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Mr Baldwin on Protection

Speaking at Dundee on 29th November, the Prime Minister said: "It (protection) has enabled a good many men who would not have made a lot of money to make a lot of money. I do not grudge them that, but I would say there is a corresponding moral obligation, and it must not be all give on the part of the Government and all take on the part of individuals. And if the Government makes it possible for people in industry to do far better than they could have dreamed of doing four years ago, the least those people can do, whenever it is in their power, is to see that when they have new works to put down they put those new works down either in Durham, Lanark, South Wales or in corresponding places where work of that kind would be a godsend."

Paying for Playing Fields

"It is no good criticising the young for being mere watchers of games if they have nowhere to play. We need particularly in our towns much greater facilities for open-air exercises and games." Everyone will applaud this statement made as it was by Dr Cyril Norwood, President of St John's College and formerly headmaster of Harrow, speaking on 3rd December at the National Institute of Industrial Psychology.

He said: "I would not hesitate to have a penny stamp put on every ticket of admission to football grounds, cricket grounds, tennis matches and racecourses to go towards a fund for the provision of playing fields for the poor all over the country."

Is this an example of doing evil that good may come? Or why stop at these suggestions? Let us have a tax upon footballs, cricket bats, tennis rackets, and all the other means by which people play games. Send round the cup for the landowner, fill it to the brim and pour the proceeds in his lap. Does the warm-hearted Dr Norwood not see that his proposition to collect money for buying up land, well advertised among those who hold available ground, will simply enhance the price of it against the community? There are records enough of local authorities badly stung in their search for the greater facilities for open-air exercises and games—Sheffield for example which had to pay £21,500 for eight acres formerly rated at an annual value of £80. How many penny admission stamps would it take to make up that sum? When friends of the young like Dr Norwood are prepared to say that they would not hesitate to levy taxes on the value of land whether it is used or not, for dismissing the man who now stands at the gate demanding the price of admission, we will be getting along.

How a Cambridge College Raises the Wind

The Cambridge *Daily News*, 11th January, reports: "With its purchase of the Strensham Court Estate of 2,280 acres, near Tewkesbury," writes "Peterborough," in the *Daily Telegraph*, "Corpus is following the example of the richest Cambridge college. Trinity, which has an income of £80,000 a year, bought 4,000 acres of agricultural land in Suffolk two years ago.

"On the whole, however, Cambridge colleges prefer to invest their money in urban rather than agricultural properties. Both Trinity and King's have recently acquired real estate in London. Last month the latter college, whose finances have flourished exceedingly under the bursarship of Mr Maynard Keynes, bought a valuable site of about half an acre close to the Middlesex Hospital.

Our correspondent who sends this cutting writes: "Though Mr J. M. Keynes says there is nothing in the land question, 'people are getting rid of it every day,' the college of which he is Bursar evidently goes in for both selling and buying."

More support for Cardiff

Our Press cuttings continue to show support for the resolution in favour of land value rating passed at the Welsh Municipal Conference at Cardiff. Among those that have endorsed the resolution are Heston and Isleworth, Deptford, Merton and Morden, Fulham, Battersea, and Birkenhead.

The discussions have been extensively reported in the Press. The *South Western Star* gave the debate at Battersea a prominent position with large headlines on its first page, and referred in a leading article to a conference held at Battersea some 40 years ago on the same subject when Mr Bernard Shaw was one of the delegates from Hampstead. The *Worcester Evening News* (8th January) gave nearly a whole page to the discussion at Worcester City Council fully reporting the speech of Mr R. R. Fairbairn who moved in favour of adopting the Cardiff resolution. Among those who spoke in support was Canon W. Moore Ede. In this case an amendment of "no action" was carried.

Stoke-on-Trent and Land Value Rating

At the meeting of the Stoke-on-Trent City Council on 24th October the following resolution was moved by Alderman C. Austin Brook and seconded by Alderman E. T. Bird:

"That in the opinion of this Council, the first step towards a reform of the system of rating, is that rates should be levied on land on an assessment based on its full market value irrespective of the use to which the land is being put and as to whether it is in use or not, with corresponding reduction of the rates now being levied on houses and other buildings and improvements and that the Town Clerk be instructed to communicate with county and municipal authorities throughout Staffordshire, Cheshire, South Lancashire and Derbyshire with a view to joint action and the calling of a Municipal Conference for considering and/or promoting the necessary amendment to the present law to enable this resolution to be carried into effect."

An amendment was moved to alter the resolution to a non-committal one proposing the calling of a conference for considering "any necessary amendment to the present law including the feasibility of rating land values." After the amendment had been defeated the

original resolution was put to the vote and carried.

In pursuance of this decision the Town Clerk, on 9th December, sent a letter containing a copy of the resolution to sixty boroughs in the area mentioned and asking (1) whether your Council agrees with the opinion expressed therein and (2) whether they would be prepared to appoint representatives to attend a conference on the subject.

Stoke-on-Trent is to be congratulated upon its renewed activity in promoting a principle which it has more than once endorsed. This is a useful complement to the action taken by Cardiff earlier in last year. Already the circular from Stoke-on-Trent has occasioned discussion. Some Councils, such as Derby, have forthwith approved the resolution; others, such as Macclesfield, have decided to send delegates to the proposed conference, suspending final decision until after it has been held.

Social Credit—A New Phase

The inaugural meeting of a Social Credit Party for Scotland is reported in *The Scotsman* of 7th January. Mr Hugo Rey, who is described as the National leader of the party, said:

"We declare straight out for the public ownership of land and all natural resources of Scotland, because we do not see how individual liberty is going to be preserved in this country short of that policy." Social Credit, he said, was defined as the power of the community to produce the goods and services which it required for its own use. The basis of Social Credit, therefore, was the people, the land, and the natural resources of the country. The ownership of the one involved the ownership of the other: the control of the one involved the control of the other.

This acknowledgment that the system of land-ownership is a fundamental factor in determining the distribution of wealth is an encouraging sign that the Social Credit movement is likely to adopt a more effective and practicable programme. It remains to be seen, however, what steps this party proposes to secure the public ownership of the land. The report before us contains no indication of how this crucial problem is to be dealt with.

We may suggest that it is a principle acknowledged by many people outside the ranks of the Social Credit movement that the value of land is a social value. As such it should be collected for community purposes, and at the same time the confiscation of individual earnings by our existing system of taxation should be ended.

Cheap Land at Cardiff

The Development agent of the Cardiff Corporation in a *Western Mail* Industrial Supplement by advertisement invites manufacturers to come to his city and one of the alleged advantages is "Cheap Land." It is an unconscious admission that if industry has to pay less for land there is so much left over for genuine investment and for the reward industry should get. It is also an apt comment on those who count land value as part of the wealth of the community (whereas it indicates only a division of the sum of wealth produced—it is simply so much taken out of the earnings of industry) and until the municipal development agent can say "come to this town, it is very prosperous for prices of land are sky-high," there are not a few textbooks on economics that ought to be re-written.

But is land so cheap in Cardiff for manufacturers or anybody else? The *Western Mail* of 10th December reports that among the 487 acres zoned for small

holdings and allotments, about 21 acres are in Gabalfa, Soberton and Allensbank. This is land not rated at all for any contribution to the city's revenues. A town-planning road is being projected out in that direction. Alderman Hill-Snook moved in the Council that owing to the expense of acquisition of the land, he thought it was over £1,000 an acre, the portion of the minute dealing with the land for allotments should be deleted; and this was agreed to by the Council.

At the same meeting of the Council, it was decided to widen the Cow and Snuffers Bridge and construct two sections of new road to serve as a by-pass, at a cost of £24,300. Mr Hellyer protested that the Corporation should not at the ratepayers' expense develop land for the benefit of landowners who had not seen fit to develop it in the last 20 years. Those who advertise the "cheap land" advantages of Cardiff should have conversations with this councillor.

The Price of Sunshine

In a review of the Union Castle Mail Steamship Company's handbook to South and East Africa the *Birmingham Mail* (10th January) says:—

Concerning the climate, we are told that the extraordinary high percentage of possible sunshine is recognized as the outstanding feature of the South African climate. The amount of sunshine and the warm climate is put forward as a compensating balance for high rents and the high cost of housebuilding, allowing an open-air life throughout the year and enabling smaller houses to suffice than were conditions less favourable.

Would it not have been more accurate to say that the high rents are the result of the sunshine?

If Manna Fell from Heaven

It is not stretching a point to quote in this connection the following passage from *The Crime of Poverty*, one of the Addresses by Henry George which in the penny pamphlets are among the most acceptable of the publications we provide:

"In the Old Testament we are told that when the Israelites journeyed through the desert, they were hungered, and that God sent down out of the heavens—manna. There was enough for all of them and they all took it and were relieved. But, supposing that desert had been held as private property, as the Soil of Great Britain is held, as the soil even of our new States is being held; supposing that one of the Israelites had a square mile, and another one had twenty square miles, and another one had a hundred square miles, and the great majority of the Israelites did not have enough to set the soles of their feet upon, which they could call their own—what would become of the manna? What good would it have done to the majority? Not a whit. Though God had sent down manna enough for all, that manna would have been the property of the landholders; they would have employed some of the others, perhaps, to gather it up in heaps for them, and would have sold it to their hungry brethren. Consider it; this purchase and sale of manna might have gone on until the majority of the Israelites had given up all they had, even to the clothes off their backs. What then? Well, then they would not have had anything left with which buy manna, and the consequence would have been that while they went hungry the manna would have lain in great heaps, and the landowners would have been complaining of the over-production of manna. There would have been a great harvest of manna and hungry people, just precisely the phenomenon that we see to-day."

More About Allotments

At a meeting of the Oxford City Council on 6th January it was decided to vote £20,000 (part of the estimated sum of £50,000 required) for the purchase of land at present leased by the Corporation for allotments. By resolution it was agreed that the Allotments Committee furnish the Council with a list of allotment lands; what rent the Council pays per acre; if it owns the land, what price was paid; and other particulars including the number of vacant allotments on each land. We shall be obliged to any reader in Oxford who can obtain for us a copy of this return.

At Coventry (*Midland Daily Telegraph*, 9th January) the Shakespeare Street Allotments Association at a meeting refused to sell land occupied by them as allotments. The area is 21 acres and it is one of the most eligible building sites in Coventry. It was bought some years ago by the Association and sold by them in plots to the members. Offers have been made of 2s. 9d. per square yard by one firm of builders and of 3s. per square yard by another. It was variously suggested that the selling price should not be less than 5s. per square yard and that the Association should "wait until the price is 8s. 6d." This is equivalent to £2,007 per acre. A fine harvest no doubt, but not the yield of rake and spade.

£15,000 an acre

Two pieces of land in Fulham Palace Road, lying between Lochaline Street and Parfrey Street, are to be acquired by the Fulham Borough Council for rehousing purposes.

The *West London Gazette* (15th January) says that the land which has an area of nearly a third of an acre, is to be bought under a compulsory purchase order for £5,200. It is proposed to erect a block of 22 flats on the site.

The price of the land is at the rate of £15,000 an acre. The site cost for each flat works out at £236. If the interest and sinking fund is taken at 4 per cent of the cost, 3s. 7d. a week of the rent of each flat will represent the charge upon the tenant in respect of the land.

Fulham Borough Council is one of the many local authorities that have endorsed the Cardiff resolution. It is the only way to secure for the people homes at prices they can afford to pay.

Rising land values stop building

That the recovery from the low point of the depression has resulted in an increase in land values to a speculative point is indicated by the following paragraph from the *Illustrated Carpenter and Builder* (17th January):

A problem which is assuming serious proportions in the Belfast building trade is the tendency of building land to show a rapid increase in value. This is particularly noticeable in the suburbs, where land which formerly averaged 2s. or 2s. 6d. per foot is now 5s. or more per foot, and is still rising. Largely as a result of this, a number of local builders are becoming more and more wary of embarking on speculative schemes and are devoting themselves to subsidy and public work.

