

LAND & LIBERTY

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"TELL YOUR BANKER"

A fund has been established called King George's Fields Foundation for providing playing fields as one of the permanent ways of honouring the memory of King George V which should at the same time be of infinite benefit to the nation as a whole. It is a most laudable enterprise but unfortunately the manner of its achievement, if it may succeed in any measure, is to transfer huge sums of money from the general public to the owners of land for a value they never created—except in such cases where the ground is gifted by the owners. Even in such case the provision of the play field or open space is more likely than not to raise the value of surrounding lands, and so others will live to bless the memory of King George besides those who get the recreation and the rest in the open air. But the gift of land is the exception. The organizers of the fund are fully aware that a price, and often a high price, dictated by the power of a close monopoly, has to be paid. Hence the intense drive to wheedle subscriptions out of the public, with broadcast appeals such as by the Lord Mayor of London, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Dawson of Penn and other notabilities. The expert mendicants were joined by the ingenious Major Branson who invented the device that all who had bank accounts should on a given day—the 20th January, remembering it was the anniversary of the death of King George—give instruction that the odd shillings and pence standing in their accounts, and the instruction applied also to accounts overdrawn, should be made over to the King George Fields Fund. It was the "Tell Your Banker" scheme which was widely advertised in paid advertisements in the papers. How much contribution has been made in that way the public has yet to learn, but there are those lying in wait now for the financial apart from the health-giving benefit: the owners of land holding for a price with their tax-free privilege of control over spaces and fields that nature long ago made a free gift to all the people.

Aerodrome at Manchester. In our issue of February last year, the case of the compulsory purchase of the Fir Tree Farm, 124 acres, for the airport at Ringway, was reported. Valuer for the owner said the land was worth £9,300. Valuer for the City Council said £5,486. The arbitrator "awarded" £6,885 as the price to be paid. And this was farmland, entered in the valuation rolls as having "no rateable value."

The case of the further acquisition of 130 acres for this Ringway airport was decided by the arbitrator (*Manchester City News*, 18th December), who awarded £19,450; the land belonging to the Gregg trustees of Lode Hill, Styal. The awarded price was said to represent £16,928 for the ground and £2,522 depreciation of adjoining lands. So the owners got a sort of double compensation. They had claimed £27,528 for the ground and £8,104 for the alleged "depreciation." The City Council's valuer had considered the value to be £10,295 without anything for depreciation.

Interesting to note is that in the first case, the arbitrator decided that the value of the farmland was £55 10s. an acre. When more farmland (also completely exempt from local taxation) was wanted 12 months afterwards for extending the area, the arbitrator's price worked out at £130 per acre, and this apart from the additional payment for the depreciation. But a question is whether the Lode Hill land was really so much more valuable than the Fir Tree land, or is this simply a case of the purchase of one piece of land sending up the monopoly price of surrounding land when it, too, is wanted by the public authority?

Tell your Banker in Bath. At a meeting of the Bath City Council (*Bath Chronicle*, 1st December), Councillors (Capt.) Hopkins Dawkins and A. E. Cook and others protested against the price of £13,948 13s. 7d. which the owners of the Lyncombe Hill farm estate, on Beechen Cliff adjoining Alexandra Park, were demanding for 17.88 acres of ground. This was being reserved under the town-planning scheme as a public open space.

The Bath City Council took compulsory powers so that it is compelled to buy and the matter is now as one Councillor said "in the lap of the gods"—in other words the price to be paid rests with the official arbitrator. But if everybody had generously contributed to the Memorial Fund, there would have been plenty of money for the landowners, and no arbitrator would have been needed to limit the compensation. This land to be reserved for an open space, priced by the owners at £779 per acre, appears to be without any improvements that are often said by owners to give land its value. One Councillor said: "there are no roadways or drains there." The value is due wholly to proximity to the City and the pressure of population demanding open air.

Farm Land Prices in Bucks. An extraordinary argument was introduced by Alderman Major Aubrey-Fletcher, Chairman of the Bucks County Council Finance Committee (*Bucks Herald*, 4th December), defending the proposed purchase of two farms near Aylesbury. He said he had been told by critics that part of the land under consideration was not ideal for farming, but "personally he thought there was a very strong recommendation for buying it because one would not buy for demonstration purposes a piece of perfect land upon which anything would grow. They wanted to teach people how to grow on difficult land and he thought that they would have their work cut out, very likely, on part of that farm." The Council would realize also that later on they would have to build various farm buildings for demonstration purposes which, of course, would add considerably to the cost.

More likely than not, the protest was against the price it was proposed to pay for the land which this ingenuous Chairman had admitted to be "difficult." There were two farms: the Mount Pleasant Farm of 125 acres, at Weston Turville, and part of Stoke Grange Farm, Aylesbury, 67½ acres, for which Major Aubrey-Fletcher is willing to dip the pockets of County ratepayers to the tune of £8,000—and let us remember that all agricultural

land in England is "derated," paying not a penny in local taxation. Even land that is difficult to work costs more than £40 an acre, and the workers have to sweat for it.

Military Occupation at Corsham, Wilts. Little publicity is being given to the prices landowners are getting for sites required for the defence services and what part they make up in the huge expenditure on armaments. But an interesting case is reported in the *Evening Advertiser* of Swindon, 21st January, the Secretary of State for War having applied for a warrant against Mrs A. F. H. Robinson and Mr W. Freestone, requiring certain lands to be delivered to the War Department under S. 19 of the Defence Act, 1842. It was the first application of the sort that had been made to the court since that Act was passed. The land in question was 36½ acres of the Monk's Park Estate. Mrs Robinson, the owner, had refused £2,500 and Mr Freestone, the tenant, had refused £100 for his interest. Neither was willing to give up possession; but under the warrants, the Secretary for War would get immediate possession and the question of compensation would be decided by the official arbitrator. Meanwhile it is sufficient to note that landowners and landed interests are getting their whack of public money on this scale—all in the name of the defence of the realm.

Desirable Havens. In an article dealing with impending sales of islands in the Hebrides and Orkneys a writer in *Reynolds News*, 24th January, says:

"An island with first-class situation sheltered under the lee of a larger island, and with good boating and fishing grounds, may cost, I was informed by an official of an estate agency, anything from £2,000 to £20,000.

"I understand that more than £90,000 will be the purchase price of five islands now offered through the estate agencies of Scotland.

"These include Cava and Swona in the Orkneys, and Lismore and Vallay, and Carna in the Inner Hebrides.

"It is believed that the present demand for Scottish retreats is not only due to the desire of wealthy classes to figure as landlords and owners of their own little strongholds; the Islands have been freely mentioned as desirable havens in the event of war, and places of greater safety than the cities."

So the landlords draw their harvest from impending peril not only in the price of land for aerodromes and other defence works, but also in selling retreats from potential air raids. Meanwhile, what of the crofters in the Highlands, and their chance of obtaining land to till in competition with these wealthy refugees who will none the less continue to be rated upon inadequate valuations?

Golders Green Mock Parliament. The *Golders Green Gazette* gave two columns to the debate on Land Value Taxation at the "Golders Green Parliament," at its meeting in the Club House, Willifield Way, on 12th January. With a "People's Government" in office the new Prime Minister, Mr F. W. T. Krohn, moved and supported a resolution that: "The valuation of all Site Values, both rural and urban, shall immediately be brought up to date, such valuation to be employed for levying a tax for exchequer purposes and rates for local purposes."

After an informing discussion, which brought out the familiar points for and against, the resolution was carried by 24 votes to 20. The case for the taxation of land values was strongly argued, not only by the Prime Minister, but also by Mr Wybrew, Mr Price and Mr H. M.

Selson, holding office in the "Government" respectively as President of the Board of Trade, Home Secretary and Minister of Health. Four "Conservatives," Miss Eaton and Messrs Webster, Kadesh and G. Stevens, and one "Independent," Mr Nixon, defended the old order in their speeches.

Tell Your Banker in Eastcote. An open space is wanted at Eastcote, Middlesex—only 1½ acres. Apparently negotiations have been going on, for the Freehold Land and Building Company (*Middlesex Advertiser*, 11th December) have "made another offer" to the Council. But as the price was still too high, the Development Committee stated they were unable to advise the Council to accept the offer. And, under the present law, as long as this bit of valuable land is "held for a rise" the Land Company pays not a penny in local taxation. The rest of the people will have to get up a subscription *by paying increased rates* to ransom the owner, unless they choose the method of "telling their bankers" to transfer their odd shillings and pence direct.

Relief of Rates. In an interview in the *Daily Herald*, 20th January, Mr Hugh Dalton, M.P., chairman of the Labour Commission of Enquiry into the Distressed Areas, said: "It is indisputable that relief should be afforded in connection with the crushing burden of rates and, at the very least, there should be a reduction of the public assistance rate, to bring it into line with the average of the country."

Mr Dalton does not indicate how the relief from the burden of rates should be achieved. If it is to be by means of additional government grants the burden will be thrown upon other parts of the country, many of which also labour under heavy burdens of rates.

The burden of local taxation in many parts of the distressed areas is undoubtedly great, but all districts are suffering from an unjust system of rating which throws the weight on to the occupiers of houses, shops and other premises and which exempts the value of land.

The very large number of resolutions passed by local authorities all over the country, during the last year or two, in support of the rating of land values shows that the demand for a root and branch reform is not confined to the depressed areas. Special measures of assistance to these may palliate their distresses for a while but will afford no permanent solution and may indeed defer the real solution. These are considerations that Mr Dalton and his colleagues would do well to bear in mind.

Tell Your Banker in Egham. For 20 acres of land wanted by the Egham U.D.C. between Trumps Green Road and Crown Road, Virginia Water, for recreation grounds and allotments, it has been decided to pay £4,100—being £205 per acre. (*Surrey Advertiser*, 19th December.) Some one suggested that they should

THE CRYING INJUSTICE OF OUR RATING SYSTEM

By FREDK. VERINDER

(Second Edition, completing 20,000)

Vacant Land in Towns—The Value of Vacant Land—How Land Values Grow—Empty Houses—"Agricultural" Land in Urban Areas—The Folly of Rating Buildings—Partial De-rating—The Finance Act 1931—Lower Rates and Lower Rents—And More Employment—A Question for Parliament and for the Local Authorities.

PRICE ONE PENNY

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be happy about the "low price" of the land and it would be a mistake to risk the loss of it.

What does it matter? Why not get up another public subscription to pay the land-monopolist any price he likes—all to glorify the memory of a departed monarch? As to the price being too low, how about "telling the assessor" that while landowners wait for these prices, their valuable land is treated as worthless—for rating purposes and is exempt from local taxation?

Tell Your Banker in Grinstead. A peculiar claim for compensation (*Sussex Daily News*, 19th December) arose in connection with the proposed purchase of 10.6 acres of land in the centre of East Grinstead for use as a recreation ground. Compulsory powers of purchase had already been obtained, and now it was for the arbitrator to "award" his price. The owners claimed £11,852 for the land which is at the rate of £1,118 per acre. But part of this claim included "loss of potential water customers," there being space on the land for 80 to 100 houses and the estate was already piped with water mains from the nearby Place-land Waterworks, which were a private undertaking completed in 1914. The owner of the land who was said to be losing the income for supplying the water, which the valuer estimated at £192 per annum, after deduction of expenses. Capitalizing this amount and making certain deductions for road making, sewer laying and realizing the estate, the claim as stated amounted to £11,852.

Surely all that Mr Hastie, the owner, is entitled to is not more than the expenditure he has incurred on these water pipes. But he claims loss of "potential income" for what is virtually a land right—the supply of water; and where does that come from except from the sky? It is precisely on the same footing with the price demanded for land which is nothing but a capitalization of future rent, or the expectation of it. But tell your banker to fill this cup of compensation to the brim and let recreation grounds be provided in the name of King George.

