

material in exchange. Many people in Australia, in Britain and elsewhere, talk as if we had a right to block their trade. If you try to look at it objectively it is not at all hard to see that this is a moral question. Population growth is bound up very closely with another set of questions which arise from commercial relations; and I sometimes suspect that the fervour with which some Australians say that Japan ought to limit her population is closely tied up with a desire to limit Japanese export trade because of commercial fears."

"We must do our part to develop world trade, particularly the export of manufactures from Asia, so that the world can support its increasing population," said Mr. Clark. "Every child born into the world, the most illiterate pagan and the finest product of civilisation alike, is a child of God entitled to full human rights. Instead of talking about our rights to restrict population, we must adopt the opposite point of view—that every child born into the world has the right to demand an economic system that has a chance of providing it with at least the necessities of life." Despite difficulties, it would be feasible to feed the world's increasing population for a long time to come.

Referring to conditions in the Western hemisphere Mr. Clark said that the enormous scheme of social services being implemented in Britain was built upon unfulfilled presumptions of greatly increased industrial output and on the assumption that the rest of the world would continue to supply her with cheap food and raw materials.

"Ninety-nine people out of a hundred do not know that the United States had become a net importer of farm products as early as 1911. Ever since (except for the war years) she has been importing farm products on an increasing scale . . . . During the last two years, the U.S.A. has been running down her own farm population at a rate of 5 per cent per year and her food prices have gone very high. She will be an increasing importer of certain foods and raw materials. However, many American economists believe that their country's role in world trade is to sell as much as possible and buy as little as possible. This idea will create chaos. Some of the greatest harm to free enterprise throughout the world has been done by well-intentioned but ill-informed members of the American Republican Party who have persisted in high tariff policies," concluded Mr. Clark.

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY INDIA

### THE CAUSE OF FAMINE AND POVERTY

The want and starvation in eighteenth century India were shown by Henry George in the section of *Progress and Poverty* that deals with Population and Subsistence to have been due to the tyranny to which the peasant was subjected and to his lack of security. The writings of the Rev. William Tennant, a chaplain in the service of the East India Company, are cited in support and somewhat condensed extracts are quoted from his *Indian Recreations*, Volume 1, Section 39. The original edition of this work was recently consulted in the library of the India Office in London and is of such considerable interest that we reprint it here in full.

"When we reflect on the great fertility of Hindostan in general it is amazing to consider the frequency

of this dreadful visitation (famine). It is evidently not owing to any sterility in the soil or climate, since there are many seasons that yield two or three crops; the evil must be traced to some political cause; and it requires but little penetration to discover it in the avarice and distortion of the various governments. In a country such as this, where revolutions are so common, the great spur to industry, that of security, is taken away: the Ryut, who cultivates his ground this year is by no means sure of possessing it the next; if he should it is highly probable that under a government that holds its sway only by the sword, some large detachment may be quartered in his neighbourhood: no greater blow can be given to industry: for a Mahratta army is more indefatigably destructive than myriads of locusts. The property of friends and enemies falls equally prey to their undistinguishing depredations. Hence no man raises more grain than is barely sufficient for himself; and the produce of the year is just equivalent to its consumption. The consequence is, as there are no public granaries, that the first unfavourable season produces a famine: the inhabitants abandon their fields, and either fly to the coast, or to some other place where the famine has prevailed less. This new accession of people produces a famine there also, and the evil becomes universal."

*Indian Recreations* was published in London in 1804 in three volumes. The first two volumes each comprise a number of sections, dated and addressed, but not arranged in any sort of chronological order. Volume 1 covers the period 1796 to 1799, the section 39 bearing the date line Chunar, 1798, not 1796 as stated by Henry George.

## NORTH AMERICA REVISITED

By ASHLEY MITCHELL

It was a quick trip I made through space to North America last month—out and home again in three weeks! To have lunch in London and breakfast in Montreal next day, although that possibility is now well known, is still a marvel when one does it. It was a business trip but it gave me the opportunity of meeting friends in the Henry George movement at various centres, these gatherings having been kindly arranged beforehand for me.

In Montreal I had the pleasure of meeting the splendid people who support Miss Strehel Walton so excellently, including Messrs. Turner, Boelens, Goodrich, Herbert Owens (recovering his health), Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Markland, Mrs. Russell and many others.

In Ottawa our gallant worker H. G. Barber had gathered a large party, including Senator and Mrs. Roebuck, Major Code, Bronson Cowan, Miss Applebaum, Mrs. Rice and several young people.

In Toronto the veterans who keep the flag flying there were Mr. and Mrs. Farmer, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, G. R. Donovan, Mr. Hogg, Miss Coates, their company now reinforced by Miss Margaret Bateman who is engaged in enfilading some Canadian political leaders.

Flying to Chicago, I was welcomed by John Monroe and Louis La Fortune. Mr. Selim Tideman presided over the spirited gathering that Mrs. Jessie Matteson had arranged.

