

LAND & LIBERTY

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Land Prices Going Up — The Cruel Purchase Tax — The Land
Question in Roumania and Hungary — The New Duke of Bedford
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FROM CORRUPT DEMOCRACY TO DECAY

Therefore thus saith the Lord: Ye have not hearkened unto me, to proclaim liberty, every man to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim unto you a liberty, saith the Lord, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine.

Jeremiah xxxiv, 17.

IN A SERIES of articles she is contributing to the *Western Mail and South Wales News*, Miss Dorothy Thompson wrote, 18th October, on

FRENCH COLLAPSE APPLIED TO ANGLO-U.S. OUTLOOK

Miss Thompson rejects the military and political explanations and deplores the superficial views of those who attribute the collapse to the behaviour of the men who have played the leading roles "in the history of a people ambling toward destruction." She is terrified as she listens to these explanations for their failure to take the warning that we are marching on the same road to decline, and to see that we must rebuild and rebuild quickly if we are to prevent our own future collapse. She finds no sharp distinguishing features between Flandin and Daladier, Cannelin and Weygand, Paul Reynaud and Mandel, Bonnet and Blum, the Comité des Forges and the Confederation of the Trades Unions, Petain and Baudouin and Laval—all of them were members of the same society reading from Left to Right or from Right to Left—all displayed in their attitude and behaviour and in the institutions through which they expressed themselves the same characteristics.

"Let us start," Miss Thompson wrote, "with accusing not somebody else but ourselves. France was divided; a schism ran through society like a gaping crack springing the walls apart. But France talked about unity, too. There was plenty of moralising. But moralising does not create morale; it merely indicates its absence. Morale in a society and unity in a society are results, not causes.

"They come of common aspiration and common action for the accomplishment of a common aim. You cannot create a common aim out of the ruthless scramble of each individual and group for his own privilege.

"The weakness of the nineteenth century was to believe that out of such struggle the fittest would survive and that the survival of the fittest meant, automatically,

the greatest good for the greatest number. What survives is the strongest gangster.

"Oliver Goldsmith's dire prophecy of what happens to a land where wealth accumulates and men decay can be rephrased and come true on both counts; for men also accumulate while wealth decays.

"All of us want to be saved—provided it doesn't cost too much. Capital, fearing confiscation, wants to be certain that if and when the dreaded moment comes the principal will be nicely amortized and the fortune seized will be as large as possible. Labour wants to be sure that if it dies in chains it will be a well fed, well clothed corpse. The intellectuals spend their brains rationalising the case for one or another of the suicides."

Thus Miss Thompson in her reflections on the weakness of the nineteenth century and the faults that are with us (making France an example, not an exception) goes deeper than most of the commentators on the French collapse, who among them have filled so many columns in our newspapers and periodicals. But not yet not deep enough. It is only a glance in consternation at the condition where the forces if they must be contained will reach the explosive point and make irretrievable disaster for human society; those economic forces that are being heated and lashed to fury by the unequal distribution of wealth and opportunity. But there is no gainsaying that Miss Thompson is right in refusing to regard the present fate of France as more than an example of the course events are taking all over the world; and it would be well if others, attempting to fasten the blame either on criminal personalities who betrayed France from within, or on bullies and brutes who ravaged it from without, would pay at least as much attention to their social philosophy.

It was more than fifty years ago that all which writers like Miss Thompson are now recording was predicted, and the accuracy of the prediction is startling when read in the light of present events. If Political Economy is to deserve any study at all, its service must be to trace effects to their causes; it must lead humanity on a right course of action; and in that kind of economic study, there is nothing to compare with the remarkable chapter in *Progress and Poverty* entitled "How Modern Civilization may Decline."

Here are the thoughts for to-day. Here lies the

explanation that so many are groping after for the state into which the world has fallen. We quote the following passages, not attributing to Henry George any greater

gift of prophecy or clearer insight than must dwell in any mind that cannot escape from foreseeing what punishment justice will inflict if she is denied :—

HOW MODERN CIVILIZATION MAY DECLINE

The general tendency of modern development, since the time when we can first discern the gleams of civilization in the darkness which followed the fall of the Western Empire, has been towards political and legal equality—to the abolition of slavery ; to the abrogation of status ; to the sweeping away of hereditary privileges ; to the substitution of parliamentary for arbitrary government ; to the right of private judgment in matters of religion ; to the more equal security in person and property of high and low, weak and strong ; to the greater freedom of movement and occupation, of speech and of the press.

The history of modern civilization is the history of advances in this direction—of the struggles and triumphs of personal, political, and religious freedom. And the general law is shown by the fact that just as this tendency has asserted itself civilization has advanced, while just as it has been repressed or forced back civilization has been checked.

It is now manifest that absolute political equality does not in itself prevent the tendency to inequality involved in the private ownership of land, and it is further evident that political equality, co-existing with an increasing tendency to the unequal distribution of wealth, must ultimately beget either the despotism of organized tyranny or the worse despotism of anarchy.

To turn a republican government into a despotism the basest and most brutal, it is not necessary to formally change its constitution or abandon popular elections. It was centuries after Cæsar before the absolute master of the Roman world pretended to rule other than by authority of a Senate that trembled before him.

But forms are nothing when substance has gone, and the forms of popular government are those from which the substance of freedom may most easily go. Extremes meet, and a government of universal suffrage and theoretical equality, may, under conditions which impel the change, most readily become a despotism. For there despotism advances in the name and with the might of the people. The single source of power once secured, everything is secured. There is no unfranchised class to whom appeal may be made, no privileged orders who in defending their own rights may defend those of all. No bulwark remains to stay the flood, no eminence to rise above it.

Where there is anything like an equal distribution of wealth—that is to say, where there is general patriotism, virtue, and intelligence—the more democratic the government the better it will be ; but where there is gross inequality in the distribution of wealth, the more democratic the government the worse it will be ; for, while rotten democracy may not in itself be worse than rotten autocracy, its effects upon national character will be worse.

To give the suffrage to tramps, to paupers, to men to whom the chance to labour is a boon, to men who must beg, or steal, or starve, is to invoke destruction. To put political power in the hands of men embittered and degraded by poverty is to tie firebrands to foxes and turn them loose amid the standing corn ; it is to put out the eyes of a Samson and to twine his arms around the pillars of national life.

In a corrupt democracy the tendency is always to give power to the worst. Honesty and patriotism are weighted, and unscrupulousness commands success. The best gravitate to the bottom, the worst float to the top, and the vile will only be ousted by the vile. While as national character must gradually assimilate to the qualities that win power, and consequently respect, that demoralization of opinion goes on which in the long panorama of history we may see over and over again transmuting races of freemen into races of slaves.

As in England in the last century, when Parliament was but a close corporation of the aristocracy, a corrupt oligarchy clearly fenced off from the masses may exist without much effect on national character, because in that case power is associated in the popular mind with other things than corruption. But where there are no hereditary distinctions, and men are habitually seen to raise themselves by corrupt qualities from the lowest places to wealth and power, tolerance of these qualities finally becomes admiration. A corrupt democratic government must finally corrupt the people, and when a people become corrupt there is no resurrection. The life is gone, only the carcass remains ; and it is left but for the ploughshares of fate to bury it out of sight.

*

The under currents of the times seem to sweep us back again to the old conditions from which we dreamed we had escaped. The development of the artisan and commercial classes gradually broke down feudalism after it had become so complete that men thought of heaven as organized on a feudal basis, and ranked the first and second persons of the Trinity as suzerain and tenant-in-chief. But now the development of manufactures and exchange, acting in a social organization in which land is made private property, threatens to compel every worker to seek a master, as the insecurity which followed the final break-up of the Roman Empire compelled every freeman to seek a lord. Nothing seems exempt from this tendency. Industry everywhere tends to assume a form in which one is master and many serve. And when one is master and the others serve, the one will control the others, even in such matters as votes.

*

The most ominous political sign in the United States to-day is the growth of a sentiment which either doubts the existence of an honest man in public office or looks on him as a fool for not seizing his opportunities. . . . Where that course leads is clear to whoever will think. As corruption becomes chronic ; as public spirit is lost ; as traditions of honour, virtue, and patriotism are weakened ; as law is brought into contempt and reforms become hopeless ; then in the festering mass will be generated volcanic forces, which shatter and rend when seeming accident gives them vent. Strong, unscrupulous men, rising up upon occasion, will become the exponents of blind popular desires or fierce popular passions, and dash aside forms that have lost their vitality. The sword will again be mightier than the pen, and in carnivals of destruction brute force and wild frenzy will alternate with the lethargy of a declining civilization.

