

the fiscal details given might yet reveal that some slight but effective change of principle was introduced.

Although the oblique style in which the *Memoirs* are written does not make easy reading and sometimes leaves one undecided whether Henry or Sully is indicated, the events themselves grip the reader's interest. This is the principal source-book for one of the strangest, most fantastic periods of history. Henry moved among persons and scenes that Edgar Poe might have imagined; his character is by turns admirable and repellent; he prays as sincerely

for the success of noble and aspiring ambitions as to be "delivered from his wife;" constantly beset and even wounded by massacre and assassination, he continued to pursue his magnificent conceptions up to the very moment when the murderer's dagger reached his heart. This book also is the unique evidence of "The Great Design" for a European "League of Nations" which Sully asserts Henry discussed with other rulers including Elizabeth and the Pope, and which modern historians have especially noticed.

F. D. P.

INTERNATIONAL UNION NOTES AND NEWS

Southern Rhodesia

"I am anxious to start a Georgeist organisation in this young and growing country," Dr. B. Gilbert, of Salisbury, has written. "It is clear to me that Southern Rhodesia will be the heir to all the ills of Britain which it has sought to emulate. Our problem is rendered more difficult by the presence of what we call native 'reserves' which are generally as large as counties in the U.K. and in which all members in that particular tribe own land communally. We have here among the Europeans a system of land tenure much like what one has in the U.K., and as I see things it will, in the passage of time, lead to the growth of a poor landless white community such as one sees in the so-called 'poor whites' of the Union of South Africa." Dr. Gilbert applied for, and has received, a quantity of relevant literature, guidance as to the basic legislation required and information upon the operation of the principle in various countries. In Southern Rhodesia itself there is already the precedent of the adoption of a certain measure of Land Value Rating in urban areas with corresponding relief of buildings and improvements from local taxation. There the separate valuation of the land is an established fact, as in Salisbury, Buluwayo, Gwelo, Que Que and Gatooma, and the rates levied on the assessed selling values of site and improvements in pence per pound are respectively:—

	SITE	IMPROVEMENTS
Salisbury	5.2d.	1.3d.
Buluwayo	2d.	0.6d.
Gwelo	6d.	1.1d.
Que Que	8d.	1.1d.
Gatooma	3d.	0.75d.

So much for the towns—a small beginning, yet on the right lines—and now it will be for the new organisation to work for the expansion of the principle over the whole territory, rural as well as urban. Dr. Gilbert will have the good wishes of all sympathisers and, so far as we are concerned, all possible co-operation in the task he has so enterprisingly undertaken.

New Zealand and Australia

ANOTHER GAIN IN NEW ZEALAND. Backing up a Christmas and New Year greeting to the readers of this journal, Dr. Rolland O'Regan reports the good win in Clutha County where, at a poll of ratepayers, the Rating of Land Values was adopted by 692 votes to 181. This is an entirely farming county of 1,025 square miles situated in the South Island. There will be several such polls at the time of the November municipal elections and good hopes are entertained of victories in Hutt and Dunedin cities.

ANOTHER GAIN IN WEST AUSTRALIA. Mr. W. E. Standing, Hon. Secretary of the Henry George League, writes that in December the Town Council of Midland Junction adopted the Rating of Land Values (and consequent exemption of buildings and improvements from local taxation) by unanimous resolution. It is sequel to the special survey of the rating system in the area which was made by the League itself which was followed by a request, to the Valuation Department, for a complete re-valuation of the town. Mr. Standing further reports that

the old town of Busselton has amalgamated with the Busselton Road Board (equivalent to a county area) and has adopted the Rating of Land Values.

In Tasmania, the Government Act, by its Section 159 now empowers any local council, upon their own resolution, to adopt Site Value Rating, with however certain provisos limiting the amount of the revenue obtainable thereby to what would be obtained if the existing rates on the old basis were maintained. No local authority has yet made use of those powers, but a lively interest is being aroused and Devonport and King Island Councils, among others, are giving them special consideration.

