

arid zone inhabited by the barbarians. That is bad generalship. It is not good tactics or a matter of strategy. It is not statesmanship. Victories are not won by surrendering principles to expediency.

For more than one thousand years the people of Denmark have been familiar with the idea of L.V.T. For ten centuries or more people have bought and sold land, aware that they had no ethical title to the value of the property they so exchanged, aware that one day the community would resume its rights to the soil. Is not 1,000 years warning enough to the "innocent purchaser"?

Perhaps one of the most interesting sections of this reply from Denmark is the penultimate paragraph: "The Justice Party has only 6 seats in a House of 179 and cannot expect to have all their wishes fulfilled. Why then try to put a spanner in the works?" One would be justified in deducing from the first sentence that the Commission's recommendations differ substantially from the policy of the Justice Party. But if that were so, why were the Justice Party representatives signatories to those recommendations? And why is the LAND & LIBERTY criticism so much resented? If the Justice Party had had greater

representation in the House and on the Commission, what would they have proposed? For the past thirty-four years, ever since its formation, the Justice Party has been in favour of an "all-at-once" solution of the land question that is not a solution at all, accompanied as it has been consistently with proposals for easing the lot of any inconvenienced rent-recipients and granting them "fair treatment." Has the leopard changed his spots at the last moment? Unfortunately there are no grounds for believing that he has.

Georgeists everywhere will have been saddened when they learned of this move in Denmark, the country to which they have pointed with pride and affection, and from which they have received valuable practical instruction and encouragement in their own endeavours. They will be amazed to read the arguments which have been adduced in defence of "foolish and wicked" proposals, and astonished at their source, but they have no cause to despair. Standing aloof from the day-to-day political fray, they can from a distance offer wise and friendly counsel. How can this be called "throwing a spanner in the works"?

### The Editor's Seventy-fifth Birthday Celebrated in London



The evening of April 6 witnessed a most genial private gathering in London of LAND & LIBERTY readers, and members and friends of the Henry George movement at a reception given in honour of ARTHUR WILHELM MADSEN on the occasion of his seventy-fifth birthday. Necessarily most of those present were from London and the Home Counties, but the company included some who had travelled from farther afield. Notable among them was Mr. Ashley Mitchell, of Huddersfield, well-known

to readers throughout the world as treasurer of the International Union, who as a close colleague and personal friend of Mr. Madsen for many years, and as a witty, powerful speaker was the ideal chairman for the reception. Skilfully and in a most happy manner, paying his own homage, he set the tone of the gathering, drawing forth expressions of good fellowship, affection and admiration for the guest of the evening.

Mr. Ralph Young, an executive member of the United Committee and chairman of the executive of the International Union, claimed the longest acquaintance with Mr. Madsen, who had been a welcome visitor to his father's house in Edinburgh forty-five years ago. He exercised the pleasurable right of presenting a handsome blue leather volume, specially hand-made and gold embossed, containing greetings and commendations from friends throughout Great Britain. To Mrs. Madsen was presented a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a token of the high esteem in which she is widely held within the movement.

Momentarily overwhelmed by the many cordial expressions, Mr. Madsen responded suitably, thanking everybody for their kindness and friendliness. Despite protestations that he knew not what to say, he gave a most interesting account of some episodes in his life, recounting his experiences when in 1934 he visited the Soviet Union in search of the economic rent of land and was informed that it had been abolished there! Other reminiscences and anecdotes delighted his audience. He recalled how he had entered the movement through the agency of his friend, E. J. Evans, of East London, during the years 1903 to 1909 when he had lived in South Africa. Every Georgeist, he said, should feel indebted to the person who had introduced him to the grand and noble philosophy of Henry George, and he told how some of the great legendary figures of the past had first learned of the movement for true liberty. For those well acquainted with Mr. Madsen it is hardly necessary to report that he seized the opportunity of referring to items of interest contained in recent letters received at 4 Great Smith Street from adherents in many countries, and of advertising the forthcoming conference at St. Andrews. Concluding, he gratefully acknowledged the kind things that had been said of Mrs. Madsen, which he insisted were so abundantly deserved.

With engaging Yorkshire forthrightness, Mr. Ashley Mitchell recalled how the fruits of victory had been twice snatched from grasp when legislation for the taxation of land values had been placed on the statute book and swept away. But if the "old warrior" whose birthday was being celebrated and who had tasted the bitter fruits of defeat could yet continue working with unabated single-mindedness of purpose and conviction of ultimate achievement, why should any younger person feel discouraged? Nor had they any cause for dismay at what appeared to be slow progress. New forces were being built up; they would win through as their predecessors had so nearly done.

The evening concluded with the reading of letters from absent friends, and the payment of tributes to Mr. Madsen by a number of those present who spoke of their indebtedness to him, and how they had been encouraged and their lives enriched by his friendship and warm personality.