

## NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

## MATLOCK BATH CONFERENCE

Held on 18th-19th September

It was a Conference for discussing how to promote the educational work of the Henry George movement, concentrating upon that and leaving the political field alone for the time being. There were no resolutions on the agenda, but one was passed unanimously and with great enthusiasm that this gathering had been so successful, so happily constituted as an intimate house party, that the "Henry George Week-End Conference" shall in future be an annual event; and that if possible regional Conferences of the kind shall be held for the benefit of the various centres up and down the country.

There were 50 in attendance. That the Conference was representative is shown by the number of places the members came from: Aylesbury, Belfast, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Codnor (Derbys.), Ealing, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Halifax, Horsted Keynes, Huddersfield, Larne, Leighton Buzzard, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Ripley (Derbys.), Sheffield, Smethwick, Stoke-on-Trent, Wrexham, and last but not least, Copenhagen. The presence of Mrs Bue Björner who had travelled specially from Denmark added very much to the value and the importance of the deliberations, and she had a rousing welcome. In her the Conference had the association also of Mr Bue Björner, the President of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and she was able to give members the benefit of her experience in helping to organise the classes of the "Ecotechnical High School" which teaches in Denmark the social philosophy embodied in *Progress and Poverty*.

The Conference was held under the joint auspices of the Henry George Foundation and the Henry George School of Social Science. At a meeting of the Board of Governors of the School held on the spot on Friday evening, 17th September, Mr Lester was appointed the President of the Conference and with him Messrs E. J. Brierley (Bristol), Mr C. H. Smithson (Halifax) and Mr Austin H. Peake (Cambridge) were appointed sessional chairmen.

Before the actual business of the Conference began on Saturday morning the 18th, an official welcome to members was given by Mr S. Stiles the Chairman of the newly established Derbyshire Land Values League in which he explained how this already active body had grown out of the economic classes that had been conducted by the Henry George School, and that his colleagues felt proud that Derbyshire had been chosen for their present gathering. They had been grateful to Mr George Musson for his able services as teacher of their local classes and for bringing the League into existence. The happy introduction to the business of the day was supplemented and with great appreciation by Mr A. H. Peake, who, speaking as a man born in the village (Codnor) where Mr Musson lived and worked, and recalling that one of their most loyal supporters, Mr W. H. Redfern, had also come from there, made presentation to Mr Musson on behalf of the Conference, and in token of their regard, a framed portrait of Henry George and an inscribed copy of the *Gems from Henry George*. This had all come as a surprise to the recipient and he acknowledged the gift in well chosen words. Mr Ashley Mitchell, recently returned from a visit to Canada and the U.S.A., brought greetings from friends on that side and spoke in high terms of the busy life of activity he saw at the H.G. Social Science School in New York.

## CIRCULATING THE PUBLICATIONS

Discussion on the publications and how to increase the circulation of the literature and of *Land & Liberty* was opened by Mr Madsen, who gave an account of the work of the Henry George Foundation which was now in its ninth year of life and during that time had produced no fewer than 328,000 books and pamphlets and in another year's time would be the candidate for renewed endowment at the hands of those able and willing to continue its work. They were deeply indebted to Louis P. Jacobs, the founder, for enabling them to do so much, creating a great new library of Henry George's works whereas before only a few of the books were available and these in editions of different publishers. But it was not enough to publish at the astonishingly low prices at which the publications were sold; their duty had been also to advertise and circulate the publications. Members who followed gave valuable suggestions in methods of publicity and how to get the books in the hands of interested readers, what help each and all could give while the Foundation itself undertook press advertising, circular postal campaigns, placing the books through the trade, and so on. Mr Williams Price (Wrexham) referred to his own efforts (where he is always so industrious) of house to house canvas first with smaller tracts and then encouraging the study of the solidier pamphlet or book, and getting subscribers for *Land & Liberty* by distribution of the specimen copies which any reader may obtain for the purpose. The School work, another rightly said, was closely linked with this matter of the publications; to get more and more classes in operation necessarily meant the greater sale and circulation of the books. For the Journal a practical thing could be done if each League had

an appointed canvasser determined to secure a given number of new readers every month. The session was not without its suggestions for new publications and reprints, in addition to the more than 60 titles the Foundation already had on its book list, and these have been noted for the consideration of the Trustees (the United Committee) when they are making their plans for 1938.

## HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

At the afternoon session, Mr Douglas opened discussion on the work of the Henry George School of Social Science, reporting the classes that had been held from January to June this year, being 19 classes in 12 places with a total enrolment of 270 students. He reported the preparations made or being made for the forthcoming autumn and winter classes, the details of which are given in another page. Mr Musson (Codnor), Mr Green (Belfast), Mr Smithson (Halifax), Mr Brierley (Bristol), Mrs Catterall (Manchester), Mr McManus (Liverpool), Mr Gardner (Cardiff), and others, reported the classes formed or planned each in his or her own centre, what was intended in regard to advanced classes as well as the prospects of securing teachers out of these classes to establish classes of their own, what assistance could be got from outside bodies (co-operative societies, progressive associations, etc.) not only to secure students but also to advertise the School and provide suitable rooms in which to meet.

Mrs Björner gave a most encouraging account of the School's progress in Denmark. They had started with a class aimed to recruit teachers right away and in the course of it they had compiled not only their own Danish *Teachers' Manual* but also the material for organizing classes on a national scale. The result was that in the spring they had 23 classes in operation and 280 students enrolled, including eight classes in Copenhagen with an average of ten students. They were now preparing for the autumn and they would also have advanced classes with *Protection or Free Trade* as the text book, for which a *Teachers' Manual* and the reading assignments for the students had been compiled.

## PLATFORM AND PRESS WORK

At the evening session, Mr A. H. Weller (Manchester) opened discussion on "The educational work on the platform and in the Press, with special reference to the attitude of other schools of thought to the Henry George Social Philosophy." In this he described the propaganda of the leagues in providing speakers to address the meetings of associations interested in social progress and thus as it were use their platform; the meetings the Leagues themselves organised whether in door or out of doors; their opportunities to circulate literature; and the value of the Press work through letters to editors or contributed articles. This was all education in the highest sense. The succeeding discussion ranged over such questions as the best way to bring out the main point before this or that audience where the topic might be housing, or unemployment, the ethics of property, or the controversies that are buried behind loosely used terms like Socialism, Capitalism, Communism, Individualism and the rest. The recent most practical and most successful use of a platform made for the movement, as Mr Munsie of Glasgow said, had been in the municipal agitation for land value rating which had given them a nation-wide audience. With Cardiff taking the lead in 1935 and the London County Council in 1936, with local authorities all over the country being approached to support the policy, they had in this field no end of opportunities to join in and educate the public on the fundamental principles on which land value rating, as such, was based.

## METHODS OF TEACHING

Next morning the time was free for members to spend as they chose and many took advantage of the good weather and beautiful surroundings for excursions on foot or by charabanc. In the afternoon, the Conference resumed discussion of the Henry George School work from the point of view of the teachers and the students, also what must be done to recruit new teachers and the nature and scope of advanced classes. Mr McManus (Liverpool), who introduced the talk, was able to speak from his own experience of the several classes he had conducted. Points raised in the discussion were: the procedure at the first class meeting before the "questionnaire" began to be distributed; the length of the course, whether ten meetings were too many or too few; the order in which *Progress and Poverty* should be taken; the choice open to instructors to use either the *Teachers' Manual* or the *Social Science Manual*, or even to take an individual line which in past teaching of economics they had found quite effective, although of course taking the fullest advantage of the systematic method the School had evolved—a view expressed by Mr Brierley as a trained school teacher. Mr Smithson, recalling his experiences from his classes (four weekly during last spring) saw how useful it would be first to have a preliminary course of six meetings on the simplest elements and so build up students for the regular course strictly following the *Teachers' Manual*, and he proposed to try that plan this coming season. Mr Green (Belfast),

several members of Mr Musson's class, and Miss Catterall as member of the Manchester class, made a number of valuable suggestions from what they had learned after taking or going through the course; and it was delightful to hear Mr J. F. Grace with his fine humour telling how well they in Codnor were being educated on what is wealth, what is capital, what is wages and whether the "curves and graphs" of the statisticians explained poverty or whether it was land monopoly. Mr and Mrs Catterall raised the important question of how to keep the association of students after they had been "to School" and have their active co-operation in spreading the knowledge they had gained. It was most important to maintain and develop these contacts, and every class should result in the formation of local leagues where none existed and in that matter of closer association they had the example of the Henry George Fellowships which were springing up in America from the seed the School had sown there.

