

LAND & LIBERTY

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Land Underlies All

Under the title of "Land Underlies All," Professor Richard T. Ely contributes to the *Christian Science Monitor* (20th May) an article from which we may quote the opening paragraphs:—

"Land is not everything, but it underlies all our activities and it is the original source of wealth. The questions involved in the planned utilization of land are local, regional, national, international and world-wide, all having to do ultimately with the satisfaction of human wants.

"The earth is utilized to supply us with food, clothing, shelter, recreation and culture. Planning in the utilization of land is designed to satisfy the wants of mankind and to establish right human relations. If relationships among men were what they should be, we would have peace and prosperity at home and peace among nations. Our subject reaches, then, from the individual who is cultivating a farm or occupying a piece of land as a home to the varied economic relations within the nation and to the relations of nations to one another. The ultimate aim, the goal of our strivings, is nothing less than the establishment of the economic foundations of peace. This is a far-away goal, to be sure, but it is a goal toward which we should move unceasingly. It is our lodestar."

Why After National Boundaries?

Prof. Ely then goes on to say: "The wars of the world have been from the beginning wars for the control of natural resources.

"In order to avoid wars in the future, we must so plan out the uses of land that foods and raw materials will be available to all the nations of the world and to this end we must so reconstruct national boundaries that by wise planning the best use may be made of the land. Surely we have here a staggering job worthy of our best efforts for its solution. True, for the attainment of world peace something more is needed than planning out the uses of land, but this is essential as a foundation for other efforts and, without this, the other efforts, in my judgment, are futile."

This is, indeed, a lame and impotent conclusion. However much national boundaries be reconstructed, land will still be owned by those who own it at present. Alteration of national boundaries can give nothing that could not be attained under freedom of trade with existing boundaries.

To attain the best use of land involves that those who need the land shall have access to it upon fair terms, that the product of their labour shall not be taken from them by destructive taxation, and that the value of land which is created by all should be used for the benefit of all.

A Subtle Plea for Privilege

The remainder of the article is an equally plain evasion of the problem. There is much about planning the utilization of land, selecting the right size of holding, and so on, but nothing about the aggregation of immense

areas of land in the hands of a few, nor about the great increases in value which the progress of society gives to those few.

Indeed, there is a disguised and subtle plea for more privileges for landowners. Professor Ely says: "Turning to the cities, we find landowners generally in distress. Roughly speaking, and with not too much exaggeration, we may say that real estate in some of our great cities has become bankrupt."

A professor of economics must know as well as anyone that the term real estate is ambiguous and misleading. It applies to the land and the buildings combined. That some people have suffered from rash speculation in land value is true, and some of those who have done so are in distress. The remedy evidently is to stop such speculation by imposing taxation on the value of the land. On the other hand, the provision of buildings has been obstructed by the heavy taxation upon buildings which adds so much to the cost of occupying them. But as we have mentioned Professor Ely has nothing to say about taxation.

A New Way to Pay Old Debts

One of the most amusing, if not the most sensible, of recent contributions to the tithe controversy, is contained in a letter by Mr Somerset de Chair, M.P., to the *Birmingham Post* (20th June), in which he says that tithe was originally a tenth of the produce of the land and therefore a tax on food producers. As two-thirds of our food is now imported, he suggests that two-thirds of the tithe, say £2,000,000, should be levied upon imported foodstuffs. The landlords here would thus have their tithe reduced to one-third.

Mr de Chair, who entitles his proposal "A New Way to Pay Old Tithes," evidently labours under the delusion that taxes upon imports are not paid by the consumer but by the foreign exporter, the foreigner in this case including a good many British subjects in the Dominions and Colonies. But if it is so simple as this, why not let the foreigner pay the whole of our taxation, and abolish the income tax, the death duties, the excise and all other taxation? Still, perhaps it is as well that economic law makes this impossible. Deplorable as the state of the world is, it would be ten times worse if every country could engage in the immoral plan of raising its taxation upon the citizens of other countries.

Protection and Potatoes

The National Farmers Union of Scotland has issued a memorandum to the Potato Marketing Board and to Scottish M.P.s, claiming that "until there is a definite clearing in the stocks of home potatoes no further imports from Northern Ireland to Scotland should be permitted."

One of those to whom this was sent was Sir Murdoch Macdonald, M.P., who according to the *Glasgow Herald* (9th June) replied that he was simply amazed at such a dangerous principle. "Just imagine what would happen to Scotland if a similar Order were applied to her produce by England and Northern Ireland. This is the first

time that I have heard a responsible body of people deliberately suggest the breaking up of the unity of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in commercial matters. No longer could there be free interchange of goods between the various parts of the country if your principle were adopted."

He added, however, that he was doing all he could "to help our home producers where in competition with foreign potatoes." He does not see that the dangerous principle is at work there also, and that tariffs are breaking up the unity of the world, just as a tariff between the parts of this country would break up its unity. Yet the Scottish farmers were perfectly logical in their protectionist demand. If tariffs and restrictions are good things they should surround every county, every village and indeed every field, that the land may have abounding prosperity.

Westminster Hospital Site

It was announced on 27th May that the site of Westminster Hospital had been sold to Messrs John Laing & Co., the well-known firm of building contractors, for the sum of approximately £350,000. The intention is to erect striking new office buildings incorporating all modern ideas but at the same time in complete harmony with Westminster Abbey, which stands opposite.

The land was bought by the Governors of the Hospital in 1831 from the Treasury for £6,000. In a little more than 100 years its value has increased nearly sixty fold.

The transaction has occasioned a remarkable letter from Mr John Laing himself, published in *The Times* of 1st June, saying that his firm was happy to pay the price, which means that the land is well worth it, Mr Laing pointed out that:

The purchase should focus public attention on the necessity that all land should belong to the nation in order that the increase in values which is continually taking place should be reaped by the nation.

Although in this case the benefit goes to a charity, in the majority of similar cases:

The benefit goes to individuals who have done little to cause the increase in value. Further, if all land belonged to the nation, beneficial schemes could be carried out without difficulty or expense. If a district became obsolete, the Government could arrange that as soon as the lease expired the whole district could be rebuilt, with new arterial roads, to meet the requirements of the time. This is a benefit the value of which cannot be fully appreciated. It would clear away slums and make our towns beautiful and healthy.

This letter has aroused widespread comment, more especially as Mr Laing stated his views as a declared "Conservative and landowner," which has shocked and enraged the defenders of the landed interest.

Mr Laing's Proposal

Proposing nationalization, Mr Laing would postpone the transfer of the land to the public for 60 years, during which time the private landowners would continue to appropriate the rent of land. On the lapse of 60 years "all land, including the sites of buildings, would belong to the nation." By way of compensation to landowners, Mr Laing proposes this formula: "Let all property and land be freed from rates and income tax for one year and the benefit of this relief go to the owner of the land to be considered as a sinking fund which would pay for the freehold in 60 years."

Whether this exemption would apply, in this year of relief, to death duties on estates is a fair question.

But apart from that, let us take it that the total amount of annual rates and taxes on landed property, *buildings* as well as land (a large part being paid by *occupiers* and not by owners) is £400,000,000. Mr Laing's proposal is in effect the gift to landowners of a capital sum of £400,000,000 now on condition of their surrendering their property rights 60 years hence and without further payment for them—on condition also surely that in the 60 years no Parliament would revoke the Act or revise the bargain, a contingency no one could provide against.

Who Would Pay?

As we understand the proposal, the gift of the £400,000,000 to landowners would be made up not only by exempting them from taxation but also by enabling them when collecting rent during that year to pocket the benefit of the abolition of occupiers' rates, probably by legal powers conferred. Parliament and the local authorities would be deprived of £400,000,000 of revenue and would have to make it good by special taxation or by borrowing, which in effect is deferred taxation. What imposts would be devised for this? Another consideration is that the owners of valuable vacant land, which is exempt from taxation, would get nothing of this £400,000,000, although they would like other landowners be privileged to rent and collect rent for the next 60 years.

But we need not labour Mr Laing's scheme. He has lined up emphatically with the sentiment that the land belongs to the people, that the value of land is a public value and should serve no interest but the public interest. The next step is to see that this ideal must be achieved by stopping the private appropriation of the value of land, taxing it onto the public treasury; and the compensatory as well as the complementary part of that policy is to abolish all taxation on the work of man's hand.

The Milk Bill

At a meeting of Manchester Public Health Committee on 9th June it was reported that the annual milk bill of the municipal hospitals now amounted to £30,000, compared with £25,000 before the Milk Marketing Board was established. A deputation to the Ministry of Health had been informed that there was little prospect of preferential rates being granted to local authorities as in the case of private manufacturers of chocolate and cheese. A resolution was adopted expressing disapproval of the policy of the Government in subsidizing private traders at the expense of municipal and voluntary hospitals.

It would have been more to the point to have passed a resolution condemning the whole milk marketing scheme. Its object is to increase the price of milk to the ordinary consumer, and as the price is so high that the ordinary consumer cannot buy all the milk produced, the residue must either be destroyed or sold to manufacturers below cost.

Its ultimate result must be to increase rent and neither the farmer nor the labourer will be any better off in the long run.

Irish Protectionism

At the International Labour Conference in Geneva on 14th June, Mr Ferguson, the delegate of the Irish Free State, made a defence of restrictions on International Trade. It was the old plea of the protectionist for encouraging manufactures, diversifying industry and securing national self-sufficiency.

According to the *Free Trader* (June) last year the

Irish Free State derived £10 millions of revenue from tariffs. This was about one-third of the total revenue, and about one-third the value of her imports. The new Budget imposes much increased tariff duties. "Those of 33½ per cent are in a small minority, while those of 50, 60 and 75 per cent are numerous."

The fact that goods still go into Ireland and yield so much revenue proves that in fact the tariff does not encourage home industry in the way that the protectionists pretend. What does happen, however, is that the common people of Ireland bear an enormous burden of indirect and concealed taxation in the price of the commodities they consume.

One may wonder whether the vested interests are not skilfully making use of the sentiment in favour of political independence to establish a stronger economic servitude.

Does Scotland Need a Plan?

At an annual gathering of Scottish Business Clubs at Gleneagles, Dr James A. Bowie, Principal of the School of Economics, Dundee, gave an address on the theme "Scotland needs a Plan." The report occupies a column in the *Scotsman* (18th June) and we may assume that nothing of importance was omitted, but we find no indication of what the plan is to be. The only definite suggestion is that an Economic General Staff should be set up at a cost of £50,000 a year for five years. This body would devote itself to the task of searching for or making a plan.

There seems to be something hypnotic about the idea of planning. The good fairy has only to wave her magic wand and keep on repeating the word planning for five years and all will be well.

