGN NOTES

In the Burslem constituency where the staple trade has the protection of tariffs to keep out competitive imports for the raising of prices against consumers, Mr Andrew MacLaren, in the Labour interest, vigorously upheld the free trade principle demanding the abolition of protection for all industries at once and without exception or compromise. His opponent, Mr Allen, sought to make political capital by pointing to the disaster, as alleged, to the Potteries if the tariffs were removed; but the challenge was gladly accepted and opportunity taken to emphasize the benefits of free trade applied all round. Land value taxation and free trade were placed in the forefront of the campaign and successfully kept there. So an instructive debate dealing almost entirely with the fundamental cause of unemployment, low wages, house famine and international strife proceeded between Mr MacLaren and his opponent. The *Evening Sentinel* gave extensive reports to the speeches of both candidates.

In Halifax, where Mr Ashley Mitchell stood in the Liberal interest, the prejudice in favour of tariffs was

not overcome. The silent vote went to the Government while the meetings condemning its policies were large and enthusiastic. Mr Mitchell as a Land Values and Free Trade candidate concentrated attention on the injuries that tariffs inflict, never mind how much local manufacturers (and their workers) imagine they benefit. What advantage they think they derive is at the expense of the rest of the people; but is there advantage to any one in circumstances that impoverish all customers? Land value taxation was the remedy for poverty, and with that the real free trade which would remove all taxation from industry and commerce. The Halifax people, however their present vote was determined by other considerations, had that good instruction.

So also in Central Glasgow, where Mr R. R. Stokes as Labour candidate fought magnificently for the taxation of land values and free trade, bringing down the Tory majority from 10,000 to 3,000 in this Tory stronghold. The support Mr Stokes got shows how successful he was in carrying new and stronger conviction for "this freedom" among the people it was his mission to educate and his aspiration to represent.

A correspondent writes: "Mr Stokes preached the unadulterated Single Tax and Free Trade case in its fulness and with another week and a more coherent election organization he might well have won a spectacular victory."

The result in Roxburgh and Selkirk will be profoundly regretted by all our readers who have learned to admire the zeal and tenacity of Capt A. R. McDougal and his able advocacy of the land value policy. The large vote he secured was unfortunately not enough to carry him in. The Duke of Buccleuch's territorial influence is something to reckon with; and prestige was increased by the recent marriage of a daughter of the late Duke, and sister of the Conservative candidate, to a son of the King. Capt McDougal's election would have been a powerful accession to our forces in Parliament. He is an accepted authority on the land question especially in relation to agriculture, and as a practical and experienced farmer he has an unanswerable case against the price-raising and rent-raising policies of the Government.

Wherever the advocate of land value taxation stood, in the sense of making that question a foremost issue, free trade was also a main plank on the platform. Such was the campaign of Mr H. G. McGhee (Labour), the victor of Penistone, of which description is given by Mr A. H. Weller, as observer and supporter, in the Manchester League notes, page 190; and the campaigns of those whose defeats are to be deplored, standing either in the Labour or the Liberal interest and not forgetting Dr Percy MacDougall who bravely contested Rusholme, Manchester, as an Independent. Mr George Sawyer did not succeed in winning back his old seat at Duddeston which is in Birmingham, where the Tory tide still runs strong, and he will be much missed in the new House of Commons. In other still stronger Tory centres, success would have been triumph indeed, returning Mr T. Atholl Robertson (Liberal) for North Finchley, Mr F. McGhee (Labour) for Walton in Liverpool, Mr Jas McCulloch (Labour) for Hillhead in Glasgow, and, among others, Dr C. R. Cooke-Taylor (Liberal) for Dulwich. The Government created such an atmosphere for this election that its big vote is not a matter for surprise, nor is it evidence of the lack of sentiment existing for land value taxation.

CROMPTON LLEWELLYN DAVIES

The death on 23rd November of Mr Crompton Llewellyn Davies deprives the movement for the taxation of land values of a zealous and brilliant protagonist, the last of three brothers who each in his way made a great and enduring contribution to its advancement.

Mr Davies was first associated with the work of the Scottish and English Leagues for the Taxation of Land Values. After the Liberal victory at the General Election of 1906 he was one of the prime movers in the formation of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, as a central organization with offices in Westminster, for the purpose of taking advantage of the new political situation that then emerged. The Committee was born in his house at 14, Barton Street, Westminster. It was largely owing to his insistence that John Paul was brought from Glasgow to be secretary of the Committee, a choice which was abundantly justified by its results.

For a number of years Mr Davies was closely connected with the work of the Committee as joint secretary together with John Paul. The combination was a happy one. He brought to the partnership the trained mind of the lawyer, the experience of a man of affairs, and native shrewdness, as well as enthusiasm for the cause. His knowledge of all the technical intricacies arising in the practical application of land value taxation was no doubt widened by association with his brother Theodore, who was joint secretary to the Royal Commission on Local Taxation and was largely responsible for the separate report on the rating of site values signed by the chairman and other commissioners.

Mr Davies behind the scenes was responsible for much of the inspiration of the Liberal Campaign over the Budget of 1909, which contained the first, though very imperfect, attempt, to value the land of the United Kingdom. He was the compiler of one of the most popular handbooks on that subject, *The Budget, The Land, and the People*.

He took a leading part in the work of the Land Values Parliamentary Group, and was the draftsman of the Memorandum presented by the Group to the Departmental Committee on Local Taxation, and gave evidence in support of the Group's proposals. Subsequently he wrote an admirable review of the conclusions arrived at by that Committee and by the Liberal Land Inquiry, the reports of both of which were published in 1914. This survey was published as a supplement to *Land & Liberty* and as a separate pamphlet.

Apart from numerous services of this kind which were of necessity anonymous, he was the author of two books on the land question—*The Foundations of Freedom*, by "Emeritus," and *An Irish Commonwealth*, by "Dalta."

Other phases of his career are indicated in the obituary notice in *The Times* from which we may quote the following:

"Born in London on 13th July, 1868, he was the fifth son of the Rev J. Llewellyn Davies, the Broad Church divine, translator of Plato's *Republic* and Alpine climber, and of Mary, eldest daughter of Mr Justice Crompton. From Marlborough he went up with a classical scholarship to Trinity, Cambridge, where he and his younger brother Theodore were the centre of a large group of attached friends, many of whom have since become distinguished. They were elected to Fellowships at Trinity on the same day, to the delight of the Master, Montagu Butler, who was a very old friend both of their father and of their mother. Theodore entered the Treasury and seemed certain of distinction in the public

service when he was drowned while bathing near Kirkby Lonsdale in 1905.

"Crompton became a solicitor, his articles being served in the office of the firm, then headed by Sir John Hollams, in which he was a partner many years later. He was for several years a member of the firm of which Sir John Withers, M.P., is the head. He was then offered by Sir H. Samuel the post of solicitor to the Post Office, which he held through a somewhat eventful period which included the inquiry into the Marconi troubles. He was not entirely in his element in the Civil Service. He was neither by training nor temperament a typical Civil Servant: original, humorous, often critical of his superiors, and very outspoken, he must often have alarmed those with whom he had to work, who could not but respect his great ability and lofty character.

"He had married an Irish lady, Moya, daughter of Mr James O'Connor, M.P., she became an ardent sympathizer with the Sinn Féin movement and an admirer and friend of Michael Collins. These sentiments her husband shared. At the height of the revolutionary movement the house of Mrs Davies, then in Dublin, was raided by the 'Black and Tans.' She was arrested and confined for some months in Mountjoy Prison without any charge being brought against her. A parcel of letters to her from her husband was seized during the raid. These letters, no doubt strongly criticizing the Government policy, were handed to the authorities at the Post Office, who decided that their authorship was inconsistent with the position of a Civil Servant in an important post, and Llewellyn Davies was dismissed. He afterwards became a partner in the important City firm of Coward, Chance and Co., and continued in active work till his death."

He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter, to whom we tender our sincere and grateful condolences. In this sympathy we associate his sister-in-law, Mrs Harry Ll. Davies, and his cousin, Charles E. Crompton. His loss will be felt by many friends, but by none more than those in this movement with which he was associated so early in his career and in which he took a deep interest till the last.

"LAND TAX KILLED"

(From *Fifty Points Against the National Government*, Official Publication of the Labour Party.)

