

as one would suspect and as Mr. Anstey suggests, although, of course, I do not deny that it has some effect.

Like him, I am unhappy at the thought of leaving valuable land unused for thirty years. Nevertheless, I find his land tenure proposals frightening. Planners already have problems enough in establishing what is the highest and best use of land. They would be under considerable pressure to extend tenure periods and many plans would be even more frustrated than they are at present. The chances of blighting areas as a result of tenure lengths certainly is a potential new cause for deterioration of cities. The "pork-barrel" possibilities of the proposed system are enormous, and its adoption could well be disastrous.

Values that accrue to land as a result of community endeavour in providing better roads, more parks, etc., and as a result of population pressure should be reaped by the community. A land value tax is the best means to achieve this. It would eliminate many of the bad effects of the present system and would tend to make any reasonable plans more feasible. It would afford the private land owner a positive incentive to make the best use of his land. It would not disrupt the entire society, as would a cessation of tenure and yet it could avoid the bulk of the abuses that seem to result from the present system. A change of this kind would bring about some redistribution of wealth but this in any event is desirable and it would be more gradual than if tenure were ended.

In seeking to get rid of the abuses that the present system creates we should take care not to throw out the baby with the bathwater. The system has many points in its favour and these would be preserved and strengthened if the land value tax were adopted.

Your faithfully,

Vancouver 12, B.C.

R. A. WILLIAMS, M.Sc.,

#### SIMPLE ARITHMETIC

To the Editor of Land & Liberty.

Sir,—On Page 158 paragraph 4 of your October issue it is stated that a 10 per cent tax on land valued at £50 a year, with a selling value of £1,000 would confer a great social benefit because it would reduce the selling value of the land to £900.

What the writer overlooks is that in exchange for £100 reduction the purchaser would have to pay a tax of £5 a year in perpetuity.

If it were true that a 10 per cent. tax reduced the price by 10 per cent., then a 100 per cent. tax would reduce the price by 100 per cent., and we should all be in the happy position of being able to get land for nothing.

Yours faithfully,

London, N.16.

GEORGE ALFRED GRAVES,

If all valuable land were fully developed, selling prices would fall by exactly same percentage as the rate of tax. In practice, however, by forcing speculatively withheld land on to the market and promoting optimum economic development, a tax of 10 per cent. on annual value would reduce selling prices by **more than** 10 per cent. If the full economic rent were collected, land would command no price. Ed., L&L.

#### WHO'S WHO IN THE RATING REFORM CAMPAIGN

### Mr. C. H. Stowasser

Representative for West Cornwall

**SCHOOLTEACHER** and author of children's books, Mr. C. H. Stowasser was born of German parents in Czechoslovakia. Now 36, he came to England in 1932. When 16 he prepared himself to debate "Capitalism v. Socialism" by borrowing Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* from his Grammar School library and thereby laid a sure foundation for future thinking on economic and social problems.

He volunteered for war service in a coal mine and at same time took a commerce degree at Manchester University, attending even-

ing lectures. Subsequently studied full time at the University for the Teaching Diploma, returning after some years teaching to take the Diploma in Educational Psychology. While at Manchester he gave voluntary service as a tutor at the Henry George School.

Mr. Stowasser is joint author of a successful handwork book for children, *Measuring and Making*, published by Oxford University Press, and of a series of 24 children's books (to be published shortly) which is almost completely different from anything attempted anywhere in this field. Now special-



ises in teaching maladjusted boys.

He joined Liberal Party after the General Election and, as Divisional Secretary, has published for canvassing purposes, etc., a policy statement emphasising the need for taxing land values. Was recently appointed Chairman of local C.N.D.