



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Derbyshire.** With land value rating a main plank in his programme, Cllr. R. Cresswell (Labour) was returned as County Councillor for Heanor No. 1. division last month, polling 1602 votes against his Independent opponent's 611. The seat was previously held by an Independent. In the adjoining No. 2 division the tables were turned: an Independent captured a Labour seat. Mr. George Musson writes: "While Cllr. Cresswell's personal popularity had a great influence on the result there is no doubt that his advocacy of L.V.R. contributed materially to his success." Cllr. Cresswell acts as Rating Reform Campaign representative for Codnor.

Mr. A. C. Huie, 90 year old former editor of our Sydney contemporary, The Standard, is busy as ever with his pen on behalf of the land values and free trade cause, securing publication of letters, articles and pointed comments in a number of Australian papers. From Narrandera Argus we reprint one of the four or five "notes on the news" he contributes each week:—

"Wheat Sale to Communist China. They have a famine in Communist China. Australia has a big crop of wheat, far more than sufficient for local needs.

"China has no love for Australia, but, like the sons of Jacob, who heard that there was corn in Egypt and went to get some. China has bought a million tons of Australian wheat for £27 millions.

"But how is China going to pay for the wheat? Her currency is of no use to us. The only way is by goods either directly or indirectly. Australia objects to receiving payment in the only possible way and imposes taxes and restrictions upon it. It is a mad world, my masters, is an old saying.

"The madness is very clearly seen in this case. If the farmers had to pay the taxes on the receipt of payment for their wheat it would ruin them. So it is spread over the whole community. Thus the only complaint is about the high cost of living.

"The ordinary consumers do not see the fraud. All that they think about is

higher wages to enable them to pay the inflated prices on the payment for our exports. Protection, so-called, is a treble form of fraud. It taxes us for revenue. It makes fortunes for monopolists. It exempts the owners of land who are getting rich without work."

**Portsmouth.** At a public meeting convened by Mr. J. F. Dixon, an engineer, attended by 23 people on March 15 the Rating Reform Association (Portsmouth) was formed. This received considerable publicity in the Portsmouth Evening News which reported: "Mr. Dixon suggested that consideration might be given to affiliation with the Rating Reform Campaign, a national body dedicated to land value rating. He said a land valuation system worked well in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Denmark." Land-value rating was explained to members of the Association by Mr. P. R. Stubbings on March 29. The previous evening he addressed the W.E.A. at **Bournemouth**—a lively, intelligent meeting, broadly sympathetic though some opposition was encountered. An invitation to return for further questioning the following week could not be accepted.

**Petersfield, Hants.** One of the first to join the Rating Reform Campaign, Mr. J. Hayes, has accepted appointment as representative for his area. A schoolmaster, he has wide connections with various social groups and has addressed public meetings from a number of platforms. Mr. Hayes writes: "Permission has been granted for the development of a 'new town' in the area (at Bordon). As you can well imagine, the mention of the words 'land values' in Petersfield stimulates very special reactions, and the seeds of rating reform fall on particularly fertile ground."

**Redditch U.D.C.** has submitted resolution as follows to the Urban District Councils Association:—

"That the Association be asked to urge the Government to abandon the attempt to revive and modify the antiquated rating system as the mainstay of Local Government finance, and instead to devise a modern system based on 20th century realities, taking account of incomes, profits and site values"

Redditch, Worcs., is an industrial and residential town lying roughly 13 miles south of Birmingham.

## LETTERS

### EDUCATION IN A FREE SOCIETY

To the Editor of Land & Liberty.

SIR,— It seems to me that Mrs. Harris and her fellow members of the Kimba Henry George League (L&L. Feb.) are being doctrinaire on the subject of education.

While agreeing with their basic principle of freedom of choice, and the duty of governments to protect that right for all citizens, I think it a little unrealistic to suggest we should revert to a system of private tutoring, or even to one in which all the benefits of present day educational systems were eliminated.

And, while I agree that the parent has a moral responsibility to see that the child is educated, I don't see that that does away entirely with the interest in

that education which the society into which he will eventually be launched must have. Who is responsible, for instance, when the parents fail to be?

Surely the ideal system is one in which there is the highest possible degree of parental co-operation at all levels, where only broad educational principles are laid down at, say, State level and where the supply of money for the machinery of education is not the football of party politics. Are not the real needs more schools, smaller schools, smaller classes, better teachers, greater parental participation in school problems, freedom of choice in selection of schools, removal of education from the field of party politics and access to land?

