

THE STUDY OF THE LAND QUESTION

(The following paper of suggestions, prepared by the English League for the use of its members, will probably be found useful by members of other Leagues, and by some "unattached" readers of LAND VALUES.)

SUGGESTIONS FOR READING CIRCLES

1. Call a meeting of local friends likely to join a Reading Circle. (If the names and addresses, with place and hour of meeting, are supplied to the General Secretary in good time, the notice concerning the meeting will be sent from the Head Office, and the General Secretary will also invite any local members and friends known to him.)

Or, ask the Committee of the Political Association, Trade Society, Club, Debating Society, P.S.A., Adult School, or Allotments Association, to which you belong, to sanction and promote the formation of a Reading Circle among its members.

2. Choose the first book to be studied, and send an order to the office for the number of copies required. They will be supplied at trade rates.

3. Arrange for the Circle to meet at regular intervals. If no local hall is available, the Circle might meet at the house of one of its members, or at the house of each member in turn.

4. Choose one of the members to act as "leader" of the Circle.

5. Divide the book into sections, either single chapters or groups of chapters. Each section should be read by the members at home, and discussed at the next meeting, under the guidance of the leader, or of a chairman chosen *ad hoc*. Every member should be expected to take part in the discussion.

6. Pamphlets and leaflets published by the League often throw valuable side-lights on points raised in the recommended books, or on the application of general principles to special problems.

7. One of these pamphlets might occasionally be read and discussed at a meeting of the Circle, by way of lending variety to the proceedings.

8. The aim of the Circle should be to educate members of the League in our principles, and so to prepare them to take part in propagandist work, private and/or public; to convince the doubtful; and to win over opponents. Therefore—

9. Inquirers and even opponents should be welcomed to the Circle. They will add interest to the discussions, and the opponent of to-day is often the friend of to-morrow.

10. Report progress from time to time to the Head Office.

11. When the right time comes, ask the members of the Circle to join the League (if they have not already done so), and to consider the question of forming a Local Branch.

12. Then ask the General Secretary for suggestions about the formation and work of Branches.

SOME RECOMMENDED BOOKS

(A) Henry George, *PROGRESS AND POVERTY*. The classic of our movement. Available in cheap paper-covered editions at 4d. and 1s.; in cloth at 8d. and 1s. 6d.

(B) Henry George, *SOCIAL PROBLEMS*. Shorter and easier than (A); 22 short chapters. 1s. (paper); 1s. 6d. (cloth).

(C) Henry George, *PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE*. Important in view of current fiscal controversies. 1s. (paper); 1s. 6d. (cloth).

(D) Edwin Adam, *LAND VALUES AND TAXATION*. 20 short chapters, discussing the question with reference to British conditions. 1s. (paper).

(E) R. L. Outhwaite, M.P., *LAND OR REVOLUTION*. 18 chapters, 114 pp. Our question in relation to the War and War Conditions. 1s. net.

(F) Lewis H. Berens, *TOWARD THE LIGHT*. Elementary Studies in Social Ethics and Economics. 22 chapters. 2s. 6d. (cloth).

(G) Louis F. Post (one of Henry George's ablest co-workers), *OUTLINES OF LECTURES ON THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES*, with diagrams and answers to difficulties. 1s. 6d.

(H) Fredk. Verinder, *LAND, INDUSTRY, AND TAXATION*. Immediate, practical policy. An exposition of the "Memorial Policy" of the Land Values Parliamentary Group. 7 chapters. Suitable for a short course. War price 9d. net (cloth). One of the "People's Books" series.

(I) Fredk. Verinder, *MY NEIGHBOUR'S LANDMARK*. Short Studies in Bible Land Laws. Specially suitable for Adult Schools, P.S.A., Brotherhoods, Bible Classes, and the like. 7 chapters; appendices. 1s. (paper); 2s. (cloth).

(J) Lewis H. Berens and I. Singer, *THE STORY OF MY DICTATORSHIP*. The Taxation of Land Values and its effects clearly and interestingly explained. 15 Short chapters. 6d. (paper); 1s. (cloth). Unabridged edition (96 columns), at one penny.

(K) Henry George, *THE LAND QUESTION: What it Involves and How alone it can be Settled*. 17 chapters; 64 pages. 3d. net.

NOTE.—Some books, which would otherwise appear in this list, are at present unobtainable owing to war conditions.

The monthly paper of the movement, *LAND VALUES* (1d), will prove of constant help to members of Reading Circles.

LAND FOR SAILORS AND SOLDIERS

A Parliamentary White Paper was issued on 3rd April giving a report of the proceedings of the Board of Agriculture under the Act relating to the provision of experimental Small Holding Colonies for ex-Service men. One estate near Patrington (Yorks) has been hired from the Crown on a lease for 99 years at a yearly rental of £3,277. It extends to 2,363 acres and the Board have decided, in the interests of the settlers, that this estate shall be worked for a time on a profit-sharing basis, instead of being divided up at once into small holdings.

Another estate has been acquired, under the same Act, also from the Crown, at Holbeach March (Lincs) on a lease of 99 years for £1,623 a year. It comprises 1,000 acres and is intended to accommodate 80 settlers in small holdings. A third estate, of about 1,150 acres, and forming part of the Duke of Sutherland's Lilleshall Estate, has been purchased for £40,000 and is estimated to provide for the requirements of about 40 small-holders.

This completes the area of land the Board were authorised to hold in England. In Wales the Board have agreed to purchase from Lord Ashburnham, as a site for the Welsh colony, 1,345 acres at Pembrey for £30,000. This will probably provide for 60 settlers.

The White Paper above mentioned gives particulars of the intentions with regard to these holdings and points out they are only "experiments" to discover "how far the Colony system for ex-Service men, as recommended in the Report of the Departmental Committee, can be successfully organised." Expensive experiments, indeed, with public money and with the patience of soldiers and sailors who will be looking for the chance and the right to occupy, as free men, the land they have fought for.