

THE NEW ZEALAND LEAGUE FOR THE
TAXATION OF LAND VALUES INC.

Annual Report of the League for the year ending 31st December 1956.

MEETINGS Regular monthly meetings were not held during the year. There were two general meetings of the League and the Executive met on five occasions.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Accompanying this report is the financial statement for the year ended 31st December 1956. It is no exaggeration to say that the financial situation of the League is a cause of great anxiety. Nearly all the resources of the society have been put into the rooms in the Empire Hotel Building. The income is confined to subscriptions and donations by members and sympathisers. There is some prospect of revenue from renting the League rooms. Indeed this has become a reality but not during the period covered by this report. These are a small and insecure source from which to meet regular payments of interest and principal and leave practically nothing for advancing the proper work of the League. In fact the League cannot continue an effective existence and certainly cannot conduct classes in economics at all unless its financial position can become secure. This requires a sum not much under £1,000 to wipe off all debt and leave a small working account. Members attention is especially directed to this vital matter. Unless something can be done to remedy the present position this may well be the last annual report to record any worthwhile achievement.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE Courses have been held as follows:-

1. 8th March - 3rd May Basic Course. 18 enrollments, 9 graduates.
19 Copies "Progress & Poverty" sold.
2. May - June Course on International Trade.
10 enrollments, 7 graduates.
11 Copies "Protection and Free Trade" sold.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION During the year the Local Government Commission which had been appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs as a commission of enquiry into rating problems, made its report which from our point of view was, on the whole, very satisfactory. Among its recommendations were the following:-

1. That there should be one universal system of rating applicable to both territorial and ad hoc local authorities.
2. That this system should be based on site values.
3. That the Valuation Department should revise site values every two years and capital values every six years.
4. That the local authorities at present rating on Annual Value be given the option of either a period of five years in which to make the change over to site value or seek special legislation to continue rating on the Annual Value until the ratepayers carry a poll for a change of rating to site value.

Publication of this report marked a mile stone in the progress of the movement towards land value taxation in the realm of local government. It would appear improbable that the Government will bring down legislation in line with the findings of the Commission. The Hon. S.W. Smith, Minister of Internal Affairs addressing the recent Municipal Conference said "It appears that the Commission's proposals are not generally acceptable to local authorities and it might be necessary to find some other answer to the difficult and important question."

The League submitted evidence to the Commission on three separate

occasions and there is no doubt that this evidence had a definite influence on the report of the Commission.

AUCKLAND - SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RATING The City Council appointed a special committee to enquire into rating matters. The Committee reported in July 1956. The subject of the investigation was "The best system of rating suitable to Auckland's needs". The findings of the committee were that a change to rating on the Unimproved Value would be greatly to the advantage of the city in that it would reduce the tendency to city sprawl and would stimulate the development of the central decadent areas. The report received wide publicity in Auckland and will undoubtedly bear fruit in time.

During the recent mayoral election campaign the Labour candidate, Mr. J. Stewart, came out in favour of rating on the Unimproved Value. Dr. V. J. Chapman, the chairman of the council sub-committee that reported to the council, is continuing his interest in the matter and we feel sure that in time a rating poll will be organised in Auckland.

RATING POLLS HELD SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL REPORT - SUCCESSFUL

1. <u>Waipapu County</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	550
		Against Unimproved Value	202
		Informal	10
		Population (1955)	6250
		Area - square miles	793
		Rate levied (1955)	£52,189
2. <u>Vincent County</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	1046
		Against Unimproved Value	521
		Population (1955)	4750
		Area - square miles	2922
		Rate levied (1955)	£27,868
3. <u>Franklin County</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	2245
		Against Unimproved Value	1641
		Population (1955)	17660
		Area - square miles	550
		Rate levied (1955)	£139,626
4. <u>Kaitangata Borough</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	160
		Against Unimproved Value	132
		Population (1955)	1240
		Rate levied (1955)	£4,577
5. <u>Kaiapoi Borough</u>	23.2.57	For Unimproved Value	368
		Against Unimproved Value	183
		Population (1955)	2530
		Rate Revenue (1955)	£12,769
6. <u>Wyndham Town</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	78
		Against Unimproved Value	28
		Population (1955)	590
		Rate Revenue (1955)	£2,256
7. <u>Fairlie County</u>			
<u>Town</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	211
		Against Unimproved Value	89
		Population) not available	
		Rate Revenue)	
8. <u>Kaikoura County</u>			
<u>Town</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	256
		Against Unimproved Value	197
		Population) not available	
		Rate Revenue)	

In all these polls the League or individual members of the League played an active part.