I speak of the United States only because the United States is the most advanced of all the great nations. What shall we say of Europe, where dams of ancient law

and custom pen up the swelling waters and standing armies weigh down the safety valves, though year by year the fires grow hotter underneath ? Europe tends to republicanism under conditions that will not admit of true republicanism—under conditions that substitute for the calm and august figure of Liberty the petroleuse and the guillotine !

*

There are many things about which there can be no dispute, which go to show that our civilization has reached a critical period, and that unless a new start is made in the direction of social equality, the nineteenth century may to the future mark its climax. These industrial depressions, which cause as much waste and suffering as famines or wars, are like the twinges and shocks which precede paralysis.

Everywhere is it evident that the tendency to inequality, which is the necessary result of material progress where land is monopolized, cannot go much further without carrying our civilization into that downward path which is so easy to enter and so hard to abandon.

Everywhere the increasing intensity of the struggle to live, the increasing necessity for straining every nerve to prevent being thrown down and trodden underfoot in the scramble for wealth, is draining the forces which gain and maintain improvements.

*

There is a vague but general feeling of disappointment ; an increased bitterness among the working classes ; a widespread feeling of unrest and brooding revolution. If this were accompanied by a definite idea of how relief is to be obtained, it would be a hopeful sign ; but it is not.

*

What change may come, no mortal man can tell, but that some great change *must* come, thoughtful men begin to feel. The civilized world is trembling on the verge of a great movement. Either it must be a leap upward, which will open the way to advances yet undreamed of, or it must be a plunge downward, which will carry us back toward barbarism.

THE CENTRAL TRUTH

The evils arising from the unjust and unequal distribution of wealth, which are becoming more and more apparent as modern civilization goes on, are not incidents of progress, but tendencies which must bring progress to a halt ; that they will not cure themselves, but, on the contrary, must, unless their cause is removed, grow greater and greater, until they sweep us back into barbarism by the road every previous civilization has trod. But it also shows that these evils are not imposed by natural laws ; that they spring solely from social mal-adjustments which ignore natural laws, and that in removing their cause we shall be giving an enormous impetus to progress.

The poverty which in the midst of abundance pinches and embroiles men, and all the manifold evils which flow from it, spring from a denial of justice. In permitting the monopolization of the opportunities which nature freely offers to all, we have ignored the fundamental law of justice—for so far as we can see, when we view things upon a large scale, justice seems to be the supreme law of the universe. But by sweeping away this injustice and asserting the rights of all men to natural opportunities, we shall conform ourselves to the law—we shall remove the great cause of unnatural inequality in the distribution of wealth and power ; we shall abolish poverty ; tame the ruthless passions of greed ; dry up

the springs of vice and misery ; light in dark places the lamp of knowledge ; give new vigour to invention and a fresh impulse to discovery ; substitute political strength for political weakness ; and make tyranny and anarchy impossible.

COTTON CREED

As an instance of how Planning is regarded in the Cotton trade the following epic verse is being circulated amongst members of the Royal Exchange at Manchester and other haunts of Cottonopolis :

TO ENABLE THE UNABLE TO DISABLE THE ABLE

In Cotton's creed we must believe :
 Thou shalt not spin, Thou shalt not weave,
 Thou shalt not bleach, Thou shalt not dye,
 Thou shalt not sell, Thou shalt not buy,
 Thou shalt not print, Thou shalt not knit,
 Without a Board of Trade permit.
 Whatever your task, before you do it,
 Request permission from Forrest Hewitt ;
 For spinning rates both rough and flat,
 Please enquire from Mr Platt ;
 For finishing charge and printing dues,
 Kindly consult our Mr Hughes ;
 For all these things you've got to pay,
 Yours very truly, Sir John Gray.

A MONEY PROBLEM

The following amusing story was told about two years ago in a letter to the *Church Times* :—

" A commercial traveller once put up at a certain hotel, informing the hotel-keeper that he hoped to stay at least a month. Not wanting the responsibility of carrying round with him a £50 note, he lodged it in the hotel safe. The hotel-keeper's wife was seriously ill, and had to undergo a serious operation that week. Owing to financial stringency, the hotel-keeper borrowed (!) the £50 note to pay the doctor, knowing that he should be able to replace it before the month was out. The doctor who received the note was anxious to give his wife a fur coat, and promptly went to a furrier and spent the same £50 note. Now, the furrier had a daughter, whose wedding was being solemnized that week, and in order to accommodate a large number of guests, it was arranged that the reception should be held at the hotel. Consequently, in due course, the much-travelled note returned to the hotel-keeper, who replaced it in the safe ready for its rightful owner. When the time came for the commercial traveller to move on, he was leaving the hotel without the £50 note. So the hotel-keeper, being an honest man, reminded him of it. Whereupon the traveller said that it did not matter, as he had heard from his firm that it was a forged note, and so had better be destroyed."

Perhaps some of our readers who are interested in the " money question " may like to find relief from recurrent crises by trying to solve the puzzle, " Who paid for the various goods and services ? "

STUDY ECONOMICS AT HOME

A Free Correspondence Course is offered to you. Your only expense apart from your postages would be 1s. 6d. for the text-book, *Progress and Poverty*, by Henry George.

For full particulars, apply—

THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,
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LAND PRICES GOING UP

THE REPORTS of real estate transactions in the press since the commencement of the war have shown that the value of agricultural land has been rising. In a special article in the *Daily Telegraph* (28th October) Mr J. Wentworth Day says : " War has caused a boom in agricultural land values. Every class of investor is buying good English farm land. The man with money realises, with a sudden shocked clarity of vision, that land is the one investment which cannot burn up, run away or be bombed out of existence."

But the reason why land values are increasing is not merely that land cannot be destroyed. " Everything derives from the land, whether it is food, clothes, buildings, drink or transport. But food and clothing come first. The result is that farms which grow crops and beasts, fruit and vegetables, poultry and pigs have steadily appreciated in value since the memorable 3rd September, 1939."

The restriction upon the supply of foreign-grown foodstuffs has been a large factor in increasing the price of agricultural land, but the tendency to rise was evident before the war as a result of the policy of subsidising and protecting agriculture which was pursued by the government.

The extent of the increase in price is indicated in Mr Day's statement : " Knight, Frank and Rutley, a firm who have sold approximately 30,000 acres of land since the war began, tell me that on a broad, general average, prices have appreciated by from 15 to 20 per cent. They are still rising."

The same kind of thing happened during and after the last war, the increase in agricultural land values being then stimulated by the Corn Production Act with its promise of guaranteed prices. As an example of the enormous fluctuations which have occurred Mr Day refers to farms which three years ago sold for less than the cost of the buildings on them. " There was that farm at Yoxford, in Suffolk, which sold in 1920 for £2,500. In 1927 it was resold for £15,000. In 1934 it dropped to £750. And when it was resold three years ago it fetched only £400 !"

Among examples of recent increases in value we may quote these : " To-day, fenland which a few years ago was lucky if it brought £40 to £60 an acre, is now worth up to £100 an acre. Land in the Vale of Evesham, that rich granary of fruit, corn and vegetables, is practically unobtainable. Those who hold it will not sell. There is a big demand for the dairy lands of Somerset, Hereford and parts of Dorset. Land in the potato area of Ormskirk is worth up to £100 an acre."

So much for the facts. When it comes to remedies Mr Day is less helpful. He says : " There has been talk of land nationalisation in the past. Now *it is happening* before our eyes. The more people who own land the

better for the State, the more stable our values." But this is not so. The number of landowners increased very largely after the last war but that did not prevent the great decline in land values already referred to. This will be obvious to whoever understands the factors which determine the amount of rent and consequently determine the selling value (which is the price of the anticipated net rents). This fact is tacitly admitted by Mr Day when he goes on to urge the Government not to dally with the " ephemeral theories of Socialists or Communists who with their usual urban impracticability would like to nationalize every acre," but to provide cheap fertilizers. " Fertilization, good drainage, and protection against dumped foreign produce are the safeguards for the future, the guarantees for the ' little man ' in farming." In other words the State must by one means or another keep the rent up.