The effect of speculation in land value in stopping industry is clearly shown. The conclusion is that we are heading for another depression.

Farmers go Cap in Hand

It has been reported to the South Caernarvonshire Farmers' Union that landowners have notified tenants that the 20 per cent rebate in rent allowed during the last four years has been discontinued. It was resolved to appeal to landowners to continue the rebate, pointing

out the plight of the industry, and the burden of the increase health insurance contribution.—*Manchester Guardian*.

And it was the farmers who so credulously supported the Derating Act exempting agricultural land from all local taxation. Now they can see how and why the benefit goes to no "agriculturist" but only to the party who can exact so much more rent for land.

Highland Development

The Scottish Press in recent days has had much to say about proposals for developing the Highlands and Islands. A society has been formed to promote this idea. The Highland Development League, and Dr Lachlan Grant of Ballachulish has written a pamphlet entitled "A New Deal for the Highlands" which is said to have inspired the movement. The Highlands occupy about one-half of the total area of Scotland and contain one-seventh of the population. In the last 10 years the population of the seven crofting counties, excluding the large burghs, has fallen by 35,000.

Dr Grant urges that a survey should be made to "ascertain the potentialities of the whole Highland area, the maximum population that area can support if its resources are all fully organized and developed. Farming, fishing, tweed making and afforestation, mineral industries and quarrying, and all the probable local industries, should be included in the survey. Particular attention should be paid to industries likely to be based on water power." The same note runs through the pronouncements of other supporters of the movement.

The landowners of the Highlands will no doubt be duly grateful for such a survey, and will revise their idea of the land value according to any hitherto, unnoticed potentialities that the survey discovers.

Beside this we may place some observations of Mr Ivor Brown in a recent article on "The Sadness of Scotland" in the *Manchester Guardian* (11th January) in which after referring to the sad and sombre voice of young Scotland nowadays, he refers to Mr Edwin Muir's "Scottish Journey," and says: "But Mr Muir is right to insist that talk of Scottish Nationalism is meaningless and futile without a radical social policy that will bridge the ugly and immense social gulf in Scottish urban life while saving the Highlands from complete decay into a costly playground of the alien 'sportsman.' Nationalism postulates the abolition of the Two Nations, an achievement in which it rarely, if ever, succeeds. Scotland, with its legacy of an extreme Industrialism, merciless landlordism, and bitter class conflict, is no easy land for Nationalism to unite."

They Say it Themselves

We quote the following revealing statement from a special article "The Search for the Stability of Capital" in the *Journal The Royalty Owner* of November. The article has been reprinted as a separate sheet, apparently for distribution to investors:—

"Oil Royalties are based upon a vital commodity, i.e., Oil. Royalty income and Royalty investment values rise with the price of that commodity. The effect of this is to provide an offset to increases in the cost of living, and to its usual accompaniment of declining capital values of listed securities.

"They, Oil Royalties, have the inherent strength of being a first charge on production itself, ranking ahead not only of all the capital, loan or otherwise, of the operating company, but in front of all the assets of such undertaking, in that production from an area is

not allowed to be moved until the royalty owner's quota has been accounted for. Additional to this is the legal strength of the royalty owner's position; his percentage of production is sold and paid for by an independent Pipe Line Company, which has Trustee obligations towards him.

"A moment's reflection will show the enormously strong investment position of a security that has a prior charge on production in one of the most widely used basic commodities in the world, and where the legal position has been drawn with so much foresight for the investor's protection. It is these substantial buttresses against the usual risks of industry that give oil royalties their high ratio of security."

Under the British Petroleum Production Act there can be no royalties to private individuals on oil discovered in this country. But the conditions stated apply almost word for word to Coal and Mineral Royalties—and as to the rest of the world where oil royalties prevail. Here is a pointer showing the connection between foreign investments, the monopoly control over the natural resources of other countries, the jealousies and enmities aroused, the hot house where seeds of international strife are planted.

Land Value Maps

In our issue of last month, we inserted as a supplement a specimen of the Land Value Maps that are used in New York City in connection with the assessment of land values. In the description reference was made to the section of the Copenhagen Land Value Maps reproduced in our issue of April, 1928. In response to a number of requests, this illustration from Copenhagen, with its explanation of the practical methods obtaining in Denmark, is presented with this issue as a special supplement.

These reprints of the New York and the Copenhagen maps are available in leaflet form for Town Councillors and others engaged in making the sentiment for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values.

Liberals and Land Values

We put on record the following good statement unfortunately overlooked from our recent issues. It appeared in the Liberal Magazine of October last reporting Mr Elliot Dodd's address at the Cambridge Liberal Summer School.

TAXATION OF LAND VALUES

This fundamental reform, which has so long figured in the Liberal programme, would encourage the diffusion of ownership in four ways. By impounding these socially created values, which at present go to enrich the landholder, and utilizing them for the general benefit it would remove one of the principal causes of the maldistribution of wealth. By establishing a fair valuation and by taxing land into use it would make it more easily and cheaply available for small holdings, allotments, etc. By untaxing improvements and reducing the burden of rent and rates it would assist business and help the small tradesman and house-owner. And by providing a new source of revenue it would render possible the reduction or abolition of indirect taxation, so raising real incomes and promoting the accumulation of savings."

Poverty and Plenty, by W. R. LESTER, M.A. Price 1s.

S.F.S., Tasmania: We are greatly obliged for the half-dozen of Mr Lester's pamphlet. We passed several of them on to leading Social Credit enthusiasts one or two of whom admitted to seeing a little light thereafter

and that the land question is the bottom question. Mr Lester's criticism is admirable.

L.M., Longueville, N.S.W.: I have just finished reading Lester's *Poverty and Plenty*—an excellent reply to the Social Credit people.

A.J.M.P., Manitoba: Enclosed is sixty cents for two copies of the Pros and Cons of Social Credit, and five copies of *The Real Cause of Agricultural Distress* (McDougal). Please mail to ——— one each of these pamphlets.

Land and Freedom. By Frederick Verinder. 2s. 6d. net.

A. N., France: I am reading over again *Land and Freedom* which you sent me. It is a most precious little volume and surely must be translated into other languages.

O.R., Middlesex (To a correspondent): Please accept my warmest thanks for your kind gift of F. Verinder's *Land and Freedom*. I shall value the book not only for its own intrinsic worth as a mine of information on a subject of supreme importance, but as a welcome expression of appreciation for my efforts to persuade the ——— Borough Council to adopt a forward policy on the question.

The People's Advocate, Adelaide (in a long review): The chapter on "Monopolies" is very interesting and provides much food for thought. It shows clearly that land is the basis of monopolies and that where land is free monopolies are impossible. He gives some telling extracts from Karl Marx's *Capital* . . . We most heartily congratulate Mr Verinder on the very fine book he has produced.

Light on the Land Question

"This country cannot prosper while the land monopoly continues to exact its ruinous toll. Free the country from its throttling grip, and we would at once breathe more freely. New life would flow into the national activities, and with the burden of land monopoly would go many other burdens that now weigh us down.

"By these steps it became clear to me, after so sceptical a beginning, that in our enormously increased national and local expenditure may be found not an argument against the Henry George idea, but a convincing argument for it.

"Our difficulties are now too great to allow us to trifle any longer with the taxation of land values and the untaxing of industry; and my vote, for what it is worth, will certainly go to the political party that will put it into practice."

These are the concluding words in the inquiry by a "Man in the Street" the pseudonym of a distinguished London journalist, author of *Light on the Land Question*. It is a pamphlet of 30 pages written in a racy conversational style which begins with the sentence "They told me they wanted a fresh mind on it" and the author proceeds from scepticism to conviction that there is a great deal in the Land Value Policy. This popular pamphlet had run out of print and now we welcome the new and revised edition just published by the Henry George Foundation. It is excellent value at its moderate price of 6d. net.

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.

Protection or Free Trade. By HENRY GEORGE. Abridged Edition: Paper, 6d. Red cloth, 1s. Unabridged Edition: Paper, 1s. 6d. Library (complete) Edition, 3s.

NOTES AND NEWS

A campaign for the taxation of land values is to be undertaken by Scottish local authorities this year.

The *Daily Herald* is informed that reports are being prepared by experts showing how town and county councils have had to pay enormous prices for sites for housing schemes.

The reports are to be popularised so that the facts may be made known to the electors.

The local authorities will then be asked to approach Parliament for power to impose a tax on site values.—*Daily Herald* (Scottish Edition), 17th January.

* * *

During a debate in the Oldham Town Council on a proposal to sell a plot of land bounded by Church Lane, Lord Street, and Albion Street for £10,750 it was stated that the price worked out at £11 5s. 5d. a square yard.—*Oldham Evening Chronicle*, 9th January.

* * *

Last month we reported the judgment of Lord Mackay in the case of the Scalpsie Bay right-of-way dispute. The *Glasgow Herald*, 8th January, reported that the Marquis of Bute has reclaimed to the First Division of the Court of Session against the decision of Lord Mackay, to have it declared that he has the sole and exclusive right of property in the lands of Quien and Scalpsie in the Island of Bute, free of any public right of way.

* * *

From the heights of wealth, descend to the depths of poverty.

Visit the house of a young Swansea mother of five children, whose husband is unemployed. She pays £1 a week rent and 7s. 9d. a week rates for it. The other day she was arrested for stealing £5 11s. in postal orders. She said to the detective, "All the money I had I gave to the landlord."

Her only good fortune, it seems to us, is that she came before a merciful Bench. The magistrates, expressing great sympathy with her, bound her over for two years. On hearing this decision the woman fainted.

That case would be tragic enough if it were unique. But there are thousands of people—and not only among the ranks of the unemployed—who are suffering under the burden of rental far beyond their means. Can nothing be done to remedy that scandal?—*John Bull*, 4th January.

* * *

The erection of flats has created a demand for suitable sites which in all parts of the district have consequently risen greatly in value. Land for this purpose in Muswell Hill, Crouch End, Hornsey, Finchley and other parts of North London has commanded as much as £7,000 to £8,000 per acre.—*Annual Review of Messrs. Sturt and Tivendale*, quoted in the "*Hornsey Journal*," 17th January.

* * *

"Five years ago Amersham parish council could have acquired land for open spaces and recreation grounds at a cost of £5,000, but they were too poor. Now they are in a position to spend over £10,000 for the same land for the same purpose."

So says the *Bucks Free Press* (10th January) reporting a meeting of the Amersham Parish Council. The land in question was 28½ acres at the end of Hervines Road costing £6,900 and 6½ acres in Woodside Lane costing £3,250. One reason for the rapid increase in value is indicated by the statement of one of the speakers that the population of Amersham had increased by 56 per cent in the last ten years.

ANNOUNCEMENT:
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

London, September, 1936

We are able to make the preliminary announcement that the International Union has decided to convene

The Fifth International Conference
to Promote Land Value Taxation
and Free Trade

which will be held from 1st to 4th September this year, 1936, in London.

At its meeting in September last the Executive of the Union had given general approval to the idea of holding the Conference in London this summer but an important detail was that of the financial resources to bear the necessary expenses of preparation. The Finance Committee to whom the matter was referred have been placed in the fortunate position of surmounting this initial obstacle, and this by a special donation received "for Conference purposes" by a prominent and generous supporter of the Union. The question remained—shall the Conference be organized for this year or next? and the unanimous decision was in favour of 1936.

A determining factor in the choice of date for the Conference was the holding of the Annual Henry George Commemoration at the same time, for which of course the most appropriate day is 2nd September.

Membership of the Conference is open to all who accept and approve the objects of the International Union—to stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples through the progressive removal of the basic causes of poverty and war as these are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. The Conference Membership fee will be ten shillings and members of the Union are invited to help in ensuring the success of the Conference with any special donations they feel free to give.

The Executive of the Union will hold a special meeting on 4th March to consider and plan the details of Conference arrangements.

Notice of intention to take personal part in the Conference should be sent to our offices, 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1. For those who are unable in any event to come to London, the roll will be open for honorary subscribing members and we urge every absent sympathizer to associate himself or herself with the Conference in that way.