£900 to Enter Haringey Park. Such is the price that the Hornsey Borough Council has just been paid for .134 of an acre at the rear of the Town Hall, Crouch End, London, "with an entrance to Haringey Park." The price corresponds to £6,716 per acre. Next to having a public park, the question is how to get into it conveniently. Landlord's law shows the way, and if you won't subscribe voluntarily to the Memorial Fund to buy recreation grounds, you'll be forced to find the money through an increase in your local taxation.

Tell Your Banker in Oldham. How many subscribed to the Memorial Fund to help Oldham out of its difficulty? The local *Evening Chronicle* (7th January) in a leading article says: "Oldham Parks Committee yesterday had to admit that there is little prospect in the immediate future of planning a sports ground or large-scale playing field because they have no suitable land and are not in a position to acquire control of any. All over the country the State and municipalities are called upon to pay prodigious sums for land required for improvements. What a wide discrepancy there would be between the price asked from a municipality and a rate valuation the same owner would seek for his land, if only it was rated." Which is to say that the owner would have a very different opinion of the value of the land when it was a question of assessing its value for taxation than when he was expecting to make a sale.

The Memorial Fund *may* be able to procure playing fields with its subscription money. These will be the playing fields *we will see* but what is *not seen* (to use a

phrase of Bastiat's) are all the playing fields which we might have, but are now more difficult to procure by the price-raising effects of this public charity for which land-monopolists are holding out their hands more and more.

Liverpool—Everton Tunnel. There has been considerable controversy in the *Liverpool Daily Post* as to the landlord compensation payable in connection with the Everton tunnel scheme. Sir Thomas White, leader of the Conservatives in the Council has taken exception to the exaggerated figures some people have named, but his own positive facts are startling enough. He wrote to the *Post* of 4th December: "The truth is the Corporation has bought 19,000 square yards at an approximate cost of £124,000 plus legal charges and the estimated amount to be paid for land in connection with the whole scheme is £300,000 to which must be added between £7,000 and £8,000 for easements."

The truth can speak for itself to the harassed and over-burdened ratepayers of Liverpool where in this great second port of the Empire there is so much distress that it is claiming the dreadful distinction of a "special area" for Government charitable schemes of relief.

Did Newton Abbot Pay Too Much? The question was asked in Council meeting (*Torquay Herald*, 23rd December) in connection with the purchase of 21 acres of land at the rear of Ford House, the chairman of the Housing Committee saying that part of the land was marsh and had been bought for refuse disposal and reclamation. The land had been bought (at auction) for £3,500, being £166 per acre, much of which cannot be of much use till it is reclaimed and levelled. On a part of it 50 houses will be erected. But the burden of this purchase will be the burden of increased rates to provide interest and redemption of the loan to be raised "with the permission of the Ministry of Health," if the pundits up in London give this sanction.

Wythenshawe at Manchester. One of the biggest municipal housing and town-planning schemes is that at Wythenshawe in Manchester. The Council had already acquired 3,780 acres out of a possible 5,600 and they have since acquired (*Municipal Journal*, 18th December) 824 acres for "rounding off" the estate and making of it a complete unit. These 824 acres, on which previously the rates had been no more than a mere song, are to cost the sum of £218,000, being an average of £264 per acre.

The Special Committee in its report on the estate pointed out that the development which has already been carried out, at the cost of more than £3,250,000, has been reflected in the land values of privately owned lands at Wythenshawe and that the longer the purchase of the further lands (viz., the 824 acres) was delayed the greater would be the cost of acquisition.

It is an example of an extravagant, hazardous and wholly unnecessary municipal land speculation. The land is there, to be properly used, and always was there, but this *untaxed and unrated* land cannot become available until the monopoly price is paid, raised as that price is by municipal developments and municipal services. Taxation of land values would have produced all the factors for plentiful houses at low rents and given the public revenue so as not to injure but to promote the common weal. But here is how the "speculation" works out: The estimated income from rents as the result of the £218,000 fresh expenditure on land purchase is £5,511, the balance of which (say £4,500), after meeting outgoings, would go to meet the debt charges "until such time as the lands are required for development purposes" (the municipality itself now becoming the land-withholder on its own terms)—and it is anticipated that *thereafter* the income from ground rents would more

than cover the debt charges. But how many years thereafter, during all the period of ruinous loss while the rent of land is being passed over to bondholders instead of feeding the public revenue as it should, and to that extent franking houses and other buildings from taxation?

Tell Your Banker in Perranporth. The Perranzabuloe Parish Council has been unable to purchase by agreement from the Perranporth Estate Co. an area of 51½ acres for the purpose of a recreation ground, so that the Cornwall County Council (West Briton Advertiser, 17th December) has held enquiry to consider making an order for compulsory purchase.

The land fringes the sea and witness for the Parish Council said it had been used by the public for recreation purposes for generations. But lately restrictions had been creeping in upon bathing from the sand dunes and taking deck chairs on the beach. There had been other difficulties which to overcome the Council had tried to buy the land. An offer of £3,000 had been made and refused. It was a big sum for the Parish with a total annual rateable value of only £13,294 and with rates now at 17s. 4d. in the £. Look where you like, you see this land monopoly holding out for ransom. By barring access to the sea, it owns the sea itself.

Tell your Banker in Sheffield. The City wishes to preserve Birley Edge, a beauty spot which commands a large area in the Wadsley Bridge area, so the Highway and Sewerage Committee (*Sheffield Telegraph*, 7th January) have made proposals to provide a parkway by acquiring land on each side of Halifax Road to the extent of 220 feet from its middle and for a distance of 1,330 yards. The area of the land is about 17 acres and the estimated cost of the scheme is £38,000.

But this was too much for the Finance Consultative Committee which has recommended that this expenditure be not approved. The City Council agreed with the Finance Committee by 39 votes to 30. As the proposed improvement affected the "working class" end of the town, its stoppage is all the more to be deplored. The cause is the monstrous price of land, while the monopoly-holders are scot free of local taxation. To make up the money out of the "Tell Your Banker" fund and so buy off the obstruction in one place is only to make prices rise higher somewhere else—like the clothes in the proverbial washerwoman's wash tub, only she is more successful because she at least does push something down.

Sheffield City Council knew at one time the remedy and advocated it. Where does it stand now? Its report on Land Value Rating published in 1928 was emphatic and conclusive. The toll to the land monopoly over a period of twenty-five years was thus summarized—£245,540 paid for 1,010 acres of land, the previous annual amount of rates levied thereon having been only £1,329. Since then the Derating Act has wholly exempted "agricultural" land however valuable it may be.

Southend Schools and Playing Fields. The official arbiter (*Southend Standard*, 8th December) has given his award in the case of lands compulsorily acquired at Eastwood and Shoeburyness for educational purposes. The enquiries were held on 5th and 6th November. At Eastwood for six acres of land held by two owners the awarded price was £1,753 plus £105 costs borne by the Council, a total cost equivalent to £300 per acre. The owners had claimed £3,025. At Shoeburyness the area was 13½ acres for which the owners, the Burgess Estate Company, wished to charge £7,969, being at the rate of £581 per acre and made up of £7,140 for the land and £829 "for injurious affection of adjacent

property." The arbiter decided that the price should be £6,328 with contribution towards costs.

The point to be stressed in this and all such cases is that the land, declared to be so valuable in the opinion of either the owners or arbiters, had been previously assessed for local taxation either at nothing at all or at a mere song.

Infants' School at Worthing. The building of a much-needed school has been held up by the Town Council's refusal to pay what was described as the "excessive and exorbitant" price of the land. The Town Council (*Worthing Herald*, 9th January) resolved it was time a lesson was taught by the only resort open to them under the present law, namely, to seek powers of compulsory purchase and have the price decided at arbitration. Thus, also the Education Committee was taken to task for recommending that the three acres in question (in Dominion Road) should be purchased at a cost of £5,400. We report the discussion in council more fully in another column, the case being so typical of the way in which towns and townspeople are held to ransom.

Another Worthing case is the price the Council has had to pay (*Worthing Herald*, 5th December) for a bit of ground 64 feet by 40 feet in Montague Street, described as a derelict garden and a key position to a much-needed improvement in the centre of the town. The price was £3,000 which corresponds to more than £51,000 per acre.

Land Price at Ayr—Erratum. By careless arithmetic, the land acquired by the Ayr Town Council, 207 acres for £17,000, was stated in our last month's issue to be equivalent to £813 per acre. This should have been £81 6s. per acre. We are obliged to a number of readers for pointing this out. The contrast is this: Ayr Town Council bought land at £81 6s. an acre, the previous rate burden on which could not have been more than 2s. 6d. an acre.

A deputation from Scottish Burghs and Counties met Mr Walter Elliot, the Scottish Secretary, at the Scottish Office in London on 17th December (*Manchester Guardian* report). They stated that since 1921 local authorities in Scotland had spent £22,000,000 from the rates on unemployment maintenance, and that partly as a result over a hundred local authorities had increased their rates. Some of the smaller authorities were compelled to make rate charges of 18s. or 19s. in the pound.

TELL YOUR BANKER that our bank accounts are at the Midland Bank Ltd., 22 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. Your financial support may be allotted, as you direct, for helping the general work of the United Committee, for the Land & Liberty Sustentation, for the International Union, for any of the Leagues, and for the Henry George School of Social Science. Cheques and bank orders may be made payable to (money orders or notes sent to) *Land & Liberty* which will distribute donations according to instructions as aforesaid. In this matter, "ability to pay" is the natural standard, but let that be combined with your appreciation of the "services rendered."

A General List of Publications with Report on the Work of the Henry George Foundation will be found on Page 33.

THOMAS PAINE

This year is the bi-centenary of the birth of Thomas Paine. It is appropriate for us to recall that this great reformer had something to say about the land question. His pamphlet on *Agrarian Justice* was written in the winter of 1795-96. It is still in print, together with essays by Thomas Spence and William Ogilvie, in a volume entitled *Pioneers of Land Reform* (Bohn's Popular Library, price 2s.).

The following extracts will show that Paine had grasped very clearly the fundamental distinction between the personal right to improvements and the public right to the value of land. He was not aware of the simple and practical means of carrying out the reform stated by Henry George, and proposed as a rough and ready means, a scheme of inheritance taxation. This is not surprising, for some years were yet to elapse before Ricardo popularized the Law of Rent. But the principle is there, and as Paine says in this pamphlet: "An army of principles will penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot. It will succeed where diplomatic management would fail. It is neither the Rhine, the Channel, nor the Ocean, that can arrest its progress. It will march on the horizon of the world and it will conquer."

To preserve the benefits of what is called civilized life, and to remedy, at the same time, the evils it has produced, ought to be considered as one of the first objects of reformed legislation.

Whether that state that is proudly, perhaps erroneously, called civilization, has most promoted or most injured the general happiness of man, is a question that may be strongly contested. On one side the spectator is dazzled by splendid appearances; on the other he is shocked by extremes of wretchedness; both of which he has created. The most affluent and the most miserable of the human race are to be found in the countries that are called civilized. . . . Civilization, therefore, or that which is so called, has operated two ways, to make one part of society more affluent, and the other part more wretched than would have been the lot of either in a natural state. . . . The first principle of civilization ought to have been, and ought still to be, that the condition of every person born into the world, after a state of civilization commences, ought not to be worse than if he had been born before that period. But the fact is, that the condition of millions, in every country in Europe, is far worse than if they had been born before civilization began, or had been born among the Indians of North America of the present day.

It is a position not to be controverted, that the earth, in its natural uncultivated state, was, and ever would have continued to be, the COMMON PROPERTY OF THE HUMAN RACE. In that state every man would have been born to property. He would have been a joint life-proprietor with the rest in the property of the soil, and in all its natural productions, vegetable and animal.