The main feature of the Labour Government's Finance Bill of 1931 was the enactment of the Taxation of Land Values to recover for the community the fortunes undeservedly reaped by private property owners as a result of public improvements.

The Tories fought the scheme bitterly, and the "guillotine" had to be used to overcome their obstruction.

Labour set up machinery for operating the tax before the Government fell.

But the Tory majority in the "National" Government was determined to kill the Labour Party's measure, and in the Finance Bill of 1934 the Tax on Land Values was repealed.

The Coventry branch secretary of the National Co-operative Men's Guild who had 18 copies of *Henry George's Protection or Free Trade*, 6d. edition, for his guild writes: "I would like to state that our members have found the book most useful and interesting." Very many Co-operative Guilds and Education Committees have been supplied with copies of the book for their members, responding to the advertisement that appeared in the *Co-operative News*.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE STAGNATION OF INDUSTRY

Any book which will interest readers in the land question and make new converts to land value taxation deserves a warm welcome. Mr Jorgensen* sets out to do this by presenting the problem of business depression, unemployment and the maldistribution of wealth from what he considers to be a more correct standpoint than that adopted by Henry George and those who have followed the method of *Progress and Poverty*. If anyone could give the practical conclusions reached by George an even firmer basis of economic reasoning than he gave them, we should have cause to rejoice. An honest endeavour to do so deserves equally honest and sympathetic scrutiny, and the reviewer must do so even although handicapped by the announcement that this work is only the prelude to two other works in which the author proposes to deal with "The Murder of Economic Science" (i.e., by Ricardo and those who accepted Ricardo's views on rent) and "The Mistakes of Henry George." Despite the absence of these volumes, enough is said in this one to indicate the author's standpoint.

The thesis is this: Business is stagnant and men are unemployed because people are not demanding enough goods. People do not demand enough goods because prices are high. Prices are high because rents are high.

Every one of these statements demands examination. Take the first. What does the demand for goods consist of? Goods are exchanged for goods. (For simplicity of argument, we leave immaterial services out of account.) If there is not sufficient demand for goods there cannot be sufficient supply of goods. The true version of the first statement is: Business is stagnant and men are unemployed because people are not producing enough goods. This is not only true, but it is a truism.

The second statement contains a concealed but widespread fallacy, which lies at the basis of many current proposals for monetary reform. It assumes that if prices were reduced to half their present level people would be able to buy twice as much. The fallacy lies in this. If prices fell to half, and the income of some particular individual remained as before, that individual would be able to buy twice as much as formerly. But the incomes of people are made up of the prices of the commodities they have to sell. If prices fell to half, incomes would fall to half; no one would buy or sell any more than he did before.

The fallacy is precisely the same as in assuming that if people had more money they would be able to buy more. It is true that if one person's money income was doubled he could buy twice as much, but it is not true that if everyone's money income was doubled everyone could buy twice as much. This experiment has actually been tried during periods of inflation and we know what the result was.

It is the third proposition, however, that brings us to the heart of Mr Jorgensen's criticism. He says that "prices are high because rent is high." This assertion is supported by an attempt at an inductive proof. Statistics are given of the course of prices in the United States over a long period purporting to show that in spite of increase in productive power, prices have not fallen, and the inference is drawn that if prices have not fallen it must be because of the increase in rent.

Such reasoning cannot be satisfactory or conclusive

for a number of reasons. First, any consideration of the course of prices over a long period must take account of the fact that price represents the number of monetary units which are required to purchase an article. In the United States the monetary unit is one dollar, but Mr Jorgensen pays not the slightest attention to the question whether one dollar represents the same thing during the whole of the two hundred years covered by his graph.

Next, Mr Jorgensen arbitrarily assumes that because prices have not fallen, it is because rent has risen. He might equally well have asserted that rent has risen because prices have not fallen.

Further, Mr Jorgensen's graphs do not bear out the interpretation put upon them. Taking the last twenty years, his graph of wholesale prices shows that from 1910 to 1920 wholesale prices doubled, and between 1920 and 1930 they fell again to about the 1910 level or to half the peak point of 1920. During the same period his graph of the aggregate ground rent of the United States shows an almost steady advance from just over 6,000 million dollars to something under 12,000 million dollars. There is no fall in rent after 1920 to explain the fall in prices.

The truth of the matter is that any conclusion on this matter must be based upon deductive reasoning. Mr Jorgensen virtually admits this in the emphasis he lays upon what he calls the "vast sea of errors and inconsistencies, omissions and confusions" which Henry George plunged into by accepting Ricardo's law of rent and particularly the theory that "rent is not a part of price" or that "rent does not enter into the price of commodities."

The present writer has been unable to discover any passage in George where this assertion is made. Ricardo undoubtedly uses expressions which (especially if taken from their context) would bear this interpretation. However that may be, the broad principle asserted by George and by Ricardo is that the price of identical commodities in any market must be identical, no matter from what land they are produced. This proposition is self-evident. The price of those commodities which are produced on land at the margin of production can contain no element of rent. This proposition proceeds from first principles, for marginal land is by definition land for which no rent is paid. Hence it follows that the price of any commodity is equal to the price of that part of the supply which is produced upon marginal land paying no rent. In other words the rent of marginal land does not enter into price.

But it does not follow from this and George does not assert that the rent of no land enters into price.

Before pursuing this further we must ask what precisely is meant by the phrase "rent enters into price." Rent is a share of the produce of land which goes to the owner for permission to use the land. It is measured by the excess of what can be produced upon any piece of land over and above what a similar application of labour and capital could produce from marginal land. Under a money economy rent is received in the form of money and not in the form of a share of commodities. The money to pay the rent is obtained by selling the commodities. Rent thus becomes a share of the monetary proceeds of selling the commodities produced. In this sense, and in this sense only, rent is a part of price and so also are wages and interest. Nevertheless the primary definition of rent, wages, and interest is that they are a share of the produce, and it is only secondarily that they are a share of the price. It is one of the great merits of George's analysis that he

* *The Stagnation of Industry*, by Emil O. Jorgensen, National Tax Association of America, Chicago, Ill. Price \$2.

stuck so faithfully to the primary meaning and did not complicate his argument by reference to price.

Curiously enough Mr Jorgensen, after his violent denunciation of George and his elaborate parade of statistics and rhetoric to prove that prices are high because rents are high, falls back upon a secondary argument, viz., that prices are high because taxes are high. He links this to his other argument by pointing out that taxation upon commodities is high because rent is not taken in taxation. Hence we get this chain of argument: Taxes on commodities are high. Rent is high. Rent is not taken in taxation. Therefore prices are high because rent is high.

But even this chain of argument is defective. The means by which taxation of commodities raises prices is by reducing supply. If the supply were not reduced, prices would not rise.

Although Mr Jorgensen asserts that the root of the trouble is that prices are too high, when he comes to deal with the position of the farmer (still one of the greatest sections of American economic life), he adopts a different treatment. "All farmers, he says, are receiving too little for what they *sell* and paying too much for what they *buy*." They are paying too much for what they buy because of the taxation imposed upon manufacturing and other activities of labour and capital. They are receiving too little for what they produce because of "the unnatural poverty of their customers." This not only contradicts Mr Jorgensen's main thesis, but is a particularly glaring instance of arguing from the particular to the general and of promising special benefits to special interests in similar fashion to the protectionists. If the poverty of the urban population reduces the prices of agricultural products, does not the poverty of the agriculturalist keep down the prices of urban products? If the burden of present-day taxation raises the price of manufactured articles, does it not also raise the price of agricultural products? The most that could be said in support of this deplorable chain of reasoning is that the farmers bear a disproportionately large share of taxation. But even if this were true, Mr Jorgensen could logically only have drawn the conclusion that land value taxation would benefit the farmer more than the urban producer.

Mr Jorgensen asserts that George's presentation is faulty because he looks at the matter from the point of view of the producer and not that of the consumer. Yet the fundamental principle of George's treatment is that men seek to gratify their desires with the least exertion.