Spain

Periodicals from Spain show continued and gratifying activity on the part of our colleagues in that country. In the Barcelona *Obra Mercedaria*, September, L. de Isusquiza deals with the Law of Rent, and names the many thinkers since Anderson, in 1777, who have contributed to its exposition. In the *Boletin* of the Spanish Esperantists, Jose Anglada, of Barcelona, warmly commends the Declaration of the International Union which, of course, is obtainable—and from 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1—in Esperanto. In the Madrid weekly *Nueva Economia Nacional* during the months of August, October and November there has been a series of articles expounding the Georgeist social philosophy. The digest of Political and Social Economy, by Luis Foyer, which at the same time is a synopsis of *Progress and Poverty*, occupies six pages in two of the issues and is a masterly statement. It should decidedly be published in booklet form. The contribution on Economics and Justice, by Juan Alvarez-Ossorio Barrau, likewise runs through successive issues, emphasising the connection that must subsist between economics and ethics. He pays tribute to many philosophers who have expressed views on the subject. A page is devoted by Lemos to the creation of the group in Buenos Aires and their course of studies and lectures, heartening news already reported in our columns of November last. And in two pages Luis Foyer gives an excellent account of the 1952 International Conference, reporting in full the resolutions there adopted. Heartily we congratulate our Spanish friends on the work they are accomplishing in this successful publicity.

A notable event was the lecture recently delivered by Mr. Paluzie-Borrell on "Georgeism and the Problems of Life" to the Co-operative Handweavers in Barcelona. It was a goodly attendance and all showed a lively interest in this exposition. The outcome will possibly be the formation of a study course on Fundamental Economics and Social Philosophy.

France

The influential Paris daily *Le Monde*, of January 3, published a long article by Max Toubeau in which he gives an account under a banner headline entitled "The Georgeists have held their Congress in Denmark." The opportunity is well taken to explain the objects of the Conference and to engage the sympathy and support of French readers for the movement. *Terre et Liberté* in its January-March number prints in full the Conference Papers by Max Toubeau on "France Faced with the Need of Radical Fiscal Reform," and by Miss V. G. Peterson

on "The Progress of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation," the Georgeist publishing house in New York. In all respects, for its ever instructive articles and its inspiration, *Terre et Liberté* should have the support of our French readers in all countries. It needs more revenue. The annual subscription is the moderate sum of 80 francs and that, with any supplementary donation, may be sent to Andre Fevrier, Rue de l'Association, Mesnin-Esnard, Seine-Inf., France.

In the Lyons daily *Le Progres* (Republican) Mr. Pavlos Giannelias contributed an article contrasting the financial, fiscal and economic conditions in Denmark with those in France, much to the advantage of Denmark—but in such manner as to make his readers acquainted with the benefits derived from the measure of Land Value Taxation which Denmark has adopted in lieu of placing burdens on buildings and improvements. These were principles still "utopian" in France, but very good reasons were given to emulate them in practice.

Another long contribution from Pavlos Giannelias's pen appears in the *Patris*, of Buenos Aires, the South American Greek daily. He writes, as we gather, as a Vice-President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, so there can be no doubt about the tenor of his message.

South Africa

In a long article contributed to the *South African Treasurer* of September last, Councillor E. J. Evans, of East London, joins issue with opinions expressed by certain City Treasurers who have made objection—when it is proposed to adopt the system—that Site Value Rating is not only unpopular, but also is less productive of revenue than local taxation levied on the composite value of land and buildings taken together. One or two leading municipal officials have offered this view and others without any apparent attempt to examine the question have echoed them. Mr. Evans produces facts and figures and arguments, based on authentic statistical matter, which amply destroy the allegations of "unpopularity" and "unproductiveness" and prove the contrary. It is gratifying that Mr. Evans has been given the opportunity to deal with the matter thus effectively in the journal of influence in South African municipal circles.

The Farmer's Weekly of South Africa, in issue of October 29, reported that a number of producers at the South Eastern Areas Public Bodies Association congress, held at Grahamstown, decided that super tax on farmers' incomes was one of the main factors limiting food production in South Africa. They voted for representations to the Minister of Finance to abolish the super tax on incomes earned through food production. They also decided to ask for a land tax, which they considered a fairer method than income tax of assessing their contributions.