But does Scotland need a plan? Does she not need rather freedom from quotas, tariffs and restrictions, freedom from the rates and taxes which hamper industry and impoverish her people, freedom from land monopoly which prevents the people from using the land, the only source from which they can produce the things which are the object of economic endeavour?

Land for South African Natives

In the discussion of the Native Land and Trust Bill in the Union Parliament General Hertzog, the Prime Minister of South Africa, announced that the government would set aside £10,000,000 for the purchase of land to be held in trust for natives. The correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* (18th June) states that the Bill "releases" about 23,000 square miles for purchase or lease by natives, but the land is not given to the natives nor will they have the sole right of purchase. They will have to compete with Europeans, and their "position as competitors will be materially strengthened by the provision of this capital sum."

If competition is strengthened, no doubt prices will rise—a happy position for those who own the land. No one, of course, asks how it is that the natives do not own the land and that others do. Like most primitive communities the South African natives knew nothing of absolute property in land until Europeans introduced it. The destruction of communal rights to land and the imposition of taxation to be paid in money compelled the native to go to the mines and elsewhere to earn money at low wages. The South African government evidently intends that it shall not be too easy to get land and that its price shall be kept up. Those who desire cheap labour will support this policy, but as more and more of the European population are being reduced to the status of labourers, they may yet discover that the system which injures the native injures them also.

PRESERVATION OR SPECULATION?

An East Anglian correspondent writes:—

"The Preservation Societies should be the first to advocate your principles. Yet they limit themselves to asking for funds to buy up land the price of which is put up against them. Until they do become prominent advocates they occupy the unenviable position of being totally immoral (though legally correct) on the one hand, and on the other posing as guided by high moral principles in the public interest. Unfortunately the two most prominent preservation societies are Oxford and Cambridge, the Colleges of which have an inherited tradition of land exploitation. In case you have not seen it, there is a paper by E. P. Weller in the *Junior Chartered Surveyors' Institution*, March-April, 1936, in which he says he has had offered to the College (Caius) estates totalling some 80,000 acres. Colleges are now buying up land wherever it offers a chance of exploitation. This tradition is responsible for the dual and contradictory rôles played by the same people as members of Colleges and of the Preservation Society. For my part, the Preservation Society will not have a penny from me, such money as I can spare will go to advocacy of taxation of Land Values.—Which, by the way, leads me to enclose 10s., being subscription for the coming International Conference."

THE GROWTH OF LAND VALUES

The *Daily Mail* (9th June) carried an interesting story of the growth of land values as evidenced by various trust funds derived from land from which we quote some examples.

The John Lyon Fund—really two separate endowments—was in 1592 a gift of about 80 acres of land, worth about £20. Each year now those few grass plots bring £20,000, and as time goes on the value grows.

John Lyon was the founder of Harrow School and gave land to be used for the making of a road from Harrow and Edgware to Tyburn Tree, now Marble Arch. That land now bears some of the most imposing frontages on the main roads into the West End of London, with a huge commercial value.

Another, the Harvist Trust, cost about £10, and brings in each year £850. In five years, when leases made in 1860 expire, the land may jump to a value nearly 20 times as much. The Harvist Trust was also begun to keep Edgware Road in repair and is now the rental from land in Marylebone.

The Williams Trust: Caerleon, Monmouth, has benefited to the extent of £250,000 because of a duel fought between Charles Williams and a cousin, who was killed. Williams fled and made a fortune in Smyrna, returning to leave most of it to the town.

The William Hulme Trust: He left land producing £60 a year for scholarships at Oxford. To-day it endows 20 a year and yields several thousands of pounds.

The Humphrey Booth Charity: From a small beginning an income of £22,000 a year is received, and most of it is distributed to the aged poor of Salford.

"Tithe ought to have been merged long ago in the annual value of land. The House knows that some of us hold strong views on what might happen then to the lump sum value of land."—Mr Andrew McLaren, M.P., speaking on the Third Reading of the Tithe Bill, House of Commons, 29th June. Speaking on the Committee Stage of the Finance Bill, 30th June, Mr McLaren exposed the injustice of the Tea Duty. Extract from the Parliamentary Report will appear in our next issue.

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THE HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS

The grave dangers to peace and prosperity caused by the growth of economic nationalism is dealt with by Professor Lionel Robbins in an article on "The Consequences of Economic Nationalism" in *Lloyds Bank Review* for May. After pointing out that protectionism involves a loss of real income for all parties, because "the wrong goods are produced in the wrong places," he deals with some of the results which have come from increase of tariffs.

The enormous increase in agricultural tariffs in Europe, to buy the votes of agrarian electors, has raised prices in some cases hundreds per cent above world prices. The food-producing countries are destroying or ceasing to produce food. They become unable to pay their debts, and the export of capital in machines and manufactured articles from Europe is stopped.

Although Professor Robbins does not hold the view that wars in the past have been due to economic causes, he fears that "in a world of exclusive economic nationalism it is likely to become a grim and horrible reality." Trade instead of being a matter of negotiation between individuals depends upon the negotiations of politicians. "Instead of a consignment of sardines from Utopia to Ruritania being a matter of trade between Utopian and Ruritanian merchants, it becomes a matter of diplomacy." As a result of this policy of bilateral agreements and government bargains "if anything goes wrong it is much more likely to lead to political friction than when private merchants were the parties involved."

He contends that "the main danger is the worsening of relations between States of unequal natural resources and populations, the Haves and the Have-nots."

"It is a commonplace of elementary economics that, so long as trade and investment are free, territorial possession is a matter of secondary importance. So long as territorial possession involves no discrimination against the foreigner, the fact of possession confers no major gain, its absence no important disadvantage. No doubt the possession of an empire does involve some economic advantage. It affords outlets for employment in government service—the one service for which recruitment is almost necessarily chiefly confined to citizens. It carries with it some sentimental and linguistic advantage in matters of contracts. But quantitatively, so long as trade is free, these things do not amount to much."

"But once the principles of economic nationalism hold sway, the position is changed completely. If national (or imperial) areas are to be treated as private property, their markets preserved for citizens of the group in question, their resources open only to development by national (or imperial) capital, then territorial

possession does matter very much indeed. If such is the state of affairs, then it is true that those outside the charmed circle may be very seriously affected by decisions which are taken within it. It does mean that absence of territorial possession may be a very grave disadvantage. The claim for a place in the sun ceases to be empty bombast, it becomes the fateful expression of an urgent and insistent need.

"Now this is a very serious matter—and the more fortunate an area is in its initial possessions the more probable the ultimate menace to its security. If it can truly be said by the leaders of a hungry people 'your poverty is the result of their policy. Your deprivation is the result of their possession,' then there is grave risk of war, there is real danger of a combination of the 'have-nots' to plunder the 'haves'."

Professor Robbins speaks of barriers to trade and investment, but he does not make it clear that these barriers consist of anything else than tariffs, quotas, and other hindrances to exchange. The lowering or indeed the abolition of such obstacles is not enough, so long as there still remain barriers against the production of wealth. Taxation which penalizes the products of labour is objectionable, even although it does not directly impinge upon exchange. But even more important is the system of land tenure which permits some people to hold land out of use and prevent other people from working. This has a special bearing upon the struggle between the Haves and Have-nots. It is not sufficient for the Haves to say to the Have-nots: "Be content. We have abolished obstacles to exchange," if at the same time they maintain a system which prevents the desired raw materials from being produced.

The general result of the acquisition of Colonial possessions by European powers has been not only to disturb the primitive economy of the native inhabitants, but also to introduce absolute and unregulated private property in land—and very often in the worst form of gigantic estates and concessions granted to specially privileged individuals or corporations. In addition, in many cases there are restrictions upon immigration, and restrictions upon the rights of foreigners to acquire land.

Unless these obstacles to the production of raw materials are destroyed, the grievances of the Have-nots are not remedied. Where natural resources have not been reduced to private ownership, the remedy is for the State to lease them at rents revised periodically according to the land value to those who desire to use them. Where natural resources have been appropriated, the remedy is for the State to abolish all discriminatory regulations and to charge those who hold the land with taxation proportioned to its value, at the same time removing all other burdensome taxation. It will then become impossible for the owners to hold land out of use, and economic pressure will compel them to allow the land to be used by those who require it.

Such legislation will not only be to the advantage of the Have-nots among nations, but it will be to the advantage of the great majority of the citizens of the State concerned. A monopolistic regime cannot be to the advantage of any but the monopolists themselves, and we must never forget that there are not only Haves and Have-nots among nations, there are also Haves and Have-nots among the peoples of all countries. The problem is not solely or even mainly a question between nations as nations, but a question between individuals in every land. To prevent war is important, but to abolish unnecessary and undeserved poverty is still more important.

F. C. R. D.

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

LONDON: 1st TO 5th SEPTEMBER, 1936

Enrolments for the Conference are now reaching us by every post. Below is the list as we go to press, including members who intimate that in view of distance or for other reasons they will not be able to attend in person. The countries represented include England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the United States of America (12 States), Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Holland, France, Spain, Greece, Austria, Palestine, Iceland.

Official welcome will be given to Members and Delegates by Alderman Ewart G. Culpin, F.R.I.B.A., J.P., the Vice-Chairman of the London County Council. (Lord Snell, the Chairman of the London Council has written regretting his inability to be present as he will be abroad during that period).

Arrangements for the Programme and Time-table, although not yet completed, are well advanced and the outline that follows will indicate the scope and the importance of the discussions. The Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy will open the Conference on 2nd September with his Presidential Address, the two sessions of that day being devoted to the *Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression*. Mr Hennessy is planning to leave New York on 12th August so as to have at least a fortnight in London and take personal part in the final arrangements. Mrs Anna George de Mille who is arriving in London on 1st July, still earlier in advance of the Conference, will be one of the speakers on the Conference evening, 2nd September, given to the Commemoration of the Henry George Anniversary. Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh is expected and his participation with his testimony to what his City has done to institute land value taxation in lieu of taxes on buildings will be particularly welcome. Members will look forward with great interest to the paper on the *Work of the Henry George School of Social Science* to be presented by Mr Lancaster Greene.

Looking at the Programme, some of the notable papers are on *Colonial Land Tenure and Taxation* by the Right Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood M.P.; on *Reactions and Results of Trade Restrictions* by Mr Bue Björner of Denmark; on *State Interference in Industry* by Mr H. Kolthek of Holland; on the *Land Question in Russia*, by M. Daudé Bancel of France; on the *Past and the Present of Georgism in Spain*, by Professor A. Matheu Alonso; on *Denmark's Ten Years' Experience of Land Value Taxation in Practice*, by Mr Abel Brink of the Danish Land Valuation Department, and colleague of Mr K. J. Kristensen, from whom also a paper on the *Valuation of Land in Denmark* is expected; on *Agriculture and Economic Depression* by Capt. A. R. McDougal. But to mention all here would simply be to repeat the Programme as printed below.