The idea that economic evils are due to lack of purchasing power is a popular one to-day, and an accurate presentation of George's principles from that standpoint might have great value. It must not be forgotten, however, that the distribution of purchasing power is merely a reflex of the distribution of wealth. Mr Jorgensen says that if the taxes now levied in the United States, amounting to 7,300 million dollars annually, were repealed and replaced by land value taxation, every person in the country would gain in purchasing power by this amount or 300 dollars per family. He forgets that the landowners would lose exactly the same amount of purchasing power. Indeed, he asserts that the gain in purchasing power would be much larger because (a) the purchases of the rich do not afford as much employment as an equal expenditure by the poor and (b) that the landowners do not use all their purchasing power. The first of these reasons is unproved, and is irrelevant because we do not wish to increase work but wealth; and the second paves the way to all the fallacies of the social credit theory and of

those who explain present mal-adjustments by undue investment in capital goods.

It is not possible to pursue the discussion of these points here. We would merely repeat that they arise out of a false method of treatment which regards price as the fundamental aspect of the subject, whereas the fundamental point is that rent is a share in the distribution of wealth. Land value taxation is first of all a means of redistributing that share among the whole community. This is not to say that the secondary effects of land value taxation (which are well stated by Mr Jorgensen), such as relieving labour products from taxation, preventing the holding of land out of use, reducing the general level of rent, raising wages and stimulating production, are not also of great importance; but a scientific treatment of the subject must place first things first.

SAFEGUARD PRODUCTIVE CAPITAL

In his latest book,* Mr Louis Wallis has presented the case for land-value taxation in the light of its effects upon the employment of capital. The treatment is pointed, clear and effective, and calculated to arrest attention.

It will appeal to those who regard capital as the "central factor in all industry" to find this point admitted and made the basis of the argument. Mr Wallis emphasises that he means "productive capital," that is to say the actual plant and equipment used in any industry, excluding the capital value of monopoly rights, and "watered capital" beyond the real value of the industrial stock. To-day "when productive capital finds itself more and more pressed between the upper millstone of taxation and the lower millstone of inflated ground values, every kind of payment is either scaled down or stopped." The result is reduction of wages and interest and industrial depression.

This point is incisively developed and illustrated from recent economic experience, and the remedy shewn to be the untaxing of productive industry and the reduction of speculative land values through taxation of ground values.

Incidentally, the author shows that political democracy as it now exists is a compromise in which the economic power of land ownership has been safeguarded, and that the dictatorships of Germany and Italy are not so much a break with democracy as a "reassertion of aristocracy divested of its democratic clothing."

For some strange reason the author proposes to substitute for the term single tax a new name, "capretax" (i.e., capital relief tax). He is wasting his time. Even the sub-title of his book, "Tax ground values and untax industry," indicates that one cannot abandon terms which have gained currency, and after all land-value taxation is something much more than a capital relief tax, it is a labour relief tax.

Like some other modern writers, Mr Wallis cannot resist having a fling at Henry George. The emphasis laid by George upon "abstract rights" and upon land-value as a "social product" is deprecated. Mr Wallis quotes a letter from Professor Edward A. Ross of Wisconsin University who writes: "I agree with you that by rearing a Utopia on the exclusive taxation of land (*sic*), Henry George interrupted the rational evolution which was going on towards recognizing land as peculiarly able to bear taxation." It would be rather difficult to find any evidence of this alleged gradual evolution. There was not anywhere in the world any

* *Safeguard Productive Capital*. By Louis Wallis. (Doubleday, Doran & Co., New York.) 75c.

active movement towards land-value taxation when George published his ideas. The New Zealand Land Tax Act, 1878, to which Mr Wallis refers had been superseded in 1879 by the Property Tax Act which imposed taxation upon *all* property real and personal over £500 in value, and it was not until 1891 that a land-value tax was imposed, when George's writings were well known.

It is the very reverse of fact that George interrupted an economic evolution by giving land-value taxation a dubious moral basis. The moral basis, whether dubious or otherwise, had been given by many previous writers. What George gave was an economic basis, up till then very incomplete.

No doubt it is true that we know more than when Henry George wrote. If we had built nothing upon the foundation he gave we should indeed have been wasting our time. But if we project our minds back to 1870 and survey the barrenness of economic thought then, we may appreciate the revolution that George actually made.

None the less this is a stimulating book which ought to do good.

LAND AND UNEMPLOYMENT

This posthumous work by Dr Muirhead* is an unusual contribution to the literature of land-value taxation. It is to be regretted that the author did not live to make a final revision or to add a last chapter and a bibliography which he evidently had in mind. To compensate for this the editor, Mr Garnet Smith, has contributed an introduction on Henry George and the Single Tax, and Sir Arnold Wilson a Foreword.

This is a book which is likely to arouse intense disagreement. It is written from what in the broad sense is a conservative outlook. The author, if not a protectionist, at least condones protection for the time being. The radicals will disagree with him upon this score. On the other hand, he makes an attack upon Socialism and Trade Unions which is likely to alienate the Socialist.

Nevertheless, this is a book to be read and pondered by people of all opinions. It represents the final views of a man of wide culture, an acute observer, and a deep thinker, who has endeavoured to state a policy upon which persons of moderate opinions in all parties might unite. It is intended to appeal not to those who are convinced partisans, but to those who are still perplexed and anxious about the present economic situation of the country and are earnestly seeking a way out.

It is characteristic of the author that after a brief introductory chapter he boldly embarks first upon the problem of agricultural land, frequently regarded as the most difficult part of the subject, reserving urban land for a subsequent chapter. Other chapters deal with the benefits flowing from land-value taxation, Socialism not the remedy, other proposed remedies, misapprehensions regarding the ideas of Henry George, land the enemy—not capital, unemployment trade unions and the dole, tariffs and trade, rates taxes and tithes, the land in British politics, valuation, the unique position of land, and the taxation of land values in other countries.

It need hardly be said that this book is written in the charming style that one would expect from the author and that it is well printed and attractively bound.

Although this paper cannot be identified with all the opinions expressed, this is a book which certainly ought to be read by students of the subject.

F. C. R. D.

* *Land and Unemployment*. By James F. Muirhead, M.A. (Oxford University Press.) 7s. 6d. net.

THE OLD LAND TAX

Correspondents who sometimes ask for particulars of the 1697 Land Tax will be interested in the following statement given in a review (in the *Estates Gazette*) of the book *The Land Tax, Law and Practice* by Burrard Staples, published by Gee & Co., 3s. 6d. post free:—

"Land tax as we now know it evolved out of the Danegeld of Anglo-Saxon days which comprised 1s. per 'hide' or 'hyde' (an area of land allotted to a family or house), which, remembering the vast difference in the value of sterling, may have seemed onerous. Under the Conqueror the rate of 6s. per hide was imposed, and 'fifteenths' and 'tenths' came next, succeeded in Tudor times by the 'subsidy,' covering crops, cattle, or profits from lands. 'For a time,' the authors tell us, 'all three charges existed together . . . In 1692 a valuation was made, and land tax in the form we know to-day began to take shape, the Act charging at the rate of 4s. in the £. . . The principle of raising a fixed amount was first adopted in 1697, the sum being £1,484,015 1s. 11½d. The Commissioners allocated the amount to each Hundred or Division so as to make up the total for the county or city. The Act of the following year, 1698, was re-enacted year by year down to 1797, the charge varying from 1s. to 4s., but not always exclusively a charge on land."

"The Land Tax of 1797 made provision for the raising of £1,989,673, and the Land Tax Perpetuation Act of 1798 declared that that sum should be raised in perpetuity. The fact that the value of the properties in the counties, etc., has changed whilst the quota to be raised remained constant explains the variation in the present rates in the £. The authors give an illustration of this effect in the fact that by 1897 five parishes found that a rate of less than 1d. in the £ would redeem the whole parish quota. 'In such cases,' they add, 'no land tax will, of course, be found within the parish, and the layman may well fail to understand the tax or to perceive any fairness in its incidence.'

"The amount now required for redemption is 25 times the tax charged in the last assessment."

MAKING FORTUNES

Great Britain is the scene of a new "Klondike"—a rush for land which is insidious, silent, and immensely profitable.

Keen buyers recently bought land near London for £100 an acre. Electric railway extensions and an arterial by-pass road ran near. The land has been resold for £1,000 an acre. At Morden, the new London suburb, the rush for land netted for its owners a sum estimated at £1,200,000. An acre which cost £2,000, was resold within six months for £7,000.