For quite other reasons than those of Mr Day we hope that no attempt at land nationalization will be made. If such a policy were carried out, it would be at prices which have been inflated by the abnormal circumstances of the war. The transaction would undoubtedly be a losing one for the community in general. There is, however, every reason why the policy of taxing land values must be applied. The amount of the tax would vary as the value varied. The farmer would have security of tenure, subject to paying the tax ; and there would be no inducement to increase rents by protective tariffs or other artificial means.

THE CRUEL PURCHASE TAX

The Purchase Tax came into operation on 21st October. It applies to a wide range of articles, some of which are taxed at one-sixth of the wholesale price and the majority of which are subject to tax at the rate of one-third of the wholesale price. These rates of taxation are reckoned to be roughly equal to one-eighth and one-quarter respectively of the retail price (that is of what the retail price would have been if there had been no tax). As the ordinary consumer has no information as to the wholesale price of the articles he buys, he will have no means of checking whether any increase in price is due to the tax or to other causes. An invoice in respect of a sale by a wholesaler to a retailer must state how much is charged in respect of tax, but there is no obligation on a sale by a retailer to a consumer to state how much of the price is accounted for by tax. It is another example of the evil system of concealed taxation, and it is unworthy of a people who are and wish to be free.

When the measure was first proposed we indicated some of the injustices which would arise. The conditions of the time have accentuated some of these. For example, domestic and office furniture is subject to the higher rate of tax. The argument used was that people could defer their purchases of such durable articles until after the war. It was pointed out that this might be true of established households, but not of those setting up house for the first time. Since then many families have lost all their furniture as a result of bombing, and will be subject to this high tax on replacing it. An interesting side-issue is whether the compensation given to them by the government will take account of the increased cost of replacement due to this tax.

The truth is that such taxation of commodities does and must always fall more heavily upon the poor than upon the rich. If it is to produce any substantial amount of revenue it must be levied upon necessities for if it be levied on other articles it will be evaded. Its incidence is concealed from the ultimate payer because the tax

is wrapped up in the price. Such taxation befits a tyranny but not a democracy.

We take this from *Reynolds's News* of 20th October :—

"In a constituency of which I know something there are nearly 4,000 homeless people. Within the next week or two these people, by hook or by crook, have to get blankets, kitchen tables, linoleum and clothing. Hitler cannot get them down, but this sort of thing does."

Mr R. C. Morrison, M.P.

"This sort of thing" is the foolish, futile Purchase Tax, which comes into operation to-morrow. It will strike a cruel blow at the consumer. It will place grave burdens on the trader.

"The consumer, bombed out of house and home, will find the cost of replacing bedding, clothes and furniture increased by 33½ per cent. The trader, serving the community with depleted stocks, will be hamstringing by a new set of regulations which his less scrupulous rivals will evade with impunity and with profits fished from the public. Worst of all, the Tax will not fulfil Sir Kingsley Wood's assumption that it "must play an important part in raising the large revenue we require."

"Reports from all over the country show that consumers with a little money to spare have been anticipating the Tax. The immediate yield to the revenue, clearly, will come only from the poor who, lacking money to buy in advance, will be obliged to pay through the nose when their needs become clamant. About the ultimate yield of the Tax, only one comment is necessary: no tax designed to destroy trade can fortify the Exchequer."

MIDDLEMAN OR BUREAUCRAT?

For instance. As a student of economics I came to believe that production of wealth was not completed until the product was in the hands of the consumer. Physical distribution of the product, *i.e.*, transport, therefore, was a fundamental factor in production. As, in our complicated economic structure, one man's finished product was another's raw material, transport would figure repeatedly in the many stages between Mother Earth and the man-in-the-street. Transport thus, in the aggregate, becomes a very large, if not preponderating element of cost by the time the prodigal comes into the consumer's possession. *Ipsa facio*, if the big-wigs of the body politic took any interest in the subject of transport it would be towards simplifying, expediting and thus decreasing the cost thereof so that the sum total of all the various transport items entering into the final cost would be as small as possible.

That seems sane enough, don't you think? It would be on the other side of the looking glass, perhaps, but not this side. On this side we are all topsy turvy. We do everything the wrong way round.

The other day I heard it announced on the radio that the Government had decided to butt in on the retail coal trade. When petrol and transport vehicles were so badly needed for war purposes, it was absurd to have half a dozen coal retailers peddling the same wares in the same street. The Government, therefore, were about to control the retail coal trade so that if you lived at 12 Snooty Drive you would buy your coal from Bottle and Swivel, Ltd. Passem, Dodgem and Co. and half a dozen other competitors of Bottle and Swivel, Ltd. could no longer send their vehicles up Snooty Drive with a couple of men shouting "Coal" and making other suitable noises in the hope of weaning your custom from Bottle and Swivel, Ltd.

Well, to me that sounded very sensible. So sensible, indeed, that I immediately felt myself wondering whether

at long last some political big-wig had decided that in the matter of transport it was high time we had another try on the obverse side of the looking glass.

The B.B.C. announcer went on to say that to procure these tremendous economies in the distribution of coal to consumers an elaborate organisation would be set up immediately. To defray the large cost of this large organisation three halfpence per ton would be added to the cost of all coal.—From *Highways and Bridges*, 28th August.

The result of all this attempted saving is to make coal still dearer to the consumer.

BOURNEMOUTH APPROVES THE POLICY

Councillor Dr R. A. Lyster, a member of the Labour Party, was successful in placing on the agenda of the Bournemouth Town Council the following motion :—

"That this Council is of the opinion that the present rating system is inequitable in its incidence: that site value, arising as it does from community influences, including local expenditure, is peculiarly suited to local taxation: and that it is accordingly desirable that the present burden of local expenditure should be transferred, either wholly or in part, to a rate on site value."

"That H.M. Government be informed of the opinion expressed in the foregoing resolution and be urged to introduce legislation at the earliest possible moment to empower local authorities to levy a rate on site value."

At the meeting on 1st October, the proceedings were very prolonged (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and this item, which was No. 8 on the agenda, was not reached. By agreement it was placed first on the agenda for the next meeting, which was held on 25th October.

The motion was discussed and was carried by a large majority. The Bournemouth *Daily Echo* published an extensive report.

Dr Lyster, who was seconded by Councillor Miss Whitehead, and supported in speeches by Alderman T. V. Rebbeck and Councillors Mrs Hilyer and J. E. Bevis, said a great deal had been heard of the woes of ratepayers; but up to the moment no practical measure had been suggested whereby their position might materially be improved. There was a large and growing movement to remove the burden from the bowed backs of the ratepayers and place part of it on the broad shoulders of the landowners, who were well able to bear it. The present system was inequitable and simply put a burden on the occupier. Additional burdens had been thrown on the ordinary occupiers of premises. The present system penalised development and the landowner simply sat tight and got rich.

All amenities provided in a town like Bournemouth added continually to the value of the land, and the owner contributed nothing to these improvements. He instanced the extent to which site values in Bournemouth had risen and declared that 222 local authorities had passed a similar resolution to the one he proposed. One effect of the improvement would be a reduction in rents. "By rating site values you would force the land into the market. At present the owner of undeveloped or insufficiently developed land simply sits tight knowing that the development of the land around him makes his site more valuable."

The only opposing speech reported in the *Daily Echo* was that made by Alderman Sir Charles Carrington.

The public is indebted to Councilmen like Dr Lyster who seize their chance to debate and promote the question of justice in taxation and of the rights of the people to the land.

THE LAND QUESTION IN ROUMANIA AND HUNGARY

ILLUMINATING AS to the causes of misery and therefore of strife and war is the article on the leading article page of the *Glasgow Herald*, 4th September. At the time of writing the author spoke of the extraordinary wave of feeling which was sweeping over Transylvania. It had its roots in something deeper than national patriotism. It is the land hunger of the peasant who, hardly more than a serf before the last war, was first granted land of his own and an independent existence under the Roumanian Government, and who sees this independence threatened by union with a country where semi-feudal conditions still exist.

For obvious reasons politicians on neither side have cared to dwell upon this problem. But Dr Maniu, who started life himself as a landless peasant under the old Hungarian regime, understands it very well. His personal character and his well-known love for his native Province have gained him a powerful following, not only among the Roumanians of the north, but quite possibly among the younger Hungarian peasants who are loth to return, for purely sentimental reasons, to the state of landless dependence which will almost certainly be their lot under Hungarian rule.