Associated with Mrs Anna George de Mille at the Commemoration Anniversary on the birthday of Henry George, in the tributes to be paid, will be Mr Baldomero Argente of Spain and Mr Jakob E. Lange of Denmark, two names that stand out with special prominence in our International movement. This Commemoration will take the form of a Social Gathering, free from the formalities of a set dinner and with only light refreshments provided. And to this session, as to all others (excepting those confined to duly enrolled members of the International Union) the Committee will issue Visitors' Tickets inviting the attendance of all who are interested in the proceedings.

One day has been added to the Programme as already announced. Members are invited to attend at the Hall on Tuesday, 1st September, from 2 o'clock onwards, for registration, reception, and the opportunity to become acquainted with one another before the real work of the Conference begins on the following day. It is a common experience at such Conferences that once the business has started the chance for informal conversations is scarce enough. On the evening of 1st September there will be a business meeting of Members of the International Union to receive usual executive reports and confirm the arrangements made for the rest of the week; and the Union has a further business session on Friday, 4th September.

The dominant note to be struck by the Conference is the establishment of world peace and prosperity through freedom as taught by Henry George. As Mr Hennessy has lately written: "The shadows of another war hang low over the population of Europe. We know the reason why. Until men within national boundaries are set free by access to natural opportunities through the destruction of land monopoly and the reduction of tax burdens, that bear so heavily upon the production of wealth, you will not have peace at home in any land; and until the manifold political obstructions to freedom between the nations that arise out of protective tariffs, quotas, exchange limitations, and other damnable interferences with natural law are done away with, you will not have any peace, either within or between nations. That is trite enough, you will say. It is trite and it is eternally true; but now as never before it needs to be pointed out again to the selfish, the stupid and the ignorant among the leaders of men. And it is our place to point it out."

It is in this sense that the organizers of the Conference have decided to call to their deliberations, by delegates appointed or by other interest they can take, those societies and organizations who in their public activity are concerned to deal with the Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression, the cause of the one being the cause of the other, so intimately are they interlinked. To make its own case abundantly clear and spread the understanding of its policy as far as a postal campaign (within limits) can achieve this, the Union is sending with these invitations a special print of the Statements it circulated to the World Economic Conferences in Geneva in 1927 and in London in 1933.

We are indebted to those of our co-workers in European and other countries who have provided lists of addresses so that the knowledge of the Conference and its purpose can be extended to that wider boundary too. Interest is also engaged in the two other days of the Conference (3rd and 4th September—morning and afternoon) when there will be open discussion on the subjects *Land Value Taxation in Practice* and on *The State and the Individual*.

The Sessions on *Land Value Taxation in Practice* will be of special interest to local authorities and all bodies concerned with the administration and finance of local government; and for these sessions (alone) invitations are being sent to a large number of local councils in Great Britain (and some abroad), the British local authorities including those that have lately declared by resolution in favour of the land value policy and have helped so much, led in particular by the Cardiff City Council, to advance this municipal agitation.

International Conference

The principal Papers will be circulated beforehand to Members and Delegates in attendance. They will be "taken as read" so that as much time as possible will be allowed for discussion, authors introducing their papers in short speeches.

For each separate session, a Chairman and Deputy Chairman will be appointed, the Chairman having ten minutes for his or her introductory remarks.

The Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, where the Conference is being held, will be available from 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st September, for the rest of the week. Morning Sessions will begin at 9.45 with adjournment at 12.30; Afternoon Sessions at 2.30 and Evening Sessions at 7.30.

* * *

We appeal to our co-workers everywhere to give their moral and financial support to the Conference, and the appeal is to do this whether or not you can actually attend. The Conference Membership Fee is 10s. and if the subscriber wishes (adding written declaration that he or she adheres to the Objects of the International Union) this Conference Fee includes also Membership Fee of the Union itself. Apart from the Conference Membership Fee, donations of any amount, small or large, toward the expenses of the Conference and for aiding the Union in its general work will be welcome. Remittances may be made payable to Mr Ashley Mitchell, the Hon. Treasurer.

Every name will count in the influence we may hope to have upon public thought and governmental action. Therefore, we again emphasize the help every one can give by associating with the Conference, whether as a member to be present, or as a member who because of distance or for other reasons cannot attend.

The Conference is convened by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, the objects of which are: "To stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war, as these causes are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. Specifically towards the realization of these objects, the Union favours the raising of public revenues by taxes and rates upon the value of land apart from improvements in order to secure the economic rent for the community and the abolition of taxes, tariffs, or imposts of every sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth."

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PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS

The following is the outline of the Programme, which is subject to alterations as circumstances may determine:

First Day: Tuesday, 1st September

AFTERNOON

Reception and Registration of Members.

EVENING

General Meeting of the International Union (Members only) to receive reports on the Union's work and to confirm Conference arrangements.

Second Day: Wednesday, 2nd September

THE ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR AND INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION

MORNING SESSION

Presidential Address.

Papers Presented: Reactions and Results of Trade Restrictions, by Mr Bue Björner, Denmark; Access to Raw Materials and the Alleged Need for Expansion, by Mr Ole Wang, Norway.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented: Colonial Systems of Land Tenure and Taxation, by the Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P.; Causes of Fear, by Dr S. Vere Pearson, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.; Public Debts and Indirect Taxation, by M. Sam Mayer, France.

EVENING

HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AND REUNION

Addresses by Mrs Anna George de Mille; Mr Baldomero Argente, Spain; and Jakob E. Lange, Denmark.

Third Day: Thursday, 3rd September

LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE

MORNING SESSION

Papers Presented: Land Valuation in Denmark, by Mr K. J. Kristensen, Chief of the Land Valuation Department in Denmark; General Summary of the Legislation in Operation in Various Countries, by Mr A. W. Madsen; Digest of Official Replies to Questionnaire as to the Working and Results of the Local Taxation of Land Values, addressed to local authorities in Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Pennsylvania, by Mr F. C. R. Douglas.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented: Town Planning and Taxation: Friends or Foes? by Mr Harold S. Buttenheim; Ten Years' Experience of Land Value Taxation (Local and National) in Denmark—1926 to 1936, by Mr Abel Brink, of the Danish Land Valuation Department; the British Municipal Demand for Land Value Rating, by C. A. Gardner, Cardiff; Exemption of Improvements and Land Value Taxation in Pittsburgh, Pa., by the Hon. Wm. McNair, Mayor of Pittsburgh.

EVENING SESSION

THE LAND QUESTION IN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Addresses on: Agriculture and the Economic Depression by Capt. Arthur R. McDougal, Berwickshire; The Violation of Native Land Rights, by the Rev. Mervyn Stewart, Manuden, Essex; The Insufficiency of Remedies Currently Advocated for Raising Wages, by E. J. McManus, Liverpool; an open session with general discussion.

International Conference

Fourth Day : Friday, 4th September THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

MORNING SESSION

Papers Presented : State Interference in Industry, by Mr. H. Kolthek, Member of the Groningen City and County Councils, Holland ; True Free Trade and *Laissez Faire*, by W. R. Lester, M.A. ; Karl Marx and Henry George, by F. McEachran, M.A., B.Litt.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented : Problems of Population, by Pastor Chr. Norley, Secretary of the Christian Social League, Denmark ; Tax Exemption True and False, by Professor H. Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics, University of Missouri ; The Land Question in Russia, by M. Daudé Bancel, Secretary of the Free Trade League of France.

EVENING SESSION

GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION

Business relating to the Constitution of the Union ; nominations and Election of the Officers for the ensuing period. Adoption of Conference Resolutions. Date and Place of the next Conference. Other Business as may arise.

Fifth Day : Saturday, 5th September

MORNING SESSION

PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES

Papers Presented : The Past and Present of Georgeism in Spain, by Professor A. Mathen Alonso ; The Reform of Taxation in Spain, by Mr. Baldomero Argente ; Discussion introduced on the position in other countries.

AFTERNOON SESSION

HOW TO ADVANCE THE OBJECTS OF THE CONFERENCE

Paper Presented : The Work of the Henry George School of Social Science, by Mr. Lancaster Greene, New York. General discussion on propaganda in the educational and political field ; the work of the Henry George Foundations and national and local organizations ; consideration of methods of publicity ; circulation of literature and periodicals ; platform and press work ; engaging the interest and support of political, economic, social and religious associations.

EVENING

As not all the details of the Conference have been fixed, and some revision or extension of what goes before may be found necessary, the arrangements for this evening will be announced later.

LAND VALUE RATING

Theory and Practice

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CHINA**Sun Yat-sen's Policy**

An article by Mr C. F. Strickland on "Chinese Farmers" in *The Times* (22nd June) gives some useful information about land taxation. He says:—

"There is in China no record whatever of land ownership, no system of demarcating boundaries, and no orderly method of assessing and collecting the land tax. The land records are in the hands of hereditary leeches who alone know what each field ought (according to an assessment 200 years old) annually to pay. The figure being a secret, the amount actually extorted depends on the annual contest between the strength of the assessor and the skill of the assessee.

"The system of land tax proposed by Dr Sun Yat-sen was one in which the owner of the land would himself declare its value and pay on it accordingly, but the State would check the natural tendency towards a low declaration by buying, at the declared figure, any land it desired. Though this system has nowhere yet been put into force, the first steps towards its introduction are being taken in the southern province of Kwangsi. The outcome will be interesting to study, and may result in an alleviation of the peasant's burden; he suffers at present not only from a tax which in certain areas is heavy, but from a marked irregularity in assessment and collection.

"What China really needs is a complete remeasurement of the land, a verification of title, and a reassessment of the tax. Communism among the peasants is not understood and accepted as a doctrine, but is adopted as a practical means of escape from the inequalities and severities of taxation, and also, in certain districts, from oppression by the landlord. If the injustice of the land system were remedied there would be no Communism in rural China."

The Central Government is struggling with the problem of abolishing tax-farming, making a survey and register of land ownership, and an assessment of land values for the purpose of the Sun Yat-sen plan. One of its difficulties is the lack of trained officials to carry out the task. Mr Strickland says:—

"The young men now trained in the Central Political Institute at Nanking are zealous and well instructed. Good magistrates are also recruited from other sources, and the peasant appreciates a change in quality. One

enthusiast, for instance, dealt with the defective system of the land records by summoning all the hereditary (unofficial) tax collectors of his district to a conference; he then arrested them and held them in prison until a band of young men whom he kept in readiness had carried out a hasty but reasonably just reassessment of the whole area."