Even in distant Cornwall a woman recently bought two acres of land for £175. She divided this into five plots and sold them for £175 each within 18 months. In Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, and the great Northern cities a building boom which has never been approached for its magnitude is sending land values sky-high.—(From an article by Mr TERENCE HORSLEY in the *Daily Dispatch*, Manchester, 27th August.)

The estimate made by Mr Frank Hunt, the valuer of the London County Council, shows clearly that local authorities in London will have difficult work to find the land for the new buildings required to abolish overcrowding.—(*Manchester Guardian*, 18th September.)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S.A.

Progress of the Henry George School

Writing from Pittsburgh, Pa., Mr Richard E. Howe, who attended the Henry George Congress in New York lately, reports that in his city they have 97 enrolled students of the Henry George School Extension Class, with many belated applications coming in. In addition, there are seven towns and boroughs within an hour's drive of Pittsburgh asking that schools be established there. A stumbling block is that they do not have enough teachers for these classes. Meanwhile, there are 14 taking the teachers' training course and most of them should be available by the beginning of the New Year.

To the President

In an open letter to President Roosevelt the Henry George Association of Youngstown take note of his (the President's) request to clergymen to suggest any proposal for the betterment of the nation and write that while they are not clergymen they feel free to put forward most relevant recommendations. If a proposal is worth attention it does not matter what the source is. Accordingly, a very powerful plea was made to abolish all taxation on industry and have the government obtain all its revenue by collecting the economic rent of land. The President was reminded of *Progress and Poverty* in the belief that the contents of that book were not new to him.

True enough, the contents of the *Progress and Poverty* are not new to Mr Roosevelt because, as we reported in our September, 1933, issue, the President has publicly declared: "I believe that Henry George was one of the really great thinkers produced by our country. I do not go all the way with him, but I wish that his writings were better known and more clearly understood, for certainly they contain much that would be helpful to-day." This is all very well, but what is Mr Roosevelt doing about it? Here is a handle we offer to our co-workers, W. O. Blase, John F. Conroy, and Chas. G. McGowan, in Youngstown.

CANADA

The Annual Meeting of the Single Tax Association of Canada was held on 15th October at the Lora Martha Tea Rooms, 90 King Street West, Toronto.

Mr A. W. Madsen of London, England, was the principal speaker. His visit to Toronto has been a considerable inspiration to the Georgeists inasmuch as the activities of the group had been curtailed by shortage of funds during the period of the depression. One matter of regret was that the Hon Arthur W. Roebuck, Attorney-General of Ontario and Hon President of the Association was unable to be present on account of a Cabinet meeting being called for the same hour. Fifty-one members and friends sat down to dinner after which the Secretary's Annual report was read by Mr L. B. Walling, Treasurer's report by Mr Alan C. Thompson, and officers and executive committee for the coming year were elected. Mr J. H. L. Patterson, the President, called on Mr Alan C. Thompson to introduce the guest of the evening (Secretary Walling provides report of the address, but lack of space prevents reproduction; it was summarised in our last month's issue—EDITOR, *Land & Liberty*.).

Mr L. B. Walling stated that the last two years had been a period of comparative inactivity with the Association owing to the difficulty in securing funds, but that now as a result of the receipt of two legacies of modest amounts, the financial situation was somewhat improved.

Two important activities would soon be under way: One was the conducting of Extension Classes, in Toronto and other centres, in connection with the Henry George School of Social Science, of New York City; and the other, the circulation throughout the Province of Ontario of a Petition addressed to the Provincial Premier and his Cabinet, requesting them to institute a thorough and impartial investigation of the claims advanced in support of taking Land Rent for Public Revenue in lieu of Taxation

of the products of Private Industry: and, in the event of their correctness being established, to "enact Legislation providing for the raising of a progressively larger proportion of our Municipal and Provincial Revenues from the Unimproved Value of the Land, and a correspondingly reduced share from Improvements and other Labour Products."

A special feature of this Petition was that signing it was made conditional on each signer paying the small fee of ten cents. This would aid materially in meeting such expenses as the payment of canvassers, printing, postage, literature for free distribution, etc., and, incidentally, would add to the weight of the signatures somewhat, for, small as it was, the fee would tend to discourage indifferent and irresponsible signees. The educational value of the circulation of such a petition, and the distribution of literature in connection therewith, in the secretary's opinion was very important.

The Financial Report, read by the Treasurer, Mr Alan C. Thompson, showed the Association to be in a better financial condition than for several years back, due to the receipts this year of legacies from the estates of two deceased members, namely, from the late Professor John McGowan, somewhat over \$800 in cash and securities of perhaps double that amount at present valuation, and from the late Benjamin Kirk, \$500 cash, less succession duties which reduced it to \$437.50. Mr Thompson voiced the regret which the members felt that the Association's financial good fortune should be at the cost of the loss by death of two such devoted colleagues.

Mr Thos. Bengough, on being called on by the Chairman, paid a feeling tribute to the memory of his brother, the late J. W. Bengough, Canada's most famous cartoonist of an earlier day, whose *Primer of Political Economy* and *Whole Hog Book*, giving the Single Tax message in words of one syllable, had been most effective agents in spreading the light. Unfortunately, both these works were now out of print.

Mr Alan C. Thompson gave a brief report of the Tenth Annual Henry George Congress, which met in New York 26th-28th September. He had been impressed by the much larger proportion of young people present at that gathering than had been the case at any previous convention he had attended. He was fully convinced that the class method, as exemplified by the Henry George School of Social Science, was the most effective means of winning converts to the cause that had yet been tried. Western Canada had been again represented at the Congress by two of the stalwarts from Milk River, Alta.

Mr W. E. Barker, a former worker in the movement in New York City but a resident of Toronto for many years, made a stirring appeal to those present to subscribe for *Land & Liberty* with the result that quite a number did so at the close of the meeting.

Officers and Members of Executive Committee were elected as follows: *Hon President*: Hon Arthur W. Roebuck; *President*: J. H. L. Patterson; *Vice-Presidents*: Ernest J. Farmer, Dr Stanley T. Floyd, R. Hubbard; *Secretary*: L. B. Walling; *Treasurer*: Alan C. Thompson; *Executive Committee*: Mr and Mrs J. R. Cadwell, Mr and Mrs John J. Carroll, Richard F. Choate, Philip A. Chubb, Mrs C. B. Coate, Miss Dorothy E. Coate, Arthur B. Farmer, William Forrest, M. Leslie Hancock, Mrs Robert Hubbard, Walter I. Ingram, Frank Johnston, John A. Martin, Miss M. Q. Ollerhead, Herbert T. Owens, Mrs J. H. L. Patterson, Charles Phillips, Miss Janet Scott, Miss Margaret Scott, Sydenham Thompson, William R. Williams.

SOUTH AFRICA

The journal *Forward* of Johannesburg "South Africa's Only Democratic Weekly" (established eleven years) has a number of interesting items in its issue of 18th October, relating to the "P.E.P." or "Put an End to Poverty" movement.

Mr Mather Smith reports: Advocate Lucas spoke at four meetings this week and will also speak in Pretoria and

Benoni. *The Wool Review*, a paper with a very large circulation, is publishing "P.E.P." in both languages, and *The Industries of South Africa*, published in Durban, is coming out with full support of our programme. Mr J. C. Bolton, Secretary of the Garment Workers' and Furniture Workers' Unions, Natal, has thrown in his lot with the "P.E.P." movement (and it's a movement which moves), and, as your readers know, Mr T. G. S. Strachan, ex-M.P., is doing all he can in Maritzburg.

Mr Lucas has now a number of enthusiastic helpers and steady progress is being made, but that progress isn't half fast enough, and, if everyone who agrees would only do one-hundredth part of what the few are doing, we could have the demand for a free land run through the country like a grass fire. The Afrikaner half of the population must be shown how to get their rights on the earth, and for that we need all the help we can get. Is democracy to fail in South Africa too? Well it certainly will unless the people wake up. We are told that hunger makes men think but why wait for the hunger? The time to get a move on is now, now, now.

Mr Lucas himself has letters explaining the Henry George policy by way of answer to "Social Credit" and Mr Harold Dold reports that to further the "P.E.P." movement an office has been opened at No. 63, Anglo-African House, Durban, Natal.

