

# LAND & LIBERTY

MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

Forty-third Year.—No. 507.

AUGUST, 1936.

2d. By Post, 2s. 6d. per annum.

## FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO PROMOTE LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

The Conference meets in the Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, from Tuesday the 1st to Saturday the 5th September. The Hall and Rooms will be open from 2 p.m. on 1st September. Members arriving in advance of the Conference are offered the facilities of the Offices of the United Committee and the International Union where they will be welcome during office hours—Address : 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1, which adjoins St. James's Park Station and is close to the Conference Hall. Following is the Programme of Conference Proceedings, which is subject to alteration as circumstances may determine. Morning Sessions begin at 9.45 with adjournment at 12.30. Afternoon Sessions begin at 2 o'clock and Evening Sessions at 7.30. Papers printed and circulated to Members and Delegates before the Conference will be taken as read, the Authors giving a brief introduction so as to allow as much time as possible for discussion.

### PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS

#### First Day : Tuesday, 1st September

##### AFTERNOON

From 2 p.m. Reception and Registration of Members. Meeting at 4 p.m. of the Executive and Arrangements Committees.

##### EVENING

General Meeting of the International Union (members only) to receive reports on the Union's work and to confirm Conference arrangements. The business announced for this meeting is not expected to take long and it is proposed to devote the rest of the evening to the subject of "Economic Class Teaching" introduced by Miss Helen D. Denbigh and Mr Lancaster Greene of the Henry George School of Social Science, New York.

#### Second Day : Wednesday, 2nd September

##### THE ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR AND INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION

##### MORNING SESSION

The President, Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy in the Chair.

##### Presidential Address.

*Papers Presented :* Reactions and Results of Trade Restrictions, by Mr Bue Björner, Denmark ; Access to Raw Materials and the Need for Expansion, by Mr Ole Wang, Norway.

##### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman, Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. ; Deputy Chairman, Mr Ashley Mitchell (acting for Mr Charles E. Crompton).

*Papers Presented :* Colonial Systems of Land Tenure and Taxation, by the Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P. ; Causes of Fear, by Dr S. Vere Pearson, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P. ; Public Debts and Indirect Taxation, by M. Sam Mayer, France.

##### EVENING

##### HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AND REUNION

Chairman, the President ; Deputy Chairman, Mr Charles H. Smithson.

*Addresses by* Mrs Anna George de Mille ; Mr R. R. Stokes, London ; Mr Baldomero Argente, Spain ; and Mr Jakob E. Lange, Denmark.

#### Third Day : Thursday, 3rd September

##### LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE

##### MORNING SESSION

Chairman, Mr Charles Latham, J.P., F.L.A.A., Chairman of the Finance Committee, L.C.C. ; Deputy Chairman, Mr B. A. Levinson, LL.B.

*Papers Presented :* Land Valuation in Denmark, by Mr K. J. Kristensen, Chief of the Land Valuation Department in Denmark ; General Summary of the Legislation in Operation in Various Countries, by Mr A. W. Madsen ; Digest of Official Replies to Questionnaire as to the Working and Results of the Local Taxation of Land Values, addressed to local authorities in Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Pennsylvania, by Mr F. C. R. Douglas. Exemption of Improvements and Land Value Taxation in Pittsburgh, Pa., by the Hon. Wm. McNair, Mayor of Pittsburgh.

##### AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman, Mr H. G. Chancellor, Ex-M.P. ; Deputy Chairman, Mr T. Atholl Robertson.

*Papers Presented :* Town Planning and Taxation : Friends or Foes ? by Mr Harold S. Bittenheim ; Ten Years' Experience of Land Value Taxation (Local and National) in Denmark—1926 to 1936, by Mr Abel Brink, of the Danish Land Valuation Department ; the British Municipal Demand for Land Value Rating, by C. A. Gardner, Cardiff.

**Third Day : Thursday, 3rd September****EVENING SESSION****THE LAND QUESTION IN INDUSTRY  
AND AGRICULTURE**

Chairman, Mr E. G. Hemmerde, K.C.; Deputy Chairman, Councillor Wm. Noble.