But the earth in its natural state, as before said, is capable of supporting but a small number of inhabitants compared with what it is capable of doing in a cultivated state. And as it is impossible to separate the improvement made by cultivation, from the earth itself, upon which that improvement is made, the idea of landed property arose from that inseparable connection; but it is nevertheless true, that it is the value of the improvement only, and not the earth itself, that is individual property. Every proprietor, therefore, of cultivated land, owes to the community a *ground-rent*, for I know no better term to express the idea by, for the land which he holds. . . .

There could be no such things as landed property originally. Man did not make the earth, and, though he had a natural right to *occupy* it, he had no right to

locate as his property in perpetuity any part of it; neither did the Creator of the earth open a land-office, from whence the first title-deeds should issue.—From whence then arose the idea of landed property? I answer as before, that when cultivation began, the idea of landed property began with it; from the impossibility of separating the improvement made by cultivation from the earth itself upon which that improvement was made. The value of the improvement so far exceeded the value of the natural earth, at that time, as to absorb it; till, in the end, the common right of all became confounded into the cultivated right of the individual. But they are nevertheless distinct species of rights, and will continue to be so as long as the world endures. . . . Though every man, as an inhabitant of the earth, is a joint proprietor of it in its natural state, it does not follow that he is a joint proprietor of cultivated earth. The additional value made by cultivation, after the system was admitted, became the property of those who did it, or who inherited it from them, or who purchased it. It had originally an owner. Whilst, therefore, I advocate the right, and interest myself in the hard case of all those who have been thrown out of their natural inheritance by the introduction of the system of landed property, I equally defend the right of the possessor to the part which is his.

Cultivation is, at least, one of the greatest natural improvements ever made by human invention. It has given to created earth a ten-fold value. But the landed monopoly, that began with it, has produced the greatest evil. It has dispossessed more than half the inhabitants of every nation of their natural inheritance, without providing for them, as ought to have been done, an indemnification for that loss; and has thereby created a species of poverty and wretchedness that did not exist before. . . . The fault, however, is not in the present possessors. No complaint is intended, or ought to be alleged against them unless they adopt the crime by opposing justice. The fault is in the system, and it has stolen imperceptibly upon the world, aided afterwards by the Agrarian law of the sword. . . . The contrast of affluence and wretchedness continually meeting and offending the eye, is like dead and living bodies chained together. Though I care as little about riches as any man, I am a friend to riches, because they are capable of good. I care not how affluent some may be, provided that none be miserable in consequence of it.—But it is impossible to enjoy affluence with the felicity it is capable of being enjoyed, whilst so much misery is mingled in the scene. . . . The superstitious awe, the enslaving reverence, that formerly surrounded affluence, is passing away in all countries, and leaving the possessor of property to the convulsion of accidents. When wealth and splendour, instead of fascinating the multitude, excite emotions of disgust; when, instead of drawing forth admiration, it is beheld as an insult upon wretchedness; when the ostentatious appearance it makes serves to call the right of it in question, the case of property becomes critical, and it is only in a system of justice that the possessor can contemplate security.

To remove the danger, it is necessary to remove the antipathies, and this can only be done by making property productive of a national blessing, extending to every individual. When the riches of one man above another shall increase the national fund in the same proportion; when it shall be seen that the prosperity of that fund depends on the prosperity of individuals; when the more riches a man acquires, the better it shall be for the general mass; it is then that antipathies will cease, and property be placed on the permanent basis of natural interest and protection.

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IS ANOTHER ECONOMIC CRISIS INEVITABLE?

A recent report of the International Labour Office asserts that the last depression cost the world £20,000,000,000. The author well describes this as "a fateful figure equal to the total cost of the Great War."

Mr J. M. Keynes in his recent articles in *The Times* has said that it is high time to consider how to avoid another slump, and added that hitherto no real effort had been made to solve the problem. It cannot be solved, however, unless we can diagnose correctly the causes which turn periods of good trade into periods of depression.

The explanation given by Mr Keynes is that the cause lies in a lack of balance between the effort devoted to the production of goods for consumption and the production of goods for capital purposes. There is nothing new in this type of explanation. Various writers have attributed economic depression to over-production of capital goods, and under-production of consumers' goods. This diagnosis suggested that the remedy was to be found in increasing the wages of the poorer sections of the community and diminishing the incomes of the rich, with the result that the rich would be unable to devote so much of their incomes to capital purposes and the poor would be able to spend more. This proposal, from its nature, was calculated to be popular with the majority, and it is still frequently heard.

The emphasis in Mr Keynes' explanation is in the opposite direction. His view seems to be that too many consumers' goods and few too capital goods are being produced. In other words, the community as consumers (or receivers of income) decide to allocate a certain portion of their incomes for consumption and the remainder for investment, but that the same community by some curious chance goes on producing more consumers' goods than the income set aside for purchasing them can buy. (This makes it appear that Mr Keynes and Major Douglas will soon be in the same boat.)

Such an explanation may satisfy some minds. Others may very well think that further explanation is required, and indeed demanded, unless we are to blame the matter on some aberration of human nature which impels men to do irrational things. Observation teaches us that goods are made in response to demand. It is true that manufacturers have to make in advance the best estimate that they can of what the demand is likely to be, but such estimates are not wild speculations—they are based upon careful enquiry and upon experience. With the improved organization of industry and the collection of trade information and statistics, production and demand should tend to be more closely related. If industrial depressions were mainly due to lack of

correlation between supply and demand, they should tend to become less and less acute.

The demand for goods consists in the income allocated to purchase them, and if men allocate less for the purchase of consumption goods the demand falls off and so does production. Mr Keynes assumes (without demonstration) that production continues although the demand has ceased.

It is remarkable in this and most other discussions of the problem that one important and essential factor in economic life is completely ignored. It seems to be assumed that wealth is produced by labour and capital alone without the intervention of land. Do our farmers produce their crops without land? Do miners produce coal without coal seams? Do builders produce houses without sites and without bricks and mortar? Do our factories float in the thin air, and produce goods without iron and steel, without coal, and without raw materials?

During recent weeks the annual reports of the leading firms of estate agents have been published. They are significant reading. Here are a few extracts: "A hardening of prices is noted, particularly in Northern districts." "The trade revival is definitely reflected in the demand for office space in the West End." "Sites in 'key' positions are most difficult to obtain at what are considered reasonable prices." "The demand for building land is as great as ever, but in this direction there is also a shortage of sites suitably zoned for development." "The value of good agricultural land has advanced."

What do these statements mean? Is it not that the price of the opportunity of getting a living, of the opportunity of producing wealth is increasing? Let it be observed particularly that these prices for land are being based, not upon the condition of trade and industry to-day, but upon the expectation of a continuance of trade improval. The prices which are asked discount future and anticipated industrial activity, with the result that it becomes more and more difficult to obtain land at "reasonable prices." Here is a positive reason for the causation of slumps, and one of which there is abundant evidence in the past.

The history of the United States during the time of the last boom and depression shows an orgy of land speculation, not confined as some think to glaring cases such as Florida, but widespread all over the country. Where speculation had over-run all bounds, there followed a general collapse with thousands of bank failures and a dislocation of credit.

These facts are ignored, partly because people mistake the concomitants of an industrial crisis for its causes, and partly because of the lack of adequate statistical material to demonstrate it.

If the diagnosis of the fundamental part played by land speculation in the causation of industrial depression is correct, it follows that remedies directed towards suppressing the symptoms without touching the cause must inevitably fail. This applies to the measures advocated by Mr Keynes.

When signs of the slump begin, he wishes public and semi-public authorities to embark upon large schemes of capital construction. The effect of that will be to stimulate the demand for land and drive it to still higher points.

He desires to keep the rate of interest low. The inevitable result will be to make the rate of capitalization of land high and to increase the selling value of land. One of the firms quoted above says: "Since the Government's conversion schemes, in 1932, and the advent of low rates of interest on gilt-edged securities, investors have turned to real property for a more satisfactory yield." "The past year has probably witnessed

a larger flow of capital into the land than in any year since the boom years which immediately followed the war." These are ominous remarks.

In amplification of this argument it is interesting to recall what the great Swedish economist, Kurt Wicksell, says in reply to those who expect an increase in general welfare from a progressive reduction in the rate of interest: "Such a state, however, would be far from desirable in an individualist society based on private property. So far from disappearing, the gulf between the propertied and the propertyless classes would be

well nigh impassable, if land, capitalized at an extremely low rate of interest, possessed almost infinite exchange value. Even now a very large part of what is called capital and interest is, in reality, land and rent."

It is not necessary, as might be inferred from Wicksell's statement to abolish all property in order to avoid these evils. But if we are to avoid another depression with all its loss and suffering it is at the least imperatively necessary that we should abolish land speculation by taking the value of land for public revenue.

F. C. R. D.

WORTHING MAKES PROTEST

At its meeting on 7th January (*Worthing Herald* report), the Worthing Town Council had before it a recommendation of the Education Committee to purchase for £5,400 a site of three acres for the new infants school in Dominion Road.

After animated debate the Council resolved by 27 votes to 10 rejecting the recommendation and declaring: "That this Council expresses in no uncertain terms its disapproval of paying unduly inflated values for land which is absolutely necessary for the extension of the primary services of the borough, and that in this instance the vendor be approached for an amendment of the terms of purchase, and if no satisfaction is obtained then he be informed that the necessary steps will be taken for compulsory purchase."

Councillor Major Acraman described the figure as excessive and exorbitant. They had had to pay too much for these little bits of land all over the place, and the reaction was being felt all over. People who built houses in Worthing to-day and let them out to tenants were expecting a large percentage on their outlay. What did that mean? It meant that every poor working man who went into a house would be paying £12 a year or 5s. a week in consequence. The sum of £1,800 an acre was a high price for agricultural land. It was simply a "try-on" and if they paid without fighting it, they would deserve the condemnation of every ratepayer in Worthing.

Councillor Douglas Jones stated that when the Corporation had to obtain land the knowledge leaked out and the price soared to an exorbitant figure at once. In the interests of those who had to pay rates some effort should be made to get the land at a far less price.

Councillor Luxton pointed out that a new school had to be built and there was no other suitable site available. It was high time that land owners realized they were not going to pay fancy prices for land.

Alderman Jackson said the ratepayers must realize that the price was too much and they must fight to the last ditch. The only thing they could do was to find out really what was the real value. "We are not going to pay these fancy prices over all the town for every little improvement we want. I hope the Council will support the amendment and show we are not going to be led up a street."

Councillor F. G. Stevens said the real test was what was the land worth in the open market as a building estate? He did not think that any builder, no matter how reckless he was, would pay £5,400 for it. The fact that the Corporation had wanted the land had had the effect of throwing up the price.

Councillor Miss Walter supported the report on the grounds that the price obtained was the best that could be secured. The price originally was £6,000. The committee, however, got the district valuer to see the owner with the result that the price was reduced to its present figure. It was a most reluctant acceptance on

the part of the committee. Going to arbitration would be expensive, and the Town would lose in actual money; the work would be delayed possibly for nine months.

Councillor J. A. Mason said that it was time a stand was taken against the excessive land prices operating all over the country. It was a big scandal. Some stand would have to be made by someone even if Worthing had got to make it.

Alderman Duffield, replying, said all of them shared the sentiments expressed by Major Acraman, but what was the remedy? The owner said it was worth £6,000 and could prove his case. The district valuer said £5,000, and they eventually reached an agreement at £5,400. What good on earth would arbitration be? Arbitrations were expensive things. If they did get anything off the £5,400, the costs would offset that. If he could see a practical way out of it he would at once support it, but was it not a waste of time to send this back for arbitration and waste months when they had a hundred more children on the books at the school than they had accommodation for?

