

GLIMPSES OF PROGRESS—WORLD-WIDE

ON January 1, 1960 a national campaign for "rating reform" was launched in England and Wales. It now has almost 60 local representatives and the support of 15 municipal councils and other associations. On January 1, 1961 a similar campaign was introduced by the Scottish League for the Taxation of Land Values. This will resemble and reinforce the extremely successful campaign by the English league.

The campaign is strictly non-partisan. In a release widely copied by the Scottish press it announced that it would use all lawful means to make known land-value rating as the only fair and practical solution to the problems of "high rates, expensive land, housing shortage and slums." It next cites economic reasons for, and moral justification of, this system where "rates are taken off buildings, factories, offices, dwellings and other improvements—and levied instead on the annual rental value of all land, excluding improvements."

As a result of public meetings, frequently addressed by Mr. V. G. Saldji of London, president of the league, interest has been growing in the selection of a district suitable for a pilot test of the land value system. Manchester, important industrial center, has appealed to its City Council to appoint a special committee to investigate the advantages of the proposed taxation reform.

From a faithful Georgist in France, Pavlos Giannelias, comes the dramatic story of a tax awakening in the city of Sete (some 40,000 population), an active port on the Mediterranean. There the Chamber of Commerce,

wishing to move forcefully in the direction of free enterprise, has introduced the principles of Georgism.

Taking cognizance in their deliberations of the fact that taxation constitutes the legitimate contribution of each citizen to the general expenses of the nation, or the payment for services rendered by the community to all, it should, they said, be apportioned equitably among all, as proposed by Henry George, and later by A. M. Toubeau, author of *The Metrical Tax* (in French).

The happy result of this bold move is that there will be a gradual replacement of all existing taxes by a charge to be placed on land, according to its value when bare. It will be evaluated periodically, in both urban and rural areas.

Our correspondent, M. Giannelias, predicts that eventually there should be noted in this area, an increase in agricultural production, new and higher buildings and improvement of existing buildings, and absence of fraud.

Under a colorful Spanish stamp, comes word that the Royal Academy for Moral and Political Sciences in Madrid has published the award-winning manuscript by Joseph Anglada, of Barcelona. This volume, entitled *The Fiscal System and the Condition of the Working Classes*, is a serious and intensive study of the nature and effect of taxes, their defects and multiplicity, and the relation between prices and wages as affected by direct and indirect taxation.

The second part deals with "The Perfect Fiscal System," its ethical foundation, cheapness of collection and favorable effect on production.

The perfect system as outlined is none other than the single tax on land values, and examples are produced from several countries leading to favorable conclusions.

As a suggestion, if anyone wishes to place in the hands of a Spanish-speaking person not yet acquainted with English, this practical and useful book dedicated to the betterment of public administration, any such request will be promptly referred to the proper sources in Spain.

What we failed to include in the report of Robert Clancy's "Caribbean Cruise" (January HGN) was that the meeting at which he spoke in Ponce, Puerto Rico on December 18th was "the scene of one of the most brilliant social activities of the winter season." At the banquet were socially prominent guests as well as distinguished figures from the banking world, business, the press and radio. This news appeared in the Puerto Rican school bulletin, and translator Matthew Ossias of the New York staff made the discovery.

The report lists 35 graduates in the fundamental course and 24 in the advanced courses. The Science of Political Economy is now being offered; also Public Relations, a series of lectures.

The director of the school, Edwin Rios Maldonado, indicates the quality of this effort by taking as his standard the dictum of the Cuban philosopher Caballero: "Education is more than mere schooling. It means char-

acter development, and must be done by example. An educator must be a living 'Gospel.' Children must learn that to work is honorable. Idleness is the mother of all the vices. Progress is evident among a people when there is incentive to work."

This vigorous school is already thinking of having a radio program. They have organized their own library with the help of books sent by the New York director, Robert Clancy; and they plan to show the film "Land—and Space to Grow."

An impressively printed and bound bill received from the Montreal director, presents the proceedings of a special committee of the Senate on "Manpower and Employment." The presentation was made by The Canadian Research Committee on Taxation, the chairman and all members of which are Montreal Georgists. The committee's appearance at the Senate gave them prestige which will be useful in publicizing the work of the school. Also, unquestionably, it was a very good experience.

Senator Roebuck, a veteran Georgist and Legislator, was present and exceedingly helpful as the hearings proceeded and reports were made revealing impressive evidence of the need for a modification of fiscal policy, which could be applied not only at the federal level but at the provincial and municipal levels of government. This is the use of land value taxation and it was convincingly pointed out that its application would promote employment and national prosperity.



"If you make plans for one year, plant rice. If you make plans for ten years, plant trees. But if you plan for a hundred years, educate the people."
—Chinese Proverb