Thanks to the Agrarian Reform brought in by Roumania after the last war, each Transylvanian peasant could own his own smallcroft, and was not obliged to work for a return in kind from his Hungarian overlord. It is safe to assume that this condition of affairs will not long remain once most of Transylvania is in Hungarian hands again. The Magyar-Transylvanian noble families, which include those of Count Teleki, Count Bethlen,

and other leaders of Hungarian Nationalism, have long felt exceedingly bitter at Roumanian partition of their once-great estates between the peasants after the last war.

For 20 years now those families have looked across the frontier and seen their relatives in Hungary proper enjoying the privileges long superseded in the modern world. Now, however, the new frontiers will enclose them safely in Greater Hungary, and it will probably be only a question of time before the antique Hungarian system of land tenure will once more restore their estates to them in full—at the expense of Roumanian and Hungarian peasant alike.

The land problem, too, was at the root of Hungary's indignant refusal of Roumania's first offer of an exchange of populations. Probably the fulfilment of this offer was dreaded by the Transylvanians themselves as much as any frontier changes, however drastic. The mere transference of the Magyar minority across the border would have taken no account of the estates and small holdings left behind them, land which in the aggregate came to a handsome proportion of Hungarian-Transylvanian nobles' old property. The peasants themselves could have been under no delusion that Hungary would treat them any better than she has treated her own landless population; while their influx into the already overpopulated rural villages, where it is sometimes a problem to devise labour for all, would merely have brought hardship to the districts concerned, as well as dire poverty to the transplanted. Exchange of populations only works where there is nothing to lose.

THE NEW DUKE OF BEDFORD AND HIS INTERESTS

THE MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK well known as an advocate of "Social Credit" and the distribution of a monetary "National Dividend" to cure unemployment and make trade flourish (despite the bankers!) became the Duke of Bedford on the death of his father, which took place on 27th August. *The Times* obituary of the late Duke described him as "a great landowner," placed in the Peerage of England also as Baron Russell of Chenies, Baron Russell of Thornhaugh, County Northampton, Baron Howland of Sreatham, Surrey, sole heir to the Barony of Chandos, created by Writ of Summons in 1337.

In another obituary it was stated that a Duke of Bedford could ride from Great Missenden in Bucks to the Wash without once leaving his own land; but in the course of years the Russell family parted with at least a quarter of their original possessions.

In 1913 the Duke sold part of his London estates including Covent Garden Market (rather the monopoly toll on the food-imports into London it was his privilege to collect under an Act of 1823), Drury Lane Theatre, the Royal Opera House, the Waldorf Hotel, the Aldwych Theatre, the Strand Theatre, Bow Street Police Court and property in 26 other streets—in all some 19 acres called the Covent Garden Estate.

At the time of the sale one newspaper remarked that when John Russell, Earl of Bedford, received Covent Garden from the Crown in 1552, it was valued at only £6 6s. 8d. In 1919 it was stated in the *Evening Standard* (25th October) that the net profits of the syndicate to which it passed was £199,000 a year. When the sale took place in 1913, Mr Mallaby Deely, M.P., and others, had an option to purchase for which Sir Joseph Beecham agreed to pay £250,000 and the Duke was to be paid

£2,000,000 (see reports, 17th February, 1917, upon the hearing of motions in the Chancery Division dealing with the administration of the estate of the late Sir Joseph Beecham); but on the death of Sir Joseph the trustees apparently sold the estate, for we find it reported in the *Daily Chronicle* of 18th March, 1920, that Mr Edgar Creyke-Fairweather in agreement with the Covent Garden Estate Company acquired the whole of the property for a sum which considerably exceeded £2,500,000.

In spite of the sale the Duke retained a very large part of Bloomsbury and, as the obituary says, "he kept also his private boxes at Covent Garden and Drury Lane Theatres each with its own entrance to the street." And there remain the estates in Devonshire, Cornwall, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northampton.

In many discussions with the new Duke on the Social Credit controversy he was wont to say "he had no interest in land" (was his father denying him anything?), and he could never be brought to see the advantages of Land Values Taxation.

In his new capacity now as one directly interested in collecting and absorbing these values he can at least better appreciate the arguments of the "King Charles Head Single Taxers." And with all he has said or may say about the National Dividend for "increasing the purchasing power" of all the people (including himself), in the quiet hours of contemplation the truth of Thomas Carlyle's picture must occur to him: "The widow is gathering nettles for her children's dinner; a perfumed seigneur, delicately lounging in the *Œil de Bœuf*, hath an alchemy whereby he will extract from her the third nettle, and call it rent."

HOW WAGES ROSE The Nome Illustration

Raymond Robin's story of an actual experience in Nome, Alaska, becomes most impressive as an exemplification of the power of "land capitalism" over human labourers and the effectiveness of free land in producing economic freedom.

As Mr Robin's story runs—in substance only and not in its interesting details—there had been a time in Nome when the lowest wages were eight and nine dollars a day, not at gold mining only but in all employments. But as mining opportunities came to be monopolised and population grew, wages fell until they were down to the minimum of subsistence, which for that place and the time was three dollars a day. The "jobless man" had come. And then were seen in little at Nome all the phenomena of wealth and arrogance in the midst of poverty and dependence with which we are so familiar in the bigger world. The wages system in its direful sense was in full swing.

But on one memorable day a disemployed miner who could get no work either at mining or at anything else, for the labour market was glutted, despondently threw his pick into the tidewater sand at the seashore; and as he listlessly pulled it out he saw upon it the signs of gold. The seashore was not far from Nome, and below tide water it was free ground. He worked that day on this rich beach, and of his earnings, which were something like \$20, he got all. There was no surplus product. His labour was not fleeced.

The next day the word had gone around, and other claims on this seashore were staked. But, unlike the land back of tide water, this land could not, under the law, be monopolised; every claimant had to use it himself or let someone else use it. And there was plenty of it. As word of the wonderful discovery spread, the glut of the labour market ended and wages at Nome rose to \$12 and \$15 a day, which was about what a man could make washing the sands at the shore.

Now mark this: Only disemployed miners were obliged to go to the beach in order to get that till then unheard of rate of wages. Miners in other mines stayed where they were and had their wages raised. Clerks in stores and waiters in restaurants stayed where they were and had their wages raised. The free and profitable employment at the nearby seashore absorbed "the surplus labour" as we call it, and employers, owners of machinery, were obliged to pay at least as much as could be washed from the sand, or lose their help. The economic condition had been reversed. Instead of ten men and only nine jobs, as before, there were only nine men and ten jobs. The earth at that point had ceased to be a "closed" shop and become an "open" shop, and the "jobless man" had consequently disappeared. The power of what in Nome corresponded to the "factory lord" in our larger society, was gone.

—From *The Open Shop and The Closed Shop*

by LOUIS F. POST.

Sidney Gilchrist Thomas, famous as the inventor of the improved Bessemer process of steel production, worked as a young man as a police court clerk. At a meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute in 1878 he announced his discovery. His life, written by his sister, Lillian Gilchrist Thompson, and published by Faber and Faber, was reviewed by Richard Coventry in the *New Statesman and Nation*, 22nd June, 1940. There it is stated that "experience in the police court made him (Gilchrist Thomas) an ardent supporter of Henry George and temperance reform." He died (aged only 35) in 1885, so that his interest in Henry George, of which we have no other record, must have been evoked in the earliest days of the movement. The reviewer states "that Miss Gilchrist Thompson's own life has been spent in the service of her brother, who died so many years ago, leaving her £300 a year for life and the control of a vast fortune to be spent in 'doing good.'"

LETTER TO A FREE TRADER

Mr James H. McGuigan, writing from Ireland in answer to an invitation to a Conference in London, desired to put the following four points to his correspondent, who issued the invitation, that they might be conveyed to the meeting.

"I think your answers to the four questions of the common man are not likely to arouse sufficient support for Free Trade to revert to the policy that preceded that of the National Government. Here are my replies:—

"1. In spite of the increased production of wealth that followed the repeal of the Protective Tariffs, there was much poverty and housing conditions were bad for the workers, while unearned incomes (from the private appropriation of land values) were increasing in all urban areas, especially in the big cities, and an ever increasing share of the products of labour was flowing to the owners of land in the great centres of trade. Many were decrying individualism and competition and demanding state regulation of everything and everybody. There were very few brave enough to defend *Laissez Faire*. Such measure of Free Trade as we had was not effecting an equitable distribution of the increasing wealth.

