

obviating the necessity for an Eviction Bill; reducing unemployment obviating the need for relief schemes, as well as the funds for carrying them out; and houses going up, where wanted, as soon as builders can see the possibility of getting a return.

"We see no other remedy, because every Act of good Government increases the value of land, which ultimately absorbs all the fruits of other's labours.

"We trust you will favourably consider this overdue reform. The coming Budget is your opportunity."

The promised trade recovery does not appear to have reached the Clydeside yet, and the discussion on the land question is never out of place. Letters in the local Press should be kept going. It is the best and cheapest form of publicity. Let us keep pegging away on the importance of a budget tax on land values.

**LIVERPOOL LEAGUE: F. R. Jones, Hon. Secretary, 6, Durrant Road, West Derby, Liverpool.**

The classes held at Pembroke Chapel each Sunday morning at 11 o'clock close down on the 18th May, to re-open again on the 22nd June. We are now commencing the arrangement of our programme for the coming season, and are doing our best to promote as many meetings as possible.

Our sales of literature remain steady. We are trying to dispose of copies of LAND VALUE POLICY which we think an excellent work containing information which answers many practical objections. We have been successful in getting several letters published in the Press during the last few weeks.

**BRISTOL**

At a meeting of the Bristol Housing Reform and Anti-Lum Association (WESTERN PRESS report 19th May), after a discussion on "and Values and Rating and Housing Reform," the following resolution was passed and ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister, the Health Minister (Mr. Wheatley), and Mr. Asquith:—

"This meeting is of opinion that no national scheme for housing and slum clearance will prove satisfactory or capable of permanent application if it depends for its finance upon the heavily burdened tax and rate-payers of the country, and we believe the time has come when the great untaxed but publicly created wealth in urban land and site values of the cities, towns, and industrial centres of the kingdom should be required to contribute a portion of that wealth for the benefit of the great populations by whose growth, enterprise, and expenditure it has been created.

"We therefore urge upon the Government that municipal and urban authorities be empowered to rate land and site values for their housing and other improvements instead of the present unfair system of practically rating buildings only."

Our correspondents have contributed many excellent "letters to the editor" during the past month. Propaganda of the kind is most effective and should be diligently maintained. Among the clippings we have received we notice the letters in the NEW AGE by T. R. Jones (2); in the SOUTH WALES PRESS by D. R. Cartright; in the SHEFFIELD TELEGRAPH by Wm. Craven; in the SHEFFIELD INDEPENDENT by Charles Paul; in the OLDHAM CHRONICLE by Geo. Jennison; in the ARDROSSAN HERALD by Mrs. A. McGrouther; in the SOUTH WALES NEWS by E. A. Davies, in the GLASGOW RECORD by J.O'D.D., in the YORKSHIRE POST and YORKSHIRE OBSERVER by F. Skirrow. Others write under a pen name, notably "Working Mother," whose frequent and informing letters are a feature of the correspondence columns in the ISLINGTON AND HOLLOWAY PRESS. We notice also Jo. S. in the NEW AGE and "Land Value Taxationist" in the GLASGOW EVENING NEWS.

**DENMARK**

**THE NEW PARLIAMENT.**

**HOPES OF FURTHER PROGRESS**

The General Election on 11th April for the Danish House of Commons (Folkething) has produced a political situation very similar to that in this country. A Labour Government is now in office and is being supported by the Radical Liberal Party, giving a combined but slender majority over the opposition consisting of Conservatives and Moderate Liberals.

Elections in Denmark are conducted under a system of Proportional Representation which allots seats to the various parties according to the aggregate number of votes polled for each party in certain large divisions of Denmark. The details are too intricate to be discussed here. It is a system that differs entirely from "P.R." as understood in this country. Several of our Danish correspondents mention one improvement they think should be made in Denmark, namely, that seats should be allotted according to the total number of votes polled over the whole country. Had that been the case, it is claimed that the new party "Retsparti" (Party of Justice) would have had at least one representative in Parliament.