Leaving Chicago the same night, I arrived next morning in San Francisco and received a Rupert Mason welcome. Jos. Thompson had organised a luncheon meeting of business men willing to be told of the advantages of Free Trade for Producers; in the evening there was a small party of friends whom Robert Tideman had brought together.

That night, Rupert Mason joined me in flying to Phoenix, Arizona, to keep a long standing engagement he had with the veteran John C. Lincoln, who at 87 is a marvel and is as clear-headed about the importance of our philosophy as anyone in the movement.

Flying on to New York, I soon met the friends at the School. The able director Robert Clancy is as active as ever, maintaining the work magnificently. It is impossible to mention all the friends—Lancaster Greene busy with his camera, Miss Davis looking for material for the *Henry George News*, Leon Caminez as genial as ever and a joy to be with, Miss Peterson snowed under by work. Lunch with veteran Alan J. Wilson; dinner at the home of Agnes de Mille with her husband, Walter Prude, both in good fettle; and a couple of hours conversation with Harold S. Butten-

heim, editor of *The American City*, completed a full book in New York.

Then back to Montreal to fly home, but before leaving I was again welcomed by the friends and entertained by Mrs. Markland to more of the generous hospitality, such as was accorded me by our fellow-workers wherever I went.

It was gratifying to have this further chance of observing the extensive work being done on behalf of the movement in North America, carried on resolutely and in good heart despite the political difficulties with which it is faced.

The *San Francisco News*, May 21, reported: Ashley Mitchell, English industrialist, believes regimentation and inflationary pressures stem from tariffs, quotas and other special privileges. Mr. Mitchell, treasurer of the International Union for Land Value and Free Trade, expressed these views here while visiting J. Rupert Mason, president of the international organization. Mr. Mason, in reporting Mr. Mitchell's visit to-day, termed the visitor a "free trader and a true disciple of Henry George." While in San Francisco, Mr. Mitchell was the featured guest at the Bohemian Club.

## INTERNATIONAL UNION BOOK NOTES

*Municipal Justice—The Case for Land Value Rating.*

By E. J. Craigie, Australia.

*The Soviet Union—Hell or Paradise?*

By Rubens do Amaral, Brazil.

*My Moscow Invasion.*

By Oliver Vickery, San Francisco.

*Thirteen Secrets of Success.*

By Dr. Natalie Pulvirenti, Italy.

### A Municipal Reformer's Guide

We have been pleased to receive a number of copies of the new pamphlet *Municipal Justice—the Case for Land Value Rating\** by Mr. E. J. Craigie, ex-member of the Legislative Assembly of South Australia and now Secretary of the Land Values Rating Central Committee, Adelaide. The pamphlet comprises 36 pages. It explains the general principles, describes the advantages of the change to land value rating, how building and cultivation are encouraged, how employment and business are affected, how the development of slums is prevented and how the cost for public services is lowered because the holding of vacant land in speculation is rendered unprofitable—all in contrast with the workings of the old system that charges rates upon buildings and improvements. These points are admirably argued; and with the same calm and careful reasoning the author answers the common objections such as that the land value rate can be "passed on," that the returned soldier would be forced to sell the house-site he has acquired, that land value rating would cause over-building and congestion of houses, that the poor widow would suffer, and other familiar objections that the

\* We have meanwhile a limited supply. The pamphlet is not priced but at least 3d. should be sent to cover postage, etc.—or apply to any of the following addresses: A. G. Huie, Daking House, Rawson Place, Sydney; R. N. Collison, 18 George Parade, Melbourne; E. J. Craigie, 8 Grant Avenue, Rose Park, Adelaide; W. E. Standring, 8 Donovan Road, Claremont, Perth; J. D. Valentine, P.O. Box 21, Launceston, Tasmania.

opponents trot out, often contradicting one another. Specific examples, and they are very telling, are given that put these objections at rest and there is a delightful exposure of the follies and fallacies of some controversialists who thought they had made a hostile case. Most valuable are the facts and figures, thoroughly comprehensive and up-to-date, concerning the operation of land value rating in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia. Particulars for Canberra, the Australian Capital Territory, and for New Zealand are also given. The pamphlet is a very instructive guide to the whole subject and should prove of inestimable service to the protagonists of the cause. Mr. Craigie is to be warmly congratulated.

### Conditions in Russia

In a previous issue we commented upon the book by Mr. Rubens do Amaral, of São Paulo, *União Soviética—Inferno ou Paraíso?* (The Soviet Union: Hell or Paradise?) and said that it was worthy of being translated and published in English. We are confirmed in that view and with such a production could be managed. The book gives the author's fair and impartial impressions of Russia from what he saw and learned as one of the delegates from Brazil attending the Moscow International Economic Conference in April, 1952. He describes Moscow itself and the life of its people, its housing, transport, etc.; there is a chapter on education, the sciences, letters and arts; one on the biological controversy. There follows a section on agricultural production and to what extent private property obtains in Russia, and an interesting table shows the cost of living expressed in the number of working hours required to procure a large series of articles. Then, how the Soviet dictatorship evolved, the question of happiness and how that may be gauged, the problem of liberty and