#### THE FORTHCOMING CENTENARY

Mr Peake who had presided at this session said they had had a most profitable interchange of opinion and undoubtedly from the Conference the School and its progress had received a powerful stimulus. He wished that the rest of the time (after the tea interval) might be used to hear suggestions regarding the Henry George Centenary, 2nd September, 1939, for which he would be grateful as he was himself the Chairman of the Executive of the International Union, and a special Committee appointed by the President, Mr Björner, had charge of the centenary preparations. This discussion was particularly timely as Mrs Björner was able to note the various suggestions and convey them to Mr Björner. The chief consideration was how to make publicity with the celebrations, to aim at a national conference in each country; and while they there could not decide such matters, the suggestion for an international conference in New York, which Mrs de Mille had conveyed, and the suggestion for a European international Conference in Copenhagen which they wished Mrs. Björner to convey to the President (she promising to use her influence) had enthusiastic approval.

At the close a resolution was adopted expressing appreciation of the household arrangements at Cromford Court, the courtesy of the staff and the manner in which their hosts, the Friendship Holidays Association, had attended to their comfort; also a resolution of thanks to the organisers and of determination to hold the next Conference in equally agreeable surroundings as soon as may be. The plans are already laid for the 1938 gathering, and earlier in the year, possibly May or June.

**THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, LTD.,** 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1. A. W. Madsen, Secretary; F. C. R. Douglas, Assistant Secretary; W. R. Lester and C. E. Crompton, Hon. Treasurers. (Telephone: Whitehall 6008. Telegrams: "Eulav, Sowest, London.")

Important among the office activities of last month was the holding of the Matlock Bath Conference which is reported above. The actual expense incurred in circulars, postages and other outlays was £14 4s. 6d., which has since been more than met by the contributions of members and friends invited to help in this way. With their consent the surplus becomes a revenue for the benefit jointly of the Henry George School of Social Science and of the trustees of the Henry George Foundation, since it was under these auspices that the Conference was held. We hope that the many others who have recognised the value of the Conference will, if they are able, be moved to subscribe to this appeal for the promotion of its work, backing up the splendid stimulus it got at Matlock Bath.

On 15th October in these rooms, at 7.30, a meeting will be held addressed by Mr Madsen on "Economic Conditions in Germany: Opinions formed after a recent visit"—a necessary sub-title because much of the information it was possible to get is the result of a questionnaire since addressed to authorities in that country.

Invitation will be made at that meeting, and is given now to all London and district readers, to join the Study Circle on *Progress and Poverty* (under auspices of the H.G. School) which will begin on Friday, 22nd October, at 7 p.m., and continue thereafter for nine weeks, ending just before Christmas. A reading circle with *Protection or Free Trade* as the text book will begin on Tuesday, 2nd November, at 7 p.m., continuing, in five sessions, to 30th November; so that during that period there will be two classes weekly in these rooms—classes, although a happier description term is "reading circles" since members and instructor do read and discuss the books together, with the help of the reading assignments and the "questions and answers" along the admirable lines of the H.G. School, thus avoiding anything in the nature of formal lectures.

The *Protection or Free Trade* class is suitable for beginners to whom it would prove a good introductory and it is of course open to all; at the same time, it will be found a useful supplementary course for those who have already been through *Progress and Poverty*, and in that regard a special invitation to join is offered to those who attended the classes here during last spring.

After the New Year there will be another *Progress and Poverty* class and along with it a class, of five or six meetings, on "The Practice

of Land Value Taxation," on the technique of valuation, assessment and collection—the "application of remedy" with Mr Douglas's *Land Value Rating* as text book.

On the 28th October the Muswell Hill "Parliament" will debate a Bill for a National Tax on Land Values, introduced by Mr Douglas. On 6th December Mr Lester addresses the Crowborough and District Christian Science Council on "Land, Food and People."

How to increase the circulation of *Land & Liberty* is a matter of natural concern to all its readers. We are glad to acknowledge a contribution of £30 which is being used specially for this purpose, enabling us to post 600 copies monthly of the Journal for six months to a selected list of names and addresses.

**ENGLISH LEAGUE:** Frederick Verinder, General Secretary, First Floor, 94 Petty France, Westminster, London, S.W.1 ('Phone: Whitehall 3831).