"2. Income Tax operates as a fine on the use of land, the employment of labour, and the production of goods, while it encourages the land speculator neither to use the land himself nor to let anyone else use it.

"3. Those now employed in protected industries can hardly be expected to support Free Trade while the prospect of its adoption means for them competing for jobs with huge numbers of other unemployed men. And while Protection has not solved the problem of unemployment anywhere, the need for a solution was as urgent under our 'Free Trade' as in the countries under Protection.

"4. The hopeless outlook you have on unemployment weakens any appeal you make for Free Trade so called. It would be difficult to convince the workers in Barrow, in Birkenhead, on the Tyne and on the Clyde that the building of warships caused unemployment. War and preparations for war are generally looked upon as providing work. Free exchange is not enough. It makes poor appeal to so many who have nothing to exchange. But freedom to exchange coupled with equal liberty to produce goods would appeal to all who love liberty and are capable of clear thinking.

"I enclose a small pamphlet, *The Real Meaning of Free Trade*, being an extract from an address on Free Trade by Henry George, which may induce you to read his book *Protection or Free Trade*."

The Meat Trades Journal recently gave as "this week's quotation":—

So long as all the increased wealth which modern progress brings goes but to build up great fortunes, to increase luxury, and make sharper the contrast between the House of Have and the House of Want, progress is not real and cannot be permanent.—Henry George, *Progress and Poverty*.

* * *

The old practice of man holding man as property is exploded among civilised nations; and the analogous barbarism of man holding the surface of the globe as property cannot long survive. The idea of this being a barbarism is now fairly formed, admitted and established among some of the best minds of the time; and the result is, in all such cases, ultimately secure.—HARRIET MARTINEAU.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an invitation to become a Subscriber. Monthly, 2d. By Post, 3s. a Year; U.S.A. and Canada, 75 cents.

THE CYCLE OF LIFE—SOIL, PLANT, MAN

THE PRIMARY aim of human life should be that man's body should enjoy perfect health so that body and mind may both function properly. That men in this and other 'civilized' countries are far from that ideal is evident from the high incidence of disease and premature death. Two valuable contributions to the literature of this subject are Lord Northbourne's *Look to the Land* (J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd., 7s. 6d.), and *The Nation's Larder* (G. Bell & Sons Ltd., 2s. 6d.), the latter being a series of lectures given at the Royal Institution in the spring of this year by Prof. J. C. Drummond, Sir Robert McCarrison, Sir John Orr, Dr. J. C. Spence and others. Perhaps it may be useful to try and summarise the leading points.

Man, like all other living things, is the result of a long evolution, during which he has gradually adjusted himself to his environment. He lived for the most part upon simple foods which were produced in the locality where he resided, and which were eaten without being subjected to processes of 'refinement' or kept for long periods under artificial conditions of cold or sterilization. The demarcation between the life of the countryman and the life of the townsman was not sharp. Manufactures of woollen and other goods were carried on in the country, while even in the largest towns no one lived under conditions so far divorced from the natural as those that now prevail. These conditions prevailed in this country until two centuries ago.

Since that time an enormous change has taken place in the conditions of life, a change to which the constitution of man has had no time to adapt itself and to which it may never be able to adapt itself. It is customary to ascribe this change to the Industrial Revolution, but that explanation is inadequate. The tremendous technological development of the last two centuries began at a period when wholesale enclosures were driving men out of the countryside with ever-increasing speed. The rapid growth of manufactures, combined with the possibility of importing food for the operatives, conducted to an extraordinarily rapid growth of the town populations and generations grew up who had known no other life and who had lost the traditions of living which had gradually developed over a long period. Invention made it possible to supply denatured foods more cheaply than simple natural ones, and the use of condiments and other stimulants to appetite helped to overcome any instinctive choice of healthy foods.

It is only in recent years that it has become evident that proper nutrition depends upon much more than supplying certain quantities of proteins, carbohydrates, and so on. The maintenance of health depends upon numerous constituents of natural foods, some of which it has been possible to isolate as vitamins. Prof. Drummond points out that the diet of a labourer in the North of England in the eighteenth century contained more calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin B, and vitamin C than are even considered necessary as a result of recent research, whereas Sir John Orr's mean values for families spending less than 8s. per week per head on food are far below the proper standard.

The diet of the English labourer in 1737 on which the comparison is based included for himself and his wife and two children half cwt. of potatoes, 15 quarts of milk, and nearly half a pound of butter a week. He ate wholemeal bread and had plenty of vegetables. It is abundantly clear that such peasant diets of wholemeal cereals, mixed vegetables, and dairy produce provide what is necessary for health. Sir Robert McCarrison referring to the various races of India each with its own national diet, says:—

"With the exception of those whose staple article of food is rice—the nutritive value of which is usually debased by the various treatments to which it is subjected before use—the national diets of these races are composed of the unsophisticated foodstuffs which their fields and pastures provide. Some of them, notably certain peoples of northern India are unsurpassed in perfection of physique, powers of endurance and of resistance to disease by any races of mankind. Others, particularly the rice-eating races of the west and south, are of poor physique, low powers of endurance and subject to much disease."

He quotes McCay's conclusion that food was the all

important influence in determining the difference between these various peoples—a conclusion borne out by his own experiments.

There is, however, a more subtle factor to be considered. We must not only have the right kinds of food but they also must be properly nourished, must be grown on suitable soils. "The foodstuffs must be produced on soils that are not themselves lacking in essential mineral and other substances—such, for instance, as iodine, calcium, or phosphorus—and on soils that are not themselves rich in substances harmful to the human body, such, for instance, as fluorine." There is abundant evidence that the soil of this country is suffering from lack of humus—that portion of the soil which arises from the decay of organic matter. The problem of soil erosion, as Lord Northbourne points out, arises largely from the denudation of its humus and that in turn arises from methods of farming which exhaust the humus and do not replace it, for example raising the same crop year after year, failing to manure the land, and applying nothing but artificial fertilisers. The traditional agriculture of many countries returned to the soil all the organic waste materials which were needed to maintain its humus content. Most of our urban civilizations fail to do so, because a large part of the produce of farming is consumed far from the farms and the waste products are carried by sewers to the sea, or are incinerated, or otherwise disposed of in such a way that the humus is not replenished. The farmer is able to stimulate his crops for a time by doses of artificial fertilisers, but the humus continues to diminish.

Lord Northbourne suggests that one of the consequences of this is the prevalence of disease of animals and plants, resulting in the slaughter of many animals on account of tuberculosis and foot and mouth disease and an enormous annual expenditure on multiple sprayings of fruit, hops, potatoes, and other plants to combat the diseases to which they are liable.

The problem to be solved is more than an economic one. It involves a re-education of the people to make them understand the importance of fresh, whole, natural foods. But it is an economic problem. Lord Northbourne writes: "So far as land is concerned, the important thing is that speculation in land values should become impossible. . . In so far as attention has been paid to speculation in land values, it has mostly been directed to the profits arising from the increase in land values in the neighbourhood of towns; and rightly so, for that is where the main increase has been taking place. But when farming comes into its own, similar speculative opportunities must arise on agricultural land, because such land would tend to increase rapidly in value." This is true. No one can prevent land from increasing in value if the demand for it increases, but we can at least ensure that the value of the land goes to the community instead of to some individual who has done nothing to earn it. At the same time we must ensure for the cultivator security of tenure. Without that he is likely to try to get as much as he can out of the land in a short time by exhausting its fertility. It would be interesting to know to what extent soil erosion in the United States and elsewhere is co-related with short and insecure tenancies. It may be remarked in this connection that the Danish method of estimating the land value of agricultural land requires the land to be valued as if it were in an average state of cultivation; the owner obtains no reduction of valuation by letting down the fertility of his land. Thus the system of land value taxation fits the economic aspects of this problem of soil, nutrition and health, and is a condition of its solution.

F. C. R. D.

The late Sir George Alexander Cooper, Bart., left £3,001,027, the estate duty amounting to £1,634,103. Sir George was practising as a solicitor in Elgin more than 40 years ago, when he and his wife inherited over £4,500,000 from her cousin "Chicago" Smith, an eccentric, who was as notorious for his great wealth as for his miserly habits. "Chicago" Smith emigrated from Scotland to the United States and acquired large holdings of land on the site where Chicago was afterwards built.—*London Star*, 11th April, 1940.