After other members, including Alderman T. E. Hawkins and Councillor W. C. Birkett had spoken, Alderman Duffield said the Town Clerk could advise as to what arbitration would cost.

Councillor Major Acraman: The principle is worth the cost, sir.

The *Worthing Herald*, 9th January, commenting on the matter said: "Fortunes have been made out of the sale, for building purposes, of land originally bought cheaply for agricultural purposes. The fact that big trading firms and speculating builders have considered it worth while to pay fantastic prices for sites in the town has undoubtedly been a prime cause of the present distorted conception of land values. The fact remains that this position has hit the ordinary townspeople most seriously, not only by restricting the extension of their amenities, but by forcing them to pay far more dearly than they can afford for the houses they have to buy to live in. It has caused incalculable distress in this borough in the past few years."

This discussion throws a searchlight on the inequity and harmful results of the present rating system: how it bolsters up and actually endows the land monopoly. The site, which even the district valuer says is worth £5,000, is exempt from local taxation. Owners are encouraged especially in a growing town like Worthing to withhold land for higher prices still, and the price and rent of all other land is fictitiously increased. Arbitration cannot remedy that. It but condones the wrong by which the publicly created value of land is appropriated by private individuals. If Worthing Town Councillors now really have made up their minds, they should drive hard and fast, carrying the demand for the taxation and rating of land values, and carrying their ratepayers with them.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION

The general election of members of the London County Council takes place on 4th March. It will be recalled that last year the Council approved a noteworthy report by its Finance Committee examining the whole problem of local taxation, approving the principle of the rating of site values, and recommending that representations be made to the Government asking them to introduce legislation enabling this reform to be carried out.

In reply to a question by Mr George Lathan, M.P., on 28th January, asking whether the communication from the London County Council urging the desirability of legislation being introduced at an early date to empower local authorities to levy a rate on site value had been considered, the Minister of Health (Sir Kingsley Wood) said that the Government did not contemplate introducing legislation.

It appears that the Labour Party on the London County Council do not intend the matter to lapse into oblivion. Their election manifesto says: "Labour will continue the policy of prudent and responsible financial control. London's government will endeavour to protect the general body of ratepayers by raising once again the question of rating land values and the 25 per cent rating of empty property, so that owners who benefit from the social work of the community should make proper contribution to its rates. Moreover we shall seek justice for London in the matter of Government grants generally and in regard to Waterloo Bridge particularly."

What further action will be taken depends upon whether the Labour Party retain their majority on the Council.

THE GLASGOW ASSESSOR'S VIEW

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Glasgow Property Owners and Factors Association on 14th January, Mr J. Cassels Pinkerton, City Assessor of Glasgow, after dealing with some difficulties of extending principle of income tax to local rating, said:

"The rating of site values, as a method of distributing the burden of rates, had much to commend it. The site value reflected perhaps more than either of the two other systems (i.e. the present system and local income tax), the measure of the benefits conferred upon the owner of property by the activities of the community.

"It had to be borne in mind, however, that a change from the present system to that of the taxation of site values, would shift the incidence of rates. At present in Glasgow 52 per cent of the rates was borne by house property. If a system of taxation of site values were instituted the greater proportion of the rates would be paid by the business premises which occupied sites in the centre of the city."

With regard to the last sentence, it ought to be made clear that although the rating of site values would increase the share of local taxation borne by central sites, the burden would be imposed upon those who enjoyed the land value. The businesses carried on upon such sites would not as such be subject to any greater burden.

A new leaflet issued by the Liberal Council, 11 Great George Street, S.W.1 is entitled "The Right Way with the Rates." It shows what is wrong with the present system, and calls for the rating of land values. List is given of local authorities that have demanded this reform and the report of the London County Council on the subject is quoted with approval.

INDEPENDENT PEASANTS BECOME LANDLESS LABOURERS

By A. Williams Price

The time for electing Councillors on the various local government bodies is approaching, and I venture to place before the electors a few facts, which it may be well for them to consider before voting:—

Denbighshire, its hills and vales covering 426,000 acres, was peopled by peasants and farmers in the year 1695, most of them held their land direct from the Crown, feeling sure that their holdings were secure so long as the rent, the tax, was paid. They were deceived. In that year (1695) the newly selected king, William III, bestowed all the Crown land in Denbighshire upon one of his favourites, together with vast mineral rights in other parts of North Wales.

This gift of, say 380,000 acres, to one of his supporters wounded the most tender and sacred feelings of the other supporters, with the result that the King was forced to revoke the grant; and the land was quietly filched in smaller lots, and at different times. The land was enclosed, the peasants, farmers, freeholders, became landless men, seeking wage labour.

A. N. Palmer (Ancient Land Tenures) states: "While it is undoubted that much common land has been wrongly converted to private use, the greater part of the land appropriated has been enclosed according to strict process of law."

If this be so, it does not seem to agree with the records and estimates of Gilbert Slater, M.A., for he states that while six million acres of land were enclosed by Acts of Parliament, eight million acres were enclosed without that "strict process of law," between the years 1700 and 1844.

Now let us consider what the "strict process of law" amounted to, how it was set in motion, and by whom.

A Member of Parliament would decide upon "enclosing" a tract of land, he would draft a "petition" stating that the land in question was not cultivated as it should be, if it were "enclosed," it would be rendered more productive, etc., etc.

Then he would select other M.P.s from among his friends, to form a committee; the committee would endorse the "petition" and it would be passed as a matter of course. The committee would then appoint a commissioner to carry out the job, and the land was "enclosed" and became private property.

Frequently the first intimation that the peasants, farmers, freeholders and users of the land received was the appearance of the commissioner, and as the penalty of death by hanging was incurred by any act of resistance to the will of the commissioner, there rarely was any resistance. Such was the "strict process of law."

But electors may think that this happened so long ago that it cannot be mended now?

Consider these facts then: In 1896 the Government cancelled one-half of the rates on land, in 1923 they cancelled another quarter of the rates, and in 1928, by the De-rating Act, they cancelled the remaining rates, amounting to £26,000,000, every year, say, £500,000 each week, and passed the burden on to the public.

Every person taking a penny bus ride, to get the "dole," say, should understand that a fraction of each and every penny goes to pay the rates on the pleasure grounds surrounding "the stately homes of England" (and of Wales) as well as providing a "dole" for agriculture.

(A letter appearing in the Wrexham ADVERTISER AND STAR, and other local papers of 18th December.)

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

Hon. President: Mrs Anna George de Mille.
Chairman: W. R. Lester, M.A. Hon. Secre-
tary: F. C. R. Douglas, M.A. Headquarters
Office: 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1.

The object of the School is to ensure a thorough understanding of fundamental economic principles, using Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* as the textbook.

The distinctive feature of the School is the systematic method of instruction which has been evolved as the result of a number of years' experiment in New York and elsewhere in the United States. The result of this experience is embodied in the Teacher's Manual, which provides a standardized and tested method of instruction.

The course covers a period of ten weeks. The class should meet on the same evening of each week in consecutive weeks, and should be so arranged as to avoid breaks for holidays. The courses should, therefore, be either an Autumn course (ending before Christmas); a Winter course (ending before Easter); or a Spring course starting immediately after Easter. In some cases it has been found possible, in the United States, to hold a fourth series of meetings in the Summer.

The first meeting of the group of students with their tutor is an introductory one for the purpose of enrolling the students and stimulating their interest by giving some idea of the problems to be studied, their importance, and the benefits to be derived from their solution. Opportunity may be taken to emphasize Henry George's importance as an original thinker, and to indicate the influence and adherence that his teaching has gained. It is not desirable to explain, at this early stage, the actual results of Henry George's examination of the problem of his practical proposals, as it is an essential principle of the system that students should be discouraged from anticipating at any session the subject-matter of later sessions. They should be invited to concentrate their attention upon the section of the course being discussed on that particular evening.

At the opening of the first session the student is given a set of questions on economics which he is invited to answer, in writing, there and then, in the light of his existing knowledge. This paper is then put aside until the end of the course, when he is given an identical set of questions to answer in the light of what he has learned during the classes. (This is not compulsory or intended as an examination—the examination system is quite foreign to the essential purpose of the course. It is intended to stimulate the interest of the student by indicating the kind of question that an educated citizen should be able to answer, and to give him, at the end, a concrete demonstration of how much he has learned.)

At the first session (as at subsequent sessions) the student is given an assignment showing the passages of *Progress and Poverty* which he is expected to read before the next session. On this same assignment is a set of questions based upon the subject-matter of his reading, which he should be able to answer after studying that section of *Progress and Poverty*. (The Teacher's Manual gives all these assignments, with the answers to the questions—but the student receives merely the questions, without the answers.)

At each session the tutor may, if he pleases, give a short introductory talk on the subject-matter of the home-reading set at the previous session. He then invites members of the class to answer, orally, the questions. One student may be encouraged to qualify or amplify an answer given by another student—or to discuss a relevant point. The object is to stimulate the students to give their own answers, the teacher merely guiding the class. Other hints upon the method of teaching are given in the Manual.

Each session should last exactly two hours. The home-reading is estimated to require about the same time. It is not intended that the student should pay any fee for the course or incur any charge except the purchase of a copy of *Progress and Poverty*, which will be supplied to those organizing classes, by the Henry George Foundation, at wholesale rates.

The equipment required is very simple: it consists of a copy of the Teacher's Manual for the instructor and for the students the "assignments," showing the section of *Progress and Poverty* covered at each session and the pages of that book to be read, during the intervening week, by the student, in order to prepare himself for the next meeting of the class. Every student is required, of course, to have a copy of *Progress and Poverty*.

Except for the copies of *Progress and Poverty*, this equipment will be supplied free.

It should also be emphasized that the method of instruction does not require from the tutor any great ability as a speaker or lecturer, nor put him to the necessity of preparing formal lectures. He needs only to understand the subject matter and to be able to answer questions based on it.

An earnest appeal is therefore made to all readers of *Land & Liberty* to take part in this valuable work, if only by forming a small class in their own homes. All possible help in doing this will be gladly given by the officers of the School.

New Classes

In addition to the classes announced in our last issue, the following new classes have been started:

Town	Tutor	First Meeting
Birkenhead	Curzon Newhouse	Beechcroft Settlement, Whetstone Lane. 26th January.
Halifax	C. H. Smithson	King Cross Adult School, Eldroth Rd. 1st February.
Halifax	C. H. Smithson	34 Well Head Gardens. 5th February.
Halifax	C. H. Smithson	Liberal Association, Waterhouse Street. 3rd February. (For women.)
Sowerby Bridge	C. H. Smithson	2nd February.

Other classes are in contemplation of which an announcement will be made in due course.

Correspondence Courses

For the benefit of isolated students, and also for those who wish to form classes but would like to brush up their knowledge and make themselves more familiar with the method of teaching, correspondence courses are offered. Will those who are interested, please communicate with the secretary?

Our colleague and co-worker, Joseph Dana Miller, Editor of *Land and Freedom* of New York, recently returned to Jersey City to live after an absence of about forty years. A most gracious welcome was accorded to him by the *Jersey Journal* in a complimentary and four-column long life-sketch by Edward H. Weideman, and featuring his portrait. He is acclaimed as associate of Henry George and life-long battler for tax reform. Highly deserved is this tribute to his public and literary career, and it is right that his fellow townsmen should be told to be proud of him. For thirty-five years editor of *Land and Freedom* (formerly the *Single Tax Review*), may his light shine forth for many years more to guide men and minds to the knowledge and acceptance of the truths taught by Henry George.