*Addresses on:* Agriculture and the Economic Depression, by Capt. Arthur R. McDougal, Berwickshire; The Violation of Native Land Rights, by the Rev. Mervyn Stewart, Manuden, Essex; The Insufficiency of Remedies Currently Advocated for Raising Wages, by E. J. McManus, Liverpool; an open session with general discussion.

**Fourth Day : Friday, 4th September****THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL****MORNING SESSION**

Chairman, Mr Austin H. Peake; Deputy Chairman, Mr Alexander Mackendrick.

*Papers Presented:* State Interference in Industry, by Mr H. Kolthek, Member of the Groningen City and County Councils, Holland; True Free Trade and *Laissez Faire*, by W. R. Lester, M.A.; Henry George and Karl Marx, by F. McEachran, M.A., B.Litt.

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

Chairman, Mr Rupert East; Deputy Chairman, Mr H. A. Berens, B.A., F.C.S.

*Papers Presented:* Problems of Population, by Pastor Chr. Norlev, Secretary of the Christian Social League, Denmark; Tax Relief, Pretence and Reality, by Professor H. Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics, University of Missouri; The Land Question in Russia, by M. Daudé Bancel, Secretary of the Free Trade League of France.

**EVENING SESSION****GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL UNION**

Chairman, the President.

Business relating to the Constitution of the Union. Nominations and Election of the Officers for the ensuing period. Adoption of Conference Resolutions. Date and Place of the next Conference. Other Business as may arise.

**ADDITIONAL MEMBERS ENROLLED**

In addition to the list given last month the following members making with delegates a present total of 402 have enrolled:—

Sir Henry Ballantyne, Scotland; A. Daudé Bancel, France; Mrs W. E. Bland, England; Hon and Mrs James G. Blauvelt, New Jersey; Warren S. Blauvelt, New York; Councillor C. Austin Brook, England; George Brown, Scotland; Dr T. E. Bullard, New York; Gustav Büscher, Switzerland; T. Watson Collin, England.

Mrs E. S. Davidson, England; Mr and Mrs Eustace A. Davies, Wales; W. A. Dowe, N.S.W.; Mr and Mrs. Evan Edwards, Wales; J. B. Ellert, Alberta; Henry Ellert, Alberta; Allan Flanders, England.

W. E. Gay, England; John Green, Scotland; W. F. Greig, England; Mrs Lancaster Greene, New York; Miss M. M. Hamilton, England; Johan Hansson, Sweden; Edwin I. S. Harding, Queensland; George G. Honeyman, England; Rev. T. Horwood, England; H. W. Houlden, Scotland; E. F. Hobley, England; E. P. Donovan, New York.

Miss Enid Lakeman, England; E. A. Lassen, England;

**Fifth Day : Saturday, 5th September****MORNING SESSION****PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN  
VARIOUS COUNTRIES**

Chairman, Dr Percy McDougal; Deputy Chairman, Mr C. W. Walker Prescott, A.M.I.E.E.

*Papers Presented:* The Past and Present of Georgeism in Spain, by Professor A. Matheu Alonso; The Agitation for Constitutional Amendment in California, by Judge Jackson H. Ralston; The Reform of Taxation in Spain, by Mr Baldomero Argente; Discussion on the position in other countries, represented by various speakers, introduced by Mr Pavlos Giannelia, Greece and Austria, and Mr Alfred Schär, Germany.

**AFTERNOON SESSION****HOW TO ADVANCE THE OBJECTS OF  
THE CONFERENCE**

Chairman, Mrs David Catterall; Deputy Chairman, Miss Nancie McGovern.

*Paper Presented:* The Work of the Henry George School of Social Science, by Mr Lancaster Greene, New York. General discussion on propaganda in the educational and political field; the work of the Henry George Foundations and national and local organizations; consideration of methods of publicity; circulation of literature and periodicals; platform and press work; engaging the interest and support of political, economic, social and religious associations.

Special arrangements may be made for Saturday evening, the Hall being available for Conference purposes.