CANADA

From the *Bulletin* of the Canadian Single Tax Association, Mr Herbert T. Owens, Hon. Secretary, 30 Classic Avenue, Toronto:

On 27th May, five representatives of the Association, Mr J. H. Patterson, Mr Arthur B. Farmer, Mr Alan C. Thompson, Mr J. H. Owens and Mr A. C. Ross, appeared before the Toronto Board of Control to support a resolution from our Association, urging that vacant and improved land owned by the City should not be sold, as under the present policy, but be leased only, in order to conserve future increments in value for the City. It was ably argued by Messrs Patterson, Thompson and Farmer, that the plan would also tend to stimulate the immediate building of homes on many vacant lots and thus also help solve the present serious unemployment problem.

The Association was represented at the Canadian Youth Congress held in Ottawa, 23rd, 24th, 25th May, by Mr J. Roy Cadwell, Mrs Veronica Cadwell, with Miss S. Marion Ross as an official observer. There were 456 delegates in attendance, representing 343,666 Canadian young people.

Resolutions introduced by Mr Cadwell were reflected in the final findings of the Congress as follows: "That the principal cause of war is to be found in the power of economic monopolies, within nations, leading to international rivalries for the control of raw materials, and fields for profitable investment, which result in imperialistic policies endangering the peaceful relations of the great industrial nations."

For several weeks Messrs Ernest Farmer and A. C. Ross have been attending meetings of representatives of Toronto monetary reform groups. On 20th and 22nd May, Mr Farmer presented the Henry George monetary principles—and succeeded in clearly indicating that gains would be very small from any monetary reforms which did not include land reform. If from these meetings a Federation for Monetary Reform is developed, as expected, Single Tax principles will be carefully examined and considered.

SPEAKER'S NOTE BOOK

Costly Burials at Ashton-under-Lyne.—Resolving to acquire land for a cemetery, it was agreed by the Council to pay £1,400 for 4½ acres at Jubilee Dingle—£1,400 for agricultural land so "worthless" on the valuation roll that it is entirely exempt from rates. The *Ashton-under-Lyne Herald* of 13th June reports: The Chairman of the Cemeteries and Recreative Grounds Committee (Councillor Green) said the problem of finding land for cemeteries was rather a difficult one, many authorities had to go considerable distances to acquire suitable land. Councillor Radcliffe said this was a case where public improvements had made land extremely valuable and "the estate were taking advantage of it"—which shows by the way how one can see part of the truth but not all. It is unreasonable to blame the landowner for taking advantage of this publicly created value. Along that road is no hope of progress or escape from this daylight plunder. The injustice committed lies at the door of the Councillors who from their high place do nothing to force the pace for appropriating by taxation this land value fund so that the people can take advantage of it. Incidentally it was pointed out that burial being made expensive, cremation was increasing—strange outcome, cremation company shareholders benefit by virtue of land monopoly.

Another Cemetery—a Bebington example.—This is in Cheshire. According to the *Liverpool Post*, 8th June, the Bebington Council "for some years" (mark you) has been seeking a site in the southern end of its area for cemetery purposes. The Council is now considering the purchase of the house known as Plymyard, Eastham, and its estate of 48 acres at the price of £25,000. Apart from the house (which is hardly likely to serve for cemetery purposes or as a mausoleum) the proposed payment is, in effect for the land alone and it works out at £521 per acre. Responsible Bebington Councillors should allow the public to compare the present rateable value of that estate with the price they are expected to pay for it.

Wanted—a School in Birmingham.—"There was no other land in the neighbourhood," repeating the constant cry, and the only alternative was compulsory purchase. Thus Ald W. Byng, the Chairman of the Education Committee defended the proposal to pay £7,750 for 6½ acres near Addison Road, King's Heath, for a school site. Councillor Bradbeer wanted the matter referred back, saying it was all back land and difficult to develop as a housing site. The public should know that the Corporation did not intend that to be bled in this way. Councillor W. S. Lewis said it was "a case of daylight robbery." Councillor Alderson: "The land was previously used for allotments rented at £3 an acre. The point was made by Councillor G. F. Sawyer that if the land was really worth £1,100 an acre, the owner should be rated and assessed on that value. But the resolution was passed, and with it the decision that the Corporation be duly bled notwithstanding any public protest.—The May meeting of the Council as reported in the *Birmingham Gazette* of 5th May.

Owners will not Sell in Cardiff.—The Housing and Town Planning Committee (*Western Mail*, 24th June) heard a deputation of the Unemployed Workers' Association which represented that the Corporation were building houses too far away from the city centre and there were acres of land near the municipal buildings which could be utilized. Councillor A. J. Williams

said means should be adopted to overcome the acquisition of land; the whole question of rents in Cardiff should be reviewed. The City Engineer said that the Corporation had tried to buy land but the owners would not sell. The land below Leckwith (which had also been referred to in the discussion) was not fit for building. Even if it were filled in it would be years before it could be built upon. The owners asked from 500 to 1,000 times what the land was worth and it would cost about £200 an acre to raise that particular land.

Chigwell Golf Course.—*The Star*, 14th May, reported that the Chigwell Council, subject to Ministry of Health approval, are buying the 98½ acre Chigwell Golf course for £30,000 to make it an open space. It is to be let to the Golf Club at an annual rent of £1,200 on a 60-years' lease. At first sight this looks like a return for the money expended, but that is to be deceived. Some one who never gave the land its value will walk off with £30,000. The community has suffered a dead loss, which would never have happened if land values had been taxed. There would have been no £30,000 monopoly value for any one to sell. The rent now being received has to be used to pay interest on the debt incurred. It is the finance of "land nationalization" on the lines of land purchase which robs the community of the rent of land and perpetuates the present tax burdens imposed to obtain public revenues.

Edinburgh Would Keep it Dark.—Holding a sitting "in private" the Edinburgh Town Council decided to "purchase" (out of ratepayers' pockets) 215 acres of ground running parallel with the Granton-Gamond foreshore. It is for future development and the price was not disclosed. The facts were elicited by Mr George Hardie, M.P., at question time in the House of Commons, 28th April. He was informed that the price was £48,500, which is at the rate of £225 an acre. Save for a dwelling house rented at £250 a year, the land is "agricultural" and had therefore a minute rateable value, paying but a few pounds in rates. It is to be rented meantime at £300 a year. Contrast this transaction with what would happen if rates were levied on the true value of land. The owner instead of getting his price of £48,500 would have been induced to "town plan" this territory himself and the public authority would have been drawing its revenue in land-value rates. As it is, the public authority and therefore the people have been mulcted in £48,500; and while the town now becomes land speculator, it faces this loss: £48,500 paid out and only £475 a year for house and land coming in.

Playing Fields in Glasgow.—Under pressure of the landed interests, playing fields in private hands were among the properties that were given conditional exemption from the land value tax enacted in the (since repealed) provisions of the Finance Act, 1931. A striking example of the true value of such land is shown in the offer of six acres of "sports ground" in Crow Road made to the Glasgow Corporation by the firm of Barclay, Curie & Co.—£13,500, which is £2,250 per acre. The Police Committee were wanting it for the recreation of the police, but that idea was rejected and the Council at its June meeting (*Glasgow Herald* report) decided that the Finance Committee should consult with the Parks and Education Committee with a view to acquiring the ground for the use of the public. In the dispute whether the police (only) or the public (as

Speaker's Note Book

a whole) should be allowed to disport themselves on this scarce bit of ground, no one seemed to have a say about the price, and what it meant. At least, the saying was not reported. Yet the Glasgow Council in its time had led powerful agitation for the land value rating policy that would make land cheap enough for all purposes.

Grimstby Allotments.—The Ministry of Health has been pressing the Corporation to make provision for permanent allotments to replace those the tenure of which is not secure. It is the Ministerial pressure which is sending the price of desirable land sky-high, because as at present advised the Councils have to resort to land purchase. So a nice little account was presented to the Corporation by the owner of land at Little Coates, if they wanted to buy it—£5,000 for 13½ acres. Councillor Collinson said: "We cannot afford to pay £370 an acre for allotment or for any other land in that neighbourhood for any purpose." Nor could the allotment holders afford to pay the rent the Corporation would have to ask. The Committee concerned passed on the landowner's letter to the Ministry of Health. More appropriate would have been the passing on of a resolution demanding the rating of land values.

Allotments Burred in Hertford.—Members of the General Committee of the Hertford Corporation (*Hertfordshire Mercury*, 12th June) strongly opposed the purchase of land for allotments at a price of nearly £200 an acre. It was Lord Desborough's agent who asked this price, making altogether £1,790 "plus the usual legal costs." No doubt this is, as stated, valuable building land and even if it is scheduled for allotments under a town planning scheme, the landowner's price still stood. But here again the sentiment "we must provide land for allotments" (at any price?) is allowed to turn attention away from the real abuse. What are the Councillors doing about it? What kind of custodians are they who make no complaint or protest against the law they have to administer: market value of land £1,790, landowner exempt from any rate-payment. It is but an example of the injury that land monopoly inflicts—allotments are scarce, housing sites are scarce, and unemployment is the shame of every community.

Liverpool Economy.—The purchase of 6½ acres of land and premises known as St Edward's College at the price of £42,430 (about £6,800 per acre) required for housing purposes was recommended to the City Council by the Liverpool Economy Committee—*Liverpool Evening Express*, 2nd May. This is the kind of economy that is helping to bankrupt the municipalities and it is a curious recommendation from a curious quarter. It would not be a surprise to know that the next item on that same Committee's agenda was the economic administration of the means-test in this once great port, now a distressed area.

Luton Held to Ransom.—In a letter to the *Beds and Herts Telegraph* of 8th June, Mr T. P. Keating (who recently led a deputation to the Council in the matter of housing) wrote: "Luton's development provides a classic example of the late Professor Roger's famous saying 'the landowner sleeps but thrives.' During the past twenty-five years owing to the mere growth of population, land values in Luton have increased by millions." Our other Luton cutting is from the *Luton News* of 18th June. The Council, wishing to create a rest garden in Stockingstone Road on a site commanding a fine view, had been faced with the landowner's price

for the 3½ acres, the Davis Estates Ltd demanding £600. The Council rejected the offer as the price was too high and the landowner remains monarch of all he surveys, his right "there is none to dispute." The Council went into Committee and decided to buy the house in Castle Street with 40 yards, where the late Mr C. H. G. Knowles lived, acquisition being for the purpose of street widening. The price was not disclosed. In very shame, the Council hides the facts from the ratepayers and electors who appointed them to look after the public interest.