Meanwhile we ask that this announcement be reprinted by all journals, in every country, devoted to Land Value Taxation and Free Trade so that intimation may be given to their readers and invitation conveyed to all with whom they are in touch.

LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE

By A. W. MADSEN. Price 6d.

Reprinted as a pamphlet from the Appendix to *Land and Freedom* by F. Verinder, Price 2s. 6d.

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THE END OF THE NEW DEAL

The final blow to President Roosevelt's New Deal Policy is the decision of the Supreme Court that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is unconstitutional. The purpose of the A.A.A. was to raise the prices of farm products relatively to those of manufactured articles. The method was to levy a tax, called the "processing tax," upon the first processors of certain farm products, that is to say on the person or company applying the first manufacturing process to these goods. The taxes could be, and no doubt were passed on to subsequent processors and finally to the ultimate consumers, so far as those consumers resided in the United States. (The tax could not be passed on to consumers abroad unless so much of the supply came from the United States that the world price was increased.)

The fund raised by the Government from the processing taxes was used for the purpose of compensating the farmers who agreed to restrict their production. It will be recalled that in the early stages of the policy cotton plants were actually ploughed back into the soil and young pigs destroyed so that they could not reach the market.

The principal products affected, and the amounts of the processing taxes in English equivalents were: Wheat, 1s. 3d. a bushel; cotton, 2d. a lb.; corn, 2½d. a bushel; pigs, 6s. a cwt.; rye, 1s. 3d. a bushel; tobacco, 1d. to 1½d. a lb.; sugar cane, ¼d. a lb.; rice, ½d. a lb.; peanuts, ¼d. a lb.

As the Louisiana rice millers contended in one of the cases which came before the Supreme Court the processing tax "was not a true tax." Its primary object was not to supply revenue to the Government but to transfer a certain amount of money out of the pockets of the consumers into the pockets of producers. It would be interesting to know what view the Supreme Court would take if a similar point were taken with regard to the protective tariff, for whatever the ostensible object may be its real purpose is to do precisely the same thing, and it is the demand for protection that keeps the tariff in existence.

Although the alleged purpose of the A.A.A. was to put money into the pockets of the agricultural producers, there can be no question that one of its results was to raise or to maintain the value of land. Indeed this was almost an avowed intention, for the farmers were being pressed by their mortgagees, and if the value of land could be kept up that pressure would be lessened. It is always difficult in cases such as this to bring people to distinguish between the interests of worker and of landowner. Many of the farmers were landowners (subject to mortgages in most cases) and they did not distinguish in what capacity they were receiving money

under the A.A.A. Nevertheless, every increase in land values means an increased income going to non-producers as against producers. In this the small landowner may hope to benefit, but in the long run he will lose. An examination of the list of products subjected to the processing taxes will show that the farmers themselves paid a considerable share of these taxes.

The whole economic theory underlying this legislation was fallacious. It was wrapped up in high sounding phrases, such as "restoring the balance between town and country," or "bringing the price of farm products into equilibrium with the price of manufactured articles." It was based upon the idea that low prices are disadvantageous and high prices a blessing. Nevertheless, as the actual practice of this theory demonstrated, low prices are (other things being equal) a synonym for plenty; and the administration set itself to raising prices by eliminating plenty, and creating scarcity.

Certainly profound changes had been taking place in American economic life. One of these was that it had become possible to produce food and other agricultural products more cheaply. The safety valve should have been found, not in raising prices, but in reducing rents to accord with the new state of affairs. The large landowners, and the banks and financial interests who had lent large sums of money on mortgages of land, were all against this; and many of the small landowners were persuaded that their interests were identical with those of the minority.

Another factor in the situation was that the industrial workers had become impoverished and were not able to buy as much as formerly. It is not necessary here to repeat the explanation of how this also was due to the speculative advance of the value of urban, mineral and other lands, or to elaborate the tale of over-capitalization based upon inflated land values. The increase in protective tariffs in Europe and elsewhere also closed the market for American farm products still further. Whether anything could have been done to stay this tendency at the London Economic and Monetary Conference must remain in doubt; at any rate the American Government dealt the final blow to that Conference by its refusal to consider any proposal for monetary stabilization.

The lesson is clear, the market for basic sources of food and clothing is to be found among the mass of the people. What every Government can do is to abolish the weight of direct and indirect taxation which restricts the purchasing power of the average worker, transferring the burden on to the unearned value of land, and so reducing land values and opening out avenues for employment in all branches of production upon more equitable terms.

F.C.R.D.

Building of houses to let is threatened with a new paralysis. Difficulties are being met in proceeding with slum clearance, and the Government's allied scheme to end overcrowding is likely to be little more than scraps of paper.

Higher prices for land and the compensation provisions of the Act, dealing with overcrowding, are the main reasons for this. Another is the unsatisfactory nature of the subsidy proposals in that Act.—*Daily Herald*, 20th January.

* * *

Twenty acres of land in the parish of Merthyr Tydfil, with the mineral rights, were leased in 1748 for 99 years at £28 per annum. When the lease expired (in 1847) it was renewed on payment of £30,000 a year.—*Western Mail*, 12th December.

WHY DID MUSSOLINI GO TO WAR?

An answer to this question is provided by Mr Louis Fischer in an article in *The New Statesman and Nation* (4th January). He refers to the growth of Italy's population from sixteen to forty millions in little over a century, and the disproof of Malthusian forebodings by the experience of all countries. He interviewed Signor Rossoni, Minister of Agriculture, and member of the Fascist Grand Council of Eighteen, who agreed that intensive cultivation by small farmers produces more crops and employs more men than big estates.

"You have a dictatorship. Why don't you nationalize the land?"

"A dictatorship," the Minister replied, "is a political matter, not an economic or social matter. We cannot take away the land from the landlords. We cannot even fix the price at which we compensate the owners. Land prices are fixed in Italy just as they are in France, America and other countries. We shall proceed in the same way as we have in the past and take over, with compensation, only those lands which are not cultivated."

There is something in this for advocates of land nationalization to ponder. The Minister added, if the landlords wished to sell all or part of their estates, "that is all right." He anticipated that they could in this way place 2,000,000 hectares under cultivation and settle 400,000 families in the next five years. The State equips and stocks the holdings, and is repaid over a term of 20 years.

Mr Fischer's comment is: "This method must be slow and inadequate, for it imposes a heavy financial burden on the State. Many landowners have grown extremely rich by selling all or parts of their huge 'latifundia' at fancy prices. Moreover, many peasants hesitate to assume such gigantic debts at the beginning of a new and difficult career. It is probably for this reason that 'crowded' Italy has much untilled land."

A Rome congress of Fascist peasant syndicates in the provinces, reported in the *Osservatore Romano* of 7th December, had urged that this untilled land should be divided. So Mr Fischer pressed his point and asked: "You have a dictatorship. You can send people to war, maybe to their death. Why cannot you take vacant land away from the estate owners and give it to the peasants?"

Signor Rossoni's reply was: "That is demagoguery. Peasants must be directed. 'Give land to the peasants.' That is a phrase. There must be organization. We are Fascists, not Socialists."

Further light on the real obstacle is given in an interview with Signor Ferruccio, the Under-Minister of Corporations, who said: "The corporation tried to find a common ground between the proprietor of the factory and the workman. The proprietor, however, remains the proprietor, and the workers remain the workers. . . . The regime of corporations is not anti-capitalist."

To which evidently we should add: The landlord remains the landlord. The regime is not anti-landlord.

Although shorn of its legislative functions the Senate still exists. It is "a symbol of conservatism and especially of intimate ties with the land. The Senate includes many heads of landed aristocratic families. As long as royalty, nobility, and a powerful estate-owning class exist, all the free and under-cultivated soil of Italy naturally cannot be distributed among land-hungry peasants."

Yet, strange to say, the leaders of the Fascists do not stress the economic side of the Abyssinian war. They

say that although the wealth of Abyssinia is an element in the problem the decisive reasons are moral and political. Italy has a mission. We have a right to an empire. War dignifies.

Perhaps, too, they remember how few are the Italian inhabitants of Libya and Abyssinia. In Eritrea there are only 4,560 Italians, most of them officials or missionaries. In the whole Italian colonial empire there are only 3,000 Italian peasants.

How is Mussolini to cut the Gordian knot? Mr Fischer says: "Several weeks ago, one hears, he told a number of foreigners that the Abyssinian war may lead him to make a social revolution. How he could do that he did not say. But this is a pregnant thought. Apparently, Mussolini realizes wherein he has failed."

AGRICULTURAL POLICY

A Farmer's Views

"An interesting paper on 'The Best Basis for Great Britain's Agricultural Policy' delivered by Mr A. G. Street (the well-known authority and author of 'Land Everlasting' and other works), at the Farmers' Club on 9th December is reprinted in the December issue of *The Land Union Journal*. We quote some extracts:—

"I would here draw your attention to the great difference in farming between production and sales. For instance, I produce about 150 tons of hay per annum, but I don't sell any hay as hay, I sell my hay in terms of meat and milk. Let us, then, look at the sales, or rather at the branches of farming from which our farmers obtain their money income. In 1931 British farmers obtained 72 per cent from livestock, 2.13 per cent from wheat, 6.13 per cent from total grain, 3.25 per cent from sugar beet, and the remainder largely from market garden produce, hops, and a little from hay and straw. Any alterations in these proportions since 1931 still leave livestock the larger branch.

"Let us now consider a livestock policy and a grain policy side by side. Our livestock products are or could be superior in quality to overseas products. Our grain products are, except for oats, inferior. When it pays a farmer to keep livestock his land is kept in good heart; when grain growing becomes attractive, too often the land is robbed. Our climate is more suited to livestock of all kinds than to grain. The livestock branches of farming usually pay the highest wages. Livestock farming makes it possible for the little man to start, and also gives him a better chance of competing with the large farmer. Grain growing does neither. The stability of farming in every part of Britain varies in direct proportion to the amount of livestock farming carried on.

"But here is perhaps the greatest point to consider. *The majority of our farmers, both large and small, are buyers of grain or its equivalent as a feeding stuff for their stock. For that purpose it is a raw material which they use in the production of their main selling lines. Hens eat wheat, all livestock eat oats, and the greater bulk of our barley is used as a feed for stock.*

WHEAT

"Let me give honour where honour is undoubtedly due and say that the wheat quota has achieved that Alice-in-Wonderland thing. It has done great good to a few farmers and very little harm to any.

Against that I would point out that every one of you knows where in your own neighbourhood it has led to some bad farming.

OATS

"Farmers have, so I am told, greatly benefited by the tariff on oats. I just cannot see it. As horse-feed one can very fairly describe oats as power.

If a higher price for oats is a help to British farming, why do not British farmers plead for a high tariff on oil and petrol?

BARLEY

"When our climate permits us to grow first quality barley, we can sell it at a fair figure, *but the bulk is used for feeding*; while our total production of barley only brings in 1.97 per cent of our farmers' income.

GRAIN GENERALLY

"Why should not all our home-grown grain be treated on the lines of the wheat quota? Gentlemen, let us try to keep our self-respect. *You and I and many others have received financial help from the wheat quota, and bought back our neighbour's wheat for feed at half the selling price of our own.* Do we want to be treated throughout our business like the little boy whose father gave him half-a-crown with which to buy Daddy's Christmas present?

"Already we are in danger of a very nasty charge—that we are dole drawers. I would rather have done with doles and subsidies, and demand that for our main business, livestock, we be treated like other industries.

SUGAR BEET

"Again, let me give honour where honour is due, and in this instance say flatly that I do so because the cultivation of this crop means good farming, clean land, and considerable employment. But again comes the criticism that it is too small, and always will be far too small a proportion of our farming to provide an adequate basis for our agricultural policy. Like wheat, it is a useful sideline. But, unlike wheat, it is a sideline which would never have existed save for legislation.