AUSTRALIA

Prize Essay Competition

The Henry George Foundation of Australia announces a Prize Essay Competition, the objects of which are to promote a wider knowledge of the teachings of Henry George, and a fuller understanding of the practical policy advocated by him to prevent Trade Depressions, and to establish just social conditions.

The sum of £100 is offered in prizes as follows: Senior Group—one award of £25, one of £15, one of £10, and six of £5 each. Junior Group—one award of £10, and two awards of £5 each.

Essays are to be written on the subject: "The Philosophy of Henry George in relation to the Existing World Crisis." There is no entrance fee. The competition is open to all residents of Australia and New Zealand; but past and present Officers and Executive Members of Henry George Organisations and others who have been actively associated therewith are not eligible to compete.

Each competitor shall adopt an assumed name, which shall be written on the outside of a sealed envelope to be posted along with the essay. The sealed envelope shall contain the real name of the competitor with his or her postal address.

The essay may be of any length up to but not exceeding 6,000 words. It must be clearly written or typewritten on foolscap sheets, on one side only, leaving a fair margin on the left. Pages should be numbered consecutively, and on each should appear the assumed name of the Competitor.

Essays must be received not later than 31st March, 1936; the covering envelope containing the essay to be marked "Essay enclosed," and to be addressed to: P. J. Markham, Secretary Essay Competition, Henry George Foundation, Australia, 17-19 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, C.I., Victoria, Australia, from whom may be obtained the details of the rules and conditions governing the competition.

ARGENTINA

The Civic Radical Union, a party formerly led by President Irigoyen and now led by Senor Alvear, on account of its democratic nature, has for some years abstained from political contests because of the danger of reprisals on the part of the Dictatorship which might have led to civil war. Some months ago this party decided to resume its activity and obtained a majority in the Province of Santa Fe. This success over those in power resulted, as was anticipated, in intervention by the Dictatorial Central government which dissolved the provincial parliament.

On account of these reprisals the Civic Radical Union, which is the most numerous in the Argentine, and whose

electoral strength has been revealed in Santa Fe, has reaffirmed its intention of prosecuting the struggle by legal means and it is possible that it may gain control of the central government and of most of the provincial and municipal governments.

Such a success would go a long way towards the establishment of Georgeism in the country of Rivadavia (George's great precursor) as this party, as well as the Argentine socialist party, is well saturated with Georgeist ideas, as shown by the declarations made at its congresses. The latest platform adopted at Córdoba in August last contains a number of items tending in this direction. It demands simplification of the tax system with a progressive reduction of taxes on labour and abolition of taxes on consumption, and the gradual suppression of taxes on improvements, making the tax fall on the social value of land.

We are indebted to *La Reforma Social*, Madrid, for the foregoing information.

SPAIN

The November issue of *La Reforma Social* carries a large number of articles of general interest, including a translation of the leading article from October *Land & Liberty*, as well as a great variety of news of the movement both in Spain and abroad. Issued as a supplement with the journal was a twenty-four page pamphlet by Mr Baldomero Argente on "Planned Economy." Those who read Spanish may wish to know that the annual subscription to *La Reforma Social* is 8 pesetas a year. (Office: Velazquez 98, Madrid.)

JAPAN

The Tokio correspondent of the London *Observer*, 27th October, reviews a pamphlet which has just been issued by the Imperial Agricultural Society. In the six northern prefectures of Japan's main island there is widespread hunger and disease, a growing mountainous burden of debt, inability of the local authorities to pay teachers' salaries, increased social unrest and a marked growth in the sale of girls to the licensed quarters of the cities. The acute distress in the rural regions, of which the northern provinces furnish the worst, but by no means the sole examples, is a major cause of the social unrest and ferment in Japan that have found expression in the formation of many extremist groups, some of them largely recruited from young army officers, and in a number of political assassinations and attempts at assassination.

Mr J. Snaith, a Birmingham correspondent, writes that the "Island Paradise" article in our last month's issue calls to mind a recent article in the *Shield's Gazette* on the "Care Free People of Labrador." That article, he says, apparently tried to give the impression that the Labrador people's happy condition was due to "nature's bounties on land and sea." Yet in countries where nature is much more bountiful we find dire poverty existing side by side with plenty and potential poverty. "I suggest that the reason is to be found in the fact that the people of Labrador are free to hunt and fish to their heart's content without having to ask a landowner's permission first and subsequently to pay him a goodly percentage of the product of their labours."

* * *

Mayor J. R. Firth of Strathfield, N.S.W., writes: "To commemorate our son Bernard's life and work my wife and I planted a grove of trees in one of the Strathfield parks, also had built four concrete seats and placed on one of the seats a brass plate as per photo enclosed. We thought this a much more fitting memorial than headstones, etc. Perhaps some of your readers may like the idea." The memorial is to one who gave devoted service to the Henry George cause and whose loss was so deeply regretted. We sympathize again with the parents and regard the memorial they have erected as most appropriate.

THE CAUSES OF WAR.—Among books received is the new work *Chain the War God*, by Dr Victor A. Rule, of Chicago, published by the James A. Bell Co., Elkhart, Indiana. This we hope to review in our next issue.

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, LTD., 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1. A. W. Madsen, Secretary; F. R. C. Douglas, Assistant Secretary; W. R. Lester and C. E. Crompton, Hon. Treasurers. (Telephone: Whitehall 6008. Telegrams: "Eulav, Sowest, London.")

Dr S. Vere Pearson, who has recently paid a visit to Russia, will speak on his study and experiences at a Meeting being held in the Committee's rooms on Wednesday, 4th December, at 7.30 p.m. Questions are invited with discussion to follow if time permits. Dr Pearson's authority as a social economist, and the fact that his inquiries into conditions in Russia has been made as an adherent of Henry George, make this meeting of particular interest.

In the midst of the election campaign, with the calls upon the office for urgent despatch of the *Notes for Speakers* and the leaflets to many parts of the country, another campaign was going forward in the municipal field in the supply of the Committee's publications to Town Clerks for distribution to their members. The quantities required varied from 100 to 5, and to date altogether 2,964 each of *Cities Held to Ransom* and the Memorandum on *Methods of Local Taxation* have been so circulated, since the circular offering this material was sent out. Further reference to these activities is made elsewhere.

The Derbyshire and District Society of Rating and Valuation Officers have arranged joint session of two meetings with the Nottingham Society to be held in Nottingham on 27th February, one of which will be addressed on "The Rating of Land Values" by Mr Douglas. It will be an important conference. The membership of each Society comprises the executive Valuation and Rating Officers of all the rating authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.

By invitation, Mr Douglas will address the Rating and Valuation Committee of the Sunbury Urban District Council on 6th December. The Clerk has had 17 copies of the United Committee's publications for distribution to members.

In controversy with Sir Henry Keith on local income tax *versus* land value rating Mr Douglas had an article in *Scots Town and County Counsellor*, November issue.

In view of the meeting the Lord Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is calling to consider unemployment, we have sent a circular to each member of the City Council along with a copy of Mr Lester's *Unemployment and the Land*.

Mr Fredk. Verinder's new book *Land and Freedom* has had an excellent Press with many long and mostly favourable reviews. Newspaper clippings received include those in the *Barnsley Chronicle*, *Belfast Telegraph*, *Birkenhead News*, *Birmingham Gazette*, *British Weekly*, *Cambridge Daily News*, *Clitheroe Advertiser*, *Eastbourne Gazette*, *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*, *Edinburgh Evening News*, *Estates Gazette*, *Glasgow Evening Times*, *Gloucester Citizen*, *Irish Press*, *Irvine Times*, *Lancashire Daily Post*, *Mid-Sussex Times*, *Montreal Daily Star*, *Northern Echo*, *Northern Evening Dispatch*, *Paisley Express*, *Publisher's Circular*, *Reynolds News*, *Wolverhampton Express and Star*, *Correspondence Co-operative* (Paris), *Aberdeen Press*, *Daily Worker*, *Economist*, *Falkirk Herald*, *Glasgow Herald*, *Glasgow News*.

The increased sales of the Henry George books during election time was very noticeable and was in some measure a corrective of the impression that the public was not roused out of its apathy to matters concerning the getting of a living.

Mr C. W. W. Prescott with Mr Madsen and Mr Douglas are attending the sessions of the Engineers Group (British Science Guild), who are considering the causes of economic maladjustments and the remedies proposed by various schools of thought.