* * *

The followers of Mr Henry George and his single tax, argue, and their argument cannot lightly be refuted, that rents are disproportionately high and that as land is the basis of all wealth, the single tax should replace our present complicated system.—From leading article in the *Scottish Farmer*, 2nd January.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

DENMARK

Mrs Caroline Björner, hon. secretary, has sent out a most stimulating report on the progress of the School of Social Science which in Denmark has been given the style and title of the "Ecotechnical High School" for the study of the fundamental laws of social economy. It will be observed that the term "High School" has not the English connotation, but is the now famous term applied to those "People's High Schools" which play such an important part in popular adult education in Denmark.

Interesting is the explanation given for the choice of the name. It is that in Denmark they already have four institutions with which the name of Henry George is connected and which are well known to the Danish public; namely, the Henry George League, the Henry George Publishing Co., the Henry George Foundation and the Henry George (annual) Congress. Another Henry George institution bearing the name of H. G. would lead the public into confusion and by the majority of Danes would be identified only as the Henry George movement which comprises all the above mentioned institutions. As the result of half a century's strenuous work of Danish Georgeists the name of Henry George is known to 100 per cent. of Danish adult men and women; just as, e.g. the name of Karl Marx is known elsewhere. In other countries, the desire to build up a strong public opinion around Henry George's teachings under the name of H. G. is natural; but in Denmark, where people are already politically prejudiced when they hear the name of H. G., the problem is different. "A joke which is common property in Denmark will explain our problem better than many words. 'What is Georgiesm?' The reply: 'A theory which separates the public in two parts—those who do not understand it, and those who are unable to explain it.' The aim is to get students to meet Henry George, if possible, with a politically unbiased mind, to come to the classes, and not give them an easy excuse for staying away by stating beforehand that this is another Henry George institution. Therefore, a neutral name, a new name, has been chosen.

In her communication, Mrs Caroline Björner gives grateful recognition to the inspiration they have received in Denmark from the Henry George School of Social Science in America, and the lead they got also from the International Conference in London. A Danish "Manual" for teachers and "lesson assignments" already in draft are being prepared, the latter having been used and developed after the practical experience gained. The first class started in Copenhagen with 20 students, conducted as a teachers' training class. As the outcome of a circular since mailed to a couple of hundred Georgeists, the new School is now starting 11 classes in nine towns with 132 students enrolled: a remarkable result from the purely preliminary work, so far. Requests have come for sending teachers to classes in the country, one old-timer in the island of Lolland having suggested that he would gather four classes each of 20 students for a five weeks' course with twice-weekly sessions and would pay a travelling teacher his expenses plus a reasonable fee.

The textbook is, of course, *Progress and Poverty*, Mr Lange's translation, fourth edition, 1922. For the use of the School, there has also been published the lecture *The Study of Political Economy*, 2,500 copies, translated by Mrs Signe Björner and making one of those elegant little pamphlets which the Danes know so well how to produce.

Communications relating to the "Ecotechnical High School" should be addressed to the secretary, Mrs Caroline Björner, Hulgardsvej, 20, Copenhagen E.

Two other recent publications from Denmark are heartily welcome: One, with a new year greeting from the author, Mrs Signe Björner, and dealing with the "Exchange Control," the abolition of which, for its price-raising effects, should be demanded by every Danish house-wife. The other is a larger book entitled *The Great Land Reforms and the Period of Free Trade*, which has four authors, each contributing his share: Dr Viggo Starcke, Mr N. Bredkaer, Mr Abel Brink and Mr J. L. Björner. These two publications are delightfully illustrated.

UNITED STATES

Henry George School of Social Science

The School which has its headquarters at 211 West 79th Street, New York, announces publication of the revised (third) edition of its Teacher's Manual, which is used by the School's staff of over 200 instructors in more than 100 cities. The new Manual is the result of many months of painstaking work and was not considered complete until it had been tried out in eighteen classes and amended on the basis of that experience. The price of the revised Manual is \$1 with order. (We have received a quantity of these new Manuals for free issue to the tutors of the British School who desire to use it, but the page numbering needs to be altered by hand to apply to the British H. G. Foundation edition of *Progress and Poverty*.)

At the Leeds Restaurant on 8th January, the fifth annual "commencement dinner" of the School was held, under auspices of the New York Chapter of the Henry George Fellowship. It was the occasion to "present the graduates" which Mr O. K. Dorn, acting director of the School did; and about 250 students were represented by nine student speakers who spoke on their behalf. Other speakers were Mr A. H. Vetterman, Mrs de Mille, Messrs Lancaster M. Greene, Joseph Dana Miller, Walter Fairchild, Harry Weinberger, Norman C. B. Fowles (former director of the School who had to retire through illness) and Will Lissner.

A similar function was held in Chicago on 2nd December when "certificates were granted to 91 graduates" and over 200 persons were present to witness the ceremonies. For the Chicago extension of the School, a Board of Trustees has been formed of which Professor Hiram B. Loomis is the president. The new term in Chicago starts with eleven classes altogether, but two conducted by past students.

A notable outgrowth of the School in America is the Henry George Fellowship, formed of past students, to promote and develop further the work of the School. The fellowship now has "chapters" in many cities and at the recent Congress in Cincinnati, a national body was brought into existence called the Federated Chapters of the Henry George Fellowship, with officers as follows: Nathan Hillman of Chicago, president; Harry Kuck, of Cincinnati, treasurer; J. Edward Jones, of Chicago, correspondence secretary; H. W. Becker, of Omaha, financial secretary; vice presidents: E. G. Lang, of Pittsburg and N. D. Alper, of San Francisco; other executive members: Joseph Carroll of Norfolk, Conn., James Fuller of Kansas City and Edward White of Kansas City.

Various items in the "Henry George News Service" issued weekly from 211 West 79th Street, N. Y. C., are:

Ten thousand circulars announcing a correspondence course of study, following the same technique as is used in class room, were to be mailed during January to a selected list all over the country, and thousands more will follow as fast as funds to carry on this work become available. (Correspondence courses are also a feature of the British School, and enquiry in regard to this should be addressed to the office at 94 Petty France, S.W.1.)

Charles R. Eckert, of Beaver, Pa., has been re-elected to Congress on the Democratic ticket to represent the 26th district of Pennsylvania. He is a life-long adherent of the Henry George Doctrine (and for many years a faithful reader of *Land & Liberty*).

James F. Bayer has been elected member of the State Assembly from Newark, New Jersey. In his election material he claimed support in the fact that he had recently completed a course in economics and social philosophy at the School in New York.

At the *New York Times* National Book Fair, books selected for a representative home library were displayed, including *Progress and Poverty* and other Georgeist literature.

A Radio Essay Contest on the programme and achievements of the School has been organized. The best essay will be broadcast over Station W B B C (Brooklyn) on 13th March at 8.15 p.m.

Herbert S. Bigelow

Mr George Cartright writes :

Congressman "Fighting Bob" Crosser of Ohio will be joined by Rev Herbert S. Bigelow in Congress at Washington. Mr Bigelow dislikes "Reverend" attached to his name. Twenty years ago Mr Bigelow was kidnapped, driven to an isolated place by a caravan of big automobiles, horse-whipped, and told it was for his unpatriotic efforts to keep this country out of the war. Many believed it was his penalty for turning light on the Cincinnati Traction Company's method of getting its franchise. He is now elected to Congress because opposed to war and on his life record in the struggle of righteousness against monopoly. Mr Bigelow is one of America's greatest orators. High in Ohio's Honour Roll in securing the Initiative, Referendum and Recall stands the names of Bigelow, Crosser, Cassidy, Doty, Halenkamp and Kilpatrick.

[Members of the International Conference in Edinburgh, 1929, will remember with particular pleasure the presence of Mr Bigelow and his eloquent address at the celebration session on Henry George's life-work.—EDITOR, L. & L.]

John James Murphy

We regret to announce the death, on 8th December, of John James Murphy, colleague of veterans in the Henry George movement, friend of Henry George himself, hard worker and welcome companion among the youngest elements. He was in his 71st year and had suffered a long illness. He went to the U.S.A. from Ireland when he was seventeen and settled in New York. From 1918 to 1933 he was secretary of the tenement house committee of the Charity Organization Society. As a speaker he had a charming style with his ready Irish wit. He took a conspicuous part in Henry George's mayoral campaigns in 1886 and 1897 and was closely associated with Mr Lawson Purdy in the reforms which brought about the separate valuation of the land in New York. Well remembered by British associates in his attendance at the Edinburgh International Conference in 1929 and the informing contribution he made in his paper on the progress of Henry George Ideas in the U.S.A., his personality will be missed but his services to the cause are a matter for pride and gratitude. In their bereavement we convey our sympathy to the relatives and to our co-workers overseas.

CALIFORNIA

Organized Labour's Tax Policy

Mr N. D. Alper writes:

When the California State Federation of Labour, at their 34th Annual Convention, held at Monterey in 1933, adopted a resolution favouring the proposition to remove all taxation from improvements and tangible personal products, the results of labour and industry declared itself opposed to Sales Taxes, proposing to substitute for such taxes additional levies on the value of privileges granted by the State; and when at all subsequent and consecutive conventions including the 1936 Convention at Sacramento, it has reaffirmed this policy, it can be said that Organized Labour's Tax Policy is clearly and definitely established.

In plain words its tax policy is this. So long as there is a dollar's worth of income due to Special Privileges granted by the State, such wealth being produced by Labour and Business and not by Privilege-holders as such, this kind of income shall be first levied upon by Government for public use. And until this fund is exhausted to a practical extent, there shall be no tax levies in the State of California on the products of Labour and Business nor tax interference with the Labour and Business effort required to effect the exchange of products among the producers and consumers of the State.

The most highly prized, and the Privilege that exhausts and exploits Labour and Business most, is the Privilege of holding title to special business and industrial, as well as natural resource, site locations. On every side huge for-

tunes are collected yearly by such title holders, not as workers or producers, but merely as privileged title holders.

It is but simple justice and conformance to American ideals, Constitutional ideals, if you please, that so long as such *special* incomes, enjoyed only because of the action of the Government of all the people, are available for public use, the creative efforts of the people which make for employment should not be abused by destructive taxes.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The municipality of Warren was the first to adopt the optional provisions of the Carruthers 1908 Local Government Act. Mr John Kinnivane was then a member of the Warren Council and it was he who was responsible for piloting the resolution into effect. That was the same year as the Act was passed, so that Mr Kinnivane can be proud not only of being a pioneer in New South Wales but also that his town was the first to strike a rate on land values and exempt all buildings and improvements from local taxation. This system is now universal throughout New South Wales excepting for a minute amount of taxation on improvements in some shires, and for the water and sewerage rates in the Sydney and Newcastle areas which, levied by autonomous boards, are assessed against the annual value of land and improvements taken together.

The official *Statistical Bulletin*, March, 1936, shows how building is being resumed in Sydney metropolitan area. In the three years 1927 to 1929 previous to the slump the average annual building progress was expressed in these figures: 9,628 new buildings, alterations and additions of value £14,619,600. In three years (1931 to 1933) of the "slump" the average annual progress was 1,306 new buildings, etc., of value £1,828,990. In the year 1935, the number of new buildings, etc., was 4,936 of value £6,435,056.

SINGAPORE

M. J. S. writes:—

Recent visits to the Colonial Office have discovered the report of the Singapore Housing Commission, of 10th July, 1918. Two interesting names on the Commission are Mr W. S. Maxwell, M.A. (now Sir George, who lately exposed the iniquitous export tax on Malayan rubber), and Mr J. Lornie, who wrote the excellent account of Malayan land laws in Malay Leaflet No. X of the Wembley Empire Exhibition.

The report of the Commission is not important, as it was divided between an Increment Tax and an Undeveloped Land Duty—the last echo of Mr Lloyd George's Budget.

Some evidence was most instructive. The worst overcrowded slums were adjacent to waste estates which under will or deed of deceased owners "could not" be utilized.