*Invitation is given to all our readers to join whether they can or cannot be present. The Conference Membership Fee is 10s. and if the subscriber wishes (adding written declaration that he or she adheres to the objects of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade) this Conference Fee includes also membership of the Union itself. Donations, small or large, toward the expenses of the Conference and for aiding the Union in its general work will be welcome. Remittances may be made payable to Mr Ashley Mitchell, the Hon. Treasurer, 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1.*

G. W. Lay, England; Miss Nancie McGovern, England; Duncan Mackay, Scotland; P. J. Markham, Victoria; Midland Land Values League, England; Frank M. Miller, England; Mrs Wm. McNair, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mrs Ashley Mitchell, England; H. C. Moir, Alberta.

Mrs W. Noble, England; J. R. Oliphant, Scotland; Gomer Owen, Wales; Mr and Mrs W. L. Plyman, Cape Province; Jackson H. Ralston, California; W. A. H. Rowat, Scotland; Hon Arthur W. Roebuck, Ontario.

Alfred Schär, Germany; W. Snaith, N.S.W.; H. K. Skidmore, England; A. H. Stoakes, England; Gilbert M. Tucker, New York; W. van der Maaten, Washington State; Mr and Mrs Arthur H. Vetterman, New York.

Mr and Mrs Franklin L. Wentworth, Mass.; Albert L. White, England; F. R. Williamson, Jamaica; Chapman Wright, England.

Mr and Mrs John Archer, England; W. F. Barrass, Victoria; H. Edgecombe, England; A. G. Huie, N.S.W.; Miss F. Kuiken, Holland; Mrs H. Kolthek, Holland; P. J. Markham, Victoria; Miss B. Nauta, Holland; M. N. Robles, Mexico; J. O'Kelly Smith, Florida; Dr Felix Vitale, Argentine.

## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

The number of countries represented on the membership roll is 26, namely: England, Scotland, Wales, N. Ireland, United States of America, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Jamaica, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Argentine, Greece, Mexico.

If the separate States and Provinces, as of the United States, Australia, Canada and South Africa, are counted as separate States, the number of countries is 47.

## MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVES

At the Sessions of 3rd September, when "Land Value Taxation in Practice" will be the subject discussed, delegates will be in attendance representing, among other Borough and Town Councils: Acton, Aylesbury, Barking, Battersea, Bermondsey, Brentford and Chiswick, Bushey, Cardiff, Chichester, Coulsdon and Purley, Dudley, Esher (Surrey), Fulham, Gillingham (Kent), Hackney, Heston and Isleworth, Hornchurch, Kingston-upon-Thames, Lewes, Leyton, Merton and Morden, Mitcham, Rayleigh (Essex), St. Helens, Stafford, Surbiton, Swansea, Taunton, Walthamstow, Warrington, Willesden, Beckenham, Ilkeston, Rochester. These delegates number 71.

## INVITATIONS TO M.P.s

Invitation to attend the Conference was sent to Labour and Liberal Members of Parliament. Messages of goodwill and wishing success have been received from Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander (Lab., Sheffield, Hillsborough — a leader of the co-operative movement); Rev. James Barr (Lab., Lanark, Coatbridge); Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes (Lab., Manchester, Plating); George Dagger (Lab., Abertillery); Rhys J. Davies (Lab., West-houghton); B. W. Gardner (Lab., Upton, E.); D. R. Grenfell (Lab., Gower); James Griffiths (Lab., Llanelli); Sir Percy Harris (Lib., Bethnal Green); Arthur Henderson (Lab., Stafford, Kingswinford); T. Henderson (Lab., Glasgow, Tradeston); Morgan Jones (Lab., Caerphilly); Wm. Lunn (Lab., Rothwell); V. L. McEntee (Lab., Walthamstow); Hon. J. P. Maclay (Lib., Paisley); Geoffrey le M. Mander (Lib., Wolverhampton); Geo. Mathers (Lab., Linlithgow); G. Muff (Lab., Kingston-upon-Hull, E.); Ben Riley (Lab., Dewsbury); Wilfrid Roberts (Lib., Cumberland); Sir Hugh Seely (Lib., Berwick-on-Tweed); Ben Smith (Lab., Rotherhithe); Alfred Short (Lab., Doncaster); Sir Archibald Sinclair (Lib., Caithness and Sutherland); R. W. Sorensen (Lab., Leyton, W.); S. P. Viant (Lab., Willesden, W.); A. G. Walkden (Lab., Bristol, S.); F. C. Watkins (Lab., Central Hackney); W. M. Watson (Lab., Dunfermline); J. Westwood (Lab., Stirling and Falkirk Burghs); H. Graham White (Lib., Birkenhead); E. J. Williams (Lab., Ogmere); Tom Williams (Lab., Don Valley); W. Windsor (Lab., Kingston-upon-Hull, Central); Sir Robert Young (Lab., Lancaster, Newton); Duncan M. Graham; Major J. Milner.

