

"Of course, if the whole nation was aroused to the seriousness of the position we would have a chance of getting results. But limitation of profits, pegging wages and prices will get us nowhere. Such proposals are restrictive and restriction must never take the place of freedom. There is one basic cause of high prices which you do not mention and the Conference did not refer to it. It is the speculation in land values which is forcing up the price of land against all who want to use it for purposes of production.

"Thus some ten per cent. of the people are gaining from all public expenditure. They will suffer least if inflation runs riot. Land value is publicly created value, now misappropriated. False systems of taxation to enrich a few at the expense of many are based upon this primary wrong. We will get nowhere until we are honest enough to face realities."

### "THE TOWN WITH ELEVEN GATES"

In a whole page article in *Mother India*, April 7, Dr. David Ascher described what really constitutes a Free State and this is his text:—

*"There is a town with eleven gates  
Belonging to the Unborn,  
Whose thoughts are never crooked.  
He who approaches it grieves no more,  
And liberated becomes free."*

(The Upanishads, 2nd Adhyaya, 5th Valli, 1.)

We quote from the concluding part of the article.

Dr. David Ascher asks, "is there any connection between the capacity of a country to absorb immigrants?" He proceeds thus:—

"There is such a connection. Often enough, the Good Book tells us that prosperity cannot be based but on justice, and that social and economic justice means a just solution of the land question:—

*'The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is Mine,  
And ye are but strangers and sojourners with Me.'*

"And these are lessons to be learnt from history:—

"India flourished under her great Akbar, Shah Jehan and Aurungzeb. But in about 1615, Francisco Pelsaert, the Dutch chief of the Agra factory, wrote 'of the rich in their great superfluity and absolute power; and of the common people in their utter subjection and poverty—a poverty so extreme and so miserable that the life of the people cannot be adequately depicted and described. For here is the home of stark want, and the dwelling place of bitter woe . . . So much is wrung from the peasantry that even dry bread is scarcely left to them for their food.'

"And thus wrote Van Twist a few years later of Gujarat: 'The peasants are forced to surrender the entire profit of their land and the authorities are unable in consequence to find peasants in sufficient number.'

"Bernier wrote to Colbert from India: 'Even a considerable proportion of the good land remains untilled for want of labourers.'

"Want of labourers—in the densely populated India! Small wonder that India felt unable to open her doors to desirable immigrants!

"Carter and Harwood ('Where are We Going?'—American Institute for Economic Research, 1948) say that *social and economic injustice*, that is, a *wrong land system*, is the rot 'that has made India a graveyard of human hopes and aspirations for centuries.'

Land Value Taxation means taxation of the mere land, and exemption of the buildings and plantations. This makes the formation of a privileged class of land-monopolists impossible, as it has been aimed at by the Biblical land system already; this tax compels everybody to make the best possible use of the land he occupies, and penalises laziness and speculation, but not free and useful enterprise; as it is not levied upon buildings, it encourages building; in one word: Land Value Taxation renders unto the community the things that belong to the community, and leaves to the individual the fruit of his own toil.

"It is written in the Rig-Veda: '*The gods have not ordained hunger to be our death.*'

"Hunger and want are not ordained; a wise land policy will enable even an overpopulated state to survive and also to give bread and shelter to all who want and deserve to live in such an enlightened state.

*"The town with eleven gates; he who approaches it, grieves no more, and liberated becomes free!"*

### EDUCATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

The following is the text of a radio talk given by Mr. W. A. Dowe, B.A., LL.B., Director of the Australian School of Social Science, September 29, in the programme "Week-end Magazine." The talk was transmitted by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in its National Programme from Station 2 BL, Sydney, and over its National and Overseas Network, thus reaching an audience of several million people.

"The dark social problems of the 19th century having deepened into the sombre death-shadows of the 20th, the Henry George School of Social Science was founded in the United States by Oscar Geiger in the 1920's to spread the necessary knowledge of the Natural Social Order which alone can prevent the complete destruction of our civilisation. From small beginnings the educational genius of Oscar Geiger developed the magnificent School of Social Science in New York, chartered by the University of the State of New York, and also splendid Schools in many other American cities, which have spread into Great Britain and Australia. The Australian School is centred in Sydney, and is still small, but has helped several hundreds of students to acquire a scientific knowledge of the true and natural social system.

"In the 19th century the growth of the scientific idea and the scientific attitude was phenomenal. In that century Henry George demonstrated that society is an *organism* and that there is a *science of society*. The demonstration made a strong, but insufficient impression at the time, and now, instead of a rational understanding of the normal working of society, leading to the removal of the abnormal and morbid elements in the social order, we find a welter of irrational, ignorant and unscientific political experiments, all increasing the gloom and accentuating the social problems which they are intended to cure or relieve. The average citizen to-day can see that politically we are heading for disaster and destruction, but he cannot see any alternative.

"The object of the School of Social Science is to show that there is an alternative. We need no anti-social philosophy of Communism, Socialism or Anarchism, and yet our present political leaders are fast pushing us into one or the other.

"The main principle of the normal social order is freedom and equality of opportunity. By starting at the

beginning the student will soon see his way clear, and will learn that a free and normal social order is possible. The people must think, because the people alone can act.