The worst slum landlords were, surprisingly, Arab investors living in Arabia, who only did what was enforced by the Town Council. Scholars may inquire if slum landlordism was an effect of the Crusades, as neither Christianity nor Islam was based thus—and which side was infected by the other so deeply!

There is an honest avowal (par. 84): "Singapore in many ways deserves the title of a 'City of Mean Houses': and it is beyond doubt that the system by which a mean house pays a small assessment, irrespective of the site value of the land, has much to do with this fact." Details are given in proof (par. 76). In the Tanglin area there is the Broadfields property with three houses on 38½ acres, worth £20,000 (taking Straits dollar at 2s.), assessed at £78: also the Ardmore and Draycott estate with two houses on 78 acres worth £35,000 and assessed at £64: also Tyershall with two houses on 108 acres worth £22,000 and assessed at £50.

Every credit must be given to Mr F. J. Hallifax, President of the *nominated* Municipal Commissioners, for his long fight for rating on land value in which Sydney was freely quoted: "raising money justly, and the onus not transferable to the tenant, thereby lowering the cost but not the rising value of land." Such courage in fighting a miniature despotism surely deserves to be remembered with gratitude and honour.

ROUMANIA

In 1933 the Magyar Economic Block, founded in 1931, was transformed into a political party with the title "Magyar Peasant Party." Included in the points in the programme is joint work and co-operation for the realization of the peasant state, the introduction of one single tax according to the value of land holdings, the relieving of all disabilities of the peasant class and the claims of the Magyar minorities, which are: the use of their own language in public life, assistance for confessional education, liberty for work and education, cultural independence and admission of the Magyar element into public offices and functions.—From the *International Reference Library* (p. 274 "Politics and Political Parties in Roumania") published by the International Reference Publishing Co., London.

HOLLAND

Our colleague and Vice-President of the International Union, Councillor H. Kolthek, continues his able journalistic work as editor of the weekly *Recht en Vrijheid* (Justice and Freedom) published in Groningen. He carried extensive reports of the London International Conference, with extracts from the papers presented, and in this his co-worker, Mr S. Sevenster has collaborated. The compliment of translated matter from our columns is appreciated. But *Recht en Vrijheid* is so informative and "up to date" in its other news that none in our movement who reads Dutch should be without it. The annual subscription is three guilders, equivalent to say, seven shillings, and should be sent to the paper at Prinsesse Weg, 77, Groningen, Holland.

MEXICO

The Sunday *Observer*, 3rd January, had the following item of news communicated from Mexico City by the British United Press:

Thousands of acres of cotton lands in Mexico, belonging to Mexican, British, and American concerns, have been "socialised" by being divided and handed over to the peasants.

The system is similar to the collective farm in Russia. The land is divided into "communal tracts" and is jointly operated by many peasant families.

The question of compensation has been raised by the British authorities in Mexico. Mexican law provides that the land seized shall be paid for with Agrarian Bonds, but this law has been "suspended" in recent years, and generally land is taken without compensation where it is held to be "socially desirable."

The land confiscated so far is estimated to have a total value of about £16,000,000, while the land formerly in British hands which has been seized had an estimated value of £2,000,000.

The two main British estates involved were those of the Tlabaullilo Company and the William Purcell Company. The latter concern is managed by Captain W. H. Charlton, a former High Sheriff of Northumberland. In the case of the former company an arrangement was made whereby only seventy-five of its 105 lots (each lot being about 225 acres) was distributed among the peasants.

The object of the Government is to establish about 200 agrarian communities with about 15,000 families living on them. Land is allotted on the basis of about fifteen to twenty acres of non-irrigated land and ten to 15 acres of irrigated land. President Cardenas of Mexico, who has personally supervised the distribution, says: "the Government's only interest is to raise the standard of life for the people, to protect their health, and educate their children."

CLEVELAND, OHIO. Cheque is enclosed for my own subscription and for sending your magazine regularly to my brother who is a medical missionary in Arabia. The latter has written a recently published article.

MONTREAL. Acknowledging the International Conference papers you recently sent me, I feel greatly encouraged by the splendid work you are doing over there in England, and hope to be able to send you another small contribution toward expenses in the near future.

WHAT SOME SAY

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J.: Roosevelt, as you know has, had a sweeping victory at the polls. The corrupting beneficence of the States paved the way. The farmers, the stock raisers, the cotton planters and the army of unemployed have principally shared in this largesse. But can the advocates of the New Deal be proud of their success knowing to what they owe it? The victory which might well have frightened them, could they have but realized what it would ultimately bring forth, has only emboldened them. What has gone before is only the shadow of what is already seen to be surging forward from all sides clamoring for further expenditure. All the dread consequences foreshadowed months ago are now more well defined. What is most lamentable is that neither in the ranks of the majority nor the opposition are there any men of statesmanlike stature, that in a perilous time like this there is but a mounting wave of mediocrity, no boldly courageous, high-minded men of sound convictions and far-sighted discernment.

AMSTERDAM: Enclosed is five shillings covering subscription to the paper for two years, with my best wishes for the success of your brilliant work for humanity's sake.

BRONDERSLEV, DENMARK: The Justice League here are doing energetic and splendid work in this time of wrong and failure. As to *Land & Liberty* I am thankful for the good information and inspiration which I have often the opportunity to put to use in what I write.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: I enclose a clipping of an Associated Press interview with our Secretary of Agriculture which prompted me to mail him the leading article in *Land & Liberty* as offering the key to permanent solution of not only our farm tenancy problem, but its concomitants of unemployment, housing and other results of politico-economic mismanagement.

SASKATOON, SASK.: I see you are to bring out Tolstoy's "Great Iniquity." In this connection I have often thought of the impression made on my mind by the wonderful addresses made by Henry George and Father McGlynn before the Anti-Poverty Society of New York and published in the Standard of those days. I never read anything that would make a man grab his hat and get out on the street to fight, than those Sunday night addresses! If you have a Standard file at your disposal the Committee might get matter for a real live publication out of it. (We have that file and it is a suggestion deserving attention.)

READING, PA: *Land & Liberty* must keep on. Sometime, somehow, the natural laws of Social Science will be recognized, notwithstanding established interests (the special handicap of this science). If other sciences were so burdened where would they be? Personal motives help development of the physical sciences; but they practically kill intelligent statesmanship ahead of a broad demand for it.

MELBOURNE, VIC.: Your October issue received makes very enjoyable reading. The Conference organizers are to be commended for getting together such a number of admirable papers and this gathering indicates striking vitality. The large number of countries represented is impressive, while the interest of the English Press is distinctly encouraging. More might have been expected from foreign papers, of which we might hear more later. With the added interest of municipal authorities and other bodies it can confidently be accepted as the most notable international conference yet called together, and I wish to convey my compliments to those responsible for its inception, for workers the world over will get inspiration and hope from it.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Mrs C and I have missed no opportunity of advising the ladies (members of the Women's S.T. Club) that contributions such as this are the best of means of giving telling support to the cause of social betterment. So I am hoping for renewals of their donations from time to time.

NEWARK, N.J.: In a recent issue of *Land & Liberty*, I think either in the November or December issue, the editorial was an explanation of what the land value tax purposes. I think this was a very lucid explanation of our views and perhaps would make a good pamphlet. (The pamphlet is being published under the title "What is Land Value Taxation?" by W. R. Lester—price 1d., Editor *Land & Liberty*.)

DURHAM: A friend challenged me with the question: "Is it true that some of the North-West Durham coal-owners have raised the rents of houses to the unemployed by five shillings a week?" I told him that I knew my rent had been raised from 9s. 3d. to 15s., and, being on the Means Test, I found it was robbing the stomach to pay the extra rent. And that, while South country people are eager to help us in the North. (George Scott in the North Mail.)

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. R. Lester and C. E. Crompton, Hon. Treasurers. (Telephone: Whitehall 6008. Telegrams: "Eulav, Sowest, London.")

Since its inception in 1929 by endowment of the late Louis P. Jacobs, the Henry George Foundation has published the following books and pamphlets:

Progress and Poverty (1s., 2s. and 3s.)—28,000; *Protection or Free Trade* (6d. and 1s.)—40,000; *Social Problems* (1s. and 2s.)—10,000; *The Condition of Labour* (1s. and 2s.)—10,000; *The Science of Political Economy* (2s. 6d. and 4s.)—5,000; *Gems from Henry George* (6d. and 1s.)—3,000. Total of Henry George works—96,000.

Addresses by Henry George (penny pamphlets, eight titles)—71,800.

Land and Freedom (Verinder, 2s. 6d.)—2,000; *Land Value Rating* (Douglas, 2s. 6d.)—3,000; *Poverty and Plenty* (Lester, 1s.)—2,000. These by the Hogarth Press, in association with the Foundation. *The Story of My Dictatorship* (1s.)—5,000.

Six-penny Pamphlets: *Light on the Land Question* (two editions)—15,000; *Social Justice and the Jew* (Jacobs)—2,000; *Land Value Taxation in Practice* (Madsen)—2,000.

Three-penny Pamphlets: *Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression* (apart from the quantity published by the International Union)—1,000; *The Beneficence of Natural Law* (Smithson)—1,000; *The True National Dividend* (Lester)—2,000; *A Great Iniquity* (Tolstoy, new edition just published, 1937)—3,000.

Penny Pamphlets: *Unemployment and the Land* (Lester, including sixth edition)—30,000; *Cities Held to Ransom* (including sixth edition)—45,000; *The New Political Economy* (Sharpe, fifth impression)—5,000; *Agriculture and Land Value Taxation* (McDougal, Douglas and Scott)—2,000; *The Only Way out of Unemployment* (Chancellor)—7,000; *Land Value Taxation and Free Trade* (Crossley)—5,000; *A New Digest of Progress and Poverty*—5,000; *Why the Landowner cannot Shift the Tax on Land Values*—5,000.

In preparation are: New edition of *Progress and Poverty* (1s.)—10,000; new edition of *A Perplexed Philosopher* (2s.)—3,000; a *New Economic Manual* for the study of *Progress and Poverty* (Douglas, 1s.)—1,000; *What is Land Value Taxation?* (Lester, 1d.)—5,000.

This makes a grand total of 109,000 Henry George books; 71,000 of Henry George Addresses; 13,000 books of 1s. and 2s. 6d. by other authors; 26,000 of six-penny and three-penny pamphlets; and 109,000 other penny pamphlets. In all: 328,000 publications.

The publications list of the Foundation comprises more than sixty titles, including purchased supplies of books like *The Life of Henry George* (Henry George, Jr., 4s. 6d.); the *Philosophy of Henry George* (Geiger, 10s.); the *Prophet of San Francisco* (Post, 7s. 6d.); *What's Wrong with Taxation* (Ralston, 1s.); *My Neighbour's Landmark* (Verinder, 1s.); *What is the Single Tax* (Post, 2s.); *A Danish View of British Farming* (Lange, 1s.); *A Primer of Political Economy* (Bengough, 1s.); *Significant Paragraphs from "Progress and Poverty"* (1s.); *Progress and Poverty*, abridged edition (De Mille, 1s.), etc. The Foundation has also a considerable trade in other books bought for sale which belong to the literature of the land values movement.

In 1936, the sales of the Foundation were: Books over price 2s. 6d. (10 titles), 43; books of 2s. and 2s. 6d. (7 titles), 863; books of 1s. (16 titles), 5,830; pamphlets of 3d. and 6d. (14 titles), 4,900; pamphlets of 1d. (20 titles), 19,193—altogether 30,819 books and pamphlets.

