

Monthly Bulletin

OF

The English League for the Taxation of Land Value

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APRIL, 1931

Special Notice to Members.

The Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Members of the League will be held on Wednesday, May 25th next. Fuller particulars will be circulated later, with the Annual Report of the Executive, the Audited Accounts, etc. Meanwhile, members are specially requested to make a note of the date of the meeting. Attention is also specially called to the following paragraph.

Nominations and Elections.

Clause 18 of the League Constitution reads as follows :—

“ In the case of an Annual General Meeting the Secretary shall post to all members with the notice of meeting a list of the names of the retiring Officers and Members of the Executive Committee (included those appointed under Rule 11 hereof) together with a copy of this Rule. Any Member of the League who has assented to his nomination may be nominated by two Members of the League who shall seven clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting send such nomination to the Secretary. Retiring Officers and Members of the Executive Committee shall be eligible for re-election without nomination. At any General Meeting, election shall be by ballot where the number of candidates for election exceeds the number of positions to be filled. Not less than two scrutineers elected by the Members present for the purpose shall collect the ballot papers and count the votes cast, and their report on the voting shall be conclusive evidence of the result of the election.”

The retiring Officers, etc., are :—

President—Rupert East.

Hon. Treasurer—Frank Fox.

General Secretary—Fredk. Verinder.

Auditors—Messrs. Bulton, Stevens and Witty, Incorporated Accountants.

Vice-Presidents—

Rt. Hon. G. N. Barnes, D.C.L.	Reginald H. Pott, L.C.C.
Peter Burt	*P. Wilson Raffan, J.P.
*H. G. Chancellor	*T. Atholl Robertson, F.R.
Sir Percy Harris, Bt, M.P.	Frank Smith
Mrs. Louis P. Jacobs	Chas. H. Smithson
Chas. Latham,	
F.L.A.A., F.I.S.A., L.C.C.	Rev. Mervyn Stewart, F.R.
*W. R. Lester, M.A.	Rt. Hon. C. P. Trevelyan,
A. W. Madsen, B.Sc.	*Rt. Hon. J. C. Wedgwood,
	D.S.O.,
*Francis Neilson	H. Graham White, M.P.
	*Former Presidents.

Executive Committee—

Chas. Ankin, LL.B.	Miss D. Jacobs
H. A. Berens, B.A., F.C.S.	Miss F. R. Levy
W. E. Bland, F.C.I.I.	Leon MacLaren
Mrs. Frank Fox	John A. Mawson
R. P. Gardener	H. F. G. Mermagen
W. O. Holmes	C. B. Pelham
A. J. Horn	Louis Rosenfield
Ernest Ingledew, A.C.I.S.	

The President, Hon. Treasurer and Gen Secretary are *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee.

Nominations in respect of any of the Officers, etc., should reach the Secretary at least “ seven clear days ” before the date of the Annual Meeting (see Clause 18, above).

Meetings in April.

Tu. 5.—International Friendship League (Greenwich Group), Prince of Orange Station Hotel, next Greenwich Station : A. C. Blackburn. “ The Problem of War.” 8.15 p.m.

Th. 28.—London Co-operative Society, Chiswick Political Council, Guild Room, over Co-operative Stores, 100, High Road, Chiswick. A. C. Blackburn. 8 p.m.
North Tottenham Women’s Liberal Association, 10, Bruce Grove, Tottenham, N. Fredk. Verinder, “ Rates and Assessments.” 3 p.m.

MAY 25 —Annual Meeting of League.

Economic Causes of the “ Anschluss.”

Besides the “ racial ” reasons for the annexation of Austria, upon which Herr Hitler has laid so much

stress, it is impossible to doubt that there were powerful economic causes also. The City Editor of the *News-Chronicle* has pointed out (March 16th), that Austria possesses high-grade iron ore in the Eisenberg (Iron Mountain) with possibilities of greatly increased production; that it is the largest producer in the world of magnesium—"an essential ingredient for high-speed steel alloys and therefore," like iron, "an important munition of war." "Probably most important of all is the water-power of the Tyrol," which "with intensive development could produce enough electricity to render all Germany independent of coal as a source of power," an enormous help to Hitler's policy of economic self-sufficiency. Austrian armament works also come under his control. "The Austrian sugar industry is also of some importance and Austria also possesses certain natural oil resources."

The article from which we quote appeared on March 16th. Two days later Hitler told the Reichstag that the mining of copper, lead and gold would be begun or intensified. The exploitation of Austrian water-power resources . . . would also now be undertaken on a big scale, as well as other projects of internal development."

In the wars in Abyssinia, Spain, China, and now in the military occupation of Austria, the acquisition of new natural resources, whatever "ideological" reasons may have been given for foreign aggression, is clearly one of the most important objects in view.

* *After this note had been written, the views of the *News-Chronicle* writer were confirmed and amplified in a special article in the *Times* (March 21st), in which it was pointed out, among other things, that Germany is very short of timber, from which it is trying to produce artificial wool and that "more than one-third of Austria's productive land is afforested."

Field-Marshal Goering, in his speech at Vienna on March 27th, told the people of Austria that unemployment would be ended by schemes of public works and manufacture of armaments.

Rates.

In the House of Commons, on March 18th, Sir Kingsley Wood, Minister of Health, moved the second reading of a Bill to postpone the operation of the proposed Re-valuation for Rating purposes till April 1st, 1941, because "in the view of the Central Valuation Committee it was desirable that certain allegations of hardship should be investigated." The fear, everywhere, was that rateable value would be increased. The newspapers are now daily reporting

the decisions of the rating authorities as to the to be imposed in the next half-year. An increase of the pound rate seems to be practically universal. It is certain that the question of the rates will remain a matter of general public interest for a long time to come, and will afford opportunities everywhere to point out that what is wrong with the rates is that they are levied on a wrong basis and paid mainly by the wrong people. Members of the League have urged to take the fullest possible advantage of all opportunities. Local newspapers are almost always ready to print letters from local people on the question. It is easy to show co-operative societies (e.g., the Co-operative Guilds) how their interests as producers, as distributors and as consumers are prejudiced by an unjust rating system. Ratepayers' Associations should be asked to consider whether their interests would not be much better served by a change in the basis of assessment rather than by vain efforts to cripple useful public services by keeping down the pound-rate. Members of political societies and trade unions are, or can be interested in the question. Every disgruntled ratepayer should be a possible recruit for the League.

A.R.P. and Rating.

The Government is urging Local Authorities to ask private citizens to take precautions against bombing aeroplanes. Mr. Albert de Angelis, of Hornchurch, Essex, concerned for the safety of the 200 tenants living in the flats of which he is owner, proposed two years ago, to construct an air-raid shelter, 20 feet underground and protected by a reinforced concrete roof, for his tenants. The local Council, to whom he mentioned his plans, instead of presenting him with an illuminated address or some other recognition of his good citizenship, told him that the shelter would be subject to rates. So he dropped the scheme.

Last month, the worsening of the international situation induced him to take it up again, and he asked the Council that he would go on with his life-saver scheme, and was determined to make the rating of it a test question.

The Clerk to the Council said, quite truly, that the Council is bound by the law. "We are compelled to levy rates on any structure which adds to the rentable value of a building, and if Mr. de Angelis's shelter does that it must be rated." Under the law of Rating, which the Government obstinately maintains, Mr. de Angelis will be fined for not doing what the Government calls upon him to do.