

THOSE WHO ABSORB THE BENEFIT

SIR,—You will know that Mr. Rockefeller has granted gratuitously an area comprising 17 acres in the centre of Manhattan, New York, worth \$8,500,000, to the U.N.O. as a site for U.N.O.'s permanent headquarters. Professor Ruth G. Weintraub and Professor Rosalind Tough write on this subject in the May, 1947, issue of *The American City*, under the heading, "New York Prepares for the United Nations," as follows:—

"Owners of real estate adjacent to the United Nations site have already experienced increases in value of at least one-third, and in several cases parcels have sold for twice their pre-United Nations value. Real estate operators are proclaiming that 'it is the best thing that has happened to New York City in the last twenty-five years'."

In other words: Rockefeller's philanthropy results in a rise of the prices of adjacent lands owned by speculators, who will pocket the whole fruit of his philanthropy.

This means, applied e.g., to Athlit: Our President wants to help the new settlement which he intends to establish, by way of granting without payment an area whereon community centres, etc., will be erected. Consequence: the value of adjacent lands owned by speculator will rise—and *this speculator will earn, what the P.I.C.A. has sown.*

The editor of *The American City*, Mr. Harold S. Buttenheim, has shown in his booklet, *Town Planning and Taxation: Friends or Foes?* that there is only one way to prevent these undesirable results of planned development—to bring down land prices by way of land value taxation, and to bring such accruing rises into the hands of those who are entitled to receive them.

This means:—

- (i) If you can repurchase all the adjoining lands and then give them on long-term lease to the adjoining owners, applying our new forms of contracts which are levying rentals in accordance with the value of the lands without the improvements (i.e., precisely the same thing as a tax on land values), you will re-appropriate the land value created by your own philanthropy.

If you are unable to do so, then

- (ii) You should create local town planning authorities or local councils, i.e., public bodies which may and will levy land value rates, and re-appropriate from speculator these land values.

The U.N.O. case is a clear illustration of what I have said in my above notes, and of the necessity to resort to land value taxation, land value rating, and land value rentals in the whole country.

Yours, etc.,

Haifa.

BERNARD ASCHER.

HITCH-HIKE ROUND THE WORLD FOR £15

A welcome and exhilarating visitor to our offices on her way through London has been Miss Elizabeth Riley. After spending some time as a farm hand and in various jobs in Southern England she has proceeded on her way North. Reaching Clitheroe, she was interviewed by several newspapers, and here is her story (it had her picture) as told by the reporter of the *Blackburn Northern Daily Telegraph*, June 20th:—

"After reading a book entitled *Progress and Poverty*, a 22-year-old Canadian girl decided to become a globe-trotter. Last night, 10 months after she set out from her mother's ranch in British Columbia, I found her at Clitheroe, having made a considerable amount of progress despite poverty.

"The girl, Elizabeth Riley, had only £15 in Canadian dollars in the pocket of her brown riding-breeches when she said goodbye to her home circle. When next she greets them, in the spring of 1948, she hopes to have travelled by train, ship, bus, lorry and car completely round the globe.

"She told me that, after 'hopping' a freight train at Lake

Superior, she rode for nearly 300 miles across Canada on top of a box car. Then the train guards found her and installed her in the safety of the tender. When funds began to run low in Montreal and, later, in New York, she took jobs as a waitress. 'I wasn't much good at it,' she grinned, 'but I earned my fare across the Atlantic in the Queen Elizabeth.'

"Arriving in England she went to work on a farm for a while to raise enough money for the next leg of the trip, to Scotland. From there she hopes to visit Denmark, Norway, and Australia. 'It was a book on land value taxation, *Progress and Poverty*, which gave me the notion for this trip,' she said. 'There's an international league for land value taxation, and I'm visiting members in all the countries. To-night I'm staying with Mrs. Sumner at Oakside, Mitton Road, Whalley, but to-morrow morning I shall be off again. Yes. I thoroughly enjoyed the farm work I did a short while ago. You know, English farms are very often as big as Canadian ones. Sometimes even bigger. Adventures? Well, I haven't had any, at least only nice ones. Everyone I've met has been very helpful —'."

Miss Riley attended the meeting of the Clitheroe Liberal Association on June 19th. In her interview also with the *Clitheroe Borough Record* she said the object of her tour was to meet members of the "Single Taxers, a body of people who believe in freedom, liberty, justice, and a Government ruled by the people."

STUDY OF SOCIAL ECONOMICS

Two new economic classes of the Henry George School of Social Science began their ten-week sessions in mid-June at 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1, and are proceeding with good attendance. One is for the study of Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy (Basic Course), text book, *Progress and Poverty*, and the other for the study of International Trade and Social Problems (First Extension Course) text books, *Protection or Free Trade and Social Problems*. The classes are conducted by Mr. V. H. Blundell.

The Economic classes, which were formed in March, completed their sessions on May 11th. On May 18th, a final meeting of all students was held at which Mr. Wilfrid Harrison, a Governor of the School, and Mr. A. W. Madsen were present. In addressing the students, Mr. Harrison sketched the history of the School, spoke of its activities in other countries and concluded by inviting them to take an active part in the work of the School. They could not have failed to be impressed by what they had learned, he told them, and if they felt the desire to do something for their fellow men, there was no finer way than by participating in the vital educational work of the School, which was by its educational methods pointing the way to Liberty and a just social system. Those who could not take an active part could help by donations and by taking every opportunity to bring to the notice of others the work of the School. Mr. Madsen spoke on the practical side and gave instances of Land Value Taxation in practice in other countries. The keen discussion that followed showed that the students had acquired a sound grasp of first principles and were eager to relate their knowledge to current conditions.

Particulars of new classes were announced and also details of an essay competition to be held among students with books from the Land and Liberty Library as prizes.

A class for the study of the *Science of Political Economy*, and with Henry George's work as text book, organised by the Liverpool Branch of the School, had its first meeting on June 13th at Cooper's Hall, Shaw Street, Liverpool. Meetings are held every Friday with a different class-guide for each meeting. The class consists of about 20 members.

The new pocket edition of the School's Prospectus, with Outline of the Basic Course of Study is now available. All interested in promoting the study by organising or conducting classes are urged to arm themselves with copies of the Prospectus so as to advertise the School among their associates. The School will do all in its power to back up such efforts. Write now to the Organising Secretary at 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. Phone: Abbey 6665.