It is impossible to over-estimate the service Louis P. Jacobs rendered in establishing this Foundation, for which every adherent of Henry George must have unbounded gratitude; nor to appraise fully the value of the gift that the Trustees have been able to make to the movement in this varied and comprehensive bookshelf of well-produced and elegantly printed books and pamphlets, provided at astonishingly low prices. As the Foundation under the Trust Deed has now only two years to run, the time is approaching for an appeal to others like-minded with Louis Jacobs and "seeing the star" as he saw it,

Also Listed by the Henry George Foundation

PIONEERS OF LAND REFORM—Thomas Spence, William Ogilvie and Thomas Paine

PRICE 2s. Published by G. Bell & Sons in Bohn's Popular Library.

to join in making possible the continuation of the Foundation's work for another period of years.

We cannot do better meanwhile than quote the statement about the Foundation which appears on the covers of most of the publications it issues:

THE HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

This Foundation was established in January, 1929, to administer a Trust Fund for spreading a wider knowledge of the social and economic teaching of Henry George as set forth in his books—*Progress and Poverty*, *Social Problems*, *Protection or Free Trade*, *The Condition of Labour*, *A Perplexed Philosopher*, *The Science of Political Economy*, and other writings.

The motive for establishing the Foundation is the conviction that the principles expounded by Henry George offer the only true basis of Economic Freedom and Social Justice, and that their application will remove involuntary poverty, promote industrial and international peace, make all other reforms easier of accomplishment, and generally contribute to the welfare of humanity.

The Henry George Foundation is endowed by a terminable annuity for a period of ten years only; but the founder, 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 a like purpose.

The Trustees of the Foundation are the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values Ltd., 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1, whose aim and object is to promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade with the abolition of all taxes and privileges that obstruct the production of wealth and prevent its just distribution. The United Committee cordially invite the co-operation of all who are interested in this policy.

The Study Class, under auspices of the Henry George School, conducted every Thursday evening at 94 Petty France by Mr Madsen is made up of students, who except for four or five are new to the movement. It is excellently attended. The total enrolment is 36. The text book is read in advance of the sessions. The new Manual, about to be published by the Henry George Foundation, is used and with the help of the "assignments" (the questions the students should be prepared to answer), a keen discussion is at once provoked and maintained through the two hours' of each session, from 7 to 9 p.m. This is the method of the School which, by the wonderful example given from America, has made economic classes not a task, but a stimulating conversation, and the teacher not a lecturer, but a guide who helped with the "Manual" needs no special preliminary training.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Frederick Verinder, General Secretary, First Floor, 94 Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1.
(Phone: Whitehall 3831.)

FEBRUARY MEETINGS:—

Tuesday, 2nd.—Chiswick Chamber of Commerce, Council Chamber, Town Hall: H. G. Chancellor, "Rates and Business." 8 p.m. Dulwich Liberal and Radical Association (Council), Hume House, 136, Lordship Lane: A. C. Blackburn. 9 p.m.

Monday, 8th.—Brockley Men's Co-operative Guild, L.C.C. School, Mantle Road, Brockley: Frederick Verinder, "The L.C.C. Election and the Rating of Land Values." 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 9th.—Women's Co-operative Guild, British Legion Hall, Collier Row Lane, Romford: A. C. Blackburn, "Taxation of Land Values." 3 p.m.

Monday, 15th.—Leyton and Leytonstone Political Council (Co-operative Party), Lecture Hall, Public Library, Church Lane, Leytonstone: Frederick Verinder, "The Burden of the Rates." 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 16th.—South Hackney Labour Party (Women's Section), St. Paul's Church School, Chelmer Road, Glyn Road: Frederick Verinder, "The Burden of the Rates." 8.30 p.m.

In addition to the meetings announced in last month's notes, A. C. Blackburn lectured to the Clapham Labour Party (Women's Section) on 13th Jan., on "Unemployment," and to the Sudbury Hill Women's Co-operative Guild on 27th Jan., on "Rating of Land Values."

A second and revised edition of the General Secretary's pamphlet on "The Crying Injustice of Our Rating System: and the Remedy," completing 20,000 copies, will be ready by the time these notes are published. It has already proved an effective piece of propaganda; indeed, some of the Tory members of the L.C.C. last July publicly accused the Labour members of the

Council of having drawn their arguments from it. The Executive have produced this new edition in the hope that the members and friends of the League will make extensive use of it during the L.C.C. Election. (Price 1d. ; 5s. per 100, post free 5s. 6d.)

A letter on "The County Council Elections and the Rates" has been sent to a hundred and ten newspapers circulating in the county of London and adjacent boroughs.

Members are reminded of the valuable opportunities for propagandist work afforded by the County Elections; opportunities for letters to local papers, questions to candidates, talks with voters, distribution of our literature, helping candidates who are pledged to Land Value Rating, and so on. The action of the majority on the out-going Council in passing a resolution in favour of Land Value Rating will be hotly challenged by opponents of the Reform, and is probably the chief reason why the National Conservative headquarters has raised a very large sum of money in the hope of securing a majority on the new Council.

WELSH LEAGUE : Walter Sirrell, Hon. Secretary, 110 Cottrell Road, Cardiff.

The Cardiff City Council's resolution advocating and asking municipal support for the Rating of Land Values will be discussed by the Association of Municipal Corporations at its meeting in London on 25th February.

Arrangements have been made for two meetings to be addressed by Mr F. C. R. Douglas, M.A., L.C.C., in Cardiff, on 4th and 5th February. The first is convened by the Gabalfa Ward Ratepayers' Association in the Regal Hall, North Road, the speaker being supported by Ward Councillors and others. The second is held under the auspices of the Cardiff and District League of Young Liberals in the Friends Meeting House, Charles Street, Mr Gwyn Parry in the chair and Dr D. G. Taylor, M.A., President of the Welsh League also speaking. At the latter meeting the Cardiff Branch of the Henry George School of Social Science will be inaugurated. A class starts immediately in charge of Mr C. A. Gardner as tutor.

Mr Gardner addressed the Cardiff East Liberal Association at Clyne House on 20th January.

Many protests are being made in the Press against the iniquities and tyrannies of the leasehold system in South Wales. A Leaseholders Reform Association has been inaugurated by Mr J. M. Hopkins of Tonypre. Members of our League may well interest themselves in this agitation by pressing for the true remedy which is the Taxation and Rating of Land Values.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE : William Reid, Secretary, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C. 3.

On 12th January Captain A. R. McDougal spoke to the Freedom Club on the question of principles. Mr John Wilson spoke on the 19th, his subject being Machiavelli, Mussolini and Montesquieu. Mr Otto Ommer spoke to the Socialist League on 20th January on the Law of Rent. He also takes an active part in the study circle associated with the University Labour Party. The Classes conducted by Mr John Wilson and the secretary at the Rooms are nearing the end of the course. The ladies class has been very successful. There is prospect of a number of beginners for a new class.

Among newspaper correspondence were letters to the "Glasgow Herald" by Captain McDougal during January, Mr A. J. Mace had a letter in the "News Chronicle" and Mr J. Brunton McLennan has been discussing Radicalism in the "Weekly Herald." Mr Mace had letters in the "Clydebank Press" on the 1st, 8th and 15th January and one in the "Evening Times" on 25th January. Mr John Cameron had a long letter in the "Coatbridge Leader" on 16th January. There was an article in the "Scottish Free Press" giving a history of increase of Land Values in Glasgow. The matter we believe was supplied by Mr Ommer. In the "Scots Town and County Councillor" for January, notice is taken of the London County Council resolution, and some history of the London Rating agitation is given beginning with the London County Council Bill of 1902.

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

3rd Jan., Wm. Thomson addressed a meeting at Sun Street Mission; 20th Jan., P. V. Oliver, the Executive of the Leeds W. L. A.; 25th Jan., Roger Musgrave, the West Bowling Branch W. C. G.

On Saturday evening, 23rd Jan., Keighley and district members of the League attended a reception held at Hammond's Café, North Street, Keighley, to meet Miss Grace I. Colbron. Mr John Henderson and Miss Henderson received the guests. This was one of the most successful social functions held in Keighley.

Mr Henderson entertained his guests in a manner that put everyone in good humour. During the evening, Mr Charles Smithson, on behalf of a few local friends, presented Wm.

Thomson with a set of Henry George's works as a mark of their appreciation of the good work done by Mr Thomson during the fifty-five years he had so devoted himself to propagating the teachings of Henry George. Mr Ashley Mitchell and the Secretary also took part in the presentation.

Miss Colbron made the acquaintance of those present and gave an interesting address.

On Sunday evening, 24th Jan., we held a public meeting in the Temperance Hall, over which Mr Henderson presided. Miss Colbron delivered an interesting and informing address. Mr Mitchell, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr Henderson for presiding, and to Miss Colbron for her address, added much to the value of the meeting. Mr Thomson seconded the vote, and showed that, in spite of his eight-five years, he has lost none of his keen interest in promoting the cause of economic freedom. Mr Robert Thomson and Madame Thomson, son and daughter of Mr Thomson, assisted by Mr Fewster as accompanist rendered musical items, amongst them being the Land Song, in which the audience heartily joined.

The Keighley Extension Class of the H. G. S. S. S. began its second session on 14th Jan. Although only small at present, we are hoping it will develop more fully.

In Halifax, the School is making excellent progress under the energetic guidance of Mr C. H. Smithson. Three classes are now running there. Mr T. U. Kaye is assisting Mr Smithson.

There have been several good letters during January to the Press, as follows:—

Wm. Thomson, John McNerny, E. A. Lassen and "Democritus" in the "Telegraph and Argus"; Ashley Mitchell in the "Yorkshire Observer"; John McNerny and E. A. Lassen further letters in the "Telegraph and Argus."

MISS COLBRON

To recur to Miss Colbron's visit, it was the event of the month. Preceding the Temperance Hall meeting, Mr Jabez Crabtree entertained her and twenty other guests to dinner. On 25th January Miss Colbron and Mr Smithson addressed the Halifax Liberal Women's Committee at The Gleddings, the home of Lady Fisher-Smith. As a result of that afternoon meeting, nine of the members enrolled for a Henry George School Class with Mr Smithson as instructor. In the evening, a Liberal Women's meeting on League of Nations was held, Miss Colbron speaking on the economics of the race question in America. She was Lady Fisher-Smith's guest overnight, and next day in Leeds she addressed a very live meeting of the executive committee of Liberal Women's Organizations.

Miss Colbron writes (to *Land & Liberty*): "Every moment of the short tour was filled with interest for me. It gave me an insight into the problems of that part of England and into the fine work our comrades there are doing. And they certainly treated me royally, everywhere."

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

Meetings have been addressed by the League's speakers as follows:

Lymm Labour Party, D. J. J. Owen; Macclesfield Women's Co-operative Guild, A. H. Weller; Padiham W. C. G., A. H. Weller; Pendleton W. C. G., A. H. Weller; Cadishead W. C. G., A. H. Weller.

The Class meetings conducted by Mr Owen in Reddish have been suspended owing to the 'flu epidemic. They will be resumed shortly.

An article written by the Secretary and entitled "Religion and Economics" has been sent to a number of Lancashire papers.

MANCHESTER HENRY GEORGE CLUB : Miss Betty Noble, Hon. Secretary, 13 Orthes Grove, Heaton Chapel, Stockport.

At a meeting held in Smallman's Restaurant on 22nd January, Mr F. C. R. Douglas criticized Mr J. M. Keynes' diagnosis of the causes of trade depressions. Miss Betty Noble presided. Mr Douglas was well reported in the *Manchester Guardian*.

LIVERPOOL LEAGUE : Hon. Sec., F. R. Jones, 23 Rocklands Avenue, Bebington, Cheshire.

The following meetings have been addressed by our speakers: 17th Dec., Birkenhead North End Co-operative Women's Guild, Miss N. McGovern; 10th Jan., Ellesmere Port Labour Guild of Youth, Mr E. J. McManus; 17th Jan., Birkenhead Secular Society, Secretary; 19th Jan., New Ferry Co-operative Men's Guild, Secretary.

