

We requisitioned the services of a Cardiff friend for the distribution of our literature at the National Liberal Federation Demonstration addressed by Lord Grey, and held at Weston-super-Mare on Friday evening, 18th June. A very effective distribution of the United Committee leaflets *THE LATEST LESSON FROM DENMARK AND REAL LAND REFORM—QUESTIONS FOR THE LLOYD GEORGE LAND ENQUIRY COMMITTEE* was made.

We have been pleased to hear from Mr. Folke, the Chairman of the Third International Conference to promote the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade to be held at Copenhagen. Mr. Folke writes acknowledging the congratulatory resolution to our Danish friends which was passed at our last Annual Meeting on the proposition of Mr. Madsen.

JOSHUA HUGHES

We have to lament the death of a dear old friend and tireless colleague, Joshua Hughes, who passed on at his home at Oswestry, 15th April, aged 73 years. He first became a student of the land question 50 years ago, though the question was brought home to him as a child of seven when his mother and he were evicted from their country cottage. Devoted to his mother, he frequently spoke of this cruel incident. Mr. Hughes' occupation as a Postman in the Civil Service kept him outside political parties, but it did not interfere with his activities in the open streets of adventure. In retirement, with no income but his old age pension, and when his strength was quietly ebbing, he strove to interest others in the Taxation of Land Values. To the last he was a zealous advocate of Henry George's gospel. *LAND & LIBERTY* was his *vade mecum*, and he was ever in quest of new subscribers. A few months ago, when he felt his growing infirmity and knew the end was not far off, he wrote: "I am dropping out of the ranks, not stepping out; I wish that ten thousand would step in." A final word came: "I cannot continue to read *LAND & LIBERTY*; it is the last and dearest tie I have in current literature." His good-bye words were couched in endearing terms, in the fervent prayer that "all engaged in the sacred cause may witness an early and triumphant victory."

Joshua Hughes put in a good day's work in his part of the vineyard. He worked in quiet ways and without a gleam of the sunshine that comes of association with kindred spirits. He was unknown to most of our people, but intellectually and spiritually he belonged to all who stand, as he stood, manfully and with profound belief, in the cause he loved to serve.

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UNCIVILIZED

An ancient ape, once on a time,
Disliked exceedingly to climb
And so he picked him out a tree
And said "Now this belongs to me.
I have a hunch that monks are nutts
And I can make them gather nuts
And bring the bulk of them to me
By claiming title to this tree."

He took a green leaf and a reed
And wrote himself a title-deed
Proclaiming pompously and slow:
"All monkeys by these presents know."
Next morning when the monkeys came
To gather nuts, he made his claim;
"All monkeys climbing on this tree
Must bring their gathered nuts to me
Cracking the same on equal shares,
The meats are mine, the shells are theirs."

"By what right?" they cried, amazed,
Thinking the ape was surely crazed.
"By this," he answered, "if you'll read
You'll find it is a title-deed,
Made in precise and formal shape
And sworn before a fellow-ape
Exactly on the legal plan
Used by the wondrous creature, man,
In London, Tokio, New York,
Glengarry, Kalamazoo and Cork.
Unless my deed is recognized
It proves you quite uncivilized."

"But," said one monkey, "you'll agree
It was not you who made this tree."
"Nor," said the ape, serene and bland,
"Does any owner make his land,
Yet it, and all of its hereditaments
Are his and figure in the rents."

The puzzled monkeys sat about;
They could not make the question out.
Plainly, by precedent and law,
The ape's procedure showed no flaw;
And yet, no matter what he said,
The stomach still denied the head.

Up spoke one sprightly monkey then
"Monkeys are monkeys; men are men.
The ape should try his legal capers
On man, who may respect his papers.
We don't know deeds, we do know nuts,
And spite of 'ands' and 'ifs' and 'buts'
We know who gathers and un-meats 'em
By monkey practice also eats 'em."

So tell the ape and all his flunkies
No man-tricks can be played on monkeys."
Thus, apes still climb to get their food
Since monkey minds are crass and crude,
And monkeys all so ill-advised
Still eat their nuts uncivilized.

EDMUND VANCE COOKE.

Read *THE PROBLEM OF WAR AND ITS SOLUTION*, by John E. Grant. Published by Geo. Allen & Unwin. Reduced Price 5s. post free from our offices.