"That a farmer may receive certain badly needed financial help from any legislation is one thing; that this form of investment in agriculture is a profitable one for the nation is another. The Greene Committee reported that the sugar subsidy was not a good investment for the nation, and although I have grown sugar beet several years, including this season, I am conscious that they were correct in their report."

We have italicized some of the more notable passages which we leave without comment except to say that we open our eyes to see such opinions printed in the *Land Union Journal*.

Recent issues of the Scottish Grocer and Provision Trader have carried an informing controversy on the reform of local rating in which Mr James T. Haxton of St. Andrews has championed the rating of land values.

One contributor wished the English system to be adopted in Scotland. He is evidently not aware that the economic basis of the two systems is practically the same. They are both based upon a valuation of annual value in their existing condition of land and improvements together. They both burden the making of improvements, and exempt the value of land from contribution.

Another objection related to a shop in a city rented at £3,000 with a feu duty (ground rent) of £8. The objector was unable to see where the revenue would come from if land values were rated. Mr Haxton explained that land value and feu duty are not the same thing. In the case cited a great part of the rent might be land value. In any event under land-value rating every property would not bear the same amount of rates as at present.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an invitation to become a Subscriber. 2d. monthly: by Post 2s. 6d. a Year.

MR BALDWIN AND THE MINERS

By D. J. J. OWEN

SIR,—It is a pity that the public opinion which has proved itself so effective in controlling the foreign policy of the country should be so helpless in the matter of a fair deal for the miners. There is abundant evidence that the conscience of the general public is as sensitive to the unjust conditions of the miners as it was to the iniquity of the proposed partition of Abyssinia. But we are unable to make Mr Baldwin budge in this case. The seat of the Secretary for Mines seems more safe than that of the late Foreign Secretary.

I suppose the reason is that the public responded to the educational efforts of the League of Nations Union and similar bodies. But who can make the issues simple and clear with regard to what seems a complicated subject of coal-getting? We seem to forget that a Royal Commission on the Coal Industry reported in 1926 (Cmd. 2600), the Chairman being Sir Herbert Samuel. In that report the Commissioners say:—

We concur in the general conclusion that the system of private ownership of this great natural resource is open to grave objection. . . . A system which vests the ownership of minerals under the surface in the owner of the surface means that the planning of the mines is influenced continually by surface boundaries and surface rights. . . . Many of the present defects of the industry in this country are largely due to the fact that the miners have had to adapt themselves to surface ownership. It is found that on the average each mine has had to obtain leases from no fewer than five mineral owners. Nevertheless, the areas of coal worked from any particular pit have not necessarily been those areas which could most economically be worked from that pit, but those for which the mineowner has succeeded in obtaining leases. The consequences have been an undue expense in development and a waste of time for the miners in travelling underground to and from their work. These defects of the past are continuing in the present, and will prejudice the future. There is still no proper control over the disposition of the new pits that are continually being sunk. . . . Nor is there any remedy if an owner, refusing for any reason to lease his coal, withholds this national asset from development.

There could be no clearer demonstration that the mining problem cannot be separated from the general question of the private ownership of all land. There was no remedy for the withholding of coal or other land from use when the Coal Commission reported. Since then, in the Budget of 1931, an attempt was made through the tax on the value of land to begin to control the hitherto unrestricted monopoly in natural resources. Had this land-value tax been allowed to operate it would by now have been exercising its effects in making it harder for owners of mineral resources, as well as other owners of land, to impose crippling conditions on would-be users.

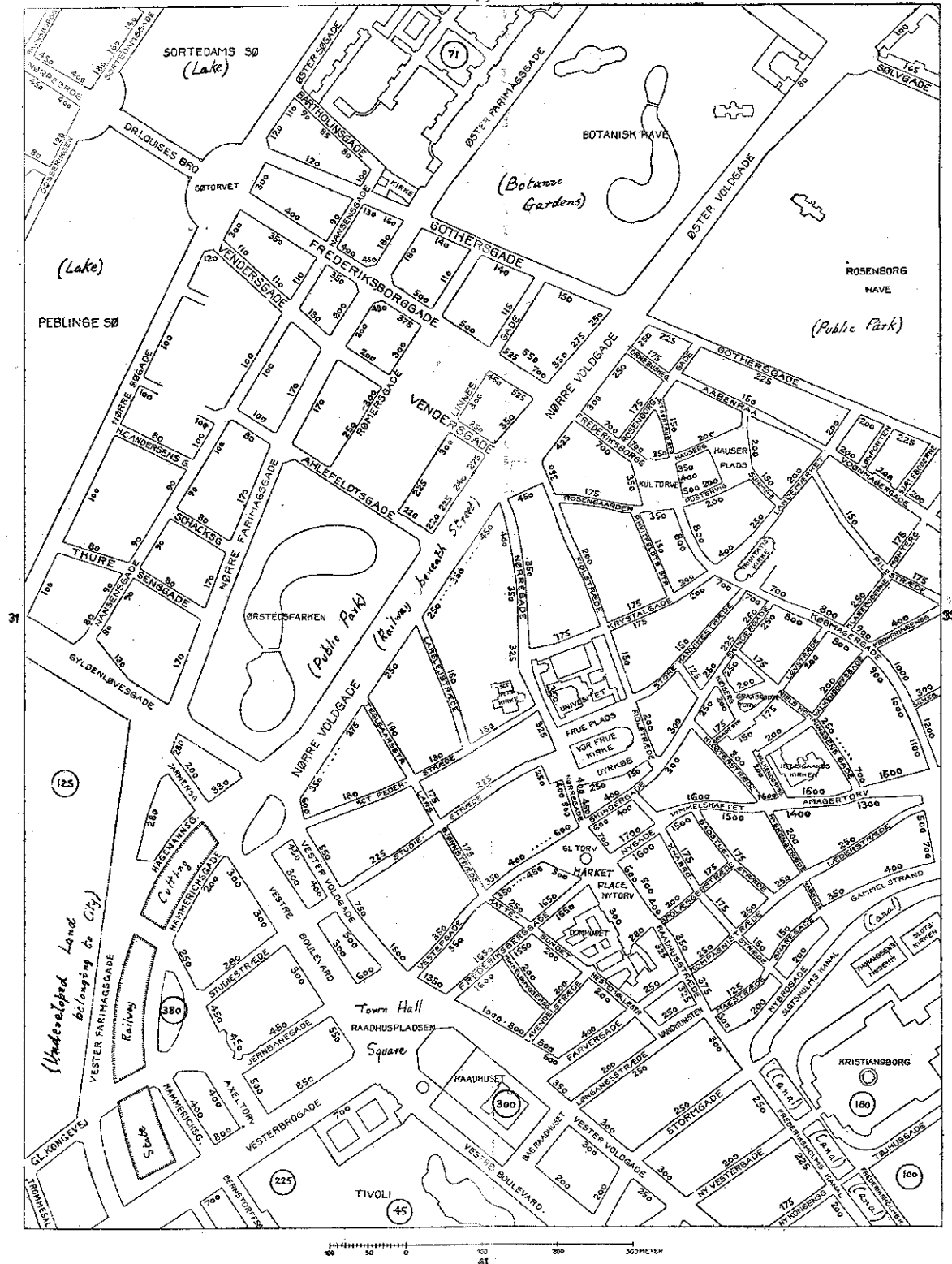
When the public of this country vents its indignation so justifiably regarding the lot of the miner it should be reminded that the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer who consented to the "raw deal" for Abyssinia are the same men who wantonly and without any mandate repealed the 1931 Land Value Tax, thus leaving their friends in undisputed control of their monopolistic powers over the lives, not only of the miners, but of all of us who must have access to land for our livelihood.—In the "*Manchester Guardian*," 10th January.

LAND VALUATION AND THE USE OF LAND VALUE MAPS

The Example of Denmark

The first assessment of the capital value of the land in Denmark was made in 1904, following the Act of 1903, which revised the whole system of real estate taxation and incidentally provided for the repeal of the historic "hard-corn" assessment of the comparative natural fertility of agricultural lands. The valuation of 1904, and that of 1909, ascertained only the composite value of the land, with buildings and

improvements included; but in 1916, and at each periodic valuation since then, a separate assessment has also been made of the value of the land apart from improvements. This separate assessment was the outcome of the agitation for land value taxation, and came into existence before any tax or rate was actually levied on unimproved land values. Earlier, in 1911, there had been trial valuations of several typical urban



A Section of the Copenhagen Land Value Map

[OVER]

and rural districts to test the case for land value taxation.

The year 1922 saw the enactment of a small national tax levied from 1924 onwards at a uniform rate (equivalent to one-third of a penny in the pound) on the unimproved value of all land in town and country. The new tax made it obligatory to assess land value separately, previous valuations of the kind having been more in the nature of an experiment. The results of the periodic valuations in 1924 and 1927 have been reported in the columns of *Land & Liberty*. The land valuations are now made every fifth year.

In March, 1926, an Act was passed transferring a certain amount of local taxation to the unimproved value of the land, urban and rural—strictly limited in the towns, but more generously applied in the country districts. Taxation on buildings and improvements (at a lower rate than on land value) and local income taxes were unfortunately allowed to remain: removal of these burdens is a matter for remedial legislation. Meantime, the rate of land value taxation in Copenhagen, for example (adding national and local together), is now 0.9 per cent—about 2½d. in the £ of capital value, and it averages 1.9 per cent (4½d. in the £) in the country districts.

With each succeeding valuation more and more accuracy and expedition is attained, and more and more it is seen how essential is the aid of publicity whereby common opinion can compare and approve the results. The systematic methods adopted find their expression in the Land Value Map of Copenhagen, officially published in book form in 60 sheets, one of which is here printed by way of illustration. The map took shape as the result of the decision arrived at by the district valuers (chairmen of assessment committees) of the Metropolis at their joint conference on 21st March, 1923, the work having been initiated by the Central Valuation Board. The experience gained from the 1920 valuation gave practical direction, enabling the map to be compiled for the 1924 valuation, and again for the valuation of 1927, and its effectiveness was fully demonstrated on both occasions. The book of maps, which anyone can now purchase, gives a brief explanation of the methods involved; a fuller description of the system is contained in a departmental publication addressed to the valuers in the provincial towns advising them to follow the same plan.

Mr K. J. Kristensen in his official capacity at the Valuation Board is chiefly responsible for the idea of the land value maps and for their preparation. The map gives details as to the "street-prices" for every street, and indicates the average value in crowns per square metre of land of standard depth fronting on the street or any section of it. In the older part of Copenhagen this standard depth is taken at 20 metres; elsewhere in the Metropolis and including the Frederiksberg municipality, the standard depth is 30 metres. The separate sites are all assessed in relation to this street-price, while use is made of prescribed tables to compute the average value per square metre of sites that are greater or less in depth than the standard or normal depth. Corner sites are given a special addition for their position, and that addition also stands in a certain relation to the street-price. Every landholder can, therefore, discover the value at which his ground ought to be assessed, taking the street-price as the basis, and see at the same time whether due considera-

tion has been given to special conditions if such exist. If he finds that there is disparity in the assessments, he can get the valuation authorities to investigate the matter and have the mistake rectified. Even more important is the opportunity given to judge whether the level of values recorded in different neighbourhoods has been correctly measured.

AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE MAP

The reproduction on the other side shows a part of the central district of Copenhagen.

The map shows very clearly what relation there is between the value of one street and that of another; and it is for landholders and others conversant with real estate to assure themselves from a study of the map that the valuation observes a proper relationship, besides fixing assessments that are in agreement with the reasonable market value. The street-prices are not determined without thorough investigation of all the facts as to prices and rentals that are available to the valuers. Great pains are taken, especially in respect to the centre of the town, where values on main streets and side streets differ so considerably.

