

described his own activities and those of some of his colleagues who were seeking to popularise those ideas within the Labour Party.

Mr. Dowe reported a most encouraging upsurge of activity in Sydney. There were at present between forty and fifty students attending the current series of economic study courses, and plans were in hand for a series of radio broadcasts in New South Wales on the Henry George policy. Another British visitor present was Miss Zoe Auden, a member of the Liverpool branch of the L.V.T. League.

"THE STANDARD," SYDNEY

Celebrating Fiftieth Anniversary

Three weeks later, September 19, Mr. Stokes addressed members of the Free Trade and Land-Value League at their offices in Sydney, N.S.W. The League has postponed

its annual Commemorative meeting until October 12, which this year is to be a very special occasion for there will be celebrated also the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the first issue of the League's journal, *The Standard*. Founded by Mr. A. G. Huie it was edited by him for 48 years. Speaker at the meeting will be Professor L. H. Wilkinson whose subject will be "Town Planning and Land Speculation."

Officers elected at the League's annual meeting in August were: President, Dr. H. G. Pearce; Vice-Presidents, H. G. Firth and G. C. Mason; Secretary, Jack D. Freeman; Treasurer, T. Perry. The new honorary secretary, Mr. Freeman, who is thirty years old, was introduced to the Georgeist movement by Mr. G. C. Mason. While attending the classes conducted by the School of Social Science he distinguished himself as a keen student; he is reported to be a man of learning and of action, and to enjoy the unanimous confidence of his fellow League members.

AN AUSTRALIAN CITY COMES TO LIFE

First Year of Land-Value Rating in Sale

Dramatic evidence comes from Victoria of the immediate stimulus afforded to production and beneficial development of all kinds by the untaxing of buildings, etc. At the end of August, 1954, ratepayers in the small city of Sale (pop. 6,000) gave an almost three-to-one decision in favour of adopting the rating of land values. The city, which covers an area of 5,442 acres, lies two hundred miles to the east of Melbourne and is the centre of an agricultural, grazing, irrigation and dairying area.

Industry Attracted

In a letter to *Progress* (August issue) Mr. John Blyth, the treasurer of the Sale Ratepayers' Association, has recounted some of the benefits obtained during the first ten months under the new rating system. Following are extracts: "Firstly, we were all greatly heartened by the decision of J. J. Davies and Son to start manufacturing in Sale in what was the woollen mills. This industry was our first proof of the value of the new system, and as they hope to employ some 160 persons, in the first year, their help to the city is by all means small.

Idle Lands Developed, Shops Improved

"There were several vacant blocks in prominent parts of the city, even in the main street. Two large blocks have changed hands in Raymond Street. On one will be erected a shop for Dalgety's, and on the other (a huge block) a new garage is planned, both of these should be in course of construction before the end of July.

"Foster Street has shown marked improvement, both in the area near the Post Office (one new shop, two shops renovated extensively and three more proposed, Gutheridge House, in course of demolition for additions to St. Anne's School) and the residential area facing the lake, where three new houses are in course of construction on blocks previously unobtainable.

New Homes, Offices, Halls and Church Being Erected

"Blocks in the area bounded by Raglan Street, Gutheridge Parade, Reeve Street, and Foster Street, have been sold and building commenced on land which had been held idle since Sale was first settled. The Ambulance Service has secured land in Cunninghame Street, close to the centre of the town

and will build modern offices and residence almost at once; other buildings are proposed in various parts of the city by the Masonic Lodge, and other organisations.

"The Memorial Hall, so long wanted by the people, is now under way. Although the change in rating is not directly responsible for this, we feel that they realise the great boost the town has received from unimproved rating, and have pressed on with confidence.

"A new hall is being erected on the corner of Macalister and Pearson Streets and a new Presbyterian Church is pushing upward on the corner of Raymond and Macalister Streets.

Municipal Revenue Increased

"The council, with an increase in revenue of some £20,000, is pushing on with road works and drainage and in the whole city there is an air of expectancy as job after job is started, and jobs which have sadly wanted doing for many years are completed.

"At the moment, two firms interested in manufacturing in Sale are seeking premises, and hope to use some of the abundant female labour. The need for this will be still further increased when J. J. Davies are properly under way, as they will employ mainly men. We are hoping to interest other firms in the great possibilities of Sale in view of the available labour.

"Naturally, we cannot tell you of all the wonderful improvements we have noticed since we changed to land-value taxation, but you can't fail to notice it, and also the feeling that Sale is on the verge of many great things.

THE RATING OF SITE VALUES

BY THE RT. HON. R. R. STOKES, M.C., M.P.

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