

FRANCIS NEILSON

A company of friends were happy to entertain Mr and Mrs Francis Neilson at a reception given by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values on Tuesday, 22nd June, at its rooms, 94 Petty France, S.W.1. Those present included a number of members of the English League. For them it was a welcome to a former President (1912-1915) and Mr H. G. Chancellor, ex-M.P., another former President, occupied the chair. In his introductory remarks Mr Chancellor referred to the brilliant campaigns Mr Neilson had conducted up and down the country for the Henry George cause during the years preceding and following the 1909 Budget, and recalled his associations with Mr Neilson when they were colleagues in the House of Commons from 1910 to 1916 and members of the Land Values Group. Among the many messages received was one by cable from the Henry George School of Social Science in New York regretting inability to have a representative at the reception, but there was one American present, Mr Alexander Greene of Chicago, who was glad to act by proxy in that capacity. Letters were read, sent by Mr P. Wilson Raffan, ex-M.P., Mrs Agnes Ll. Davies and Mr John Archer of Huddersfield. Mr Raffan: "It was a great pleasure to co-operate with Mr Neilson as a Parliamentary colleague and I have the warmest recollection of the magnificent campaigns in which he swayed great audiences in the cause of Economic Freedom." Mrs Davies: "I have vivid and wonderful memories of the inspiring and stirring Land Values Campaign which he, along with my husband, carried on in Dumfriesshire. His eloquence and sincerity carried deep conviction and no one who heard him could doubt that this was the truth they heard." Mr Archer: "Looking back on the days when it was my privilege to voluntarily organize educational propaganda on a very large scale I honestly affirm my conviction that Francis Neilson possessed in greater degree than any man I have ever known the gift of so 'reading the law of the book that its sense and memory was revealed to plain wayfaring men'."

Mr Neilson, who said that something like 25 years had gone since he spoke on the land values question in England, delivered an address which showed he had lost none of his capacity to move and grip an audience. He referred to what he had seen in this visit, of the land speculation in parts that were virtually rural districts near London, but where land prices had risen phenomenally and the community had obviously been deprived of enormous revenues. He went on to emphasize the moral aspect of economic freedom and gave eloquent religious and scientific testimony to the truth of Henry George's philosophy, with illustrations from his own archaeological and anthropological researches. The age of the earth was ever the same. One could dig into the past as far back as millions of years and never get away from the proof that man made his living by applying his labour to land. But what George had foretold if the land was not to be treated as common property was coming upon this civilization as upon past civilizations that had been blotted out; and in the social justice he preached, mankind to-day could save itself from that catastrophe—if there is yet time.

After short speeches of appreciation of the address, tea and coffee were served and the rest of the evening was spent in conversations. Mr and Mrs Neilson have been spending some months in the "Old Country" and have since returned to the United States. Mr Neilson was glad to meet some of his old friends and it was a delight to them to hear his voice again, as it was to the greater number present who heard him for the first time.

INTERNATIONAL UNION

President, Bue Björner (Denmark); Hon. Treasurer, Ashley Mitchell; Secretary, A. W. Madsen; Assistant Secretary, F. C. R. Douglas. 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1.

Forthcoming Henry George Centenary

A representative meeting of the Executive of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was held at 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1 on 11th June, the President, Mr Bue Björner occupying the Chair. Most of the members belonging to overseas countries or living at a distance in Great Britain and Ireland, unable to attend, had appointed deputies to act in their place. Twenty-four members or deputies were present. A silent tribute of respect was paid to the memory of the late President, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy and of Mr Alfred Schär of Germany.

After adoption of the minutes and of the financial statements, for the whole year 1936 and for the period 1st January to 31st May, 1937, the President asked consideration of the mandate he had from the General Meeting of the Union on 5th September, 1936, to appoint a committee of not less than nine to consider ways and means of bringing about an appropriate and adequate international observation and celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Henry George. In the discussion the question of the next international conference was raised and in particular whether it should be held to celebrate the centenary and where, and this matter was left for later consideration. The conference, however, and the centenary celebrations were not necessarily connected, since it should be the aim to observe the centenary in each country which by meetings, by the use of the press and the radio, and by other agencies would be organized nationally or locally in each country. These were recommendations they would like to pass on to the President's Committee, with the further suggestion that the committee and the office assist in all ways to ascertain what each country was doing and enable them to interchange ideas.

As Chairman of the Executive, Mr Austin H. Peake was elected. A sub-committee on finance and business was appointed, the members being Messrs H. G. Chancellor, C. E. Crompton, Wilfrid Harrison, W. O. Holmes, A. J. Horn, M. Jacobs, M. J. Stewart and (*ex-officio*) the President, the hon. treasurer and the secretaries, with Mr Peake as Chairman; the quorum being four of whom at least two must be members other than *ex-officio* members.

Proposals for amending the constitution of the Union which the General Meeting had asked the Executive to consider were deferred till a date nearer the next Conference.

The meeting expressed their great pleasure in having the President of the Union with them and thanked Mr Björner for having travelled specially from Copenhagen to attend. The Committee to consider and make recommendations as to arrangements for celebrating the centenary of Henry George's birth is being designated by the President.

Readers of *Land & Liberty* are invited to send suggestions as to the form the centenary celebrations should take bearing in mind that the demonstration should be conducted as far as possible on similar lines in all countries.

Mr Ashley Mitchell is making a brief business trip to Canada and the United States, arriving in Montreal in the beginning of August, proceeding to Toronto and spending a day or two in New York. He looks forward to meeting friends in the movement in these centres, as they look forward to meeting him again.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PAPERS. A limited number of the complete set of 26 papers is still available—price 4s., post free. The set, with addition of the pamphlet *LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE* (Madsen) and the official report of the LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE RATING OF SITE VALUES, circulated at the Conference, is 5s., post free.

SOCIAL SCIENCE MANUAL. Guide to the Study of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*. By F. C. R. DOUGLAS, M.A. 1s.