#### MEETINGS

- Oct. 5th.—Wimbledon Chase W.C.G.: A. C. Blackburn, 2.45 p.m.
- " 5th.—Walthamstow W.C.G.: Fredk. Verinder, 2.30 p.m.
- " 6th.—Old Oak Branch W.C.G.: A. C. Blackburn.
- " 7th.—Hemel Hempstead W.C.G.: A. C. Blackburn.
- " 12th.—Central Southwark Labour Party (Women's Section), Small Hall, Manor Place, Walworth: A. C. Blackburn, "Housing," 3 p.m.
- " 13th.—Brixton Labour Party (Women's Section), 21 Gresham Road, S.W.9: Fredk. Verinder, 3 p.m.
- " 14th.—E. Lewisham Labour Party (Women's Section), 42 Hafton Road, Catford: A. C. Blackburn, 3 p.m.
- " 14th.—Lordship Lane W.C.G., Epiphany Hall, Bassano Street, East Dulwich: Leon MacLaren, 3.15 p.m.
- " 18th.—Deptford Labour Party (Women's Section): Fredk. Verinder, 3 p.m.
- " 20th.—Dover W.C.G., Co-operative Hall, Maison Dieu Road: Fredk. Verinder, "Real Free Trade," 3 p.m.
- " 20th.—Westminster W.C.G., Co-operative Stores, 90 Rochester Row: A. C. Blackburn, 2.45 p.m.
- " 21st.—Wimbledon Technical College, Literary and Debating Society: L. J. Adams, "Henry George," 7.45 p.m.
- " 28th.—Tottenham W.L.A., 10 Bruce Grove: H. G. Chancellor, "Rates and the Home," 3 p.m.
- " 28th.—Enfield Highway W.C.G., Liberal and Labour Club, South Street, Ponders End, Enfield: Fredk. Verinder, "Housing and the Rates," 3.30 p.m.
- Nov. 3rd.—Methodist Church, Ravensdale Road, Stamford Hill: Fredk. Verinder, "The Bible and the Land Question," 8 p.m.
- " 4th.—Castelnau W.C.G., New Church Hall, Stillingfleet Road, Barnes: A. C. Blackburn, "Real Free Trade," 3 p.m.

Unless otherwise stated in the above list, the subject of each lecture will be the Rating Question with special reference to the Borough Council Elections.

The League Office is anxious to get into touch with as many candidates as possible, as soon as possible. The prompt sending of lists of names and addresses of candidates for any Borough will be greatly appreciated. Many local papers publish such lists.

The General Secretary records with deep regret the passing of two members of the League who have given long service to our cause. Mrs Lewis H. Berens died after a long period of ill-health on 1st September. She will be held in affectionate remembrance by all who had the privilege of knowing her. An obituary notice will be found elsewhere in this paper.

Mr Henry Charles Preece passed away on 19th September. He was formerly a member of the League Executive. At the age of 40 he was stricken with blindness, a disability which he faced with indomitable courage. He left the Civil Service and became Lecturer on History at King's College, but in later years he devoted himself to the service of his sightless comrades and is said to have been instrumental in raising £800,000 on their behalf. Like Mrs Berens, he remained a member of the League to the end of his heroic and useful life.

**HENRY GEORGE FREEDOM LEAGUE:** William Reid, Secretary, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3.

The School of Social Science will begin its Winter Session on Friday, 1st October, in the Rooms at 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow. Two classes, one for ladies, are expected to go through the prescribed course. There are hopes of other circles being formed in other centres. Corresponding students living at a distance are invited to make this special study by correspondence.

Glasgow will be attracting visitors from all over the world next summer on account of the Exhibition. Among them will be many supporters of our movement. We invite suggestions as to how such visitors may be entertained. There are inviting resorts on the Estuary of the Clyde which could be utilised for a week-end school.



Other suggestions may prove to be useful and practical.

We have booked odd engagements for lecturers but will be pleased to have more for the coming winter.

Newspaper correspondents in and around Glasgow who have contributed useful letters to the Editor during the past month include Mrs H. McGrouther, *Glasgow Bulletin*, Mr A. J. Mace, *Western Leader*, Mr J. Brunton McLennan, B.L., *Glasgow Herald* and Mr John Cameron, *Coatbridge Express*.

Captain Arthur R. McDougal moved at a recent Conference of Liberals in Edinburgh that the leaders of the Liberal Party be asked to put Rating and Taxation of Land Values in the forefront of the Party's programme. We understand that this proposal will be revived at the Autumn Conference of Scottish Liberals to be held at Dunoon on Friday and Saturday, 15th and 16th October.

