

erected hovels and tried to stake a claim. But the Marquess of Exeter (as the Cecils had become in 1801) pulled down these hovels instantly, and prosecuted the squatters. Why? Because every house that went up and stayed up represented a certain vote against his political nominees. With all his elaborate political machinery—his control of all the tradesmen in the town and of all the town's six advowsons, his ownership of some 200 houses each carrying a vote, his absolute control of the Mayor, the corporation, and all the corporation offices—the Marquess of Exeter could not be absolutely certain that the remaining voters would not one day oust his candidates. There were too many houses he did not own; and he could not afford to see any more built. In a town that chafed under this tyranny, every new house that went up was a vote against the Cecil interest. For the same reason, therefore, he could not allow the open fields to be enclosed.

"If Stamford had been a vigorous industrial town like Nottingham or Leicester, the results of this feudal control would have been disastrous for the health and housing of the population. But Lord Exeter also saw to it that Stamford should never attract any industry. In 1846 there was a good chance that the new main line of railway from London to York would pass through Stamford instead of Peterborough, then a place of no consequence. The people of Stamford were passionately anxious that the railway should come their way, for it was plain enough that the great coaching trade, by which they lived, was doomed. For reasons we need not go into, Lord Exeter successfully prevented the main line from entering the town: it was taken through Peterborough instead, Stamford was killed: in the eighteenth-fifties, its population which until then had been rising steadily, actually began to fall. There was no housing problem here. The open fields remained open for another generation—until the secret ballot came in 1872."

MEMOIRS OF THE DUC DE SULLY

Among a number of books on economic subjects, obtained from a French source for the LAND & LIBERTY library, was included a volume which proves to be one of the original edition of the memoirs of the Duc de Sully, the celebrated Minister of Henry IV of France. As the binding bears the crest of a French nobleman who wrote the epitaph on the tomb of the philosopher Descartes, and Descartes died in 1650, this binding is evidently the original form in which the two parts of the memoirs were first preserved.

Although the book purports to have been printed in Amsterdam it is known to have been printed at Sully's own press at the château to which he retired after the final and successful attempt to assassinate Henry IV in 1610. This dissimulation accords with the absence of any preface, the insertion of a long dissertation from the supposed—and anonymous—printer, and no indication of the identity of the author. Throughout, the narrative maintains the curious form, "You said . . ." "You ordered . . ." "You caused to be written . . ." The imperious old ex-Minister evidently dictated the substance to Secretaries who were never allowed the discretion to fashion it into a regular story. The first part was issued in 1634, the second came into circulation about 1660, some twenty years after Sully's death. The strange, voluminous title can be translated thus:—

"Memoirs of the Wise and Kingly Ordering of Affairs of State—domestic, diplomatic and military—of Henry the Great: the Example to all Kings, Prince of all Virtues, Arms and Laws, and, in fact, Father of his French People. And of the useful services, appropriate obedience and loyal administration of Maximilian de Béthune, one of the most trusted, familiar and useful soldiers and servitors of this great Mars of the French. Dedicated to France, all good soldiers, and all French peoples."

Maximilian de Béthune, Baron of Rosny and Duke of Sully, came of a Huguenot family and remained a firm Protestant throughout his life, although always disposed to come to terms with the moderate or *Politique* section of the French Catholics. When Henry was considering becoming "converted" to Catholicism Sully refused positive advice but pointed out that by so doing Henry would win all France except the Jesuits and the fanatical

Catholics of the League. But this disposition to compromise did not come until after long experience of civil war. Born in 1560, Sully was only a boy of twelve, and in Paris, at the time of the St. Bartholomew massacre. He was one of the few Huguenot children to escape; but the impression on his mind must have been deep. Four years afterwards he joined the Huguenot army under Henry of Navarre. During the succeeding period of seventeen years' desultory fighting and negotiating he showed outstanding military qualities, especially at the great Huguenot victory of Ivry (1590), and all the time he was rising in Henry's confidence. After 1593, when Henry's reign as King of France really began, Sully, as master of the finances, public works and artillery, was second only to the sovereign; and the Minister's cool and persevering disposition was a useful counterpoise to his volatile and enterprising leader.

Both Henry and Sully had outspoken sympathy for the peasants as against the privileged classes and Sully especially, checked attempts to subsidise urban industry at rural expense. Good roads, canals and bridges facilitated transport and exchange, and the Minister's insistence on honesty and economy ensured that fewer demands were made on taxpayers for good than for bad public services. In the seventeen years of the reign a bankrupt Treasury acquired a substantial balance, and the condition of the peasantry greatly improved. But the pages of the *Memoirs* (or *Oeconomies Royales*, to give the original title) do not show that either Henry or Sully possessed real financial insight. No new principles were introduced in taxation. Revenue still relied mainly on the *Tailles* (tithes on crops), *gabelle* (state salt monopoly), and *aides* (Customs and Excise), and collection was farmed out as before to the detested *partisans* or financiers. The nobility and even the burghers of the towns remained exempt. Henry and Sully were opposed to this exemption and also to the restrictive powers exercised by the cliques in the local governing bodies, but all these privileges were too strongly entrenched to be seriously challenged by this first and greatest of the Bourbons. Neither is it clear what different system he and Sully might have introduced. The voluminous pages of the *Memoirs*, however, afford a basis for conjecture and closer study of

the fiscal details given might yet reveal that some slight but effective change of principle was introduced.