A feature of the office work is the continuous correspondence dealing with letters from very many places at home and across the seas, often wanting service in one form or other, asking what literature should be read on this or that aspect of the question, or desiring facts and information as to the application of the policy in theory and practice. Most of these letters call for individual reply, and since 1st January of this year they have numbered altogether 3,350.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Frederick Verinder, General Secretary, 7 St Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. (Phone: Temple Bar 7830.)

DECEMBER MEETINGS

Sun., 1st.—Mrs Leah Manning: "The Spanish Revolt."*
Sun., 8th.—W. R. Lester, M.A.: "Pros and Cons of Social Credit."*

Tues., 17th.—International Friendship League (East End Branch): A. C. Blackburn, "What's Wrong with the World?" 7.30 p.m.

* The two Sunday meetings, arranged by the Literary and

Debating Committee, will be held in the League's Lecture Room at Headquarters. These meetings will be continued after the Christmas holiday.

Now that the Election is over, Andrew MacLaren, M.P., is resuming his Tuesday evening lectures and discussions on Economics at the same place. 8 p.m.

The following members of the League were successful at the polls and have been congratulated by the Executive on their return to the House of Commons by the majorities stated:—

Sir Percy Harris	...	S.W. Bethnal Green	Lib.	...	1,062
Andrew MacLaren	...	Burslem	...	Lab.	2,803
Ben Riley	...	Dewsbury	...	Lab.	5,268
Will Thorne	...	W. Ham, Plaistow	Lab.	...	11,763
Josiah C. Wedgwood	...	Newcastle-u-Lyme	Lab.	...	unopp.
H. Graham White	...	S. Birkenhead	...	Lib.	6,694
Cecil H. Wilson	...	Sheffield, Attercliffe	Lab.	...	7,620
Sir Robert Young	...	Lancs., Newton	...	Lab.	5,791

It is deeply regretted that seven other members of the League, who stood as candidates, were unsuccessful, in spite of the strenuous efforts they made. They were: Mark Auliff (Ealing), Dr C. R. Cooke-Taylor (Dulwich), Milner Gray (Mid-Bedfordshire), Sir Robert Hamilton (Orkney and Shetland), Dr Somerville Hastings (Reading), Fred. L. McGhee (Liverpool, Walton) and T. Atholl Robertson (Finchley). It is to be hoped that success may attend their efforts when another General Election takes place under less unfavourable conditions.

The thanks of the Executive are due to the members who helped to give a very wide circulation to the League's Election Manifesto, and especially to J. H. McGuigan, who arranged for the distribution of ten thousand copies in the division of Portsmouth in which he resides.

The General Election necessarily involved the cancelling of a number of meetings which had been arranged before the date of the Election was known. But it was found possible to continue the Sunday meetings with good audiences. Mr George Hardie, M.P., kindly took the place of Mr Oliver Baldwin, who was unable to lecture on 24th November, with Andrew MacLaren, M.P., in the Chair.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: William Reid, Secretary and Treasurer, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3. (Telephone: Douglas 5599.)

We followed our leaflet, which was issued for the Municipal Elections on 5th November, with another leaflet specially written for our own constituency (Kelvingrove, Glasgow) challenging the statements of Mr Walter Elliot. The figures of Mr Elliot were analysed by Messrs Douglas and Kenneth MacDonald and posters and leaflets were issued in the constituency. After a great contest Mr Elliot appears to have won by a very narrow majority over his Labour opponent, and by a majority of the votes recorded. According to newspaper reports we have not yet heard the end of the contest, but, of course, Mr Elliot is in no way responsible for irregularities which it is alleged developed prior to the declaration of the poll late in the afternoon of Friday, 15th November.

Our speakers were kept busy on Labour and Liberal platforms as such contests appealed to them. We had Labour candidates East and West of the constituency in which our office is located. Mr R. R. Stokes was candidate in the Central Division and Mr James McCulloch was engaged in a stiffer contest in the Tory stronghold of Hillhead Division. Speakers and workers who went to their assistance included Messrs Mungo Fairley, Otto Ommer, William Harrison, Dugald MacBrayne and Alex. M. Little. Douglas and Kenneth MacDonald, along with Mr Charles Morgan and other members of the League, gave help to the Liberal candidate, Mr H. G. Rae, who is also a member of our Committee. Mr Douglas MacDonald spoke on "The Path to Peace" in Trinity Congregational Church on the evening of Sunday, 10th November. The Labour candidate for Kelvingrove Division and the National candidate for Shettleston Division also presented their cases in the same place, and on the same evening. The Liberal candidate for Kelvingrove—the only Glasgow constituency attacked by the Liberals—was in attendance, but was prevented by an inflamed throat from saying more than a few sentences.

The Freedom Club, which meets in the same premises as the Scottish League, opened its course of lectures on Tuesday, 12th November. Professor Andrew Browning delivered the opening address, his subject being "Freedom." Dr James Devon is to deliver an address on "Bondage" on Tuesday, 3rd December. A debate was proposed on Social Credit *versus* Single Tax for Thursday, 21st November. Some difficulty was experienced in procuring two representatives to defend the Social Credit side. Eventually Mr J. P. White kindly consented to appear at very short notice. His presentation of the case was much appreciated

by the audience, as he dealt with the subject in a humorous manner, and his sallies raised his statistics above boredom. The secretary of the Scottish League put up the case for the Single Tax and the negation of the Social Credit theory. Readers in Glasgow who are not members of the Freedom Club will receive a welcome from the secretary of the Club—Mrs Chrissie I. Burt—if they keep a note of 3rd December and attend the lecture by Dr Devon.

A questionnaire was submitted to candidates in the Glasgow and surrounding Parliamentary Divisions. Among successful candidates who sent affirmative replies were the Rev. James Barr, Mr Duncan Graham, George D. Hardie, Mr George Buchanan, and Mr Campbell Stephen. Among the unsuccessful were Messrs R. R. Stokes, James McCulloch, David Hardie, Roland E. Muirhead, and Adam McKinlay. Also the Labour and Liberal candidates for Kelvingrove where a majority of votes were rendered ineffective by our imperfect electoral system.

Naturally there has been much newspaper correspondence as a result of the General Election. A correspondent of the *Glasgow Evening News* made the usual uninformed attack on our propaganda. Mr A. J. Mace and the secretary were among those who continued the correspondence. Mr John Cameron had letters in the *Airdrie and Coatbridge Advertiser* and the *Coatbridge Leader*. The *Glasgow Evening Times* and *Citizen* have also contained letters by A. J. Mace, while well-known names as William Kennedy, etc., have concluded letters to the *Glasgow Herald* and other local publications.

LIVERPOOL LEAGUE : F. R. Jones, Hon. Secretary, 32 Rocklands Avenue, Bebington, Cheshire. (Office and Meeting Room : 21 Harrington Street, North John Street, Liverpool.)

The following meetings have been addressed by our speakers :

7th November, Old Swan Co-operative Men's Guild, Secretary ; 19th, Toxteth Co-operative Women's Guild, Mr E. J. McManus ; 24th, Southport Co-operative Educational Fellowship, Secretary ; 26th, Oakfield Co-operative Women's Guild, Mr E. J. McManus ; 26th, Toxteth Co-operative Men's Guild, Mr O. B. Swecney.

At 21 Harrington Street, the weekly meetings each Wednesday, 8 p.m., are drawing an interested audience. Members should make a point of advertising these meetings to all they meet, and try to induce others to come.

The Birkenhead Study Circle each Thursday evening has changed its meeting-place to the Broadway Café, 84, Oxtown Road, near Charing Cross. Each week a section of the *Political Economy* is analysed and discussed. All who are interested are invited to attend.

During the election a good distribution of leaflets was made in various election districts.

MANCHESTER LEAGUE : Arthur H. Weller, J.P., Secretary, 69 Piccadilly, Manchester, 1. (Phone : Central 5527.)

Meetings have been addressed by the Secretary as follows : Lower Irlam Men's Co-operative Guild ; Macclesfield Women's Guild ; Downing Street (Manchester) Women's Guild ; Rochdale Women's Guild ; Miles Platting (Manchester) Socialist League. Among other lectures given by Mrs Catterall during the past month was one to the Tyldesley Women's Co-operative Guild on 14th November.