**WELSH LEAGUE :** Eustace A. Davies, Hon. Secretary, 27 Park Place, Cardiff.

With the active co-operation of the staff of the United Committee (to whom we tender our best thanks) over 1,200 circulars with appropriate literature have been sent out to individuals and secretaries of organizations. It is hoped that as a result of this special effort that a number of meetings will be arranged and that the H.G.S.S.S. Class under the guidance of Mr C. A. Gardner will attract a substantial number of students.

Meetings in September were : On 21st, Llandaff Branch Toc H., Mr C. A. Gardner ; 23rd, Grange Town Branch Women's Co-operative Guild, Mr Meth Jones ; 27th, Splott Women's Co-operative Guild, Capt Saw.

Mr C. A. Gardner attended the Matlock Bath Conference and we look forward to receiving a report from him at the next meeting of our Executive Committee.

The H.G.S.S.S. Class started on Monday, 20th September, and has eleven enrolled members. As intimated in last month's notes, the Class is held every Monday from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., at the Y.M.C.A., Station Terrace, Cardiff. The Hon. Secretary, as a Governor of the H.G.S.S.S., hopes to attend some of the meetings addressed by our speakers with a view to recruiting members for the Class.

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**YORKSHIRE AND NORTHERN LEAGUE :** F. Skirrow, Secretary, Tanfield Buildings, 129, Skipton Road, Keighley.

Meetings have been addressed as follows : by P. V. Olver, on 29th August, at Horsforth ; 6th September, Women's Meeting at Burley ; 7th September, Labour Party ward meeting at Kirkstall, Leeds ; 14th September, at Rawdon ; 19th September, at Woodley. By Ashley Mitchell on 2nd September, Bradford Labour Party Delegate Meeting which had an excellent Press report. By F. N. Smith, 15th September, W. C. G. Benwell, Newcastle ; 26th September, at Tynemouth. By the Secretary, 26th September, the Bradford Secular Society. Meetings are booked for the Secretary with the Labour Party in Leeds and for E. A. Lassen with the Keighley I.L.P.

Recent Press correspondence includes fourteen letters or articles appearing in the *Yorkshire Observer* and the *Telegraph & Argus*, the writers being G. H. Froggart, E. A. Lassen, P. V. Olver, "Democritus" and the Secretary. Specially noteworthy was the lengthy article on Money contributed by "Democritus" to the *Telegraph & Argus* of 30th August.

**MANCHESTER LEAGUE :** Arthur H. Weller, J.P., Secretary, 69 Piccadilly, Manchester, 1 ('Phone : Cen. 5527).

The Secretary addressed the Lancaster Rotary Club on 30th August, and the Warrington Trades Council on 13th September. During the past month four meetings at Alexandra Park Gate were addressed by Messrs E. M. Ginders, E. F. MacClafferty, G. Wright, Mr Kitchen and the Secretary.

Arrangements are in hand for a series of public meetings to be held in Manchester under the auspices of the Henry George Club. Meeting place will be at 14 Piccadilly, as before. Readers desiring to be notified are invited to write to the Club Secretary, Miss Betty Noble, 13 Orthes Grove, Heaton Chapel, Stockport.

Speeches made in Manchester recently by Sir E. Simon (Liberal) and Mr H. Nicolson, M.P. (Conservative) seem to show that these two politicians are inspired by similar ideals. Sir E. Simon commented on the advantages of Socialism in Moscow and the freedom of the executive from criticism. He said the conditions under which town-planning was done in Moscow must be regarded as good beyond their wildest hopes. Mr Nicolson said (at another meeting) it was impossible for an intelligent and civilized country to achieve social and economic justice without sacrificing political liberty. Coercion would have to be applied scientifically to everybody, but not haphazardly as in Russia nor ruthlessly as in Germany. We had to prove to the world that there could be democracy in a scientifically planned State.

These friends of democracy want to establish in this country a better kind of dictatorship than can be found elsewhere. A new slogan, such as "Freedom through coercion" might be useful.

**LIVERPOOL LEAGUE :** F. R. Jones, Hon. Secretary, 23 Rocklands Avenue, Bebington, Cheshire. (Meeting Room : 21 Harrington Street, Liverpool.)

Our members are now very actively engaged in gaining students for classes of the Henry George School of Social Science. At our Committee meeting on 13th September it was decided to recommence our Liverpool class at 21 Harrington Street on 6th October, 7.45 p.m.

Mr E. J. McManus's class at Thompson's Café, Crosby Road North, Waterloo, starts on 8th October.

At a meeting of Birkenhead members at Mr Curzon Newhouse's house on 21st September it was determined to begin another class at Beechcroft, Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead, on 7th October.