The highest values are recorded on the main shopping thoroughfare, a continuation of streets leading from the Town Hall Square eastwards through *Frederiksberg Gade* (Frederiksberg Street), and turning north-west at the edge of the map. The course of pedestrian traffic often causes one side of the street to be more valuable than the other. To repeat the example given in our issue of last month (and to correct a mistake made) the highest "street-price" is 1,700 crowns, which means that land fronting the street at that point, and if it has the standard depth of 20 metres, is worth 1,700 crowns (£94) per square metre—approximately £79 a square yard. If the frontage is 10 metres, the area of the site is 200 square metres, and the value of the site is 340,000 crowns—equivalent to £18,880. If the actual depth is less or more than 20 metres, the average value is correspondingly higher or lower and is worked out from the valuation table provided. For example, if the depth is 12 metres, the average value of the site is 129 per cent of the street-price (in this case 1,700 crowns), so making 2,193 crowns per square metre. If that site has a frontage of 10 metres, its area is 120 square metres, and its value is 263,160 crowns—equivalent to £14,620. It is noticeable how very valuable the land is on the main streets, and how suddenly the value drops but a few steps away. Where a figure appears within a circle, it states the average value in crowns per square metre of the whole area. A case in point is the Tivoli Gardens and another is the undeveloped land on the left of the map, the site of the old railway station and now city property.

The maps present results that must be proved by the judgment of informed opinion, and it is vital that the valuation should be submitted to that test. It is of the greatest importance that the citizens should have every facility by examining the street-prices to control the valuation in the making. It is of equal importance to those in charge of the work that they are able to reap the benefit of the guidance they can get from intelligent criticism and discussion. In that way the assessments assuredly come into line with the generally accepted idea of the relation between the value of one piece of land and the value of another.

A.W.M.

(Reprinted from "*Land & Liberty*," April, 1928, Issue)

AN INVITATION TO EVERY READER

We reprint text of the letter which on 3rd December was addressed personally to each of our post-paid subscribers. By his generous offer on behalf of the Journal and its welfare, our Australian supporter undertakes to duplicate all contributions up to a given sum. By the express desire of this friend, the Fund is coupled with the name of John Paul so that it be a memorial to John Paul's work and a guarantee of its continuance. We now extend the invitation to all our readers, asking their favourable response. The Fund is growing in a gratifying way, and with a further endeavour the sum named should be obtained. Will YOU join in, and help to make this genial challenge good?

LAND & LIBERTY

JOURNAL FOR LAND VALUE
TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

(EDITED BY JOHN PAUL, 1894-1933)

Published by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd.
Editor, A. W. Madsen. Associate Editor, F. C. R. Douglas

A POUND FOR POUND FUND

An Australian reader of *Land & Liberty* has made an exceptionally generous offer, your acceptance of which I earnestly invite. The offer is communicated to us through Mr P. J. Markham, of Melbourne, in the following terms:

"With great pleasure I take up with you a proposition by a good friend of the Henry George movement in Australia on whose behalf I am writing. He does not wish his name mentioned. He is prepared to give £ for £ up to five hundred pounds (£500) against amounts subscribed to a Fund which might be considered a memorial to John Paul. The Fund would be controlled and at the disposition of the United Committee, but the proposer desires that it be expended in some way that John Paul would have liked."

Every contribution, small or large, will be duplicated up to the sum of £500 so that a total of £1,000 is attainable.

There was no question that John Paul would have wished to apply any financial contributions of the kind to guarantee and strengthen the Journal, the service of which he regarded as of vital consequence. The donor accepts this view and agrees that appeal be made at once on behalf of the *Land & Liberty* Sustentation Fund, which initiated by John Paul himself has stood the Journal in stead in more than one emergency.

This splendid encouragement prompts to immediate action. An approach was necessary in any case to the goodwill of all who value the Journal. It is almost superfluous to explain that the cost of printing and publication greatly exceed the twopence per month at which the paper is sold. Like other propagandist papers, it does not and cannot pay for itself but has to be subsidized from the funds of the body responsible for its publication. In our case this means that a financial burden falls on the United Committee correspondingly limiting its activities in other directions.

Land & Liberty is universally accepted by our people at home and across the seas as an essential agency. It is the link which binds the International movement in very many countries. Its news, instances and arguments are constantly being used in debate and taken into the daily and weekly papers and magazines by journalists free to make use of such material. In this way the Journal reaches out to a public that can be counted each month by hundreds of thousands.

The purpose of the Sustentation Fund will be eminently served if the amounts contributed are not at the expense of donations normally given to the United Committee or any other organization claiming your support in promoting the movement. For your response please use the enclosed form which you will see provides for postponement, if that is more convenient, of payment of contribution to any named month in 1936.

I trust that this appeal will have your favourable consideration so that backed by your aid we can start 1936 in the assurance that the Journal will be well equipped financially for its important work. As to the service it tries to render, kindly appreciations are frequent in the office correspondence and appended are extracts from some of the letters of this nature received in the last two years.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. MADSEN.

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ADDRESS

[SEE OVER]

LAND FOR MANCHESTER'S AIR PORT

For the purpose of establishing an air port at Ringway, Cheshire, the Manchester Corporation acquired by compulsory purchase Fir Tree Farm, comprising about 124 acres. The price first asked for the land was £13,200, or about £105 an acre. The question was taken to arbitration, and at the hearing before the Official Arbitrator at Manchester Town Hall on 11th October evidence was given on behalf of the vendor by Mr Dugdale Dunlop, a land valuer and agent, who said that his valuation worked out at £9,300, equal to £74 an acre for the whole area. The farm buildings were in good condition and the land was level. The farm was rented at £282 a year. It was 250 feet above the sea level and had good views of the surrounding country and the Derbyshire hills. The land was suitable for building. Fir Tree Farm, added Mr Dunlop, was about eight miles from the centre of Manchester. When the Princess Parkway was extended it would open a wide and fast route to Manchester.

The witness said that building development was chiefly taking place on the south side of Manchester. The reason for this was that the north of the city was unattractive, smoky, cold, and to a large extent built upon. On the easterly and westerly sides of the city there was practically no land available for building. The only possible outlet for the city was in the Wythenshawe direction.

Mr Dunlop said that the Manchester Corporation purchased 2,500 acres in Wythenshawe at £80 an acre, and later an additional 1,000 acres at about £100 an acre. Many millions of pounds had been spent on the development of Wythenshawe already. There were nearly 5,000 houses completed, a number of large schools, a cinema, etc., and some factories. He expressed the view that if the Corporation had not required the land for another purpose the value of Fir Tree Farm for building development would have been higher. It was one of the most pleasant areas in Cheshire. Mr Dunlop said that he had himself sold 15½ acres in Ringway for building at £439 an acre. That land was within a mile of Fir Tree Farm.

In answer to questions Mr Dunlop said that the farm had been offered for sale by Lord Egerton in 1932 for

£5,000. Later on it had been sold to the present owner for £4,000 or £32 an acre.

Mr J. H. Hall, a land valuer, who was called as a witness for the Manchester Corporation, said he had had thirty years' experience of land sales in Cheshire and had acted for the Manchester Corporation in connection with the management of the Wythenshawe estate. He had prepared a valuation of the farm which was £5,486, or £44 per acre. As agricultural land he placed the value at £40 an acre, plus another £4 for potential value in the remote future.

The arbitrator reserved his decision. On 25th November the *Manchester* stated that his award was £6,885, or about £55 10s. an acre.

We do not reflect upon the arbitrator's award. What we would draw attention to is the elements which on the evidence for the vendor went to make up the value—"250 feet above sea level," "good views," "a wide and fast route to Manchester," "on the south side of Manchester," "the only possible outlet for the city," and the creation of the Corporation's great estate at Wythenshawe.

No doubt the buildings and improvements upon the farm are worth something, but it is clear that most of the value is due to items such as these created by nature or by the adjoining community.

Birmingham Also

At a meeting of the Birmingham Corporation on 7th January when the promotion of a Bill to make further provision for the protection of the civic aerodrome to be constructed at Elmdon, an addendum to the report was carried instructing the committee "to consider and report on the desirability of purchasing undeveloped land in the suburbs where such land is likely to be developed by the Corporation."

Mr Norman Tiptaft, who moved the resolution, pointed out that where public money had been spent on land, development prices had risen in some cases by hundreds of pounds per acre. All he asked was that the general question should be considered and then, if the committee reported in favour of land purchase as a general principle, specific instances would doubtless be brought forward.

The resolution was seconded by Mr Cooper, who gave instances of where land had been enormously increased locally in value because of the development work done by the Corporation.

Mr W. S. Lewis told Mr Tiptaft that he was advocating rank Socialism which was diametrically opposed to the views of the Unionist party. For years the rate-payers had been absolutely fleeced by speculators in the exploitation of land upon which huge sums had been expended by the Corporation.

Mr Sawyer said it was refreshing to hear this change of opinion outside the Labour Party. He believed the taxation of land values would have the effect of solving many of our economic problems.

A large plot of land known as "Bradley's Field," on the Doncaster road, Scunthorpe, has been sold for £7,000 for the erection of a super cinema.

The site is one of the few remaining spaces left in the centre of Scunthorpe and was once considered by the local urban council as a possible one for their town hall scheme.

It was sold just after the war for £900, which gives an indication of the rapid increase in the valuation of land at Scunthorpe.—*Daily Independent*, Sheffield, 20th December.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA

Federal Land Tax

The latest (seventeenth) report of the Commissioner of Taxation for Australia, dealing with the year 1933-34, contains some interesting particulars about the Federal Land Tax. Our readers will recollect that the legislation embodies two objectionable features. One is that the first £5,000 of capital land value is exempt from taxation (except in the case of absentee land-owners). The other is that the rate of taxation is strongly graduated. The tax on the first £1 of capital value in excess of the amount exempted is 1d., rising to an average rate of 2½d. per £ where the taxable value is £75,000, the excess over that figure being taxed at 5d. in the £. The rate on absentees is in all cases 1d. more than for a resident.

The rates of taxation after being raised during the war were subsequently reduced and are now, as stated above, somewhat less than when the tax was introduced in 1910.

The amount of land value which by reason of the exemptions escapes liability to the Federal Land Tax is considerable. A rough estimate of the unimproved value of land in Australia is £940 millions, and, as the value subject to this tax is only £256 millions, approximately 73 per cent of the land value is exempt.

One object of the tax was to procure the subdivision of large estates. This object has been partially secured. This return shows that since the Act came into force over £151 millions of unimproved value have passed out of the taxable field. This can happen in two ways: by the sale of land worth under £5,000 by absentees to residents; and by the subdivision of land held by residents into parcels worth under £5,000. The return unfortunately does not show the number of assessments at each range of values. The total number of taxpayers shows an increase between 1910 and 1933 from 14,920 to 23,317, which confirms that there has been some subdivision.

It is clear, however, that legislation of this kind is an imperfect method of achieving even this limited purpose, apart from the wider aim of land-value taxation in promoting the use of land generally and securing communal values for public use. A flat rate tax of, say, 2d. in the £ on all land values without exemption would have been much more effective.

Another point that emerges from the report is that the unimproved value of the land liable to the tax has in the 23 years from 1910 to 1933 increased from £184,446,000 to £256,045,000. To this however should be added the value of the land which has passed out of the taxable field. The value of this at the various times when it passed out was £151,225,000. It may be safely assumed that the present-day value is not less than this figure. Hence, the value in 1933 of the land originally liable to tax was at the least £407,270,000. The increase in value is therefore a minimum of £222,824,000, or 121 per cent. This gives some indication of the way in which land values in Australia have increased.

The Library of the Graduate School in Land Economics, Central Political Institute, Nanking, has been supplied on request with copy of the volume of *Edinburgh Conference Papers*. (This informing compendium on the Land Value Policy and Free Trade is obtainable price 2s. 6d. from our offices.)

POLL TAX IN EAST AFRICA

During the strike in a copper mine in Northern Rhodesia last May six men were killed and 26 wounded by rifle fire from the police. The cause of the strike was an announcement that the poll tax on the mine workers was to be raised from 12s. 6d. to 15s. with retrospective effect from January. Dr Norman Leys, reviewing the report of the Commission of Enquiry in the *New Statesman and Nation* (4th January), says the cause of the rioting that led to the loss of life was the bullying of the strikers by the police.