"Our main social threat to-day is totalitarianism, in one form or another. Its chief weapon in this country is taxation, and yet all taxation is destructive and unnecessary. Under the natural social order of freedom, there is sufficient natural revenue for all necessary government, and that revenue is the rent of land. If we take land-rents for our national revenue, and abolish taxes, the consequent freedom of production and exchange will increase our prosperity and raise our moral standard to an amazing degree, and will also abolish war and depression, those destructive elements which if unchecked will soon end our civilisation.

"Social Science means freedom and hope. The School is dedicated to that objective. Everybody is invited to co-operate with us in the spread of knowledge. The School's work is entirely educational, and it takes no part in political activities, although its members are free to do so if they wish.

"The effect of social science in the international sphere will be most marked. By realising that the earth is the heritage of the whole human race, and that obstructions to trade and free travel cause poverty and war, we can raise the banner of the rights of the people in all countries against oppression and restriction and thus promote the harmony and interests of all nations.

"The Australian School of Social Science will be represented by myself and others at the International Conference in Denmark in July, 1952. All listeners can also do their part in promoting enthusiasm for justice, freedom and international co-operation."

## THE HAPPY TAXPAYER

With acknowledgments we reprint here in full and without comment a leading article from the *Manchester Guardian*, December 19:—

A taxpayer and his money are not soon parted in many parts of the Continent. The Italian Finance Minister has lately found a disappointing response to his appeal to the taxpayer's conscience—seasoned though the appeal was with threats and promised rewards. In Hungary, however, they order this matter very efficiently. The Hungarian Vice-Premier, Mr. Rakosi, denounced in a speech broadcast on December 1 a peasant who had wilfully evaded taxation. A week later the peasant in question, Mr. Peter Bessenyei, was brought to the microphone. Mr. Rakosi's criticism, he said, was "a truly great honour." It had struck him like "a healthy slap in the face from his father." He had not heard it himself, but his wife had, and she had been ill with grief and shame ever since. The villagers were laughing at him in the street. He had already paid a part of what he owed and hoped to pay the rest within a fortnight. In future he would, if spared, mend his ways. He asked only that Comrade Rakosi should go on watching over him and praise him if he should one day prove worthy. To this end he now challenged all the farmers in the country to a tax-paying competition. Mr. Bessenyei's expiation defies comment. Perhaps the onlooker had better "hasten to laugh for fear he should have to weep"—that is, if he can laugh.

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## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

### SITE VALUE RATING REPORT

Mr. Gibson asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government (*H. of C.*, November 20) when he expected to receive the report of the Committee on the Rating of Site Values; and if he would make the report available to the House immediately it was received in view of its importance and interest to Local Authorities. Mr. H. MacMillan: Secretary of State for Scotland and I have just received the Committee's report and are arranging for it to be published.

### THE DEVELOPMENT CHARGE

Asked by Mr. Grimond whether the Government will amend the Town and Country Planning Act so as to abolish the Development Charge in rural areas, Mr. H. MacMillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, said that he was not yet in a position to make any statements about possible amendments of the Act.—(*H. of C.*, November 12.)

Are we to take it that Mr. Grimond, the Liberal M.P., is satisfied with the operation of the Development Charge in *urban* areas? If so he should have conversations with the President of his Party, Mr. Philip Fothergill, for whose views see page 2 of this issue.

### THE HAND OF BUREAUCRACY

Sir T. Dugdale, Minister of Agriculture, answering questions (*H. of C.*, November 15) said that on October 1, 1951, the number of farmers under supervision for failure to comply with the rules of good husbandry was 1,584. The number actually dispossessed on grounds of bad husbandry for the 12 months ended September 30, 1951, was 68.

In reply to a question put by Sir Waldron Smithers on the same day, the Minister revealed the extent of County Agricultural Executives' bad husbandry. The accounts of the Committees for 1948-49 and 1949-50 disclosed losses on farming operations of £909,913 and £680,322 respectively; for 1950-51 the farming losses were £197,761.

### IDLE LAND

Asked how many acres of land in Huntingdonshire were considered to be unnecessarily prevented from being cultivated owing to the presence of derelict aerodrome and hutted camp foundations and structures, etc., the Minister of Agriculture replied that about 1,200 acres of agricultural land were sterilised in the manner mentioned and that to remove the obstructions would cost far more than would be justified by the gain in food production.

We wonder whether land hungry smallholders would take the same view. This "sterilised" and apparently worthless land should be offered at a nominal rent to all comers to let them try their hand. Pioneers in worse circumstances have not failed.

### STATE FARMING

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. J. Stuart (*H. of C.*, November 13), asked by Mr. H. Fraser how much land was farmed by his department of Agriculture, gave the figure of 131,917 acres of land. Asked further how much of that land was *owned* by his department of Agriculture, Mr. Stuart said "The Secretary of State owns 508,057 acres of land under Agricultural powers . . . in addition, the Secretary of State owns 937,787 acres of land under Forestry powers.

### COST OF POINTS-RATIONING

Major Lloyd George stated (*H. of C.*, November 21) that the points rationing scheme would cost the Ministry about £380,000 a year with 1,000 staff and he added that the figures do not include the expenses to the trade which needs to employ many more people when the scheme is in operation. He did not intend to re-introduce points-rationing.

The sequences and consequences of Governmental interference in what is the business of the people are written large in our economic system, e.g., the artificial boosting of the value of the pound leads to a shortage of dollars, shortage of dollars leads to a cut in imports of rationed foods, the cuts lead to unfair distribution of what is available and now it is suggested that this should lead to an expenditure of £380,000 per year for a points rationing scheme!