Municipal Land Speculation in Portlade.—The Council has been buying and selling land and is badly caught. The *West Sussex Gazette*, 14th May, reports that at the meeting it was moved to acquire by compulsory purchase the land adjoining the Cemetery in Victoria Road for the purpose of erecting houses. The land was that recently sold by the Council, concerning which there was much resentment among the ratepayers. Major Whitehead, opposing, said it was not a financial proposition. He calculated that it would cost £8,500 to repurchase the land, or something like £10 a foot frontage and they could not build Council houses at that figure. The motion was lost. The incident shows the utter folly of the methods adopted by local authorities for dealing with the housing question. It was stated that in the urban district over 200 houses were empty but that was because tenants could not pay the rents demanded. Even the present Council houses at 16s. a week were too high, and the problem was to build other Council houses to let at not more than 10s. Mr Campbell said the trouble was "greedy landlords." No, the trouble is the reprehensible policy of land buying which has boosted land prices, and the heavy taxes on houses as soon as they are occupied. This, with the exemption of valuable land while it is held up by "greedy landlords," is responsible for such poverty in the district (within three miles of Brighton and under the beautiful Sussex Downs) that the Council has to try to build down to the level of the 10s. rent.

A. W. M.

The Geneva correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes under date, 12th June: "At the International Labour Conference the discussion of the director's report continued this morning. There has been, both yesterday and to-day, a remarkable consensus of opinion among speakers that restrictions of international trade and economic nationalism have been among the chief causes of the present economic crisis and are likely to lead to war."

ISLE OF MAN

The question of taxing land values was brought up in Tynwald on 9th June, arising from a resolution voting £4,500 for the purposes of land drainage.

Mr Norris commented upon the amount of public money that was being spent in the country districts on electricity, water supply, sewerage schemes, and land drainage. This was all increasing the value of the adjoining land, and he asked if legislation would be introduced to secure for the community a part of that value.

Mr E. B. C. Farrant denied that improving the roads added to the value of the land adjoining.

Mr Alfred Teare: You try and buy a piece.

Deemster Cowley sympathized with the idea of taxing improved land values, but felt that it should be raised by itself, and should be carefully considered. They must take care not to set up machinery which would cost more than the tax would produce.

FARM EXPERIENCES

(Extracts from letters to *Land & Liberty*)

WEST COUNTRY

From a correspondent in a village near Plymouth:—

"I confess I knew very little about the subject of Land Value Taxation until I read up the whole theme very carefully in order to compete in the Henry George Essay Competition, and I managed to master it sufficiently well to gain a prize. I don't know whether my expression is unique, and unfortunate; but it seems to me that in circles which would stand most to gain by a sane economic land theory nationally adopted there is a tendency, where the subject is now familiar by name, to regard Henry George's solution of the problem as fanciful or at least a nostrum, and not a definite cure, as to me it undoubtedly is. Labour and Socialist policies are overloaded with purely industrial concepts. The evils seen are industrial evils and to thinkers who have not gone quite deep enough the remedy must be industrial too. They cannot see that the land problem is not solely one of interest to agrarian population, but is indissolubly bound up with every phase of industrial activity, that rottenness in the land system must produce rottenness in the industrial body.

"And how is Henry George's plan regarded in the countryside? There are just under 1,000 people in this village. Agriculture is the sole pursuit. Practically every farmer is a tenant farmer, so 'his' land is a bit of a misnomer. And yet had they the eyes to see they would see that Land Value Taxation would be their salvation. They are, I think, becoming mystified at the result of the Government's levies, tariffs, subsidies, boards and the whole list of quack remedies. They can see their industry pauperized—taxes taken from industry to pay agriculture its levies, prices advancing to the consumer and consumption inevitably falling, making it more and more difficult to sell their produce; but one fact they strangely cannot see—their farms are held on short leases giving no equilibrium of rent.

"Rent is fixed by the landlord on an assessed ability to pay, and as these various State 'doles' do at one time or another find their way into the farmers' pockets—though its sojourn there is very temporary—the landlord decides his tenant has more money, he must pay more rent. Accordingly when the short time lease expires the farm is only let at an enhanced figure. It is staggering to see the number of farms constantly changing hands. The old tenant cannot pay the rent demanded and a new one is sought to make the forlorn attempt. What every Land Value Taxer knows the farmer doesn't know: *tariffs, subsidies, and the rest benefit only one class—the landowner*. He gets the entire proceeds of this camouflaged taxation—and a bit more—so the farmer, so far from being better off, is even in worse plight. This is an individual impression confirmed after three years' residence in the country."

NORTH COUNTRY

From a correspondent in Lancashire:—

"I live on a farm, and a few weeks ago a gentleman called there to see if he could buy some potatoes. During the conversation which my father and I had with him, the last-mentioned informed us that he, too, had been a farmer some few years ago, in a certain district near to Manchester. Thereupon my father asked him if he knew a certain firm and gentleman in that district who happened to have been a customer of ours some time ago, and the gentleman replied that he did, in fact the particular family were his landlords when he was

farming. At the same time he added that if he were again called upon, he would have nothing to do with this family.

"Little knowing what I should hear I asked him why he did not like them. He replied in the following manner:—

"As tenant, he paid this family, as landlords, if I remember rightly, about £199 a year, at least, when he first took on the farm. Two years prior to leaving it, he decided to buy a tractor, which together with gear occasioned him to lay out about £300. It was found, of course, that the cost of working the farm came out cheaper; in fact, the first week he ran the tractor he put his own son on the machine who did much more work than the skilled teamsman with horses could do, at less cost. The landlords heard about this, who made inquiries, and after working out costs, sent in to the tenant notice that the rent would be increased by another £50 a year. In consequence, the tenant kept on for another two years, paid the extra rent, but then cleared out. The farm remained dormant for another three years before it was taken on again.

"It is only during this last few months that I have studied Land Value Taxation seriously, but I don't think I could have had more convincing proof of Henry George's arguments."

CUMBERLAND AND SCOTLAND

From a farmer in North Wales:—

"Taxing land values might do away with the game curse and the fox-hunting nuisance. A farmer told me once that he could only keep his farm by allowing the local hunt to cut his wire fences whenever and wherever they liked (that was in Cumberland). One landowner only rented a piece of land to a smallholder when the latter signed a paper promising not to disturb any hares, rabbits, or winged game that came to eat his crops. Another small farmer, having put up chicken wire to keep out rabbits and hares that were damaging his turnips, was told by his squire-landlord to remove the wire or leave his farm. He tamely acquiesced and removed the wire.

"And in Argyllshire I once saw a small stack of oats. That would have been double the size but for trespassing deer," said the widow who was running out her late husband's lease of the farm. There's no farm at all there now.

"It happened that in 1910 to 1914 I saw a good deal of the countryside both in England and Scotland. A man who owned a small bit of ground, in a Scotch village, built on it. One boundary was a stream. The wealthy landowner who owned the opposite bank vowed that his bank was suffering through the house wall opposite pushing the stream further his way. And to stop legal proceedings the owner of that house paid £40! Say £10 a square foot. It's a tragedy that a poor man daren't indulge in a lawsuit—too expensive."

In the 31st May issue of *Bodenreform*, organ of the German Land Reform movement, appears a translation of "How Friday Solved It" with acknowledgments to *Land & Liberty*. The previous issue had contained an article entitled "Robinson and Land Rent" by Dr Bodmann and the editor remarks upon the coincidence of receiving after this had been put into print so appropriate a sequel by Mr J. S. Codman.

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

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

By Amalia E. DuBois

"Dear me," said Alice, sighing as she put down the newspaper. "The paper is just full of news about the wars and unemployment. I wonder why they fight over land, when there is more land in the world than the people can possibly use?"

"Don't you know," said the Wise Owl, "the people do not own the land, it is only the few on top that own it, and they always want more, so they get the people to fight for them to take it away from the few on top in other countries."

"Why do not all the people own the land, I wonder—why do the people fight for those on top?" asked Alice.

"Because," said the Wise Owl, "they do not know that they are fighting for the landlords. They think they are fighting for their country."

Then up spoke the Sly Fox. "In my country a few men own millions of acres of land which they do not use and do not allow anyone else to use; so they put up signs 'No Trespassing Allowed,' and 'Beware of the Dog.'"

White Rabbit, who listened attentively, now sat up on his hind legs and with eyes ablaze and ears erect, said: "I'm not afraid of those signs. When I am hungry I just go and eat all the nice juicy sprouts and young leaves I want."

"I still don't understand," said Alice, with a puzzled expression, "why the landlords want all the land! Why do they not allow the landless men to use the land?"

"Because," said the Wise Owl, "owning the land makes the landlords very powerful. A few men bought up all the vacant land cheap, and when the population increases and the people need the land to live or work on, they sell or rent it for a big price, and become millionaires. If coal or oil or other valuable resources are found in the land, they become multi-millionaires, and that is why the landless men are entirely dependent upon the landlords for work."

"I always thought," said Alice, "that we must work to earn our money. Don't the landlords work?"

"No," said the Sly Fox, "they make the landless men work for them."

"Then why are so many millions out of work?" asked Alice.

"Don't you understand?" exclaimed the Wise Owl, "the landlords give work to some of the landless men some of the time, but not all of the time. That is why the landless men compete for work, which keeps wages down. Besides the landlord charges rent for living on the land and in that way he gets back some of the money he pays in wages."

"And what happens to the men who are out of work? Do they starve?" asked Alice.

"No," answered the Wise Owl, "The State gives them money which is called a dole. The State declares that 'the people are out of work through no fault of their own'. That is why it gives the dole."

"And where does the State get the money to pay the dole?" asked Alice in wonder.

"Do you not know," said the Wise Owl, "the people that work, of course—they must support the unemployed. That is why the taxes are so high."

"Oh dear," sighed Alice. "It all seems so dreadful and so queer. The people fight to get more land for the landlords, and then the landlords do not give work to all the landless men! I wonder why we have landlords, anyway."

"It's this way," said Aristocratic John Bull. "Our forefathers fought for the land, and took possession of it

by conquest, and so it is ours by inheritance. We are the Lords of the Land!"

"If that is all to owning the land," growled Boston Bull, "we will fight and get it back again."

"No," said the gentle Cow, "that is the way we are now doing it. We gain nothing by fighting, and it means endless warfare. It does not help the landless men. Besides war kills millions of our young men, causing suffering and sorrow. My boss gives me a green pasture with a clear brook running through, and I in return give him my milk for his children."

"Now, I understand," said Alice. "It is the principle of live and let live, give and take. If we all had an equal right to the use of the land there would be no landlords—no unemployment—no poverty, and no more wars. Then will begin the reign of peace on earth, good will toward all men. That is what our Loving Father intended for all his children."