The results were as follows:—

	Votes.	Members.
Social Democrats .. .. .	469,800	55
Radical Liberal .. .. .	166,300	20
Moderate Liberal .. .. .	362,400	44
Conservatives .. .. .	243,000	28
Party of Justice .. .. .	12,600	0
Agrarians .. .. .	11,800	0
Slesvig (German) Party .. .. .	7,700	1

The previous administration was a coalition of Moderate Liberals and Conservatives.

Both Social Democrats and Radical Liberals are pledged to the Taxation of Land Values. Among Moderate Liberals divided opinions are held, some members are in favour and some against; the party as a whole makes no official declaration on the subject.

The Party of Justice put forward 25 candidates and, with many other matters in its programme, concentrated its campaign upon Free Trade and the Taxation of Land Values, its schemes for a capital levy, compensation to landowners and the rest, as part of an "all at once" policy, being lost sight of meanwhile.

The Henry George Union issued questions to all candidates and distributed many thousands of leaflets in the form of a manifesto demanding "Denmark's Land for Denmark's People." The questions were: Will you promote and vote for (1) replacing local property taxes by the Taxation of Land Values on the principle of equal tax for equal land? (2) giving powers to local authorities to levy further taxes on land values and reduce the present burden of taxation on commodities and on earned incomes? (3) the remission of customs duties and the introduction of complete Free Trade, the necessary revenue being obtained in the main by increasing the present State Tax on Land Values?

Satisfactory replies to these questions were received from most of the Social Democrats and Radical Liberal candidates, the majority giving a definite "Yes" to each question without any reservation.

Two other organisations issued a similar questionnaire, the Union of "Housemen" (small peasant proprietors) which has 80,000 members and the House Tenants League. The decision of the "Housemen" to heckle candidates was made at their Conference in Copenhagen on 28th and 29th March, at which it was resolved that public revenues should be obtained from communally created values by means of the Taxation of Land Values on the principle of "equal tax on equal land" and that there should be heavier taxation of incomes and fortunes which were not the result of labour.

GRUNDSKYLD, the monthly journal of the Henry George Union, commenting on the results of the election in its May issue writes: "The Radical Liberals, who have consistently had Land Value Taxation and Free Trade on their programme, showed a much greater interest in the question than ever before and the greatest number of satisfactory replies to our questions came from Radical candidates. But while the Radical Press, especially in the country, has always been very favourable, and the most conspicuous Radical politicians in the country districts give us unquestioned support, we cannot disguise the fact that among the leaders there are constantly signs either of disinclination to develop the case as the rank and file wish it to be developed, or even of refusal to do so. The result has been that many of the keenest advocates of Land Value Taxation within the party have lost patience and confidence, a circumstance that has contributed very much to the withholding of many thousands of votes from the Radical Party and their transference elsewhere. The Social Democrats, the Labour Party, have reaped the benefit. It has been proved how strong is the popular demand for Land Value Taxation, particularly among the 'Housemen,' and the Social Democrats have emphatically declared for the policy. Their attitude to that question is not the least of the reasons for the extraordinary support they got in the country districts. We have now arrived at the point that a majority of the House of Commons is pledged to the Taxation of Land Values. The demand for the reform is now so vigorous and so general among the Danish people that without any doubt whatever we are face to face with a social reform of exceptional significance."

Mr. Troels Sams, Svendsbjaerg, who recently visited us here and saw for himself what had been done by the United Committee to question candidates during the recent General Election, was largely responsible for the adoption of the same methods in his own country. In a letter to our office he writes: "There has never been in Denmark an election campaign in which there has been so much agitation and instruction on the question of Land Value Taxation. Meetings were held in practically every parish. Our speakers were everywhere and we distributed leaflets by the thousands. The incursion of the Party of Justice goaded and forced the Radical Party to interest itself in our ideas much more than it has ever done and we expect it now to work in the right direction."