Our Committee decided to allow its room at 21, Harrington Street to be used for a further course of the Henry George School of Social Science. Our speakers at outside organisations are concentrating on persuading their hearers to form these classes, and we engage to supply teachers. Secretaries of Y.M.C.A. branches, etc., are being approached, and in due time we expect

to have classes conducted all over our area. The teachers will be co-ordinated through our Committee, so that there will be no overlapping, and students will be allocated from one class to another as necessary. At the end of the courses the teachers are asked to invite the students to join up as members of the League and assist in its work, and also to support the national body and subscribe to its journal *Land & Liberty*.

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

Our hearty congratulations are extended to Mr R. R. Fairbairn on his acceptance of Aldermanic rank at the invitation of the Worcester City Council. It is not the first time that this honour has been tended to our Vice-President, but he preferred from time to time to seek the confidence of his constituents as a Councillor. His public services to Worcester are recognized by all his fellow citizens, and the Midland League is greatly indebted to Alderman Fairbairn for his consistent support and for his unflinching adherence to the Rating of Land Values.

The Financial Statement for 1936 has been duly certified by our Hon. Auditor, Mr E. E. Sheppard. Receipts include Birmingham Subscriptions, £32:11:0; Midland and other ditto, £17:18:6; Sale of literature, £1:11:6. Expenditure includes Honorarium to Secretary, £20; Share of office, rent, rates, etc., £12:10:4; Literature, printing, stationary, £9:12:0; Postages, travelling, meetings, £10:1:5. There is a balance due to Secretary of 6s. 9d.

BRISTOL LEAGUE FOR LAND VALUE REVENUE: J. A. Hurley, Hon. Secretary, 14 Queen's Road, Knowle, Bristol, 4.

On 15th February we are to have a visit from Miss Grace Isobel Colbron of New York, and special arrangements are being made for her to address a public meeting at the Queen's Café that evening under the auspices of the League.

The past month has seen a considerable increase in the League's membership and activities. The President has addressed a number of Societies and Guilds at St. Pauls, Norton Marleward and Kingswood.

Our Press Organizer, Mr Abbott, has been very active, and the local Press has given his reports and articles good publicity.

A Social and Whist Drive was held at the Queen's Café, Tramways Centre on 13th January, and between forty and fifty members of the League were present, and had a very enjoyable evening.

A programme of lectures has been arranged for the weekly meetings held at 5, Eastfield Road, Cotham, and the subjects for February are as follows: 1st Feb., Economic Rent; 8th Feb., Old and New Populations; 22nd Feb., Production and Exchange; 15th Feb., Queen's Café, meeting as above.

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

The January meeting of the Portsmouth League was held in the Wesley Central Hall on Wednesday, 13th January, and was addressed by Mr J. H. McGuigan on "Land and Liberty," Mr Satterthwaite presiding. Mr McGuigan remarked that nature yielded only to labour and stressed the importance in human relations of the recognition of the right of the producer to that private property which is the product of his labour, without which the accumulation of wealth, provision of capital and exchange of commodities could not be effected. That form of co-operation which consists in exchange or trading creates a world-wide commonwealth and results in economies and greater effectiveness of labour which gives civilised man enormous superiority over primitive people who are limited to a comparatively small area for the satisfaction of their wants. A report of the meeting appeared in the local *Evening News*. Our next public meeting will be held in the Wesley Central Hall on Wednesday, 10th February.

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

The Secretary received a letter from a crofter in Wester Ross containing a subscription for *Land & Liberty*. He writes: "It is a People's Paper and should be supported." In this district rates are 11s. 4½d. in the £, which fall mainly on houses in a sparsely populated district.

Mr Malcolm MacDonald, M.P. for Rosshire was presented with a document on 9th Jan. by Easter Ross Small-Holders, pointing out that the assessor "separated buildings from the land and rated them abnormally," and that "most of the relief through derating and subsidies went to the landed proprietors and big farmers," and that "Court of Session had no right to change the law of the land." One wonders if Mr MacDonald who is a member of the Government, will start to do something for the small men?

NORTH WALES

A. Williams Price writes:—

Tramping around a Distressed Area (or, as the National Government cannily re-christened these pitiful exhibitions, or displays, of political and economic futility, a "Special Area") has one advantage: there are many able-bodied and intelligent workers in the streets and roads, ready to talk about current affairs. Conversation with these people frequently reveals, or relates to, the most serious danger threatening democracy, the lack of leaders with a living, consistent faith in the creeds they proclaim. 'Tis a far cry from the barren, dump-strewn hillsides of North Wales to the marble halls of Blenheim Palace, yet the same note of warning comes from Mr Winston Churchill: "If Democracy in Great Britain and in other countries is in danger now, as perhaps it may be, it is not democracy that is at fault, but the leadership that it has received." This is the story I hear with monotonous regularity. Leaders do not lead. In too many cases their one fixed and abiding principle is that of personal and family advancement. The unemployed have time to discuss these matters, and one result is seen in the small polls, both in local and in Parliamentary elections: democracy dying of creeping paralysis. Liberalism, Radicalism, Socialism: all these are mere empty words now-a-days, signifying nothing because they are used by leaders to cloak and cover opposed principles. In country districts the pervasive power of the great landowners, working openly, and in secret, controls the strings; and some of their most active puppets are elected as Liberals, Radicals, and Labour. It is impossible to get these "leaders" to subscribe to any fixed principle. Like Bottom the weaver, they "Roar as gently as any sucking dove," for a consideration. Our cause, the Taxation and Rating of Land Values, must be sped onwards by true missionary effort among the voters themselves.

(In another column appears the statement by Mr A. Williams Price entitled "Independent Peasants Become Landless Labourers.")

WHAT SOME SAY

BRISTOL: If the incidence of rating be changed from composite value of site and improvements to rating on site values only, a hopeful outlook appears. Land value is made by the industry of the inhabitants and is the obvious source of revenue for social purposes. (E. J. Brierley in two Bristol papers.)

HUDDERSFIELD: Democracy can only be preserved and assured if it is vigilantly protected and assured by those who value individual freedom and who, while guarding it from the assaults of those who hate it, will take care that democracy shall mean economic liberty for all, which, when obtained, would result in a nation of free men who would be the terror of tyrants wherever found. (Ashley Mitchell in the Yorkshire Observer.)

KEIGHLEY: As John Woolman, an American Quaker and a strong opponent of slavery, said of property in land: "As He who first founded the earth was then the true proprietor of it, so He still remains, and although He hath given it to the children of men, He hath never alienated it, but His right is as good as at first." (Wm. Thomson in the Bradford Telegraph.)

GLASGOW: Suppose Lord Nuffield gave in perpetuity £500 per annum to every farmer in Mr Gilchrist's parish, then in ten years it is certain that every tenant's rent would be £500 higher, and all land sold would be at least £10,000 dearer. Yet this is the very obvious fact that Mr Elliot, the Government, and my critics evade. (Capt A. R. McDougal in the Glasgow Herald.)

COATBRIDGE: Coatbridge is extending its boundaries mainly for housing schemes. Fields which have been yielding no rates rise in value to perhaps £500 an acre. Let the Council ask for prices at once—well ahead of requirements—and proceed to rate these land sharks on the fictitious values which they will certainly put upon their acres. The pressure of the tax will compel them to let go at reasonable prices, and we shall have cheap land and plenty of cheap houses. (John Cameron in the Coatbridge Leader.)

SHEFFIELD: On 3rd October, 1928, the Sheffield City Council by a vote of 35 to 25 resolved to publish its special report giving examples of the land prices that the Council had had to pay and recommending in favour of the Rating of Land Values. The report ought to be read and carefully considered by the present members of the Council. I will gladly supply one free of cost on receipt of a postcard with name and address. (Letter in the Daily Independent from F. Skirrow of the Yorkshire League, 120, Skipton Road, Keighley; same pamphlet on same terms also to be had from *Land & Liberty* offices.)

LONDON: The justice of this reform (proposed by Henry George) may be clearly seen when it is realized that the rent and value of land are not due to ownership but to the presence and activities of the community and rightly belong to the community. No body of men should be more determined to realize this reform

than ministers of the Gospel, for the present system of private property in land is a direct denial of Scripture and of natural law. (J. Campbell of West Kilbride, Ayrshire, in the British Weekly.)

MUCH CORRESPONDENCE: It is gratifying to see in our "press clippings" so many letters discussing and advancing the land values principle and policy. They all are quotable and if we just had the space. Some writers in recent national and local papers are: K. E. Abbott, Bristol; Alex Campbell, Glasgow; E. M. Ginders, Manchester; E. A. Lassen, Bradford; J. H. McGuigan, Portsmouth; A. J. Mace, Glasgow; A. Williams Price, Wrexham; W. Roberts, Worthing; C. Wright, Birmingham; and a number writing under pen-names. The leading articles in November *Land & Liberty* on the Trend to Dictatorship circulated by our Press Bureau has had wide publicity.

"GLASGOW WEEKLY HERALD" NOT CONSERVATIVE. Mr Ronald M. Findlay, general secretary of the Scottish Liberal Federation writes:

"I have just been reading the current issue of *Land & Liberty* with my usual interest. At the foot of page 7, referring to Captain McDougal's article in the *Glasgow Weekly Herald*, you say 'and Conservative at that.' Actually, the *Weekly Herald* became a Liberal paper on 1st October, after we had negotiated an agreement with the directors, and every week now it carries Liberal matter." Mr Findlay adds: "I have just asked Mr Downie, Hon. Secretary of the Edinburgh Taxation of Land Values League, to arrange for a speaker, probably Mr Peter, of Falkirk to come and open a discussion at our weekly Speakers' Club." Mr Peter is at present conducting a fortnightly economics class, with "Progress and Poverty" as textbook, under the auspices of the Edinburgh League.

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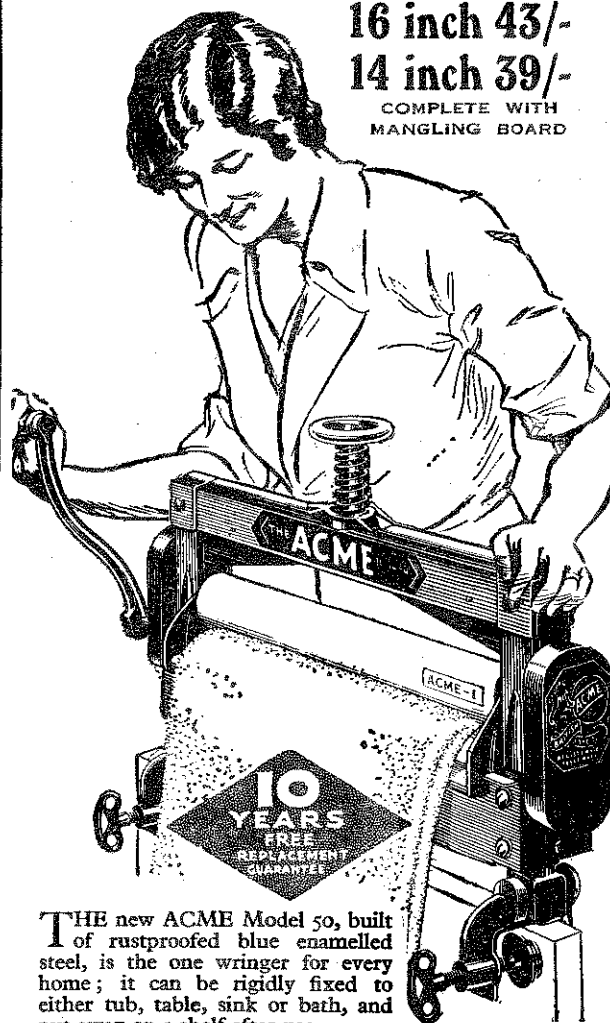
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