DIVIDING UP ALL WEALTH A Fallacious Doctrine

The Editor, Land & Liberty :

SIR,—A Communist friend with whom I talked the other day indulged in comment that led me to believe that he considered things could be adjusted by the simple process of a more equal division of existing wealth. This involves so many fallacies that it is hardly worth while pursuing, but it is just one more manifestation of the general belief that a cure can be effected by a different sub-division of existing stock. Henry George stood almost alone in proclaiming the doctrine that it was not so much what people take that matters, but what they prevent from being taken (used), and this seems to me to be worth while being given the greatest prominence, for failure to recognise this is a very big factor in giving rise to certain misconceptions.

To those who oppose Socialism, it is often argued that if you took the wealth of all the rich men and divided it among the working men it would not pan out to any great amount. You are well aware of the trash that is used as an argument in such cases, rightly or wrongly. Yet the fact is true, and the unfortunate thing is that those who suggest a more equitable distribution fail to see the real answer to such postulations. Henry George claimed that there was enough for all, but what would he have said to-day ? Why, that there was more than enough for all, and yet at the same time millions are living in scarcity of even the most simple needs of life.

To me one of the greatest tragedies was the victory of the National Government of 1931. The particular party in power may not be worth much in the consideration of such as ourselves, but the general retrogression involved is bearing its fruit to-day. Don't study character, disregard honesty, and purity of purpose, and have wholesale regard to the glorious gospel of acquisitiveness and all will be well !

Can one expect the next generation to have any belief in noble ideals ? It does not seem so. The nations decay from within, harbouring in their midst all the ingredients that surely and certainly take them to the path of destruction in a manner that no external enemy could ever accomplish.

Wairford.

Yours, etc., D. G. ANTILL.

* * *

The following passage from *The Science of Political Economy* will be familiar to our correspondent who has so clearly distinguished Henry George's outlook from that of some others :—

It needs no economist to tell us that if in any country the products of a living civilization were treated as the Bedouins treat the products of a dead civilization, the swift result would be fatal to that civilization — would be poverty, famine and death to the people individually and collectively. This result would come utterly irrespective of human law. It would make no difference whether the appropriation of "things once there" without regard to the will of the producer were in defiance of human law or under the sanctions of human law ; the result would be the same. . . .

This is not to say that any division of wealth that mankind individually or collectively may choose to make will be interfered with or prevented. Things once here, once in existence in the present, are absolutely in the control of the men of the present, and "they can place them at the disposal of whomsoever they please and on whatever terms." Any renouance of the moral law of nature to their action will not show itself in, or in relation to, these identical things. But it will show itself in the future—in checking or preventing the production of such things. Things once produced *are* then and there already in existence, and may be distributed as mankind may will. But the things on which the natural laws of distribution exert their control are not things already produced, but things which are being, or are yet to be, produced.

In other words, production in political economy is not to be conceived of as something which goes on for a while and then stops, when its product wealth has been brought into being ; nor is it to be conceived of as something related

only to a production that is finished and done. Both production and distribution are properly conceived of as continuous, resembling not the drawing of water in a bucket but the drawing of water through a pipe—or better still, in the conveyance of water over an elevation by means of a bent pipe or siphon, of which the shorter arm may stand for production and the longer for distribution. It is in our power to tap this longer arm of the pipe at any point below the highest, and take what water is *already there*. But the moment we do so, the continuity of the stream is at an end, and the water will cease to flow. . . . As it is the outflow of water at the longer end of the siphon that is the cause of the inflow of water at the shorter end, so it is that distribution is really the cause of production, not production the cause of distribution. In the ordinary course, things are not distributed because they have been produced, but are produced in order that they may be distributed. Thus interference with the distribution of wealth is interference with the production of wealth, and shows its effect in lessened production. . . .

As to pierce the heart and divert the blood that has been produced from the natural course of its distribution is to bring about the death of the physical organism most swiftly and certainly, so to interfere with the natural laws of the distribution of wealth is to bring about a like death of the social organism. If we seek for the reason of ruined cities and dead civilizations we shall find it in this.

WHY IS NOT MORE DONE ?

The Editor, Land & Liberty :

SIR,—I am enclosing my subscription to *Land & Liberty*. I am astounded by the knowledge I have gained during the last six months of the great advantages of the Land Values Tax.

What has amazed me most is the fact that I have been for forty years mixed up in various societies, some political, mostly friendly, and have never heard of the possibilities of real good combined in the teaching of Henry George. How is this ? Can it be that your Institution is lax in letting common people know or have I been lax in my brain-pan ? Whatever it is, I certainly think there is not enough being done to bring the knowledge of Henry George's teaching to the man in the street. Hoping and working to this end.

Bristol.

Yours truly, A. LANE.

[We appreciate this compliment from our new reader with whom we entirely agree that not enough is being done to make known the teaching of Henry George. It is the invariable remark of the one who grasps that knowledge for the first time and is gripped by it. And it is so of the newcomer to every illuminating or liberating truth. "Why have I been kept in ignorance ?" Friends and teachers and associates must surely have known of it and yet they made no mention for reasons of their own ! In the hurry-burry of political and municipal activities, with legislation passed three times through the House of Commons, our question taking a prominent place in the programmes of the parties, and hundreds of town councils pressing for the reform, a great public sentiment has been created in its favour ; so how is it that the societies to which our correspondent is attached have remained in the dark, and in the dark no doubt as to other questions that come in conflict with accepted institutions and vested prejudices ? It is for him to enquire and however it may be, he has made up his mind now to do all he can to remedy the situation. It counts a lot to have his co-operation.—EDITOR, *L. & L.*]

The old Adam dies hard. Already there are reports that speculators are buying up bombed sites in some parts of the country. Apparently they are innocent enough and old-fashioned enough to hope that when the day of reconstruction comes they will be able to hold those to ransom who wish to build a better Britain. When that day comes the people will not tolerate such rapacity. The Government ought not to tolerate it now.—*Manchester Evening News*, 21st October.

"FOR SANITY, SAFETY AND EQUITY"

Responding to a published invitation from Lord Bledisloe, the *British Australian and New Zealander*, of 26th September had a leading article on "Reconstruction and Agriculture." In his letter Lord Bledisloe had said that "sanity, safety and equity alike dictate an entire revolution in the post-war status of agriculture and its treatment at the hands of the State, unless the whole fabric of national and Imperial stability is to crumble irreparably."

In the course of its article, the *British Australian and New Zealander* said: "The principles which we have in mind and hope for opportunities to discuss, would involve payment to the State by landowners, large and small, in town and country, of the economic rent of the site they own, based on its value, arrived at by deducting from the price a willing buyer would pay to a willing seller for any landed property the value—not the cost—of all existing improvements upon it. No present owner would be disturbed in his possession of a quarter-acre of land or of a million acres. He could sell it if he chose, as he can to-day. The only difference would be that valuable land could not be left idle or be so poorly used as not to furnish the rent based on its site value. The man who could not use land to advantage would part with it to a man who could, at the price, practically, of the improvements upon it, which would be his own, subject to no rental to the State. At the present time all land in Canberra and the thousand square miles of Federal Territory in which Canberra is situated are held by individuals and companies on this tenure, at a rent to the State based on their unimproved value, which is periodically re-assessed. There would come into immediate effect a form of land nationalization which would involve no bureaucracy, but would leave every holder of land free to use his land in his own way, and spur him on to use it well, because improvements to the land would add to the income received from it, without adding to the rent. And eventually in times of peace the happy day would come when the rent of the nation's property would be so large as to defray all national and municipal expenditure and all its citizens would live tax free."

HILL-TOP CROPS

By F. Skirrow

I was much interested in the letter in the *Keighley News* from Mr J. H. Wright, who is taking an interest in agriculture and the improvement of grassland and the development of waste land.

Mr Wright refers to a farmer, Mr H. O. Brown, Low Fold, Long Lee, who is making experiments in breaking-up and re-seeding some rough moorland and meeting with gratifying results. After reading Mr Wright's interesting letter I decided to pay a visit to Low Fold and interview Mr Brown. To my astonishment Farmer Brown turned out to be a single-tax friend of 40 years ago but with whom I had lost touch for many years. Harry Brown, as he was to his single-tax friends, had become the owner of several acres of land which he now cultivates. This fact was unknown to me.