A number send simple acknowledgments and among those who hope to come are: Messrs Rhys L. Davies, D. R. Grenfell, Morgan Jones, Geo. Muff, Ben Riley, Wilfrid Roberts, Sir Hugh Seely, Messrs Ben Smith, R. Sorensen and W. Windsor.

## FROM LORD MESTON

*(President of the Liberal Party Organization)*

"My best wishes are with you. Free Trade is one of the only remedies for the international lunacy of the day, and the Taxation of Land Values is one of the few bulwarks against national insolvency."

## ENROLMENT FORM

A Conference Enrolment Form is enclosed with this issue of the JOURNAL, by which the member can also join the Union. We thus renew our invitation to all who have the objects of the Conference at heart and can give their support. To members who have already registered, the form will come convenient as a means of passing on the invitation and enlisting the interest of their friends, besides getting at least one new reader for *Land & Liberty*.

## VISITORS' TICKETS

The sessions other than those on the evenings of 1st and 4th September are open free to visitors who apply for and obtain Visitors' Tickets bearing the name of the holder. In making application the intending visitor is requested to state for which session or sessions the ticket is required.

## MESSAGES FROM M.P.s

*(Extracts from some letters)*

Mr GEORGE LANSBURY: "Thanks for your welcome note and kind invitation to take part in your International Conference. My holiday time prevents me being present. I regret this very much indeed as the subjects to be discussed go right down to the roots of democracy. The sources of wealth Land, and all Land contains, must be freed from all restrictions and become open for the use of all Peoples. Individual freedom and freedom of press and speech are the salt of our life. The problem of how to preserve these in the midst of an ever-increasing complex social system is also one of the greatest tasks before all who love democracy. Here in Britain we have started on the road toward a 'Corporate State' and we do so while still retaining all the forms of Democracy. We are now taxed by and through the advice of a small group of three men who sit in private, and whose decisions can never be challenged in detail. The unemployed are starved under the direction of a similar body. It is said to be cheaper to keep them thus on a bare subsistence, instead of throwing open the land and other natural resources for the use of all. These policies serve the vested financial land and other interests, but also lead us to decay and ruin. Abroad, the whole world arms for slaughter instead of uniting to share the abundance which Nature and man's knowledge gives for the use of all. I trust your Conference will be a tremendous success."

Mr A. V. ALEXANDER: "I should like to take this opportunity of saying how much I sympathize with the general object of your Conference, which I hope will be very successful."

Mr RHYS J. DAVIES: "Having travelled considerably throughout Europe during the last few years I am more confident than ever that tariff barriers, quotas and trade restrictions of many kinds, are among the most irritating features in our international relationship, and I trust that your Conference will help towards their removal."

Mr B. W. GARDNER: "I have for a very long while thought that the means whereby huge sums are constantly and regularly extracted from industry and from the need of the landless poor to have somewhere to live should not go free from rating or of some form of national taxation."

Mr D. R. GRENFELL: "I am extremely interested in the subjects down for each day, and am pleased that the Conference is to examine the economic causes of war and the effects of trade restrictions."

Sir PERCY HARRIS: "Until the world gets down to



first principles and nations found their policy on sound economic lines, a return to prosperity will be out of the question. Because your Conference realizes this, I am sure it will do good."

Mr ARTHUR HENDERSON: "I have strong sympathy with the objects of your Conference."

Mr V. L. McENTEE: "The subjects to be discussed are of very great interest and importance to everyone and I think nothing but good can come from your Conference."

Mr GEORGE MATHERS: "Your Union is doing a great service in directing attention to the fundamental importance of the land question and I trust the result of the Conference will be a quickening of public interest in your great work."