Although the oblique style in which the *Memoirs* are written does not make easy reading and sometimes leaves one undecided whether Henry or Sully is indicated, the events themselves grip the reader's interest. This is the principal source-book for one of the strangest, most fantastic periods of history. Henry moved among persons and scenes that Edgar Poe might have imagined; his character is by turns admirable and repellent; he prays as sincerely

for the success of noble and aspiring ambitions as to be "delivered from his wife;" constantly beset and even wounded by massacre and assassination, he continued to pursue his magnificent conceptions up to the very moment when the murderer's dagger reached his heart. This book also is the unique evidence of "The Great Design" for a European "League of Nations" which Sully asserts Henry discussed with other rulers including Elizabeth and the Pope, and which modern historians have especially noticed.

F. D. P.

INTERNATIONAL UNION NOTES AND NEWS

Southern Rhodesia

"I am anxious to start a Georgeist organisation in this young and growing country," Dr. B. Gilbert, of Salisbury, has written. "It is clear to me that Southern Rhodesia will be the heir to all the ills of Britain which it has sought to emulate. Our problem is rendered more difficult by the presence of what we call native 'reserves' which are generally as large as counties in the U.K. and in which all members in that particular tribe own land communally. We have here among the Europeans a system of land tenure much like what one has in the U.K., and as I see things it will, in the passage of time, lead to the growth of a poor landless white community such as one sees in the so-called 'poor whites' of the Union of South Africa." Dr. Gilbert applied for, and has received, a quantity of relevant literature, guidance as to the basic legislation required and information upon the operation of the principle in various countries. In Southern Rhodesia itself there is already the precedent of the adoption of a certain measure of Land Value Rating in urban areas with corresponding relief of buildings and improvements from local taxation. There the separate valuation of the land is an established fact, as in Salisbury, Buluwayo, Gwelo, Que Que and Gatooma, and the rates levied on the assessed selling values of site and improvements in pence per pound are respectively:—

	SITE	IMPROVEMENTS
Salisbury	52d.	1.3d.
Buluwayo	2d.	0.6d.
Gwelo	6d.	1.1d.
Que Que	8d.	1.1d.
Gatooma	3d.	0.75d.

So much for the towns—a small beginning, yet on the right lines—and now it will be for the new organisation to work for the expansion of the principle over the whole territory, rural as well as urban. Dr. Gilbert will have the good wishes of all sympathisers and, so far as we are concerned, all possible co-operation in the task he has so enterprisingly undertaken.

New Zealand and Australia

ANOTHER GAIN IN NEW ZEALAND. Backing up a Christmas and New Year greeting to the readers of this journal, Dr. Rolland O'Regan reports the good win in Clutha County where, at a poll of ratepayers, the Rating of Land Values was adopted by 692 votes to 181. This is an entirely farming county of 1,025 square miles situated in the South Island. There will be several such polls at the time of the November municipal elections and good hopes are entertained of victories in Hutt and Dunedin cities.

ANOTHER GAIN IN WEST AUSTRALIA. Mr. W. E. Standing, Hon. Secretary of the Henry George League, writes that in December the Town Council of Midland Junction adopted the Rating of Land Values (and consequent exemption of buildings and improvements from local taxation) by unanimous resolution. It is sequel to the special survey of the rating system in the area which was made by the League itself which was followed by a request, to the Valuation Department, for a complete re-valuation of the town. Mr. Standing further reports that

the old town of Busselton has amalgamated with the Busselton Road Board (equivalent to a county area) and has adopted the Rating of Land Values.

In Tasmania, the Government Act, by its Section 159 now empowers any local council, upon their own resolution, to adopt Site Value Rating, with however certain provisos limiting the amount of the revenue obtainable thereby to what would be obtained if the existing rates on the old basis were maintained. No local authority has yet made use of those powers, but a lively interest is being aroused and Devonport and King Island Councils, among others, are giving them special consideration.

Spain

Periodicals from Spain show continued and gratifying activity on the part of our colleagues in that country. In the Barcelona *Obra Mercedaria*, September, L. de Isusquiza deals with the Law of Rent, and names the many thinkers since Anderson, in 1777, who have contributed to its exposition. In the *Boletin* of the Spanish Esperantists, Jose Anglada, of Barcelona, warmly commends the Declaration of the International Union which, of course, is obtainable—and from 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1—in Esperanto. In the Madrid weekly *Nueva Economia Nacional* during the months of August, October and November there has been a series of articles expounding the Georgeist social philosophy. The digest of Political and Social Economy, by Luis Foyer, which at the same time is a synopsis of *Progress and Poverty*, occupies six pages in two of the issues and is a masterly statement. It should decidedly be published in booklet form. The contribution on Economics and Justice, by Juan Alvarez-Ossorio Barrau, likewise runs through successive issues, emphasising the connection that must subsist between economics and ethics. He pays tribute to many philosophers who have expressed views on the subject. A page is devoted by Lemos to the creation of the group in Buenos Aires and their course of studies and lectures, heartening news already reported in our columns of November last. And in two pages Luis Foyer gives an excellent account of the 1952 International Conference, reporting in full the resolutions there adopted. Heartily we congratulate our Spanish friends on the work they are accomplishing in this successful publicity.

A notable event was the lecture recently delivered by Mr. Paluzie-Borrell on "Georgeism and the Problems of Life" to the Co-operative Handweavers in Barcelona. It was a goodly attendance and all showed a lively interest in this exposition. The outcome will possibly be the formation of a study course on Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy.

France

The influential Paris daily *Le Monde*, of January 3, published a long article by Max Toubeau in which he gives an account under a banner headline entitled "The Georgeists have held their Congress in Denmark." The opportunity is well taken to explain the objects of the Conference and to engage the sympathy and support of French readers for the movement. *Terre et Liberté* in its January-March number prints in full the Conference Papers by Max Toubeau on "France Faced with the Need of Radical Fiscal Reform," and by Miss V. G. Peterson