In the General Election, Dr Percy McDougall stood as Independent Liberal candidate in the Rusholme Division of Manchester. He dispensed with the usual public meetings and personally canvassed as many of the electors as the brief time allowed. The 2,525 votes recorded in his favour in a three-cornered fight were an increase on Dr McDougall's total at the bye-election in 1933. In his opinion many Liberals voted for the Tory candidate on this occasion because they thought the international situation made a strong government necessary. The full story of the Rusholme campaign is soon to be published in a broadsheet which will be distributed throughout the constituency.

The Secretary spent eight days, from 6th to 14th November, addressing meetings in and around Penistone in support of the candidature of Mr H. G. McGhee. In a constituency where the Single Tax has long been studied and advocated, Mr McGhee's uncompromising demand for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade won approval which was not confined to members of his own Party. He was elected with a majority of 3,086 over the Tory candidate who had represented Penistone for four years.

CLITHEROE HENRY GEORGE GROUP : John L. Hamilton, Hon. Secretary, "Waverley," Brungerley Avenue, Clitheroe.

On 23rd October, the Secretary addressed the Chatburn Women's Guild, the subject was "Expansion" and judging

by the many questions which followed, the evening might be considered very successful.

The members of the local Group were responsible for the distribution of Election literature over the greater part of the town, during the days preceding polling day. Mrs J. R. Sumner was also instrumental in covering Sabden with similar literature.

The Clitheroe Town Council has now adopted the principle of the Rating of Land Values, this is contained in the following resolution :—

"That the Council agrees in principle with the taxation of land based on its full market value and are prepared to support any action which has for its object the promoting of legislation for the taxation of land values, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P., the local Member of Parliament, and the London Offices of the Taxation of Land Values Organization."

YORKS AND NORTHERN LEAGUE : F. Skirrow, Secretary, Tanfield Buildings, 129 Skipton Road, Keighley.

Meetings held since last report include 29th October : Mr Arthur Emmott, local leader of the Social Credit group, spoke at the League rooms. An animated discussion followed the address. On 1st November the Secretary addressed the Keighley Men's Co-op-Guild ; 3rd November, the Keighley I.L.P. ; 4th November, the Windhill M.C.G. at Shipley ; 21st November, the President addressed the Waterloo (Huddersfield) Methodist Church Fellowship.

Messrs C. H. Smithson, T. U. Kaye, Bert Brook and the Secretary assisted our President (Ashley Mitchell) in his election campaign at Halifax.

To have polled 8,736 votes in the short time he was in the division was very creditable.

Those of us who had the privilege of supporting our President were highly gratified at the able manner in which he acquitted himself on the platform and elsewhere. Too ill to take part in the division our friend and colleague, John Archer, rendered good service by his pen. Mr Mitchell also had the assistance of personal friends from outside the division.

MIDLAND LEAGUE : Chapman Wright, Hon. Secretary, 20 Cannon Street, Birmingham 2.

At the invitation of Alderman A. E. Ager, the Secretary addressed the Northfield Branch of Amalgamated Engineers on 15th November. Dealing with the subject of Taxation of Land Values, the speaker urged absolute concentration on this reform since it was far-reaching in its benefits, practical, and well within the power, through the Budget, of the people's representatives.

We have sustained another loss by the death of Mr William Finnemore, a supporter of the League since its formation. A life-long and consistent Liberal, Mr Finnemore was held in the highest esteem and his wise counsel will be greatly missed.

It is much to be regretted that three of our members were not successful at the recent election. Councillor G. F. Sawyer (Duddeston), Councillor R. R. Fairbairn, J.P. (Worcester), and Mr Donald Finnemore, M.A. (Stourbridge) were admirable candidates and fought well but the party of privilege was again too powerful.

PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE : A. H. Stoakes, Hon. Secretary, 110 Baffins Road, Portsmouth,

The recent General Election naturally occasioned considerable activity on the part of the Portsmouth League. The Committee forwarded to each of the candidates the following questionnaire :—

"If elected will you support measures for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values? Will you oppose (1) Taxes on food ; (2) Protective duties ; (3) Rates on houses?"

Affirmative replies to all the questions were given by Messrs J. W. Fawcett (Lab., South Portsmouth), David Freeman (Lab., Central Portsmouth), E. T. Humby (Lab., West Portsmouth) and E. J. Thornley (Lib., Central Portsmouth). The replies were published in the local *Evening News*.

Several copies of the "Notes for Speakers," kindly supplied by the United Committee, were forwarded to each of the candidates, from whom favourable replies were received.

In the Central Division 5,000 leaflets, "General Election 1935," furnished by the English League, were distributed by Mr David Freeman's agents.

In the Southern Division 10,000 leaflets, "Tax Land Values," supplied by the United Committee, were distributed by Mr J. W. Fawcett's agents.

In other cases where candidates were favourable to our policy arrangements for the supply of leaflets could not be made sufficiently early for inclusion with election literature.

Mr Thornley, appointed Liberal candidate for Central Division, strongly supported the Taxation of Land Values.

It will be realized, however, that in a naval and dockyard constituency the Conservative policy of accelerated naval construction makes a strong local appeal and the personality of the gallant Admiral Sir Roger Keyes makes it hard going for an opponent. Moreover, such a policy as the Taxation of Land Values requires more educational work on the part of the candidates themselves than was, or indeed could be, done in the short period available before the election. The Conservative candidates were already well "dug in." As a result Conservative candidates were elected to all three of the city seats and also the county seat.

On Wednesday, 13th November, Mr McGuigan addressed the second of our series of monthly meetings in the Wesley Central Hall on the subject of "money." Mr McGuigan handled the subject in his characteristic lucid style and his remarks evoked great interest, a very profitable discussion following. The proceedings were reported in the local newspaper.

The next public meeting of the Portsmouth League, to be held in the Wesley Central Hall on Wednesday, 18th December, will be addressed by Mr H. Thirsk, the President, on the subject of "Trade."

On Monday, 4th November, the Secretary addressed a well-attended meeting of the "North End, Meredith and Nelson Association of Ratepayers" on the subject "The Basis of Rating." A lively discussion followed a number of questions.

BRISTOL LEAGUE: J. H. Hurley, Hon. Secretary, 14 Queen's Road, Knowle, Bristol 4.

During the past month highly successful meetings have been held in the homes of our interested members. These have been arranged to take place in various parts of the city with the result that many new contacts have been made, and the Land Question introduced over a much wider field.

A new edition of a *Statement of the Land Question and Economic Rent Explained* has been issued, from the publication and distribution of which the injustice of Land Monopoly is being advertised.

Dr S. Vere Pearson's new work, *The Growth and Distribution of Population*, has been added to the lending department of the Central Library.

The President, Mr E. J. Brierley, has addressed several branches of the local Co-operative and Labour organizations, and many further bookings are coming to hand.

The continued interest of members is again solicited in securing the widest possible advertisement of the publications connected with the movement.

WELSH LEAGUE: Mrs A. Fenton, Hon. Secretary, 214 Caerphilly Road, Cardiff.

The following question was submitted to candidates for Welsh constituencies:—

"Are you in favour of the Rating and Taxation of Land Values and will you if returned pledge yourself to do your utmost to promote and support in Parliament measures introduced for securing for public purposes the value of land which is created by industry and the expenditure of public money?"

Favourable replies were received from Sir Charles Edwards, Messrs. William Bennett (Lab.), George Daggar (Lab.), Clement Davies (Lib. Nat.), John Dugdale (Lab.), Peter Freeman (Lab.), L. Haden Guest (Lab.), R. Moelwyn Hughes (Lab.), Arthur Jenkins (Lab.), Will John (Lab.), J. E. Emlyn Jones (Lib.), Morgan Jones (Lab.), J. Haydn Jones (Lib.), T. W. Jones (Lab.), E. O. Kellett (Con.), Ellis Lloyd (Lab.), O. Temple Morris (Con.), H. L. Nathan (Lab.), Harry Pollitt (Communist), David Williams (Lab.) and J. H. Williams (Lab.).

Mr Temple Morris (Conservative), who was successful in the Cardiff East Division, replies as follows: "If returned I shall do my utmost to support in Parliament measures introduced for securing for public purposes the value of land which is created by industry and by expenditure of public money."