Other classes are in course of arrangement in Crosby, Southport, and elsewhere. All organizations in the district have been approached by circular letter to put the School leaflet on their notice boards, with a sheet inviting people to write down their names as students.

Friends are urged to do their best to collect students for the classes in the various districts.

Mr E. J. McManus has had two fine letters in the *Liverpool Post* on land value rating, in reply to Alderman Pastor Longbottom, and these had a prominent position in the paper.

On 14th September Mr O. B. Sweeney spoke to the New Ferry Co-operative Men's Guild on "Freedom and the Natural Law."

**MIDLAND LEAGUE :** Chapman Wright, Hon. Secretary, 20 Cannon Street, Birmingham, 2.

A former member of the League, Mr H. H. Hollins, is on a visit here after 27 years' residence in Victoria, B.C. He is an ardent follower of Henry George and tells of the efforts of reactionaries in the Vancouver area to reverse the present legislation which largely exempts improvements and rates land value instead. He has observed in England the increasing bad effect of land monopoly as seen in overcrowding and ribbon development, and the land ramp accompanying the building boom seems appalling to a visitor from B.C. where these evils are impossible through the application, to some extent, of Henry George principles.

**PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE :** A. H. Stoakes, Hon. Secretary, 110 Baffins Road, Portsmouth.

Our official activity has been confined to preparation for the Class in connection with the Henry George School of Social Science. The secretaries of local organizations have been circularized, advertisements inserted in the local Press and 500 handbills, kindly supplied by the Secretary to the Henry George School, distributed.

Our President, Mr F. Collins Bailey, has succeeded in getting some letters bearing on the T.L.V. in the local Press during the month.

**BRISTOL LEAGUE :** H. H. Williams, Hon. Secretary, 18, Grittleton Road, Horfield, Bristol 7.

We are now anticipating a busy winter season commencing with a Public Lecture at our new meeting place, the Queen's Café, Tramway Centre, on Monday, 27th September, at 7.30 p.m. Speaker : Mr E. J. Brierly.

Meanwhile, new speakers have been actively engaged in League work. Mr E. J. Brierly addressed the Westbury-on-Trym Adult School on 29th August. Mr H. H. Williams addressed Bethal Men's Brotherhood, 29th August, and Morley Street Methodist Men's Circle, Lawrence Hill, on 21st September ; also our Assistant Secretary, Mr K. E. Abbott, gave a lecture on "The Remedy for Social Ills" at St Annes Co-operative Women's Guild, Brislington, at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, 22nd September, with encouraging results.

**DERBYSHIRE LAND VALUES LEAGUE :** S. Stiles, Chairman ; G. Musson, Hon. Secretary, 24 Derby Lane, Codnor.

Business meeting was held on 27th August. It was decided to make application for a seat on the Board of Governors of the H.G.S.S.S. This application has been granted and Mr G. Musson is our representative on that body. A request was also sent to the School Headquarters for leaflets advertising classes. We hope to start early in October.

Our subscription for the year 1937 was fixed at the minimum of 6d. Messrs H. Flory, R. Hutchinson, F. Grace, R. Musson, J. Parkin and C. Stiles were appointed as the Committee.

Further publicity in the way of notices and correspondence, especially in regard to the Matlock Conference, has appeared in the local Press. At the Conference the Derbyshire League was represented by S. Stiles, Chairman of the League, also Messrs Flory, Grace, R. Musson, C. Stiles and the Secretary.

The many helpful suggestions and opinions relating to the work and methods of the School will be of great value to us in Derbyshire when organizing and conducting our future classes, and the Conference will do the Derbyshire League a lot of good in other ways.

**HIGHLAND LEAGUE :** Hon. Secretary, I. Mackenzie, Queensgate Arcade, Inverness.

The crofters' revolt against the rating of their houses, which started in Skye, has spread over the Western Isles and the whole of Inverness-shire and Ross-shire. The Highlands have been roused as they were roused in the Eighties. The principle at stake is the right of the producer to what he produces and the freedom of buildings and improvements from taxation. Judging from conversations with crofters in Torridon, Opinan and Strathgairloch, they are determined to resist to the last. Latest reports are that the crofters of Strath Skye are to form a Union. The secretary is Mr Jas. Maclean, of Brakish, and the chairman Mr Duncan Macpherson. Mr Maclean has had copies of *Land & Liberty* during the last two months. The time is surely ripe for a campaign in the Highlands, if we could but undertake it.

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