India

The Free Economic Review, organ of the Libertarian Socialist Institute, Arya Bhuvan, Sandhurst Road, Bombay, printed in its October number a considerable extract (occupying more than two pages) of the paper on International Trade, presented by Mr. Ashley Mitchell at the 8th International Conference, in Denmark, last year. The September number of the same Review published a comprehensive and clearly stated argument by Mr. Arthur S. Otis explaining "what gives value to land" public revenue. The November-December number of the same paper prints in full the Conference Paper by Mr. Stephen Martin on the Welfare State.

Our Esperanto Publication

Esperantist journals in a number of countries have published notices and reviews, some at considerable length and all generally laudatory, of our publication *Tributo al Nobla Geniulo*, containing the orations delivered at Henry George's funeral and briefly describing his life and work. Fair sales are resulting, especially in Germany, and if it were not for the troublesome exchange controls holding up or even defeating remittances, they would be far more. To all Esperantists who

can remit we say: *get this book*. It costs 4s. 3d. by post and it is well worth that price.

Two of the papers submitted at the 1952 International Conference appear in full text in *Ons Erfdeel*, December issue, journal of the Dutch Union "Justice and Freedom." These are the papers by P. Prins on "Human Rights," and by Harald Grønberg comparing the results of large farms and smallholdings in Denmark, the latter of special importance to Dutch peasants.

NOTES AND NEWS

Testimony to the merits of Frederick Verinder's classic, "*My Neighbour's Landmark*—his "Short Studies in Bible Land Laws"—comes in a letter from Miss Frances Soriero, of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation. She writes: "Our Christmas campaign has been very successful and one of the books to move rapidly was *My Neighbour's Landmark*. We had over 25 on hand and sold the complete stock. Herewith an order for a number of publications including 25 of that book, which please send first." The book is published by our Land & Liberty Press, Ltd., price 3s. 6d. or 4s. by post. For the retail price in U.S.A. and Canada, application should be made to the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation.

Mr. Ole Nielsen, Copenhagen, writes: "Thank you very much for *The Condition of Labour*, by Henry George, and the other reading matter. Now I ask you to send me two more copies of the book and five copies of the International Union's Declaration of Principle and Policy in the German language. You may be pleased to know that *The Condition of Labour* is so easy to read that one of the copies will be for my own use. The others are for my brother." (The book highly deserves the commendation. The price is 4s. net. Mr. Ole Nielsen has many who emulate him in the circulation of the International Union's Declaration which is available in eight languages—English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Danish, Portuguese and Esperanto.)

Henry George's *The Condition of Labour* receives high praise also from Mr. Arthur Torkington, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, who is a member of the United Irish Leaseholder's Association. It happened that Mr. Torkington picked up in a secondhand bookshop the book (alas now out of print) *Why Rents and Rates are High*, by A. W. Madsen. This led to request for much other literature bearing on the land question and it was on Mr. Torkington remarking that he wished to have information on the moral and social aspect of the question that *The Condition of Labour* was sent. "This book was wonderfully interesting," he wrote, "and is of great value to us." The Leaseholders' Association is at present giving evidence before a Commission. Testimony to the state of affairs in Ireland and its continuing landlordism is given in the pamphlet *Ground Rents—The Last Conquest of Ireland*, which is published by the Association and for copies of which we are indebted to Mr. Torkington. No doubt we could procure copies (1s. each) for any of our interested readers.

Addressing the Portsmouth Branch of Toc H, January 15, under the title "Our Daily Bread," Mr. A. G. Bradburn gave the substance of Dr. Viggo Starcke's popular conference paper, supplementing it with material of his own. Mr. Bradburn prefaced his talk with a brief account of the Odense Conference which he had attended, giving also a biographical sketch of Dr. Starcke. In the questions and discussion which followed, the audience showed such great interest that Mr. Bradburn suggested that Toc H members should study the subject more fully at the local branch of the Henry George School and should give other speakers opportunity to develop the theme at future meetings.

The Condition of Labour. By Henry George. Open letter to Pope Leo XIII and treating of the rights of property and justice in the distribution of wealth. 4s.

My Neighbour's Landmark. By Frederick Verinder. His classic "Short Studies in Bible Land Laws." Memorial Edition. 3s. 6d.