Sir HUGH SEELY: "I certainly wish you a very successful Conference and am certain that in these times the re-affirming of the true facts about the land and Free Trade are of the highest importance."

Mr ALFRED SHORT: "I am in full sympathy with your object."

Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR wrote thanking for the invitation much regretting he will be in Scotland at the time but conveying his best wishes for a successful Conference.

Mr R. SORESENSEN (from his Secretary): "Mr Sorensen will do his best to be present at one or more of the Sessions. He considers the subjects to be dealt with are most important and extremely attractive. He hopes that the Conference will do something towards awakening the people of this country to the increased need of tackling the methods of social adjustment for which your Union has so consistently stood."

Mr S. P. VIAN: "The Taxation of Land Values is a principle of paramount importance, and it gave me great satisfaction in 1931 to be a member of the Labour Government which embodied it in its Budget, and sat up night after night in order to effect its enactment. Nothing can commend its value to the community with greater emphasis than the haste with which the Tory Government rescinded the principle."

Mr W. M. WATSON: "Your programme is undoubtedly an attractive one and the matters to be discussed are of first-class importance."

Mr JOHN WESTWOOD: "I wish you all success in the agitation and fight for the Taxation of Land Values."

Mr H. GRAHAM WHITE: "The matters to be considered are indeed of the first importance. I think that people are beginning to realize more clearly that the line between political unrest and economic injustice is very close. For my part, I believe that the world cannot have peace unless it also has freedom of trade and freedom of economic opportunity."

Mr E. J. WILLIAMS: "I heartily concur in your remarks, that the solution of international strife and social insecurity can only be based on equal freedom for all the citizens of the world in respect of the opportunities for the production and exchange of wealth. I trust your deliberations will inspire the delegates to greater vigilance in the prosecution of the cardinal principles of your great cause, and so to free the people from the shackles of parasite landlordism and its concomitant evils."

Sir ROBERT YOUNG: "I trust the Conference will be eminently successful. It should be from the points of view of interest, education and usefulness. The topics of discussion assure that."

## THE NEW STATESMANSHIP

(A Guide to Modern Economic Theory and Practice)

1. Truly, we live in a very curious time. Everything that preceding generations have believed and practised, everything that created the extraordinary prosperity of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth, everything that brought about a fabulous development of the well-being of the nations in less than 150 years is now suddenly questioned, contested, denied and even decried.
2. The State no longer exists for the purpose of assuring to each citizen liberty, security and justice, but for subsidizing his needs.
3. Taxation has no longer the object of providing funds for the State but of perpetually re-distributing wealth between citizens.
4. Industry no longer exists to produce goods for consumption but to furnish purchasing power for the working class.
5. The mission of gold is not to serve as a stable measure of the value of all kinds of goods and services, but to provide an elastic covering for the variable value of such goods and services.
6. The machine does not help the worker: it impedes him.
7. It is not good to offer to consumers large quantities of cheap goods; the ideal is to ration them, extorting as much money as possible.
8. The producer does not exist to offer his goods to the clientele: the clientele exists to enable the producer to live.
9. The ox does not exist to pull the cart: the cart exists to give work to the ox.
10. A number of worthless concerns can be made profitable by putting them together and calling them a "corporation."
11. Although individuals or groups of men cannot manage their own affairs, when created State functionaries they will steer the general economic system magnificently.
12. It is foolishness to economize: wisdom lies in expenditure, prodigality and improvidence.

## LABOUR PARTY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of the Labour Party will be held in Edinburgh, 5th to 9th October. The Agenda has been issued containing the resolutions to be submitted. The Portsmouth South Division Labour Party are moving as follows:—

### LAND VALUES

Whereas the preservation of human life depends on Labour having access to land and whereas the products of labour are the natural and rightful property of the producers, this Conference holds that a Labour Government should, in its first Budget, put a substantial tax on the Land Values which are due to the needs and activities of the whole industrial community, so that:—

(i) Valuable land now vacant or put to inferior use would become available for its proper use, employing more labour providing more houses and other useful products; and

(ii) Sufficient public revenue would be obtained to abolish the taxes that now obstruct the production and exchange of goods and impoverish the workers by increasing the cost of living.