

has to bargain the price of the "restricted land"; get permission to develop it; stand the racket of the "development charge," and he is left in the same position as he ever was, victimised both by dear land and repressive taxation, local and national. The final condemnation of the Act is given in the words of the Lord Chancellor in the debate in the House of Lords, who frankly stated that "*the object of the Bill is not really that the purchaser should get the land any cheaper.*"

The land is, not to be rendered any cheaper. On the contrary. Besides the 300 million pounds that is to go to the landowners in compensation, the Act provides for immense sums by way of public land purchase, which may run to 1,000 millions or more. One of its provisions ensures that agricultural land when required for public purposes is to be bought at the "current market value," namely, the value that has been boosted not only through the "Derating Act" I have earlier mentioned, but also by all that this and previous Governments have done by way of financial aid to farmers, which simply raises rents still higher.

Under parallel legislation "New Towns" are projected on the same basis of land purchase, each town of 50,000 inhabitants being reckoned to cost 19 million pounds (of public money) to create. They are merely samples of State-conducted land speculation with its enormous risks and they will also foster land speculation all along the line, since there are no provisions for periodically assessing the land values for contribution to public revenues. Inhabitants of the new towns will come under the whip and penalties of the rating system as everywhere else, while that system lasts. Virtual "labour compounds" will be established since it is implicit that no one shall reside there who has not employment on the spot.

Some people have pointed to our existing "garden cities" of Letchworth and Welwyn as models. But these cities do not fall into this picture. They were established by private capital. Although little exception can be taken to the design and plan of them, it would be a grave mistake to assume that they in any way approach the practice of sound and just land tenure. Within them also the present rating system operates to penalise all buildings and improvements, permitting land values to pass into private pockets, and exempting valuable vacant land from any contribution.

In conclusion, I hope I have made clear the fantastic nature of the suggestion that the Town and Country Planning Act respects the principles of Land Value Taxation. That preposterous claim was made (in self-defence?) by its sponsors. The pretension was well publicised and it was amusing to notice its echo in some important American newspapers, notably the "Christian Science Monitor," which querulously asked if the British Labour Government had indeed been captured for Henry George! If only it had!

A. W. MADSEN.

[The foregoing statement has been published in the HENRY GEORGE NEWS, New York, and in GRUNDSKYLD, Copenhagen. It makes Leaflet No. L.40 published by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd.; price 1d., 5s. per 100.]

Mr. Wilfrid Harrison, joint Treasurer of the United Committee, has gone abroad for a period, visiting various parts of the world. His helpful co-operation and keen personal interest and activity will be greatly missed, especially at 4 Great Smith Street. He will be keeping closely in touch with all the concerns of the office and its affairs. His colleague, joint Treasurer Mr. R. W. Frost, and all his associates, wish him well on his journeys and assure him of a glad welcome on his return.

## MUNICIPAL PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN

THE United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values has produced these three statements for circulation especially within municipal circles:—

*Local Taxation and Land Values*, dealing with and condemning the Local Government Act;

*The Burden of Local Taxation*, explaining the principles of Land Value Rating;

*Town Planning, Fulfilment or Frustration?* exposing this "worst exploit" of the present Government.

The texts of the two latter leaflets appear in this issue. The text of the first-named appeared in our December issue, and we have already reported how greatly it was in demand so that the Committee was encouraged to extend its circulation over a much wider field; but still more encouragement has come in the remarkable demand for the three leaflets taken together.

Specimen copies, with offer to supply more, have been sent to the Clerks of 560 local authorities, spread over the whole country; besides the municipal societies, many individual councillors known to be interested, municipal journals and other periodicals. Day after day the application for copies flowed to the Office, Town Clerks applying for ten or twenty and sometimes as many as fifty or sixty copies at a time for distribution to their council or committee members. Frequently, there were urgent calls by telephone for copies required for immediate meetings. The gratifying feature is the effectiveness of this distribution, as going through official channels and backed by official authority. The recipients will read the matter with all the more attention. Also the municipal societies have asked for many copies. From borough, county, urban and rural district council offices, the applications have been: From 25 London boroughs, 1,204 copies; from 14 home county local authorities, 550 copies; from 33 local authorities in the rest of England, 1,496 copies; from 14 local authorities in Wales, 996 copies; from 9 local authorities in Scotland, 365 copies. Altogether, in these and other useful ways no fewer than 13,000 copies of the leaflets have been distributed to date—and the campaign goes on.

## JOHN T. MACLAREN

THE Henry George movement has lost a consistent and valued supporter in John T. Maclaren, of Dundee, who died at his home, Whinsby, Broughty Ferry, Angus, on the 20th March, 1948. Born in 1863, he became, like his father before him, equally distinguished in the east of Scotland as an architect and as a valuator. He received his early training in Dundee and then, after four years experience in the United States, he returned to Dundee to become a partner in the firm of James Maclaren and Son established by his father. He continued in active practice until 1919 and during that period was responsible for the design and erection of many notable buildings in the Dundee district. His services were also constantly in demand as an expert witness in arbitrations dealing with the development and valuation of land and in Parliamentary Inquiries relating to municipal expansion.

Throughout his life he was a convinced supporter of the movement for the Rating and Taxation of Land Values. To his instinctive belief in the importance of preserving individual liberty and encouraging initiative, he brought his expert knowledge of the burden and obstacles created by the Land Monopoly.