THE LAIRD'S BING

By John Cameron

Here is a little story illustrating how, in the land-owner's case, "everything comes to him who waits." It was told with great effect by our Glasgow speakers of that time, but I don't think it has ever before been printed.

Glasgow Town Council had been sending invitations to all assessing bodies in Scotland to attend a Conference on the Taxation and Rating of Land Values, and the circular duly came before a certain Parish Council in Lanarkshire. It was turned down on the motion of a local landowner who said that the subject might be of some interest to city people but that, in rural parishes like theirs, land had little or no value. But here are a few facts concerning the laird's estate.

Glasgow Corporation had resolved to enter the farming business and sent out experts to prospect various districts. Regarding our friend's territory, they reported that for agricultural purposes it was worthless, being mostly composed of moss land. But there was coal beneath a section of it. This coal had been worked for some years by a big Company, but latterly the minerals became nearly exhausted, and the Company negotiated to end their lease. One of the conditions was that they must leave the surface as they found it, and by this time a great hill or bing of refuse had accumulated. The laird called at the head office of the firm and suggested that he might relieve them of the expense of removing the bing if, *per contra*, they handed over to him the ownership of a row of houses, erected by them for their miners. Needless to say, the Company gladly consented. How could they refuse their kind benefactor?

Some time afterwards, a coal contractor in a smaller way took a lease of the workings. "You'll want houses for your men," said the laird; "they're here, waiting for you." Sold—at a good price! Both parties again suited—and satisfied!

By and by a coal strike took place throughout the country, and poor people were desperate for fuel. The laird's mountain of rubbish was what is locally called a "tousy" bing; it contained a good amount of burnable material among the refuse. The people from neighbouring villages came and helped themselves until the laird intervened, saying "I'll no' be hard on you folk; what do you say to paying 1s. per cart load?" Right! Agreed! This canny Scot started a lad at 12s. per week to check the loads. Once more the Good Samaritan

WHY THE LANDOWNER CANNOT SHIFT THE TAX
ON LAND VALUES. Price 1d. or 4s. per 100.

tan—and incidentally diminishing an ugly encumbrance on his ground.

And then the County Council proposed to build a new hospital. Our friend angled to get it built on his land but was unsuccessful. However, he managed to get a share of the swag in another way. The site chosen required a great deal of levelling, so he interviewed the contractors and prevailed on them to take his dirt mountain at 3d. per ton; the contractors to do the removing. The "Golden Dustman," indeed!

Perhaps this does not finish the story of the laird's estate, for I learn that investigators are working on a scheme whereby household fuel can be manufactured from moss, heather, peat, etc. Something in the way of briquettes is the idea. If this plan materializes the laird's "land of brown heath and shaggy wood" may yet become a small Klondyke. And he maintained that land had no value in his parish!

SELLING THE BOOKS

Volunteers are wanted to emulate work of this kind:

Mr David Gibson of Cleveland writes: "Every outstanding Single Taxer in every community everywhere in the world should constitute himself a wholesale salesman to every book store for *Progress and Poverty*—see to it that they are kept in stock and well displayed. There is one book store here in Cleveland that sells 25 copies per month, and as a result of a sale that I made four years ago. I regard this as particularly important and effective propaganda; for every single taxer in the world to-day is directly or indirectly the result of reading *Progress and Poverty*. My secretary goes around to all local book stores about every three months and always wholesales quite a few copies."

Price lists, catalogues and display cards will be provided to anyone who can help in such useful service with particulars of the wholesale terms for the book-selling trade. The publications of the Henry George Foundation (the "little red books" as they have been called—bound in cloth) are on sale in Great Britain at 1s. each—*Progress and Poverty*, *Social Problems*, *The Condition of Labour*, *Protection or Free Trade*, and the *Gems from Henry George*. The last-named two are also available in paper covers, price 6d. each.

FROM A NEW READER

S.C., County Durham, writes:—"I am in receipt of your communication of 31st March, and the enclosed yearly report of Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. I thank you. My delay in replying is due to no discourtesy. I have held over my reply till I had concluded my reading of *Progress and Poverty*. The work is one of the noblest I have read. With its penetrating analysis of economic cause and effect, its burning love of Justice and Liberty, and the artistic merits in presentation, the work should be in the hands of every sociological student. The activities of the United Committee in propagating the work of Henry George is deserving of widespread interest and sympathy. It has mine. Please send me the current issue of *Land & Liberty*."

LAND AND FREEDOM. By FREDK. VERINDER. 2s. 6d.

THE STORY OF MY DICTATORSHIP. By BERENS and SINGER. 1s.

CITIES HELD TO RANSOM. By M. 1d.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LAND. Fifth Edition. By W. R. LESTER, M.A. 1d.

LIBERAL POLICY

The Liberal Party held national convention in the Kingsway Hall, London, 18th and 19th June, with some 1,800 delegates present from all parts of the country. The chief business was to consider and agree upon a new constitution for the Party drawn up by a Reorganization Commission, the Chairman of which was Lord Meston. This included a definition of the Liberal social ideal reading as follows:—

"At home its (the Liberal Party's) ideal is a country in which the powers of the State will be steadily used to establish social justice, to wage war against poverty, to ensure that the country's resources are wisely developed for the benefit of the whole community, and to create the positive conditions which will make a full and free life possible for all citizens; a country in which under the protection of law all citizens have the right to speak freely, write freely, and vote freely; power through a just electoral system to shape the laws which they are called upon to obey; an effective voice in deciding the conditions in which they live and work; liberty to buy, sell, and produce; freedom from the tyranny of monopoly, whether exercised by individuals or by the State; opportunity to work at a fair wage, a decent home and healthy surroundings, good education, and facilities for training; access to land and an assurance that publicly created land values shall not be engrossed by private interests, and, as a safeguard of independence, the personal ownership of property. These are the conditions of liberty which it is the function of the State to protect and enlarge."

One amendment that had been moved sought to omit the word "land" in the sentence: "an assurance that publicly created land values shall not be engrossed by private interests." Mr Ashley Mitchell (Huddersfield) resisted the amendment and it was defeated. Mr Mitchell is to be congratulated on his success.

Sir Archibald Sinclair's declaration in his opening speech at the Convention: "We stand for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values" was loudly applauded.

The *Fife Herald and Journal*, 27th May, had a two column report of the address by Mr James T. Haxton, St. Andrews, on the "Economics of Service," at the Cupar Rotary Club's luncheon. It was a clear exposition comprising the economics as well as the ethics of the land question and taxation.

* * *

The one essential for the removal of poverty and unemployment in the midst of wealth is to take in the form of taxation all those values given to land by reason of the presence and industry of the people, and abolish all other forms of taxation.

E. F. HOBLEY in the *News Chronicle*, 22nd June.

* * *

Mr Laing's letter to *The Times*, referred to elsewhere, evoked some correspondence in that paper, a protest against his misleading "weaker brethren" in the Conservative Party being printed in large type and a letter by Mr Dundas White pleading for the untaxing of improvements and the taxing of land value for public revenue being in small type. The *Daily Herald* devoted a leading article to the matter, in which it said: "Social progress creates the high prices, which then become an obstacle to any further progress." *John Bull* said: "Land nationalization must inevitably be a slow process. Let us begin by imposing a stiff Land Values Tax."

ON THE DOLE

The *Daily Herald* (19th June) had a striking special article by Mr Francis Williams, its Financial Editor.

There has, he says, never in history been a Government so blatantly ready to use the money of the State to the advantage and profit of powerful vested interests.

The business of subsidizing industrial vested interests has been done cleverly. Many of the subsidies given do not appear as a direct charge on the Budget; for several of them complete figures are difficult to obtain.

It will come as a surprise to most people to realize that this Government, which is so anxious to keep down expenditure on the social services and which cannot find adequate sums for slum clearance, is handing out to landlords and farmers something like £52,000,000 a year.

That money is distributed in the form of relief under the De-rating Acts, which alone represents a gift at least of £12,000,000 a year to these interests, in the beet sugar subsidy, the cattle subsidy, the guaranteed milk prices, the wheat deficiency payments and in other ways.

The beet subsidy alone is calculated to have put into the pockets of the various agricultural and factory interests no less than £45,000,000.

Moreover, the subsidy, even under the new scheme merging the sugar beet companies, is to continue indefinitely, and will take, it is estimated, about £2,940,000 during 1936.

Cattle dealers are getting about £3,000,000 a year as a result of the beet subsidy, milk grants total close upon another £2,000,000 a year, and wheat deficiency payments amounted in the last financial year to some £6,750,000. This last represents a payment to cover the difference between the average price received by the grower and the guaranteed price fixed under the Wheat Act, and it is borne directly by the consumer, and particularly by the poorer sections of the community.

In addition to subsidies, the big agricultural interests have, according to estimates made by Dr Venn, the Cambridge scientist, benefited by between £15,000,000 and £17,000,000 a year by a rise in prices for their goods brought about by the Government's policy of restricting imports from abroad.

We would only add that Mr Williams fails to point out how large a proportion of most of these subsidies finds its way sooner or later into the pockets of the landed interest.

CAST DOWN YOUR BUCKET

The presence of population with its demand for land must necessarily give value to the land. What could be more natural than to recognize this value as belonging to all, as being the scientific source of revenue for the group as a whole? The increasing tax load on industry is as unnecessary as it is burdensome. You Congressmen and tax commissioners who are burning the midnight oil trying to find new products or services to tax—cast down your bucket where you are! There is no need to look further than to the ground beneath your feet. If the services of government have created a value there, take it to pay for those services. Keep in mind that this is a tax on land according to its value, not its area. If the value isn't there, there will be nothing to take; if it is, the owner can afford to give it. This is true taxation according to ability to pay.—*Tax Facts*, Los Angeles.

BULGARIA

Mr B. Gudaleff writes from Sofia:—

I have pleasure in sending you specimens of the new pamphlet *The Fight Against Poverty* which our friend Yord. Kovatcheff has written. It is an edition of 4,000 copies and already the sale has been very gratifying. It is a large edition for our country, as pamphlets of any kind are seldom printed here in larger quantities than 2,000. We contemplate publishing a series of pamphlets, both original (by Bulgarian writers) and translations, and the first of the latter will be Henry George's *Crime of Poverty*. An important new adherent of the movement is Mr St. Stefanoff, one of the former leaders of the Bulgarian Agricultural Party. After reading *Progress and Poverty* for the first time, he was deeply impressed by its clarity of thought and saw in it the solution of our grave economic and social problems. He procured and read all the other works by Henry George that have been published in Bulgarian, also the French work *La Rente Foncière* (Economic Rent) by V. Precy. He is now engaged in special research with a view to drafting a Bill providing for the Taxation of Land Values in our country.

