

for the permanent welfare in the future of the West Indies as the settlement of the labouring population on the land as small peasant proprietors, and in many places this is the only means by which the population can in future be supported." It was also observed that "the settlement of the labourers on the land has not, as a rule, been viewed with favour in the past by persons interested in the sugar estates. What suited them best was a large supply of labourers entirely dependent upon being able to find work on estates and consequently subject to their control and willing to work for low rates of wages." The Sugar Commission, after quoting this observation of their predecessors thirty-three years previously say: "It is manifest that where the economy of a community depends practically entirely, as that of Barbados, St Kitts and Antigua still does, upon a single industry carried on by the employment of wage labourers on estates, the public policy of the class most influential in guiding the government must almost inevitably incline to this economic view. If they encouraged action which, in their belief, must tend to diminish their labour supply, they would be cutting away the branch upon which they sit."

The facts could hardly be more brutally presented.

The major responsibility for this state of affairs rests upon the Colonial Office and the British Government, which, by its nominated members, is in control of the legislatures. It must be well aware of the facts, and also of the remedy. The abolition of customs duties and their replacement by a tax on the value of land, used or unused, would soon transform the situation.

DENMARK

A Great National Agricultural Exhibition, opened by the King of Denmark on the 18th June, and held for 10 days at Bellahøj, near Copenhagen, celebrated the 150th anniversary of the liberation of the Danish peasant from villeinage. One of the most interesting exhibits is the history of the peasant from 1788 to 1938, as told in the model villages through which the visitors pass. The village of 1788 is faithfully reproduced with its strip fields and the church bell ringing; the same village in smallholdings (after the break-up of the strip system) with its own fields and thatched roofs; still later the modern smallholdings with their red tiles. During the days of the Exhibition a monster demonstration was held around the Liberty Column erected in Copenhagen, 1792-97, to commemorate the liberation, and to speak the inspiring word of freedom. It was here, also, that a great demonstration was held at the time of the International Conference for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in 1926. It was an unforgettable experience for those present as they listened to the speeches including the eloquent oration on "The Call and Message of Liberty," by Mr Ove Rode, former Minister for Home Affairs . . . "From social freedom arose in Denmark political freedom; and out of that will grow one day for society the economic liberty under which free and independent citizens will enjoy the full fruits of their labour, while the community will receive what it creates."

The issue of *Land & Liberty* for September, 1936, a volume of 40 pages reporting the International Conference, contains a wealth of information about the Danish scene and history. Copies were preserved for after use and may be had, price 6d. each, on application. The preceding issues and succeeding issues, those for August and October, price 3d. each, have also much instructive matter. These issues are invaluable to the student of the land question in Denmark.

HON H. F. HARDACRE

BY THE death on 5th March at Brisbane of the Hon H. F. Hardacre the land reform movement in Australia has lost an able and outstanding advocate.

When Henry George visited Australia in 1890, Mr Hardacre accompanied him on his Queensland tour. Becoming associated with the Queensland Labour Party he was elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly. In due course he became Minister for Lands and Agriculture and later was Minister for Education. Eventually he retired from Parliament and was appointed as a member of the Land Court, retiring in 1931.

Mr Hardacre was one of the most notable Henry George men that Australia has produced. Like others who have taken up this cause he had few educational advantages in his youth. But he had grit and determination combined with good natural abilities.

He was exceedingly well versed not only in the writings of Henry George, but also in those of previous economists as well as those of our own time.

Results came quickly in Queensland. A Local Government Bill was before Parliament in 1890. Mr W. Stephens, M.L.A., spoke up for rating on land values only. Although a young man he had been Mayor of South Brisbane. He made out such a good case that he impressed Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier, and Sir Thos. McIlwraith, Treasurer. So rating on land values became law in Queensland.

When the Labour Party came into power in 1915 Mr Hardacre became a member of the Government. He found that the Treasurer of the day, Mr Theodore, did not propose to tax land values. So Mr Hardacre felt that it was time for him to speak up. He did so to such purpose that the taxation policy of the Government was altered and taxes were imposed on land values.

Since his retirement Mr Hardacre has done much good work as President of the Queensland Henry George League. He was accorded a State funeral which, after a religious service in St John's Cathedral, wended its way through the city to the Bulimba Cemetery, where he lies not far from the grave occupied by his old comrade in politics and fellow Georgian, Vernon Winstanley.

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