"Are you tenant or owner of the farm?" I asked, to which he replied, "I'm the owner, or I'd not be making these improvements." "Why?" I inquired, to which he replied, "As a tenant I'd have been working for the landlord who could raise the rent. As owner I'm working for myself."

This reminded me of a story related to me 50 years ago by a Bingley tradesman. Briefly, the story was to the effect that a man named Leach occupied a farm near Druid's Altar. At the time he took possession the land was, as I remember the story, something like that of Mr. Brown's except that Mr Leach was an occupying tenant. By hard work he made the land yield good crops of grain. One fine day he had a friendly visit from his landlord, Mr William Ferrand, who at one time had represented the Knaresborough Parliamentary Division and was known as the "Fighting M.P."

Mr Ferrand complimented his tenant on the excellence of his crops. "Aye," said Leach, "they're vary good, an' I'm proud of 'em." "Yes, yes," said the landlord, "I think, Leach, this farm'll stand a bit more rent." My friend Harry Brown was not to be caught in a snare like that.

As a student of the writings of Henry George he knew the

power of private land monopoly. He is still as keen a single-tax man as when he worked in a "Black shop" in Keighley. He would welcome a land value tax in lieu of the multiplicity of taxes which to-day not only hamper his efforts but those of all other men, who have to work for their living.

Mr Brown assured me that even on the heights of Long Lee nature generously responds to those who treat her with intelligence and kindness. Security of tenure and fair rents are essential if agriculture is to give the best obtainable results. During the great land campaign of many years ago, Lord Bledisloe, one time head of the oldest agricultural college in England, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, wrote in *The Times*: "The mode of taxing real property is a serious deterrent to agricultural enterprise and increased output. . . . There are for instance thousands of acres of seriously neglected grassland in the West of England and in Wales which by the application of phosphatic fertilizers might be made to yield three times the amount of meat or milk that they are now yielding, but the farmers will not apply these dressings because they know that the assessable value of their land (and perhaps consequently its rent) will be raised."

But since then agricultural land has been relieved of all rates, so that tenant farmers are no longer liable for rates on their improvements, but it must be remembered that the remission has merely given the landowners the power to increase rents by the amount of rates remitted. So, as previously, the landlords as such reap ever-increasing incomes at the expense of their tenants.—(Reprinted from the *Keighley News*.)

MANHATTAN SINGLE TAX CLUB

The Manhattan Single Tax Club which was founded by Henry George in 1886 has its offices at 1165 Broadway, New York City. The president is Mr Charles H. Ingersoll and there are many notable names on the managing and consulting boards. The Club has now moved to new quarters in the same building, by which it will have facility for increased activity. The bulletin of the Club published ten times yearly (subscription \$1), is entitled *democracy*, spelled "with the small d." The club becomes the meeting place for economic classes to be held each evening from 5.30 to 7.30 and from 8 to 10, and on Saturdays from 2 to 4. The text book chosen for the purpose is a new book *Freedom Now*, by H. J. Haase, which has been read in manuscript by many leading people in the Henry George movement, and a teacher's manual has been prepared in connection with it.

The bulletin *democracy* is made up of short paragraphs of news and comment, just enough for a thought, bearing instruction. Here is one from the issue of 28th September:

"How strange it is that politicians and statesmen concern themselves so little with the cause of the war now possessing the earth. Do they deserve relief from it, if they are too indolent to ask its cause? Is there—or has there ever been—a war that did not show plainly to him who ran, that its cause was not remote from possession of the earth and its resources, and the restriction of exchange of those resources, modified by labour? Then before people subject themselves in millions to being blown to atoms, should they not direct their government to remove the cause, or acknowledge the anarchists' charge that government is worse than useless."

GRASS FIELDS TO LET FOR CULTIVATION.—Offers are invited for two fields to be cultivated at Horselaw for one or five years. North Park, 16 ac. 1 rd. 1 pole. East High, 11 ac. 1 rd. 23 poles. *Proprietors to retain subsidy.*—Speedie Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers.

From an advertisement in a Dundee paper. The italics are ours.

* * *

From the *Children's Newspaper*, 26th October:—

"Place one hundred men on an island from which there is no escape, and whether you make one of these men the absolute owner of the other ninety-nine, or the absolute owner of the soil of the island, will make no difference to him or to them.—Henry George."

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, LTD., 34 Knight rider Street, St. Paul's, London, E.C.4. A. W. Madsen, Secretary; F. C. R. Douglas, Assistant Secretary; W. R. Lester, Hon Treasurer. (Telephone: City 6701; Telegrams: "Eulay, Cent, London.")

In our financial note of last month, we remarked that towards the Committee's estimate expenditure of £2,680 for the whole year, the balance of donations and subscriptions needed before the end of the year to ensure "no deficit" was £400. Towards this achievement there has been received during October the sum of £160. Many enheartening letters have come, all the more gratifying in view of the present difficult times. One North of Ireland supporter increased his periodic contribution to £20. Another North of Ireland contributor, having sent £5, followed that up about a week later by writing: "I have an idea that some of your old subscribers will be crippled by the war in their finance and not be able to help as usual. I am thankful to be more fortunate and have pleasure to enclose cheque for £30 for your funds to help and encourage." And this letter from New Zealand: "Herewith a small draft (it is larger at this end because the exchange reduces it by 25 per cent.) to pay up some of my arrears. The Committee's work is of ever increasing importance and the war means less support. I would I could treble what I am sending. Please give £3 to the International Union and £5 to the U.C."

Mr Madsen has been spending a fortnight in Edinburgh and about a week in Yorkshire. Reports will be found in another column of meetings held.

Last month every reader of this paper received a copy of the new and revised catalogue and price list of the Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, our publishing department. Since then the Catalogue has been circulated with an appropriate covering letter to several thousand general correspondents whose interest has been shown in their previous applications for literature and who it is hoped will become more and more attached to the movement for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. We want and we need their fullest co-operation.

Editors of *Land and Freedom*, 150 Nassau Street, New York City, are Robert Clancy, Jos Hiram Newman and Charles Jos Smith. We are grateful for a recent message of good wishes, impressed as they are by the accounts of London's ordeals; "but we have," they write, "an abiding conviction that your day of triumph in the highest sense of the word will prevail." Our friends were present at the recent Henry George Congress in Washington, D.C., and they report successful meetings. Mrs Franklin D. Roosevelt gave the members a reception at the White House and proved to be a most gracious hostess.

WELSH LEAGUE: Eustace Davies, Hon Secretary, 27 Park Place, Cardiff (Telephone: 1565.)

Mr Edgar Buck, who has always given the League valuable assistance, has joined up, not in the army but in the police force, the section under the control of the Home Office. So far he has been posted locally and we have been able to keep in touch. The rate of remuneration and the possibility of being posted locally were factors that decided him.

Mr T. C. Morris took good note of Miss Dorothy Thompson's article in the *Western Mail* drawing lessons from the "Collapse of France." His useful letter backing up Miss Thompson, with apt quotations from *Social Problems*, was published on 22nd October.

Mr Robert Wynne of Hamilton, Ontario, who from time to time has contributed informing articles on Land Value Taxation in Welsh papers and in Welsh language, has sent us, through the publishers, Gee & Son, of Denbigh, his manuscript, *Yr Economeg Newydd* (The New Economy), which has been passed on to Professor Roberts of Cardiff University, to advise what the League may be able to do in regard to it.

It was interesting to see in the *Cambrian News* of 4th October an article on the prices charged for cemetery sites in Liverpool; it was reprinted word for word from *Land & Liberty*, although without acknowledgment of the source. It is good to educate the public with the information but the *Cambrian News* must have many readers who would link themselves with our activities if they did but get an introduction. Would the *Cambrian News*, by a brief announcement, enable us to send such interested people copies of *Land & Liberty* and other literature?

MANCHESTER LEAGUE: Arthur H. Weller, J.P., Secretary, Pychley, Bean Leach Road, Offerton, Stockport.

Copies of *Progress and Poverty*, presented by the United Committee at the request of Mr A. Brown, have been much appreciated by the recipients and carefully read. One has since placed the book in the library of the local Friends' Institute. Another, who was greatly impressed by his reading, has bought a second copy and lent one to a friend.