This deplorable incident appears to have been due not to any disorderly conduct on the part of the natives, but to "unnecessary and provocative" action by the police. An anterior cause of the strike itself seems to have been the failure of the Governor to comply with the general instruction to consult the tribal authorities before introducing any legislation affecting the interests of the Africans. In this particular case the increased tax on the mineworkers was offset by a reduction in tax on other natives, and as most of the taxes are in the end paid out of the mineworkers' earnings the total sum to be paid was not increased.

The whole system of poll taxes is objectionable and should be abolished. They have to be paid in money and the only source from which money can be obtained is by the native hiring himself to the mineowners. It is a device for securing cheap labour in the mines, for the natives do not desire to work in the mines and can keep themselves comfortably by working on their land.

Mr Leys says: "The Report gives 23s. 6d. as the average monthly cash wage of mineworkers, and 5s. to 12s. 6d. as what labourers on the European estates are paid. What makes wages, in Northern Rhodesia, practically the sole source of the poll tax money is the fact that no part of the country is nearer to the sea than two thousand miles, so that there is nothing for Africans to grow for sale and export—nothing at least that they have been told about. That is why wage-earners have in all East African countries to pay most of the taxes of relatives who grow the family food supply. Thus in Kenya, where the tax is 12s., the average tax money paid by the average wage-earner is 28s. By contrast, in both Kenya and Northern Rhodesia, Europeans have to pay hardly any direct taxation. An income of £900, for example, pays only £15.

"These African copper mines have international importance. Copper being one of the things of which the world produces more than it needs, production is restricted to keep up the price. And as the labour of an African paid ninepence a day is a far greater source of profit than the labour of an American citizen paid five dollars a day, one result of the African venture is that thousands of American citizens have lost their jobs."

So the evil consequences of this policy spread from one continent to another.

FRANCE

The Council of the Department of the Seine has on the motion of M. Georges Lemarchand adopted a resolution calling upon Parliament to give the Department power to levy a special tax for the purpose of recovering the increase in land value due to the making of highways, provision of means of transport and other public activities.

In an article in the *Petit Parisien* (17th September) M. Aristide Vêran dealing with this proposal gives a

number of remarkable examples of increase of land values culled from official sources.

Land at the corner of the faubourg Montmartre and the rue Bergère was let in 1427 at 32 francs and sold in 1702 for 26,000 francs. Two centuries later this land was worth 27,000,000 francs.

In 1613 the garden of the Luxembourg was bought by Marie de Medici at the rate of 9 centimes a square metre. Half a century later the price had doubled. But the greatest advance took place during the Nineteenth century. Between 1793 and 1902 the average price per square metre of land at Vaugirard increased from 56 centimes to 85 francs; in the rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin from 11 francs to 900 francs; in the faubourg Montmartre from 38 francs to 1,300 francs.

This great increase in value, says M. Vêran, is due in great part to works carried out by the city and the development of means of transport, paid for by the public but solely benefiting the owners of land. He concludes that the proposed tax will gain for the community a legitimate part of the wealth created by its sacrifices.

In an article in *Terre et Liberté* from which we take these particulars, Mr Sam Meyer points out the idea is deceptive. As soon as or even before any improvement scheme is adopted the increase in value has already taken place. The owners of land know very well the direction in which the city must expand. Proposed improvements are in the air long before they are formally voted upon. When that time arrives the increment of value is no longer future but realised.

All attempts which have been made to collect the increase of value due to public works have been largely abortive. In fact the problem is wrongly formulated—it is not to collect the increase of value due to each isolated expenditure, but to collect the whole value which is continually being created and maintained by the community.

Other articles in the latest issue of *Terre et Liberté* include a valuable survey of Agrarian Reform in Russia by M. Daudé-Bancel, and an article on Land Reform in Czecho-Slovakia by Prof. Borodaewsky with a criticism by Mr Pavlos Giannellia.

GERMANY

Recent issues of *Bodenreform*, the organ of the German Land Reform Union, contain much of interest. An article in the issue of 17th November on the Increase in Price of Building Land quotes from *Die Deutsche Volkswirtschaft* (German Economy), the official economic journal of the Nazis, statistics indicating the rapid increase in recent years in the price of land. The official comment is: "As in current years, apart from quite short periods of stoppage, the activity of the land market has been maintained, one may very well count upon relatively satisfactory figures for this year." *Bodenreform's* comment is: "The figures are only satisfactory in that they prove a rising desire for land settlement on the part of the land-hungry people of the towns. This healthy desire will naturally be frustrated by the unfair increase in the price of building land." The same issue contains an article by Dr Heinz Potthoff on The Pure Land-Value Tax in which he says: "All land-reformers are agreed in this, that the best, the only just tax, on land is a pure tax on its value. It should fall neither upon the buildings nor upon the products of labour that the owner or occupier of the land has produced. The special object of taxation is the rent of land, the unearned income which comes from the ownership of the land."

The issue of 22nd December contains an appreciative notice of Mr Verinder's Land and Freedom.

The issue of 15th December contains an article by Professor Siegfried Sitte of Vienna explaining how taxation of buildings and improvements impedes production and leads to land becoming unused, and stating the case for raising public revenues by a tax on the economic rent of land.

For your Library—Indexed Bound Volumes of "Land & Liberty," price Ten Shillings, are now ready. The price of the Index alone is One Shilling.

ARGENTINA

From the offices of *Tribuna Georgista* (Defensa 553, Buenos Aires), the journal of the Argentine Henry George Federation, comes a new edition of the classic work *Rivadavia y las Legislación de las Tierras Publicas* (Rivadavia and his Land Laws) by Andrés Lamas.

This work was first published in 1882. It contains an historical account of the circumstances leading up to and the passage of Bernardino Rivadavia's land legislation in 1826. The object of his reform was to give security of possession to the user of the land while at the same time securing for the community its rent. This measure was in advance of the time and its benefits were not understood by the masses. Within a short time it was swept away by the tyrant Rosas who distributed the public lands to his soldiers as Roman conquerors had done of old.

The second part of the book contains an exposition of the economic principles involved. Lamas does not refer to Henry George, and it may be inferred that he was not acquainted with his writings. His knowledge of English writers appears to have been obtained from French or Spanish translations of their works. He points out that Ricardo did not draw the proper deduction from his law of rent, and that Malthus failed to observe that it was the increase of rent, not the increase of population, which impoverished the majority of the people.

If Lamas did not know of George's teaching, this is a remarkable example of the simultaneous discovery of basic principles.

The volume contains an introduction, reprinted from the edition of 1914, by the distinguished Uruguayan statesman Dr Manuel Herrera y Reissig. It contains 112 closely printed pages and is sold at the extremely low price of 20 centavos. It would therefore be unfair to criticize the paper or the type, but we may hope that some day it may be possible to reprint this great book in a still better form and with an index. It is a book which ought to be in the hands of every person who knows the Spanish language.

AUSTRALIA

The Sugar Monopoly

The Australian government has renewed for a further period of five years the agreement with the sugar interests and the embargo upon foreign sugar, but the campaign against this monopoly has stirred up great public interest. The Henry George Leagues have played an important part in the controversy and much valuable educational work has been done.

The original capital of the Colonial Sugar Refining Company was £2,425,000, which has been watered up to £14,000,000 on which an annual dividend of 12½ per cent is paid. Moreover, the original capital has been returned to the shareholders in cash bonuses. The consumption of sugar in Australia is 300,000 tons which sold at the wholesale price of £33 a ton. Of the same sugar 200,000 tons is exported to Great Britain and sold here at £8 a ton after paying duty of £2 a ton. It is hardly surprising to learn that the sugar monopoly has cost the consumers of Australia £7,000,000 a year, or in its ten years of existence a total of some £70,000,000.

Large sums of money have been spent by the sugar interests in advocating their case. Last October, Mr A. G. Huie, secretary of the N.S.W. Henry George League wrote to the *Sydney Truth* in reply to an article which had complained of criticism of the sugar embargo and urged its continuance. He received the following letter from the editor: "Replying to your letter on this subject, I think that you are under a misapprehension when you accept the matter contained in *Truth* with regard to the Sugar industry as being an expression of opinion of this newspaper. This matter is advertising and is inserted by the Queensland Sugar Growers' Association and appears in all newspapers throughout the Commonwealth."

In 1930, when the previous renewal of the agreement was under discussion, a member of the Henry George League wrote to the trade union paper *The Labor Call* protesting against the publication of articles in support of the wealthy

sugar interests. He received this reply: "We have to inform you that the articles appearing in the *Labor Call* on the Sugar industry are paid for at advertisement rates and are approved by the Australian Workers' Union."

Some people wonder why the taxation of land values, mainly by local authorities, has not done more good to Australia. The existence of this and many other protectionist monopolies is the answer. Indirect taxation could be abolished if land values were taken in taxation. The workers would be better off and industry would be free to expand with cheaper machinery and raw materials. The agitation over the sugar monopoly has been a striking means of bringing these truths home to many people.

(An article by Mr E. J. Craigie, M.P., South Australia, on this subject will appear in our next issue).

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

This year South Australia celebrates the centenary of its foundation. A correspondent in the *Observer* (12th January) recalls that it was established upon the basis of the theories of Edward Gibbon Wakefield and is an illustration of a "planned economy," although like many plans it did not work out in accordance with the anticipations of its author.

In the 'Thirties England was anxious to find an outlet for her "surplus" population, rendered surplus by the combined effects of high protection, heavy taxation, and high land prices. Settlements had already been made in Western Australia, notably at Swan River, but they had features which did not please the powers-that-be in this country. Wakefield's account of the Swan River Settlement is familiar to many who have never seen his *England and America* by the extensive quotations from it made by Karl Marx in *Das Kapital* (Vol. I, Chap. 25).

Marx says:

E. G. Wakefield's great merit is, not that he discovered anything new concerning the colonies, but that he discovered in the colonies the truth as to conditions of capitalist production in the mother country. Just as the system of protection in its early days tried to manufacture capitalists artificially in the mother country, so Wakefield's colonization theory, which England attempted for a while to enforce by Act of Parliament, tried to manufacture wage workers in the colonies. Wakefield spoke of this as "systematic colonization."

First of all, he discovered that in the colonies the ownership of money, the means of subsistence, machinery, and other means of production, do not suffice to stamp the owner as a capitalist unless there also exist, as correlative wage workers, other persons who are compelled to sell themselves "voluntarily." He made the discovery that capital is not a thing, but a social relation between persons, and a relation determined by things. Mr Peel, he says lamentingly, took with him from England to Swan River, Western Australia, means of subsistence and means of production to the value of £50,000. He had the foresight to take with him in addition 3,000 persons, men, women, and children, members of the working class. But, on arrival at his destination, Mr Peel was "left without a servant to make his bed or fetch him water from the river." Poor Mr Peel, who had provided for everything, except for the export of the English relations of production. He had forgotten to bring these with him to Swan River.

Wakefield, however, knew what it was that Mr Peel had not brought with him. It was land monopoly. And he proposed to overcome the difficulty by having the Government fix the price of land at such a high price that the labourers from England would not be able to acquire any and so become producers on their own account. To make matters doubly sure he added that the money received from the sale of land to such as did manage to find sufficient money to purchase should be used in importing more labourers to take the place of those who succeeded in setting up for themselves. The State must fix a "sufficient price," that is one high enough "to prevent the labourers from becoming independent landowners until others had followed to take their place."

It was upon this basis that the colony of South Australia was founded, but all did not turn out according to plan. To quote the writer in the *Observer*: "Instead of the land being cultivated, and the produce being sold, thus bringing in a legitimately earned revenue, the original settlers saw a quicker means of making money. They speculated with the land they had bought. The turnover was sent to England to stimulate immigration, and more people came out and bought more land; but instead of cultivating the land, buyers merely gambled in land values. Meanwhile the labourers had no work to do and became a charge on the government. By 1841, 299,000 acres were sold, but only 2,500 acres were under cultivation. It was a bubble that had to burst."

