

THE HENRY GEORGE MOVEMENT IN FRANCE

Cuttings received from French and Swiss newspapers and reviews reflect the continued diligence of our protagonists in France. The *Co-operateur Suisse* contained an article by Daudé Bancel on taxation together with an adaptation by G. Lunel of an account by J. L. Monroe of the effects of land value taxation in New Westminster, Canada. In *Languedoc*, a weekly review published in Narbonne, Daudé Bancel in "An Oriental Tale" explains land value taxation by means of an allegory. The same journal reproduced an abstract from Upton Sinclair's "Life of Henry Ford," revealing how the high wages paid to Ford's employees in his industrial settlement at Highland Park were absorbed by the landowners. A fortnight later there followed an article on "The Abolition of Slavery," by Graques. The free thinkers' monthly, *L'idée Libre*, Paris, published an article on "The Georgeist Movement," by Daudé Bancel. In *Juénée Vinicole*, Montpellier, the indefatigable Daudé Bancel published a long article, "What is Georgeism." Again in *Languedoc*, on the subject of Georgeism and the Co-operative Movement he examined the basis of social justice. During the same period Pavlos Giannelias contributed a long article to the *Révue Socialiste* giving details of the development of land value taxation in Denmark since the agitation arising from the famous Køge resolution of smallholders in 1902 led to the first general land valuation of 1916 and subsequent legislation. Many statistics were applied to show the beneficial effects on agriculture, building, industrial development and the standard of living.

In addition to articles in the general press the quarterly *Terre et Liberté* continues to circulate informing material in France and among French readers abroad. The January/March issue printed the text of the paper (*France faced with the Need for Radical Fiscal Reform*) read by Max Toubeau at a session of the International Conference at Odense, when Mr. Ole Wang presided. Articles by Jean Laurens, Daudé Bancel, Miss Peterson, Pavlos Giannelias and H. L. Follin deal with the fiscal injustice of the French Budget, the land revenue of farm land reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee, the cost of living in France, the Schalkenbach Foundation of New York, the land value of New York and the impact of customs restrictions on national antagonism.

The July/September number gave a large proportion of its space to the Annual General Meeting of the Ligue pour le Réforme foncière, fiscale et le Libre Echange. Other pages had articles on indirect taxation, farming subsidies, Danish agriculture and rising land values in U.S.A. There were also reviews of the French press and notices of recently published books on social questions.

Annual General Meeting in Paris

Although since the war and enemy occupation the Georgeist movement in France has not been able to attain more than modest proportions the Annual General Meeting of *La Ligue pour la Réforme foncière, fiscale et le Libre Echange* (League for Land and Fiscal Reform and Free Trade) shows encouraging signs of progress. Seven times as many were present at this meeting than on the last occasion, and among them was a considerable proportion of young people. The journal *Terre et Liberté* since its resurgence in May, 1947, as a cyclostyled sheet with 150 circulation has now become a well-printed quarterly of 8 pages with a circulation of 3,000, and the Ligue starts its new year with a satisfactory balance in hand.

The Ligue and its journal have been indebted to the help of friends outside France, beginning with a contribution emanating from an appeal made at the 1949 International Conference at Swanwick, but the progress has been due above all to the devoted labours of a small number of French Georgeists notably Daudé Bancel, Max Toubeau, J. Simonet and André Fevrier; and to these must be added the name of our Greek co-worker, M. Pavlos Giannelias.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the hall of the Musée Social, Rue Las Casas, Paris, on May 31, with M. Daudé

Bancel, President of the Ligue, in the Chair. In his address the President mentioned that the Ligue possessed 200 copies of a French translation of *Progress and Poverty* and a stock of other pamphlets, but he felt there was still need for a short up-to-date exposition in popular style of these aims. During the year MM. Simonet, Toubeau and himself had been able to address public meetings and a substantial amount of propaganda had been done in the general press, apart from circulating the main organ of the movement. The audience warmly applauded his reference to the recent help given by Mr. Robert Clancy, Assistant Editor of the *Henry George News* of New York. Later on Daudé Bancel proposed M. Jean Balibar as member of the Executive Committee, observing that the advice of a professor of mathematics would be particularly useful to an organization sometimes accused of being Utopian. The reports of the Treasurer, M. André Fevrier and the Auditor, M. Jean Tanguy were presented and adopted. Two veteran Georgeists, the Tolstoyan, Dr. Totomianz, and the retired Inspector of General Education, Charles Garnier, expressed their gratitude especially to the "generous tenacity" of M. Daudé Bancel and their satisfaction at the renaissance of the Georgeist movement in France.

The main address was given by M. Max Toubeau who reviewed the general situation in France, the origin and development of the land reform movement in that country, the progress of the Ligue and its journal, and the relations of the French movement with the International Union as shown at the Conference at Odense. He transmitted on behalf of Mr. Ole Wang, Chairman of the session on July 30, the fraternal greetings of the members assembled on the occasion of M. Toubeau's address to the Conference. The eloquent term of M. Toubeau's speech to the Ligue evoked enthusiastic applause.

The officers of the Ligue were elected as follows: *Honorary Presidents*: Dan Björner (Copenhagen), Robert Clancy (New York), A. W. Madsen (London), Max Sorel (Long Island). *President*: A. Daudé Bancel. *Vice-Presidents*: M. J. Vinseux (Paris), Mr. Baert Saintes, Charles Gasmer, Commander of the Legion of Honour (Paris). *General Secretary*: Max Toubeau, Commander of the Legion of Honour (Meudon). *Treasurer*: André Fevrier, Mesnil Esnard. *Executive Committee*: Mlle. Alice Sorel (Paris), Jean Balibar (Tours), Jean Réande (Paris). *Auditor*: M. J. Tanguy (Stampfer). *Technical Advisers*: MM. P. Giannelias, Paul Lambert, J. Simonet. Commemorated as Founder Presidents are the names of the late Charles Gide, eminent Professor of Political Economy, and Sam Mayer, victim of the Nazis during the war. F. D. P.

THE SOVIET UNION VISITED

At a specially convened private meeting held in London, August 14, organized at two days' notice by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, more than fifty members and friends were addressed by Mr. Oliver Vickery, a San Francisco business man and associate of the Union's President, Mr. J. Rupert Mason.

Mr. Vickery recounted his experiences as a delegate to the International Economic Conference held in Moscow, April, 1952—where he had delivered a striking free trade speech said to be the first public pronouncement of its kind made in Russia since the Revolution—and told something of what he had seen during a six thousand mile tour of the Soviet Union following the Conference. Mr. Vickery illustrated his talk with uncensored cine films that he had taken during his visit and had contrived to bring out of the country without being detected by the authorities.

Mr. A. W. Madsen, Editor of *LAND & LIBERTY*, presided and gave some impressions of his own visit to Russia in 1934, one main object of which had been to discover what had happened to economic rent in a Socialist state. The photographs that he had taken then had helped a lot in showing that land monopoly was the root of all the trouble. Interestingly enough, Mr. Madsen's "visa" to the offices of the Commissars whom he visited was a copy of the letter written to the United Committee