Mr D. J. J. Owen addressed members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation at Heaton Moor on 29th September, and the Stockport Adult School on the following Sunday. His address on "A New Social Order," at a Friends' Conference in Manchester, on 5th October, led to an interesting discussion. In the course of his remarks Mr Owen compared the philosophy of Walter Lippman with that of Middleton Murry.

A letter from the Secretary on "The need of abolishing tariff walls" was printed in the *Manchester Guardian* of 30th September. Another letter on "The alternative to Hitlerism" appeared in the *Stockport Express* of 26th September.

YORKSHIRE AND NORTHERN LEAGUE: Fred Skirrow, Secretary, 129 Skipton Road, Keighley.

During a visit to Huddersfield, Mr A. W. Madsen addressed the Borough Liberals on the Rating of Land Values, at their meeting on 23rd October. Mr Ashley Mitchell presiding. Good publicity was given by the extensive report appearing in the *Huddersfield Examiner*. Mr Madsen also visited Halifax where he met several members of the League.

Mr Albert Goodram addressed a section of the Co-operative Labour Party in Sheffield.

The issue of literature by post has been continued. The Secretary has had letters in various Yorkshire papers.

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

The members of the Birmingham War Agricultural Committee have resigned *en bloc* because of the difficulties they are meeting with in securing the ploughing-up of uncultivated land in this area. There are thousands of idle acres in Birmingham which should be under cultivation and the chief obstacle seems to be that they are withheld for profit, after the war, for building developments. The plain remedy of the taxation of land values would speedily end this despicable withholding of land from its appropriate use.

PORSMOUTH LEAGUE: H. R. Lee, Hon Secretary, 13 Lawrence Road, Southsea.

The only work the League can do, owing to war conditions, is sending out letters and pamphlets to possible readers. A number of pamphlets (*Thy Kingdom Come*, *The Future to the Gangster—Unless, Thou Shalt not Steal*, and *The Root Cause of the World Discontent*) were sent to the Secretary of the Moral Re-armament Movement with a covering letter stating "That if your crusade is to succeed permanently it must be prepared to fight against an injustice that condemns masses of people to continuous poverty from the cradle to the grave."

The Secretary managed to get a letter in the *Evening News* (local) criticising an address given at the Rotary Club by a speaker who attempted to make a case against the Redistribution of Wealth, but the letter submitted that the whole of rent should be taken for local and national revenue and relieve the crushing burden of rate and taxes, and that there was a growing number of people who wanted a redistribution of wealth in this direction.

A fortuitous meeting with a local Methodist clergyman discovered him to be one of those who for a time had been on the *Land & Liberty* free list at headquarters and had thereby appreciated the truth of the Henry George teaching. He is now reading *The Condition of Labour*, a book which should be an inspiration to every clergyman in the land.

EDINBURGH LEAGUE: D. J. Downie, 5 Arden Street, Edinburgh.

The *Scotsman* and the *Evening News* of 21st October made report as follows:—

The removal of land monopoly by the taxation of land values and the establishment of Free Trade, so as to bring about goodwill among the nations, were advocated by Mr A. W. Madsen, editor of *Land & Liberty* when he addressed a social gathering in Macavities, Guest & Co.'s Restaurant, Princes Street, Edinburgh, on Saturday.

The meeting was arranged by the Edinburgh Taxation of Land Values League to entertain Mr Madsen, who has been spending a short holiday in his native town. Mr T. O. Macmillan presided, and members from Glasgow, Perth, Leven, Duns, West Linton, and other parts of the country attended.

Mr Madsen said they were all looking forward to the new order that should be established when the war was concluded, and he insisted that no settlement would be satisfactory if it did not deal with the land question so as to remove the causes of poverty and unemployment in our own country. They were perfectly aware of the scandalous prices that had had to be paid for land for public and other purposes. In a sense, one could say that the country had been all along beleaguered by its own

land monopoly. It seemed to him that the first task of a Government, not only of this country but of other countries, was to see that the restrictions upon production and trade were removed.

A message of sympathy and hope was sent to Danish friends of the movement.

It was pleasing to have Mr and Mrs Madsen once again in our midst and to have also as our guests Mr Alex Mackendrick who, from his home in Richmond, is making a stay in this town; Mrs John Paul from London, now living in West Linton; Mr Wm Reid from Glasgow, and the friends from the other places named in the *Scotsman* report. The resolution with regard to Danish co-workers was moved by Mr J. C. Geddes of Perth. Numerous letters were received from members and friends unable to be present.

LONDON, GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, CROSBY,
CLITHEROE, DERBYSHIRE, INVERNESS.

Readers in these districts who are seeking opportunity to promote the principle and policy for which this Journal stands are invited to communicate with secretaries and correspondents as follows:—Mr Fredk. Verinder, 34 Knightrider Street, London, E.C.4; Mr Wm. Reid, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3; Mr C. W. E. Watkinson, 6 Darley Drive, Liverpool, 12; Mr C. C. Paton, 11 Tudor Road, Crosby, Liverpool, 23; Mrs F. G. Sumner, "Oak Side," Mytton Road, Whalley, Lancs.; Mr G. Musson, 29 Denby Lane, Codnor, Derbyshire; Mr Isaac Mackenzie, The Arcade, Inverness.

HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP, STOKE-ON-TRENT
BRANCH, J. W. Higgs, Hon Secretary, 12 Riley Street
South, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent.

We held a public meeting in the Town Hall, Tunstall, on 6th October. There was a good attendance despite treacherous weather. Those on the platform included the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, Alderman W. Holdcroft, Alderman J. H. Dale, Alderman E. T. Bird, Reverend Hugh Benson, vicar of Sneyd Church, Burslem, and the Reverend A. Lindsay, vicar of Christ Church, Tunstall. Other city councillors were present. Mr. Andrew MacLaren, M.P., appealed to the youth of the district to train their minds for the great tasks which lay ahead. Correct thought, he said, must precede correct action. He asked them to

join our economic classes for this purpose. The Reverend gentlemen on the platform gave our classes their blessing.

On 9th October an enrolment meeting was held for students in the Town Hall, Burslem, and 15 new students gave their names; at the succeeding weekly meeting five more came. Thus we have now a new class in Burslem of 20 students. We hope to start another class in Hanley. Any supporters living within our area who would like to make a subscription to our funds, are asked to communicate with our Treasurer, Mr G. D. McKellen, c/o 35 Berrisford Crescent, Westlands, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

OUR PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT

The Henry George Foundation of Great Britain was established in 1929 to administer a Trust Fund for publishing, circulating and advertising the works of Henry George and related literature. It was endowed by an annuity extending over the years 1929 to 1939; but the founder, the late Louis P. Jacobs, so framed the Trust as to facilitate its re-endowment by legacies or donations given for like purpose.

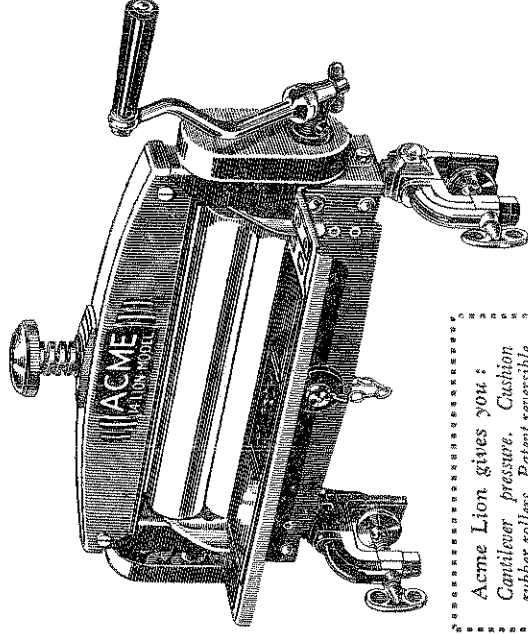
The Trustees of the Foundation, the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values Ltd., 34 Knightrider Street, London, E.C.4, cordially invite the co-operation of all who can help to maintain and strengthen this our publication department, moved by the conviction which inspired Mr Jacobs's gift—that the principles expounded by Henry George offer the only true basis of Economic Freedom and Social Justice and that their application will remove involuntary poverty, promote industrial peace, make all other reforms easier of accomplishment, and generally contribute to the welfare of humanity.

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