RATING POLLS HELD SINCE LAST ANNUAL REPORT - UNSUCCESSFUL.

1. <u>Lower Hutt City</u>	17.11.56	For Unimproved Value	2397
		Against Unimproved Value	3123
		Informal	126
		Population (1955)	48500
		Rate Levied (1955)	£385,010

Lower Hutt City was a very disappointing result. There are special difficulties in conducting a rating poll in Hutt City, not the least the implacable opposition of a very popular mayor. A memorandum on this poll was circulated to those who were directly interested in it. This is the second attempt to carry rating on the Unimproved Value in Hutt City and it is clear that it is going to require a well prepared campaign, intense propaganda and adequate funds before this citadel will be successfully stormed.

2. <u>Richmond Borough</u>		For Unimproved Value	231
		Against Unimproved Value	260
		Population (1955)	2460
		Rate levied (1955)	£13,858

This is the second attempt to carry rating on the Unimproved Value in this small borough. It is disappointing not to be able to report success but there is little doubt that time is on our side.

OBITUARY It is with very deep sorrow that we record the death of Arthur W. Madsen who has been the acknowledged leader for so many years of the movement for the taxation of land values throughout the English speaking world.

THE NEW ZEALAND LEAGUE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES (INC.)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1956

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Service Charge	83.10. 2	Rentals	22.10. -
Legal Fees & Valuation	7. 7. -	Interest	17. 7. 7
Electricity	1.10.10	Subscriptions	17.16. -
Renovations and Furnishing	190. 4. 1	Arrears	16.17. - 34.13. -
Mortgage Interest	61. 8. 6	Donations:	
P.O. Box Rent	2.10. -	Cash	251. 1. -
Bank Charges	1.10. -	Plumbing	30. - - 281. 1. -
Filing Fee	5. -	Excess of Expenditure	
Loss on Sale of Government Stock	15. 6. -	over Income transferred	
"Land and Liberty")		to Accumulated Fund	84. 7. 5
"Board and Council")	15. 1. 8		
Printing	8.12. 6		
Add Costs of Henry George School			
of Social Science:			
Printing & Stationery	24.18. 6		
Books	19. - . 8		
Advertising	7.17. -		
Postages	11.18. 7		
	63.14. 9		
Less Sales	11. 1. 6 52.13. 3		
	<u>£439.19. -</u>		<u>£439.19. -</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1956

Secured Creditors:		Cash at Bank	69. 8. 4
New Zealand Breweries		Post Office Savings Bank	257. 8. -
Ltd by mortgage over		350 £5 fully pd shares in	
350 shares in Empire		Empire Building Ltd subject	
Building Ltd	600. - . -	to mortgage to New Zealand	
		Breweries Ltd - at cost	2,160. - . -
J. A. R. O'Regan.		Subscriptions in arrears	16.17. -
Secured by lien over		Books of Henry George School	16. 8. 1
P. J. O'Regan bequest			
due on death of Mrs			
P. J. O'Regan	400. - . - 1,000. - . -		
Sundry Creditors:			
For chairs	5. - . -		
Filing fee	5. -		
Service charge	15. 6. 4 20.11. 4		
Accumulated Fund Balance			
at 31.12.55	1,583.17. 6		
Less Excess of Expend- iture	84. 7. 5 1,499.10. 1		
	<u>£2,520. 1. 5</u>		<u>£2,520. 1. 5</u>

AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE AND REPORT

I certify that I have audited the books, accounts and records of the New Zealand League for the Taxation of Land Values Inc., for the year ended 31st December 1956 and report to members that:

- (a) I have obtained all the information and explanations I have required.
- (b) That in my opinion all proper books of accounts have been kept, insofar as appears from my examination thereof.
- (c) That in my opinion and to the best of the information and explanations given me and as shown by the books of the League the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account are properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the results of the League's operations for the year ended 31st December 1956, and of the state of its affairs at that date.

(Signed) R. C. Morpeth F.P.A.N.Z.

Auditor