"FREEDOM FOR MOTHERS"

BY JOHN O'KELLY SMITH

Shows what the State owes mothers, and presents a definite, practical plan for paying the debt.

The "Ottawa Citizen," Canada, says:

"The problems of this time, or of any past or future time, manifest themselves in the relations of mother and child to each other and to society in general. But such problems are so tremendous in the study they call for and in the organization needed for their right solution that the would-be reformer usually is content to confine his work for the improvement of human conditions to one phase of the subject. But the author of this book faces this whole complexity of problems and makes his definite proposal for reform.

"The Author's plan is 'a provision by the State to give all mothers equally an income for life.' Nor will he allow such considerations as have ruled in making the mothers' pension laws of many States of the American Union to modify his plan, for he says, 'My understanding of the subject does not recognize that the length of the child's life or the size of the family has anything to do with this recompense.'

"Of course, he faces at once the question that all subsidy proposers must face—where is the money to come from? Evidently he was convinced of the soundness of his plan before he had found an answer to the financial problem involved. He is satisfied that a complete answer is found in the single tax as proposed by Henry George. Undoubtedly Henry George believed not only that a tax on the one item of land values would yield ample income for all the proper purposes of government, and also that a single tax so applied as to absorb the entire current value of land would automatically open opportunities for all workers and would raise wages in proportion with the increase of wealth in the community.

"It is not shown in the present book that George proposed a government pension for all mothers. But it is shown that the Single Tax was put forward as a cure of economic ills, and certainly the economic problem of mother and child is one that no Utopian system may leave unsolved.

"*Freedom for Mothers* is an original book and well worth reading."—ED. RUTHVEN.

212 pages, cloth, \$1.75.
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Orders sent to LAND & LIBERTY with 8s. enclosed will be forwarded to the Publishers.

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.")

Mr W. R. Lester's pamphlet *Poverty and Plenty*, published by Messrs Hogarth, and dealing with the Social Credit doctrine, has run out. It has proved most popular. The demand continuing, Mr Lester has now produced a new, revised and enlarged edition which under the title *The True National Dividend* will be published this month by the Henry George Foundation, at the price of 3d. Orders for supplies may be sent now, and the terms for quantities are at the rate of 2s. 3d. per dozen post paid.

Another new publication, a reprint, sponsored by the Henry George Foundation and published in the name of the International Union, is *The Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression* (price 3d.), which embodies the statements circulated by the Union to World Economic Conferences at Geneva in 1927 and London, 1933, and with a postscript. The Geneva "Memorandum" has been out of print for some time and the publication is in response to demand. This new publication is also being made available to the members of the International Union's forthcoming Conference in London.

Under the auspices of the Henry George Foundation a further extensive advertising of *Progress and Poverty* has been carried out, by means of informing passages from the book in a number of weekly journals and one monthly, occupying a whole column or half a page. Titles have been given to these passages (all reading like articles in the papers) as follows: *Access to Raw Materials—The Call of Liberty—The World To-day—The Search for Security—To Whom does it Belong?—Ability to Pay—Over-production?—Making Room—From Village to City—The Master Motive*. Regarding circulation of the papers and the number of insertions, the total number of advertisements thus appearing in the last six weeks has been more than 750,000.

Town Clerks continue to apply for the Memorandum on *Methods of Local Taxation* and the pamphlet *Cities Held to Ransom* for distribution to their Councils that are discussing the Rating of Land Values.

The association of Henry George's name with sports events is a new method of education employed by Mr T. Watson Collin, who is interested in the British Workers' Sports Association, Bristol. He gave a Henry George Cup for the winner of the 880 yards West of England Championship, and at the same time a specially inscribed copy of *Progress and Poverty* was presented in the name of the Henry George Foundation to Mr Clifford Hayes, the winner of the Championship, 16½ years old, and still at school, who has acknowledged his proud possession of both cup and book.

On 26th June, Mr C. W. Walker Prescott was the guest of the Bexley, Kent, Rotary Club and gave an address on "Progress Without Poverty."

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

Mr Andrew MacLaren, M.P., is to address a meeting, arranged by the York Labour Party, on Saturday, 4th July.

Mr Blackburn will speak for the W. Bermondsey Labour Party (Women's Section) on "Unemployment and Housing," on 14th July.

Meetings have been addressed by Mr Leon MacLaren at Richmond, Surrey (29th May); and by Mr A. C. Blackburn for the Unilever House Branch of "Too H." (10th June), for the North Hammersmith Labour Party (14th June), and for the North Tottenham Women's Liberal Association (25th June).

A short but very laudatory notice of Mr H. T. Weeks' leaflet, "Consider the Lilies," appeared in Mr L. D. Beckwith's paper, *No Taxes*, published at Stockton, California, on 8th June.

Mr W. Edward Mead read a paper on the "Social Credit" Scheme before the Bexhill-on-Sea Rotary Club on 9th June, and was very fully reported in the *Bexhill Chronicle* of 12th June. He hopes to follow it up with two other papers.

At the Executive meeting on 11th June, Mr Andrew MacLaren, M.P., gave an interesting account of the discussion on the Rite (Money) Bill, and was warmly complimented by the President on the part he had taken in it.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: William Reid, Secretary, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3. (Phone: Douglas 5993.)

The Scottish League has recorded its deep sense of loss in the passing of Mr John Gordon who played such a worthy part in its deliberations when politics were politics, and principles with logic occupied the political stage. Dr Green and the Secretary represented the League at the funeral.

Among meetings addressed during the past month we have to record those of Mr Otto Ommer who keeps the land question to the front in the open-air gatherings which he has addressed for the S.S.F. We heard good reports of his Coatbridge and Irvine meetings. Mr Mungo Fairley has accompanied him on some of these adventures. Mr A. B. Mackay, Mr H. G. Rae and other members of the League have been giving active assistance in the meetings recently promoted by the Youth Peace Movement.

Mr William Kennedy had letters in the *Glasgow Herald* on 11th and 18th June, the Secretary on 19th, and Mr J. Brunton McLennan on 20th June. Mr A. J. Mace, as usual, has sent contributions to the evening papers, and Mr Alex Campbell had a letter in the *Evening Times* of 13th June dealing with "Incomes and Diet" and the dicta of Sir John Boyd Orr. Mr John Cameron wrote in the *Evening Times* of 2nd June on the subject of Land Nationalization and the Taxation of Land Values.

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

The League is arranging to hold a series of meetings covering all districts in the Cardiff area.

A further step in the municipal campaign for the rating of land values will be taken when the Lord Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman G. Fred Evans) brings the matter before the Association of Municipal Corporations. At the June meeting of the Cardiff City Council he announced that he would put down a notice of motion for the next meeting of the Council of the Association calling for the consideration by all its members of the resolution passed at the conference of Welsh Local Authorities held on 25th September, with a view to bringing the matter before the House of Commons.

The many friends of Mr Eustace Davies will be concerned to hear of his sudden indisposition, but relieved to know that the doctor is pleased with his progress. He will need to take a long rest which it is hoped will completely restore him to health.

The present Chairman of the Monmouthshire County Council, Ald. A. E. Meredith, J.P., has for years been associated with the Welsh movement, and he and Ald. W. J. Saddler, J.P., who has just been appointed Vice-President of the S.W.M.F., have consistently supported the ideals for which our movement stands.

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

Councillor George F. Sawyer, outstanding advocate of the land values and free trade policy in the Midlands area, retired on 22nd June from his employment with the London Scottish and Midland Railway after 40 years' service as ticket collector, porter and guard. The *Birmingham Mail* had interview with him and appreciative description of his career. He retires at the age of 65 and looks forward now to the leisure he will have to devote himself to the public questions in which he is so much interested. A native of Cuddesdon, Oxfordshire, he came to Birmingham in 1895 and was engaged as porter by the old L. and N.W.R. In 1921 he was elected as member of the City Council for the Duddleston and Nechells ward which he has represented ever since. His fighting spirit took him to Westminster where he was M.P. for Duddleston from 1929 to 1932, in the Labour interest. "I am going to Westminster," he said, "to help forward the movement for the Taxation of Land Values," and in Parliament, as in the Council and in all his public endeavour, he has fought ever strenuously and ably for that cause. In 1900 he entered the A.S.R.S., now known as the N.U.R., and has played a prominent part in the trade union movement. May he have many years to enjoy the reward of his leisure to serve his fellows as he wishes to do.

YORKS AND NORTHERN LEAGUE: F. Skirrow, Secretary, Tantfield Buildings, 139 Skipton Road, Keighley.

John Archer paid us a visit on 23rd June and spoke on the Religion of Henry George. A member of the audience said he had listened to many sermons but had never wished to possess a copy of any one of them.

"I really would like to possess a copy of Mr Archer's," he declared, "and I hope it may be reproduced." During the next few weeks the lecture will be reproduced and copies may be had from the Secretary.

Letters have appeared in the Press from E. A. Lassen, 26th May, in *Yorks Observer*; the Secretary, 5th June, in *Yorks Observer*; Howard Binn, in *Keighley News*, 6th June; A. W. Dakers, 9th June, in *Yorks Observer*; John McInerney, 12th June, in *Yorks Observer*; A. W. Dakers and John McInerney, in *Yorks Observer*, 24th June.

We are having good sales of books and pamphlets.

The series of four weekly papers published by the *West Leeds News* gave special publicity to the proceedings at our recent

Monthly Bulletin

OF

The English League for the Taxation of Land Values

7, St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C. 2.

No. 21.

JULY, 1936

The next issue of the "Bulletin" will be published early in September.

In addition to the meetings announced last month, Leon MacLaren lectured at Richmond (May 29th); A. C. Blackburn at North Hammersmith (June 15th); and Andrew MacLaren, M.P., spoke at the Farmers' Demonstration in Hyde Park (June 24th).

Mr. W. Edward Meads gave an address on "Social Credit" to the Bexhill-on-Sea Rotary Club, on June 8th. It was very fully reported in the *Bexhill Observer*, June 12th. Mr. Meads will probably give two other addresses, completing his examination of the Social Credit proposals and setting forth the Georgist remedy for our social distresses.

Saturday, July 4th: Andrew MacLaren, M.P., at York.

Tuesday, July 14th: A. C. Blackburn, at West Bermondsey Labour Party (Women's Section), Alexis Street Mission Hall, 3 p.m.

The League Executive.

At its first meeting, on May 21st, the newly-elected Executive availed itself of its right, under the constitution of the League, to co-opt three members, viz., Miss E. R. Levy and Messrs. W. H. Hildreth and A. J. Horn. They were all present, and were cordially welcomed by the President, at a meeting on June 11th. A list of the officers and of the elected members of the Executive appeared in the June issue of the *Bulletin*.