The governor issued doles to the unemployed, but the commissioners in England refused to honour the bills. A new governor was sent out in the person of George Grey, and under him matters were put on a sounder basis. Sir George Grey was a land reformer, and was later responsible for the first steps in the way of taxation of land values taken in New Zealand, and when he became acquainted with Henry George's ideas, thoroughly approved of them. It would be interesting to know what measures he adopted in South Australia, and how far they embodied the principle.

TASMANIA

Mr Sydney F. Strudwicke of Hobart writes:—

The privileged class is almost as exclusive and haughty here as in the old Country. The principle features of Tasmanian Colonisation were huge land grants to favourites of Governors etc., and to influential settlers, the assignment of convict labour, both male and female, to the wealthier settlers on terms little removed from slavery, and the exclusion of the free working class from natural opportunity until they had been many years in the Colony and had, in rare instances, saved a sufficient sum to acquire land by purchase. The fruit of these conditions remains to the present day in huge holdings of the most valuable land by sheep run owners, and absolute monopoly of all suitable or desirable land near the towns and chief centres. Nearly as large as Ireland, equally as fertile, with a better climate, and still magnificent timber and mineral resources, Tasmania is an empty land with less than a quarter million people, of whom many thousands are poverty stricken and unemployed.

Among publications received are: *FREEDOM FOR MOTHERS*, by John O'Kelly Smith published (\$1.75) by Dorrance & Co., Philadelphia, a new and original presentation of the idea of endowment of motherhood, showing that the idea can only be achieved through land-value taxation; *THE RADICAL REMEDY FOR CHRONIC ECONOMIC ILLS*, by J. B. Chamberlain, the Burleigh Press, Kensington, Md.; *CHURCH AND SOCIETY*, by Laughton Ellis of Perth, W.A.; *A JEFFERSON-LINCOLN SYMPOSIUM*, by Laurie J. Quinby, Davies Printing Co., Los Angeles; *A PRINTER TELLS THE PRESIDENT*, by H. Ellenoff, published by the Author at 409 Pearl Street, New York City; *THE PROBLEM OF TAXATION* (No. 46 in the "Everlasting To-day" Series), by John H. Allen, New Jersey; *HOW ECONOMIC IGNORANCE CAUSES DEPRESSION*, by Peter Witt, Cleveland; *GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE IN INDUSTRY*, by Sir Andrew McFadyean, published (6d.) by Lovat Dickson, London.

HENS AS EGG SMUGGLERS.—Eight farmers with fields on the German-Dutch frontier at Rothenbach have been sentenced to five months' imprisonment each for teaching their hens to "smuggle" eggs over the frontier. The farmers fed them on Dutch territory, where corn, meal and chicken food are cheaper, and then drove them into German corners of their field, where nest-boxes were placed. Customs officials calculate that the hens took more than 2,000,000 eggs duty free into Germany.—*News-Chronicle*, 16th December.

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. C. R. Douglas, Assistant Secretary; W. E. Lester and C. E. Crompton, Hon. Treasurers.** (Telephone: Whitehall 6008. Telegrams: "Eulav, Sowest, London.")

The Committee held its first (general) meeting for 1936 on the 15th January reviewing the work of last year and drawing up plans for the next. A report will be issued to all subscribers and copies may be had by any of our readers on application. Financial statement for 1935 showed a total revenue of £2,421 including the surplus of £656 with which the year began. Expenditure was £2,369 leaving a surplus of £52. Chief item of expenditure was £483 devoted to special propaganda, of which £150 in connection with the municipal campaign and £119 on the General Election, with £214 spent otherwise on meetings, the press bureau, pamphlets and leaflets and the distribution of these, free or marked copies of the Journal to numerous addresses, and postal campaigns by means of circulars with explanatory literature enclosed. The total number of circulars sent out in connection with these various branches of work was 31,660. Apart from that kind of postage, the cost of the ordinary correspondence concerned with individual inquiries for information or demands for this or that service, what may be called the day-to-day bureau work of the office, was £56 and if this be reckoned out in stamps it will indicate the compass of our contacts. In addition there were the postal expenses entered separately to the separate accounts of the Henry George Foundation and the International Union.

The maintenance of *Land & Liberty* apart from establishment expenses and deducting the subscriptions and sales and the donations specially given for the Journal, cost £272. By that token, the invitation we give to our readers for special support through the "Sustentation Fund" is abundantly justified.

Accounts of the Henry George Foundation (of which the Committee are the Trustees) were also passed. The sales of books and pamphlets during the year amounted to £424 and last month we gave a list of these—8,690 Henry George titles, 2,370 books by other authors, 5,580 Henry George Addresses and 20,950 pamphlets by other authors: altogether 38,590 publications. The Trust Deed of the Foundation requires that the Fund be used only for the publication, advertising and circulating of Henry George's works and kindred literature and may not subsidize any other form of work. The Foundation is endowed by a terminable annuity for a period of ten years only, of which seven years have already run; but the founder, Louis P. Jacobs, animated by the hope that others would be led to follow his example, so framed the trust as to facilitate its re-endowment by legacies or donations given for the purpose.

The Foundation has undoubtedly done a very great work in providing for the whole movement the new and cheap reprints of most of Henry George's works making them better known than ever, and placing on our market many books and pamphlets by other writers. The catalogue of the Foundation now comprises 51 different titles, a most comprehensive library on the Land Value Policy and Free Trade, dealing with the subject in all its varied aspects.

Publications announced last month included new editions of *Light on the Land Question*, of *Unemployment and the Land* (Lester) and of the two addresses by Henry George: *Scotland and Scotsmen* and *Thy Kingdom Come*. These are now ready and are advertised elsewhere in our columns.

It is noticeable that several of the books that are available in different bindings sell more readily in the more expensive setting. This is true of *Protection or Free Trade*, more of the 1s. cloth bound being sold than of the 6d. paper-cover edition. It is true also of the *Gems from Henry George* which may be had for 6d. in stiff paper covers or for 1s. in cloth. The book in the latter binding was exhausted and supplies have been made good by re-binding in cloth most of the stock of the cheaper edition. The *Gems from Henry George* comprises 107 pages of selections from all the works so skilfully arranged as to make a conspectus of the social philosophy Henry George teaches, and "he who runs may read." It is an admirable gift book.

Last month three communications were sent to the Labour and Liberal Members of Parliament, covering the circulation of sundry publications. The first called attention to the progress of the Municipal campaign and enclosed *Cities Held to Ransom*, *Land Value Taxation in Practice*, the Memorandum on *Methods of Local Taxation* and reprints from the *Land Value Maps* of New York and Copenhagen. This was followed by a letter to Labour M.P.'s enclosing reprint of the Labour Party's official Notes for Speakers advocating Land Value Rating, and to Liberal M.P.'s enclosing the leaflet *Idle Land Means Idle Men*, published officially by the Women's National Liberal Federation. The third communication was to Labour M.P.'s with last month's

Land & Liberty marking the leading article on "Coal Royalties and Miners' Wages"; the same being sent to the chief offices and leaders of the Miners' Federation as well as to a number of candidates unsuccessful at the General Election prominently associated with the question of better conditions in the mining industry. This is the kind of special propaganda which costs money and although the avenues to it stand wide open, we cannot in present state of the finances explore them as we would. It is another case for appealing for the means that will put more on the revenue side of the "budget" that we have as our guiding rod for the ensuing year.

In the *Scots Town and County Councillor* the controversy between Sir Henry Keith and Mr Douglas on "Local Income Tax" is concluded in two articles from the two contestants which appear side by side. Mr Madsen spoke in Birmingham on 23rd January. February engagements: Mr Madsen on "Lessons from Russia" at Portsmouth on the 19th; Mr Douglas in St Jude's Hall, Railton Road, Herne Hill, on "Social Credit" on the 5th, and in Nottingham on the 27th, addressing the joint conference of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Societies of Rating and Valuation Officers.

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

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS.

- Wed. Feb. 5th.—S.W. Bethnal Green Young Liberal Association, 182 Bethnal Green Road, E.2: Fredk Verinder. 9 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 9th.—A. W. Madsen, B.Sc., Editor of *Land & Liberty*: "Lessons from Russia." 8 p.m.*
- Thurs., Feb. 13th.—Brighton and Hove Women's Liberal Club, 26 Gloucester Place, Brighton: J. Atholl Robertson, F.R.G.S., F.S.A.(Scot.), "Land Values and Social Justice." 3 p.m.
- Fri. Feb. 14th.—Southend-on-Sea Women's Liberal Association, Liberal Hall, Clarence Road: Fredk Verinder, "Women's Interest in the Land Question." 3 p.m.
- Sun., Feb. 16th.—John E. Grant (Author of "The Problem of War and its Solution"): "War." 8 p.m.*
- Sun., Feb. 23rd.—Speaker (probably M.P.) from the Mineworkers' Federation. 8 p.m.*
- Sun., Mar. 1st.—John A. Pinckheard, A.R.I.B.A., "Architecture and its Place in Society." 8 p.m.*
- Wed., Mar. 4th.—Woodford Women's Liberal Association (Epping Division): Fredk Verinder, "The Burden of the Rates." 3 p.m.

* The Sunday Meetings will be held in the League's Lecture Room, at 7 St Martin's Place. They are arranged by the Library and Debating Sub-committee, of which Miss Edith Hill is Hon. Sec.

The Economic Lectures by Andrew MacLaren, M.P., will be continued on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Any interested persons will be welcomed. Admission free. Collection. Refreshments.

Mr MacLaren will be glad if any friends who wish to have difficulties cleared up, or who have met with objections to which they cannot readily find a satisfactory reply, will give him an opportunity to discuss these matters at the Tuesday meetings. A suggestion has been made that an evening might be profitably devoted, now and then, entirely to the answering of questions and objections, without a formal lecture.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: William Reid, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3. (Phone: Douglas 5599.)

Our President, Bailie Peter Burt, is to speak to the Freedom Club on Direct Labour and Private Enterprise in Municipal Undertakings, on Thursday, 13th February.

Since last notes were written, Captain A. R. McDougal has spoken to the Freedom Club and has declined nomination as Liberal Candidate for Ross and Cromarty. Mr Otto Ommer has spoken to the Edinburgh-St. Leonard's Branch of the S.S.P., and has acted as a Sub-agent for Mr Cleghorn Thomson, the Labour candidate in the Scottish Universities By-Election. The writer understands that another of our members, Mr Douglas MacDonald, Chairman of Executive, also declined to consider nomination for Ross and Cromarty.

Among letters to the newspapers have been Alex Campbell in the *Evening Times* on Highland Road Improvement Schemes; William Reid in the *Glasgow Herald* on Social Credit; A. J. Mace in the *Evening Citizen* on Mining Royalties; and William Kennedy in the *Glasgow Herald* on the Finance of the Highland schemes.

The Committee will supply a list of prize-winners to those who took part in the recent scheme for raising additional funds. Anyone inadvertently overlooked might kindly notify the Secretary.

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

The latest information regarding the response to the resolution of the Welsh Municipal Conference shows that up to 13th January favourable replies were received from 140 local authorities. Of the remaining replies received 22 expressed the opinion that the matter should be raised through one or other of the associations of local authorities, and 161 stated that they had taken no action or were opposed, but the majority of the latter merely "took no action" and only a small number indicated definite opposition.

According to the *Western Mail* (23rd January) the Herefordshire County Council has complained to the County Councils Association about the Cardiff resolution which it described as "grossly unfair and unworkable" and requested the Association to oppose it. The Association decided to reject it but "without expressing any opinion upon the merits of the principle involved."

The Study Circle under the leadership of Prof. W. J. Roberts resumed its meetings at 27 Park Place, Cardiff, on 20th January when there was a good attendance. The text-book is Mr Ralston's "What's Wrong with Taxation."

A parcel of literature received from the United Committee is being effectively distributed. Mr Meth Jones is taking a principal part in this and is also arranging for a number of meetings to be addressed by our speakers.