Another note is struck by Mr. S. Berthelsen, whose opinion always deserves the greatest respect. In the issue of GRUNDSKYLD named above he refers to the Party of Justice and to the danger of a "probably praiseworthy but confused movement which seeks to establish itself as one of the political parties in the country's constitution without having worked out a definite and practicable programme which the ordinary man can understand and have confidence in. A number of obscure headings, great enthusiasm and willing service alone will not suffice. This was well exemplified in the party's election campaign. It can be commended for its energy and force and not least for the circulation of election leaflets. In that way good propaganda has been done for Henry George's ideas that will certainly be appreciated by all Henry George people. But it was only for that reason that the party did get support, and essentially by using the words, illustrations and arguments that have been said by others for the last 25 years, sometimes better and more clearly. Where the members of the party tried to advocate their new ideas, compensation to landowners, limitation of State activities, full Single Tax all at once, etc., it was obvious that neither the means nor the intelligence were at command to explain the proposals, which in any case are not ripe for discussion at election meetings. Thereby, certain less competent members of the Party of Justice frequently gave their audiences a deplorable impression of mental confusion which reacted

unfortunately on public opinion upon the main question, the Taxation of Land Values. Thus, the cause has possibly been damaged in the estimation of the general public more than it has been benefited by the great part of the agitation. The fact is that of the 12,000 votes cast for the Party of Justice eight to ten thousand can be regarded as having been withdrawn from the best political supporters of the movement, the Radical Party, which has in that way lost at least one seat, a matter that may be of serious moment for the movement when the question comes to be handled in Parliament."

Mr. Abel Brink, in a communication to LAND & LIBERTY from which we have drawn largely for information as to the facts of the election, writes: "The attitude of the Social Democrats may be summed up thus: in favour of the Taxation of Land Values and against indirect taxes upon the necessities of life. Kr. Bording, the new Minister of Agriculture, in answer to the question 'Is the Government going to extend the Taxation of Land Values?' replies 'I think so. Taxation and rating of land values in the right measure will bring down land prices and open up to agricultural labourers of small means access to their natural occupation, the tilling of the soil on their own small holdings.'

"Mr. K. Steincke, now Minister of Justice, has for several years been an able advocate of the Taxation of Land Values."

## UNITED STATES

### To Eliminate Economic Causes of War

*From an Address by Louis F. Post at the Economic Club of Providence, Rhode Island, 11th December, 1923.*

In thinking and speaking upon this subject we should not overlook the fact that the present European situation is an aftermath of the World War. Nor should we forget, as it often seems so easy to do, that the United States was a party to the war.

The United States won that war on the battle fields of France; she lost it in her own Senate. The peace treaty which the Senate rejected was our opportunity for world service in the interest of Democracy. It embodied clauses that could have been used by the United States for effecting the high objects of the War. They could have been used also for expunging or modifying every objectionable feature of the entire treaty. By thrusting aside the opportunity which that treaty offered, the United States contributed to the present European situation.

Yet the United States is urged with reference to that situation to play the part of a spectator at a prize fight. Our sacrifice of American lives for world Democracy must go for nothing. The burden of debt upon future generations of Americans must be borne for a lost cause. Our people must isolate themselves from the rest of the world when they most need the rest of the world and the rest of the world most needs them.

Isolate ourselves! How can any intelligent American blind himself to the fact that a nation can no more isolate itself than the individual can? The day of hermit nations has gone by. Every nation is part of the world, and the world is economically interlocked.

What, then, shall the United States do, in the present European situation?

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With the great influence through the League of Nations which the United States could for many reasons command, let her pursue, step by step, a policy of developing worldwide economic fairness. Let her in good faith pursue such a course, and our question would soon be answered.

I lay stress upon economic fairness because economic unfairness is the primary cause of the present European situation. Nothing that the United States can do would save the world from such situations if it falls short of loyalty to natural economic law. For economic law is as natural as the law of gravitation; the disastrous con-