Tithes and Rent.

At a meeting of the League Executive last month, Andrew MacLaren, M.P., gave a very interesting summary of debates on the Tithe Bill, in which he had taken an active part. It is worth while to put on record here what the *Daily Herald* said about the Bill in a leading article on May 14th:—

"The immediate effect of the Bill is to increase the incomes of farmers at the expense of the income of the Church. But the farmers will not be better off for very long. For the Bill, in making farming more profitable, will increase the demand for

agricultural land. Rents will rise, the farmers will be worse off, and the benefit intended for them will in due course reach the landowners. There is nothing new or mysterious in this. It is happening already as a result of other features of Government policy."

This witness is true. The pity is, that the same will be true of many proposals of the Labour Party, if and when a Labour Government carries them into effect.

A Protectionist "Farce."

Many years ago, a French professor, who had been excavating in Egypt, returned to France with a mummy which he had unearthed. The Customs Officers asked what it was, and were told that it was a "Pharaoh." They could not find "Pharaohs" in the list of dutiable goods, but, in the true Protectionist belief that nothing should be allowed to come into the country without being taxed, they smelt the mummy and tariffed it under the head of dried fish!

Andrew MacLaren, moving an amendment to the Finance Bill on June 10th, told an equally funny story of our own Tariffs: A very brilliant London student went with a scholarship to the British School of Art at Rome (subsidised by H.M. Government). He produced a statue of Venus, "one of the most remarkable pieces of sculpture," said MacLaren, "that I have seen." It was desired to exhibit this at the Royal Academy in London. But when it came to this country, it was immediately put in bond. After great trouble it reached the Academy, and immediately the exhibition was over it was again put in bond. The artist wrote to the proper authority, to ask what could be done to release his Venus, and was told that he had either to pay the tariff on the lady or re-export her to Italy (where he would have to pay another tariff). The reason for all this? There is a tariff on tombstones, and the difficulty was to know whether a genuine work of art was a tombstone or not!

A number of copies of Henry George's "Protection or Free Trade" are available at a reduced price. Members are asked to help in their sale and distribution.

Economic Class.

A Sub-committee of the Executive is considering the arrangements for an Economic Class in the Autumn. Details will be sent as soon as available, to any member or friend who sends name and address to the League Office.

Such help is appreciated.

A London member has called the attention of the General Secretary to an interesting correspondence in *The Accountant*, arising out of an article on "World Trends" by Professor J. H. Jones (February 8th) and leading up to a long letter by a well-known accountant, Mr. T. Watson Collin, on "Public Ownership of Land" (May 23rd), who advises the readers of this organ of his profession to study the works of Henry George.

Marked copies of papers containing articles, letters or reports of speeches on our question, or useful facts about land values, taxation, rating, and so on, are always gratefully received at the office.

A lady in a Kentish suburb has, during the past month, sent to the Secretary a number of names and addresses of persons who were likely to take an interest in the League and its work, giving in each case a list of the pamphlets likely to be the most interesting to the recipient and enclosing payment for them.

A member in a Northern suburb has posted several hundred copies of the General Secretary's pamphlet on "The Crying Injustice of our Rating System" to as many Municipal Councillors.

Imitation would be the sincerest way of showing our gratitude for the help given by these members.

The Blessings of "Protection."

The *Sydney Standard*, organ of the Georgist movement in New South Wales (April 15th), brings two instructive quotations from local papers. They are about the "protective" tariff on tobacco.

(1) Sir George Julius, chairman of the Council for Scientific Research, said that additional protection to local growers against imported tobacco was unjustifiable. The Australian product was too poor in quality to merit further protection. In the majority of cases unsuitable areas were being used for production.

(2) The Minister for Customs said: "When prohibitive rates of duty had been in operation, land in Victoria had been sold for £30 an acre whereas it

was not worth 30s. an acre." Australian smokers get inferior tobacco at high prices, and Australian landlords get inflated prices for inferior land.

A British Company, which sells tea in packets, prints the following good news on the wrappers: "NEW TEA TAX is included in LABEL PRICE. To get the same quality as before you must now pay 1d. more per lb."

"The multitudes in the cities and towns of the country [U.S.A.] are being taxed savagely on their food-stuffs to provide money wherewith to bribe the farmers not to produce food-stuffs freely. (John W. Owen in *Atlantic Monthly*, December, 1935.)

Yet the Democratic National Convention, at Philadelphia, which has just nominated Mr. Roosevelt, the author of this policy, for re-election as President, opened with the ringing of "Liberty Bell." Appropriately enough, it is reported that "the bell is badly cracked."

London's Troglydites.

Mr. Lewis Silkin, chairman of the L.C.C. Housing Committee, states that there are nearly 100,000 people in the County of London living in underground basements. "These are not overcrowded within the meaning of the recent Act, but they are unhealthy and unfit for habitation."

News from New Zealand.

Anticipating a land boom as a result of guaranteed prices, New Zealand's Labour Government is to consider the re-introduction of a graduated land tax. Mr. Savage, the Prime Minister, stated yesterday.

"The land tax should never have been removed" Mr. Savage declared. Land prices, he said, were already rising and if there was going to be a land boom there was also going to be a burst.

The Government's job was to prevent a boom, and this could be done in more ways than one.

"The man who has done best out of land in the past is the man who had farmed farmers rather than the man who has farmed land," the Premier added (says Renter).—*Daily Herald*, June 27th.

But a straight tax on all Land Values, without graduation or exemption, would be far more effective.

International Conference.

The Fifth International Conference to promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade will be held in London on September 2nd—5th. It will include the Henry George commemoration on the anniversary of his birth (September 2nd). For further information see *Land and Liberty*.

annual meeting. By arrangement also, made by courtesy of Mr. Padgett, these papers are publishing week by week in article form, nine selected extracts from *Progress and Poverty* (supplied by the Henry George Foundation) and advertising the book.

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

Mr. D. J. J. Owen has addressed Friends' Meetings at Leigh and Wythenshawe. He also addressed the Leigh Congregational Brotherhood, and on 10th June opened a discussion at the Young Men's meeting, Cross Street Chapel, Manchester.

Meetings at Alexandra Park Gate, Moss Side, will be held, weather permitting, on Wednesdays, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July, commencing at 8 p.m.

A circular letter offering to supply speakers during the coming winter has been sent by the Secretary to a large number of political, co-operative and trade organizations in Lancashire and Cheshire, and already there is a good response.

A letter on "Property and Poverty," written by Mr. E. Sandham, appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* on 2nd June, in which the writer extolled both State ownership and individual liberty. Some comments by the Secretary were printed in the next day's issue.

LIVERPOOL LEAGUE: F. B. Jones, Hon. Secretary, 6 Melville Avenue, Rock Ferry, Cheshire. (Office and Meeting Room: 21 Harrington Street, North John Street, Liverpool.)

On 2nd June the Secretary addressed the Birkenhead Branch of Toc H on "War: Its Causes and the Remedy." Keen interest was shown, and a lively discussion followed.

At the League Room, 21 Harrington Street, each Wednesday evening there has been a fair attendance at the reading circle. A number of chapters of *Protection or Free Trade* have been read and discussed, the discussion ranging over a very wide field. Any friends who care to do so may attend, and need not fear that they will experience any difficulty from having missed the commencement of the reading.

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

At this time of year our meetings are not so frequent, but good work is always being done. The preliminary arrangements have been made for a social to be held at the end of September, as a commencement to the session. Two meetings were held at the President's house where several new visitors heard Henry George's teaching explained and showed great interest. A prominent local builder joined in the discussion and obtained a very clear idea of the adverse influence of land monopoly on building.

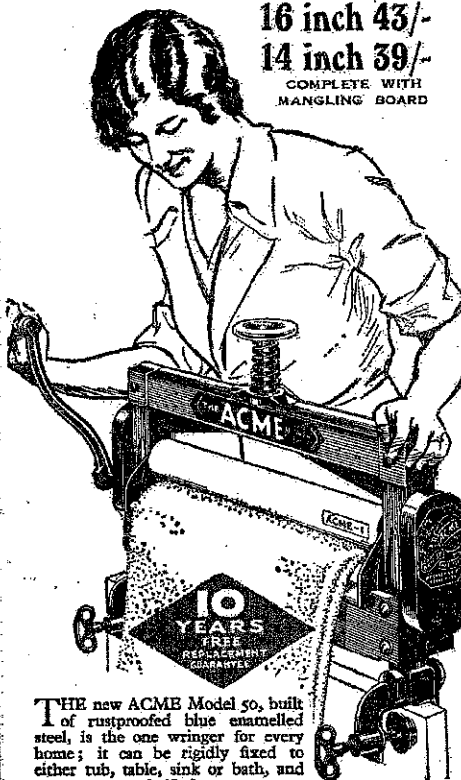
At a recent meeting of the League a discussion took place on the necessity of strict accuracy in defining economic terms and rigid adherence to definition when treating economic subjects. There is hopeless confusion, deplorable lack of method and logical thought in current economic discussion due largely to indiscriminate and careless use of words. Little wonder that progressive thought, instead of being united, is divided into opposing groups. One term regarding which there is special confusion of meaning is Capital, which should not be, seeing that Henry George has so clearly and carefully distinguished it—the wealth produced by labour and used for the further production of wealth—from land and from the possession of mere monopolies and privileges. This is one of his great contributions to economic teaching and his true and simple definition can be used with completely logical precision to clarify thought and compel correct action. If a fixed and clear definition were attached to the word Capital, its derivatives Capitalist and Capitalism would not be used in misleading and question-begging senses. Rightly defined, the present system is in fact not "capitalistic" but "monopolistic."

NORTH WALES: Mr. A. Williams Price writes:—

As a change from the meandering Ceiriog Valley I have tramped around and about some of the decaying mining villages, lying high up on the hills in the unsightly vales and wrinkles formed by colliery tips. It is pitiful to note the progress of inevitable decay in a village, dependent upon one colliery, when that colliery is permanently closed down; buildings and people alike seem to all; the lack of hope seems to be reflected from the very walls and roofs of the homes; it seems quite natural that the stimulants of sport, gambling, cinemas, etc., should appeal to many. There has been, and there is, some "over-crowding" in the houses, but the worst cases appear to exist in the rural areas. Great housing schemes are being carried out, land for the purpose is being purchased from the great estate owners whose monopoly of the land is the root cause of the trouble. I distributed *Idle Lands, Tax Land Values*, etc., and spoke to a few of the residents, on the doorstep, or at the street corner, on the case for the Taxation and Rating of Land Values.

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