The chief objection I see in State-provided education in Australia is that it is mass-produced and capable of manipulation for ideological purposes. Mrs. Harris speaks of State schools being 'breeding grounds for Protection'; perhaps that is what she means? It would be interesting if she would care to elaborate this statement.

Yours faithfully,

E. P. MIDDLETON.

London, S.W.13

#### CAUSE OF ECONOMIC CRISIS

To the Editor of Land & Liberty

**SIR**, — A national economic crisis is not and cannot be caused by a so-called adverse balance of payments. In the final analysis it is brought about by the failure of a government to balance its budget.

The indebtedness of our exporters and importers does have some effect on their ability to meet their taxation payments, nevertheless they meet them.

The prosperity of a country depends on the steady expansion of production both by labour and capital. Exchange of the wealth produced is only one side of the picture.

When there are signs of a depression, instead of cutting their expenditure and attempting to find the real cause of the crisis the government maintains its excessive taxation demand.

Is it not possible that some section of the community is taking too great a share of the wealth produced by way of unearned increment that the country can afford? Dare I mention the profits from land speculation of which we have heard so much of late? And what about the gains made by monopolistic industries?

No, the use of the balance of payments argument is a subterfuge to cover government profligacy and their inability to find an answer to the problem.

One thing is certain. Nobody, not even the Government, wants a crisis.

Yours faithfully,

STEPHEN MARTIN

London, S.E.9.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

To the Editor of Land & Liberty,

**SIR**, — By the time you print this an ocean of crocodile tears will have been shed over the departure of South Africa from the Commonwealth. It is very convenient for the Press and the politicians to have the racial question with which to obscure the real truth which is quite simply that whilst the

Commonwealth remains divided against itself economically no power on earth can prevent its disintegration.

A tariff system remains a tariff system even if it is called Imperial Preference and this it is which is tearing the Commonwealth apart. If this matter were corrected the racial question could be relied upon largely to resolve itself. It is equally certain that the discrimination which is inseparable from tariff systems can only serve to intensify racial discord.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN C. COOK,

Wells, Somerset.

#### DECIMAL COINAGE

**SIR**, — Our currency has been depreciating at the rate of some 4 per cent. each year. The change to decimal money has also meant in the past two months an increase in our cost of living. For instance, postage to Britain was formerly four pence (or point 333 of one shilling) and is now 3½ cents (or point 35 of one shilling). Milk, bread, and many other items have similarly risen slightly. Although each single item is small, the cumulative effect of many such items is heavy on the pocket, for the individual. The very slight postage rise will hit some big businesses, e.g. those sending out thousands of invoices per month at a postage rate of one cent instead of one penny.

I envisage some increases in taxation due to our "sovereign independent republic" status at the end of May.

Yours faithfully,

HARRY F. LEVETT,

Transvaal, South Africa.

Letters held over include a reply by Mr. Frank Dupnis to John Nibb's letter, "Politics First" and one by "East Anglian" to Mr. Robert Sage's letter, "Confusing Terms". The editor welcomes letters for publication. Correspondents may be as controversial as they please but are asked to be concise.

#### STOP PRESS

**Mr. Donald Wade, M.P. (Liberal) has tabled an Amendment to the Renting and Valuation Bill, Report Stage, requiring the Minister to make a trial land valuation of a sample area (or areas) after the 1963 revaluation takes effect. Supporting him are 3 other Liberal M.P.s — Messrs. R. Bowen, A. Holt and J. Thorpe. Amendment may be taken on May 10.**

#### No. 6 — Who's Who In The Rating Reform Campaign



Mr. W. D. FARR

Representative for Dartford

Mr. Farr is a retired police sergeant, aged 56, currently employed in the Finance Department of the Dartford Rural District Council. As well as acting for the Rating Reform Campaign he conducts classes in his area as tutor for the Henry George School of Social Science.

Politically he had always favoured the Labour cause as being that of the underdog though he confesses that study at the H.G.S. has considerably modified his earlier outlook. It was this study which aroused his interest in rating reform.

Mr. Farr left elementary school when he was 14 in the difficult days following the first world war. As a boy messenger at the Board of Education in Whitehall he fell victim to the "Geddes Axe" and was again thrown out of work — as a car body improver — by the 1923 depression. After vainly seeking work he joined the army at 2s. 9d. a day and served for three years in the Scots Guards.

He joined the Kent County Constabulary in 1927 and served for more than 28 years in various parts of the county, gaining four commendations and the award of the R.S.P.C.A.

LAND & LIBERTY