Cardiff No. 1 Branch of the Women's Co-operative Guild have asked Mr C. A. Gardner to address them on 13th February.

The sincere sympathies of members of the League and especially of his colleagues on the Committee are extended to our Hon. Treasurer Mr John T. Jones on the great bereavement he has suffered in the death of his wife. Mrs Mary Jones was prominently associated in the public life of the Rhondda district and devoted, like her husband, to the causes for the abolition of poverty.

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

Meetings addressed by the League's speakers include: Mossley Women's Co-operative Guild, E. M. Ginders; Urmston Labour Party, A. H. Weller; South Salford W.C.G., A. H. Weller; Clayton W.C.G., A. H. Weller; Preston Guild, A. H. Weller.

An article entitled "The Church and Social Problems," dealing with a pledge taken by six thousand members of the Church of England at a meeting in London, has been sent by the Secretary to a number of newspaper circulating in Lancashire and Cheshire.

A meeting was held in the Free Trade Hall, Manchester, on 24th January, and addressed by Lord Tavistock on "Social Credit." At question time E. F. MacClafferty asked what the Douglas Credit Association proposed to do about the £700,000,000 of national wealth now appropriated each year by the landowners. He was told by the speaker that the Douglas Credit scheme was not an alternative to the Taxation of Land Values but a supplementary measure.

The next meeting of the Henry George Club will be held in Smallman's Restaurant, Piccadilly, Manchester, on Thursday, 6th February, and will be addressed by Mr E. M. Ginders. Readers of *Land & Liberty* who are able to attend meetings in Manchester are invited to forward their names to the Secretary who will gladly advise them of future events.

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

James Joseph Field

We deeply regret to announce the death, on the 18th January, of Mr J. Field, a member of the Liverpool League since its formation in 1909, and its Chairman for 1934-35. The League was represented at his interment in Ford Cemetery on the 22nd January by Messrs J. Forrester, W. McGuinness and E. J. McManus.

A printer by trade, Mr Field took a very active interest in the Typographical Society, and for some time was a member of the Liverpool Trades Council. He came into our movement in 1908 when he joined the "Progress and Poverty" Reading Circle, conducted at the C.Y.M.S. room, Hatton Garden, Liverpool, by the Rev. Thomas Dawson, O.M.I., an old friend of Henry George.

Mr Field rarely missed a meeting of the League during the whole of its existence. Although in poor health since October, 1934, he attended all the meetings of the "Social Problems" Reading Circle. Shortly after the last meeting on the 18th September he had to take to his bed.

Mr. Field served the movement to the fullest extent which his circumstances permitted. When called upon he spoke on behalf of the League at meetings of other organizations, presenting the case for the Taxation of Land Values in a simple and homely way. Occasionally he wrote letters to the Press, and an article of his,

entitled "Memories of McHugh," was published in the June, 1915, number of "Land Values." For about a quarter of a century he was a member of the Liverpool Parliamentary Debating Society in which he availed himself of every opportunity to spread the teaching of Henry George.

He leaves a widow, two sons and two daughters to whom we extend our sympathy in their bereavement.

The following meetings have been addressed by our speakers: 3rd Jan., Walton Co-op. Men's Guild; 14th Jan., Oakfield Co-op. Women's Guild, E. J. McManus; 14th Jan. Birkenhead North End Co-op. Men's Guild; 21st Jan., Hoylake Co-op. Men's Guild; 23rd Jan., Wallasey Co-op. Men's Guild; 28th Jan., New Ferry Co-op. Men's Guild, O. B. Sweeney; 5th Feb., Formby Co-op. Men's Guild, Secretary.

At our League room, 21 Harrington Street, the following Jan.-Feb. programme was arranged for the weekly meetings. 8 p.m. each Wednesday:—

15th Jan.	Mr Rowland Hill	"The Rights of Man."
22nd "	" O. B. Sweeney	"Tariffs and the Consumer."
29th "	" J. Forrester	"The Gift of the Gab."
12th Feb.	" W. McGuinness	"Justice in relation to Taxation"
26th "	Miss N. McGovern	"The Great Social Wrong."

On 4th March the Secretary will begin an outline course of political economy, covering eight successive weeks, illustrated by coloured charts. This is to be given at the request of several new members, and will enable newcomers to get a good grounding in our central economic doctrines and in the details of the reform we advocate.

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

Mr Ashley Mitchell spoke at Dewsbury on 15th January, and on 20th January addressed the Methodist Church Men's Group at Brunswick Street, Huddersfield, with a good report appearing in the *Examiner* next day.

The Secretary addressed a well-attended meeting of the Grimsby Men's Co-op. Guild on 5th January.

A set of Henry George's works was purchased for the Guild Library and several volumes and other literature were bought by individuals present.

Mr George Crosland, Calverley, has had several good letters in the *Stanningley & Pudsey News*, 20th, 27th December, 3rd, 10th, 17th January. "Democritus" and "Free Lance" each had a letter in the *Keighley News*, 28th December. Mr Fred Adams is contributing letters to local papers and having good sales of George's works and pamphlets.

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

At the last meeting of the Birmingham City Council, Councillor G. F. Sawyer took advantage of a discussion on the purchase of land to urge the taxation of land values as the only remedy for the monopolistic prices demanded for housing and other sites needed by the Council.

Councillor R. R. Fairbairn, J.P., on 7th January, made a powerful appeal to the members of the Worcester City Council to join with other authorities in demanding the rating of land values, but the opposition was too strong and his resolution lost.

The Derby Town Council on 1st January passed a resolution demanding the rating of land values with corresponding reduction of rates on houses and other buildings.

On 23rd January, Mr A. W. Madsen came to Birmingham and addressed the "Quest Club" of the Staff of Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds, Broad Street Chambers.

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

The League has addressed a letter to each of the 64 Councillors on the Portsmouth Town Council calling attention to the Resolution adopted by the Welsh Municipal Conference held in Cardiff on 25th September and asking their support of it so that it be endorsed by Portsmouth. The letters enclosed copies of the United Committee's publications: *Cities Held to Ransom* and the Memorandum on *Methods of Local Taxation*.

A public meeting was held in the Wesley Central Hall on 15th January addressed by the Secretary on the subject of Monopolies. The next fixture of the League is the meeting to be addressed by Mr A. W. Madsen on 19th February, also in the Wesley Central Hall, the subject being "The Russian Experiment—Lessons for Social Reformers."

In a letter to the *Evening News*, Mr J. H. McGuigan joined issue with a correspondent, Mr F. W. Wilkins on the question of levying rates upon empty houses.

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

Ross-shire Bye-election has been made the battleground of four candidates for Parliamentary honours.

Captain Arthur MacDougal was at first intending to stand as an Independent Liberal but ultimately asked to be excused on account of the work on his farm.

However, the Secretary was informed by Mr R. M. Findlay that Captain MacDougal had promised to come for three days the first week in February to expose the hollowness of the agricultural policy expounded in the constituency by the other candidates.

There were several letters in the *Ross-shire Journal*, one in particular from the West Coast pointed out that the Government, in deference to vested interests, had rendered the machinery incapable of functioning: that is, Mr Philip Snowden's Act for taxing land values.

NORTH WALES

Mr A. Williams Price writes:—

On 8th January I addressed the members of the Ruabon Labour Party; my subject was the great conspiracy (as described by Moore, Cobden, Thorold, Rogers, and others): the conspiracy to deprive the workers of their economic independence by filching their land. The working, the effects, of this conspiracy can be traced clearly from 1381, the year of the first great Peasants' Revolt, to 1830, the year of the last vain effort to regain lost liberty, on to 1928, the year of the De-Rating Act, which set the seal of completion on the work of the vested interests.

In the "Domestic Manuscripts" of Queen Elizabeth's reign we read, among Cecil's letters in 1558, "The wealth of the meaner sort is the very summit of rebellion, the occasion of their insolence, and of their contempt of the nobility. It must be cured by providing, as it were, some sewers or channels to draw or suck from them their money by subtle and indirect means." Now that the workers have had certain restitutions; the Vote, Local Government, Education, Temperance, etc., they are yet deprived of the one thing that counts, Economic Independence, and this can only be brought about by the Taxation and Rating of Land Values. Until this measure is in force, unemployment, slums, over-crowding, with all the accompanying evils, will remain permanent features of our social life.

THE PROBLEM OF WAR

The theme of Dr Rule's book* is that "nations fight to protect their foreign investments" and that "these foreign investments are made out of surplus wealth." The thoughtful reader may consider that this is an over simplification of the problem. Wars cannot be carried on without the support of a substantial part of the citizens of any country, and they may be willing to give their lives for national defence or for national honour, but not for foreign investments. It may, of course, be said that the people are deluded about the real motives for war, and that they fight to protect foreign investments without knowing it. Yet, is there no case of a country without foreign investments going to war?

There is hardly any subject to which so many false notions and misapplied emotions are brought to bear. Ideas which are true of individual relationships are applied to the relations of States. The State is personified. We talk of national possessions, forgetting that everything is owned by individuals. We speak of the national debt, neglecting to notice that is a debt owed by some persons to other persons. We speak of international trade as if it were carried on between nations as entities, whereas it is carried on between members of those nations as individuals.

The wrong ideas that make for war are not dissimilar to those which make for strife and dissension at home. Indeed, if it were not for the economic maladjustment which exists in every nation the contrasts of riches and poverty, unemployment and the desperate struggle for existence which afflict the majority of the people, war would hardly be possible. Dr Rule, as a disciple of Henry George, looks to a better condition of society in which these extremes will cease to exist, and in which a few men will not have great wealth available for foreign investment. This he considers will eradicate one of the main causes of war. But it is much more the existence of that better society, in which men will be relieved of the fear of want, and will be free to develop the cultural side of life, that will bring war to an end, than its effect upon foreign investments as such.

F. C. R. D.

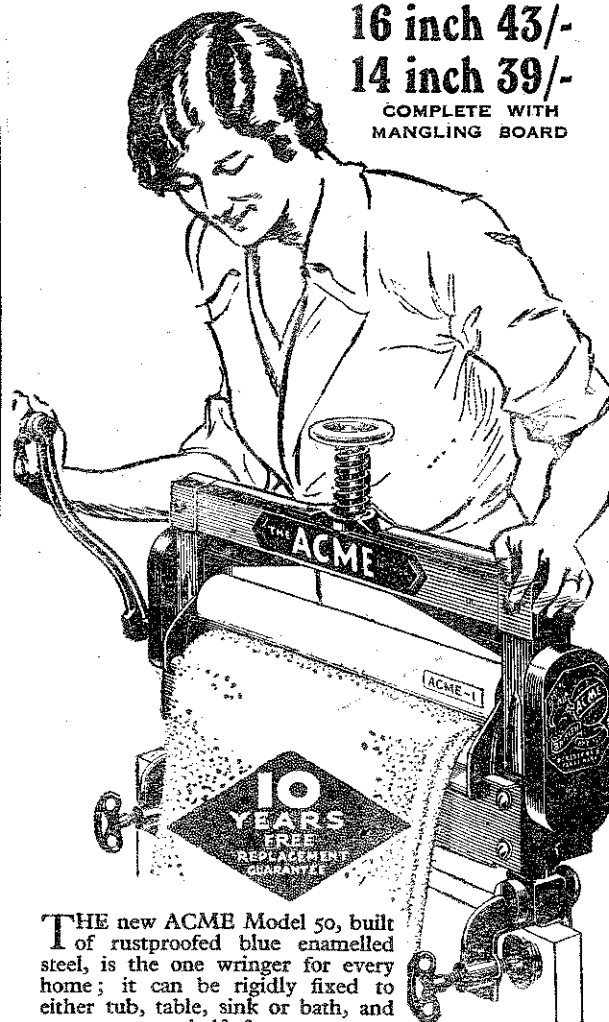
*CHAIN THE WAR GOD, by V. A. Rule. James A. Bell Company, Elkhart, Ind. \$2.

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