We arranged for the distribution of 10,000 leaflets as well as large quantities of the Manifesto issued by the United Committee. In the Llandaff and Barry Division many meetings were addressed on our question by Mrs Margaret Saunders and Mr C. A. Gardner. A questionnaire was also sent to all the candidates in the Municipal Election at Cardiff and all replied favourably except three.

NORTH WALES

Mr A. Williams Price, Wrexham, reports on the Wrexham Election:—

The same candidates stood in 1931 as in 1935; in 1931 the Liberal-Tory-National candidate romped home with a 2,000 majority; this time the Labour candidate, Mr R. Richards, won with a 5,000 majority—a turn-over of 7,000 votes.

There are two factors to be noted in connection with this change:—

1. Regular and consistent statement of the case for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values in the local press.

2. The systematic distribution of tracts and leaflets dealing with the evils of Land Monopoly, with direct reference to local history and conditions. While the facts may not be so utterly damning in other constituencies, yet there are terrible, sordid pages of the history of land-grabbing in every county in Wales to be published: and published on the doorstep by house to house tract distribution.

HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

The General Election in the Highlands caused some stir. The Labour candidate for Inverness-shire was heckled on the Taxation of Land Values at Fort William, and some other places. In his Election Address he points out that the National Government introduced "Protection, Prohibitions, Tariffs, Quotas," which "restrict production and raise prices." If so the only way the world can prosper is freedom to produce and exchange wealth.

On his rounds in Eastern Ross the Secretary was informed that the ploughmen were dissatisfied with farmers who received subsidies for wheat and bacon and did not raise their wages. Therefore this time they intended to vote Labour.

The "Old Star" has passed away. Mr A. M. Ross, Editor of the *North Star*, was 80 years of age and in the early 'eighties was a member of the Highland Land League. As a reporter for his paper he saw the "battle of the braes" and other riots of those stirring times. He attended all the meetings of the League in Ross-shire and knew his *Progress and Poverty*, which he could ably expound. He lived and died in the Henry George faith. The *Ross-shire Journal* of 22nd November gave a long and interesting account of his life's work.

HENRY GEORGE'S BIRTHDAY

To the Editor.

SIR,—I have long felt that Henry George's Birthday, 2nd September, should be celebrated on that date throughout the world. As it is, the Commemoration in different countries is held "round-about" that date.

If all adopted the one date, it would permit of inspiring references at the Commemoration in each country—it would attract more notice and give the function more press-news value. Greater publicity, with all its reactions, would lead to more enquiry. George Day or Henry George Day might be established in the minds of others besides his followers.

An important matter, related to that already mentioned, is that the year 1939 will see the Centenary of the birthday of Henry George, and a World Convention of his followers should be arranged to mark the occasion. I suggest that it is not too early to commence building an international organisation to give publicity to the event and to ensure the widest representation of the Convention.

On the occasion of the Centenary, the Commemoration throughout the world should be on the actual date of Henry George's Birth. Thus, if a movement could now be made to bring the Yearly Commemorations to a uniform date, there would be less difficulty in ensuring their universal observance at the Centenary.

Yours sincerely,

P. J. MARKHAM.

Melbourne, 30th October, 1935.

(We gladly pass on this suggestion to Henry George Associations throughout the world and invite communications to the International Union in the matter for any assistance its office can render.—EDITOR L. & L.)

ADVERTISEMENT: What to Emphasize in Teaching the Georgian Philosophy. An Address delivered by Benjamin W. Burger at the recent Henry George Congress in New York City. Copies 10 cents each in lots of five or more. English postage 6d. Jubilee stamps accepted. Write to Benj. W. Burger, Woolworth Building, New York City.

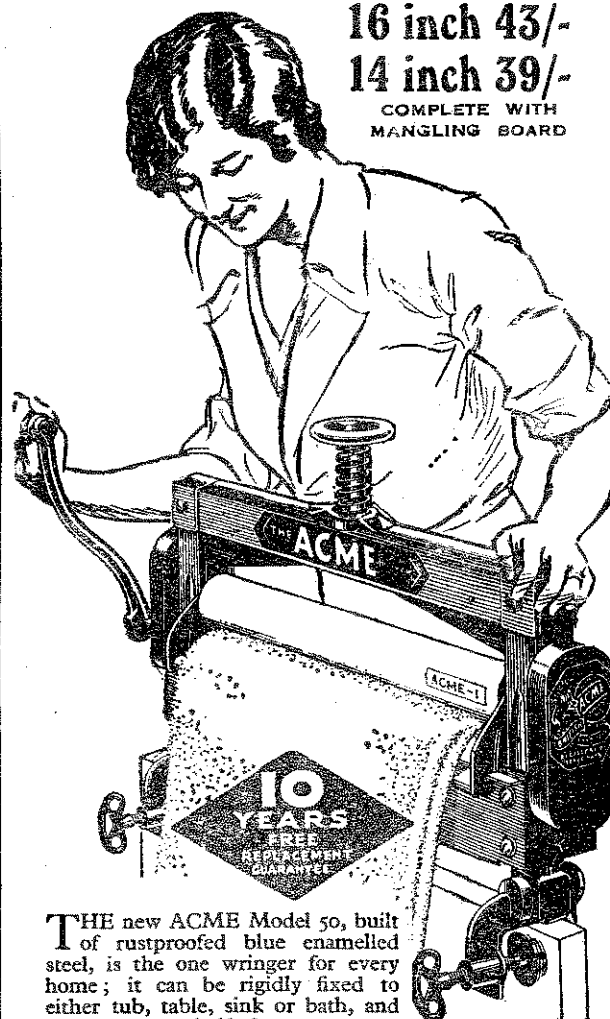
OUR BOOKSHELF

- *Progress and Poverty.** By HENRY GEORGE. Fifty-second Anniversary Edition, printed from new type: Red cloth, 1s. In extra quality binding, gold lettering and gilt top: Marone limp rexine, 2s. Dark green limp rexine, 3s.
- *Social Problems.** By HENRY GEORGE. New Popular Shilling Edition in red cloth, 1s. Rexine, 2s.
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- Gems from Henry George.** Selected and arranged by Rev. A. C. AUCHMUTY. Paper covers, 6d. Marone or blue cloth, 1s.
- The Life of Henry George.** By HENRY GEORGE, JUNR. New Edition, 4s. 6d.
- The Prophet of San Francisco.** By LOUIS F. POST. Blue Cloth Library Edition, 7s. 6d.
- The Philosophy of Henry George.** By Prof. GEORGE RAYMOND GEIGER. With Introduction by Prof. JOHN DEWEY. Cloth, 10s.
- Addresses by Henry George—The Crime of Poverty; Thou Shalt not Steal; Scotland and Scotsmen; Justice the Object—Taxation the Means; Thy Kingdom Come; Moses.** 1d. each.
- Land and Freedom.** A new, comprehensive and up-to-date Work on Land Value Taxation. By FREDK. VERINDER. 2s. 6d.
- By the same Author:* My Neighbour's Landmark, 1s. Methods of Land Nationalisation, 2d. The Crying Injustice of our Rating System and the Remedy, 1d.
- Poverty and Plenty.** The True National Dividend. The Pros and Cons of Social Credit. By W. R. LESTER, M.A. 1s.
- The Story of My Dictatorship.** A New State Based neither on Communism nor Fascism. By BERENS and SINGER. 1s.
- What's Wrong with Taxation?** A suitable Text-book for Economic Classes and Reading Circles. By JACKSON H. RALSTON. 1s.
- Conference Papers.** Presented at the International Conference in Edinburgh. A survey of Land Value Taxation in many countries, together with Papers on Agriculture, Tariffs, Land Valuation, War and Peace, etc. 2s. 6d.
- The Theory of Human Progression.** (Abridged by Julia N. Kellogg.) By PATRICK EDWARD DOVE. Paper, 1s.
- Pioneers of Land Reform.** Spence, Ogilvie and Paine. Cloth, 2s.
- Social Justice and the Jew.** By LOUIS P. JACOBS. 6d.
- Significant Paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty."** Compiled and Edited by HARRY GUNNISON BROWN, Professor of Economics, University of Missouri, and with a Foreword by JOHN DEWEY, Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University. Cloth, 1s.
- A Danish View of British Farming.** By JAKOB E. LANGE. Paper, 1s.
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