

## THE CO-OPERATIVE PARTY AND THE LAND QUESTION

"Land Value Taxation Better Than  
Land Nationalization"—Mr. G. Brown, M.P.

Rt. Hon. George Brown, M.P., speaking at the Sunday Forum of the Bristol Co-operative Party (*Co-operative News* report, February 27) said that it was far better to have taxation of site values rather than land nationalization. Land nationalization would imply the payment of many millions of pounds in compensation. What was important was not technical ownership but the benefit derived from land for the community. The taxation or rating of land values, he said, would provide an additional source of revenue for local authorities. The Chairman at the meeting was Mrs. Canning.

Mr. G. Brown is the Labour Member for Belper, Derbyshire. He is a former Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and a former Minister of Works.

Mr. A. W. Madsen, Editor of *LAND & LIBERTY*, addressed the Bristol "Sunday Forum," December 13.

### Some Resolutions Adopted

*National Co-operative Conference, Paisley, 1905*

"That this Conference declares itself in favour of the taxation of all land (whether occupied or unoccupied) according to its value as an article of sale, and urges upon Parliament the necessity for legislation having this object in view believing that such taxation is reasonable and equitable and would confer great benefit on the community inasmuch as it would lead to (a) the opening of land for use to its fullest extent and would thus facilitate the practical settlement of the housing question; (b) the improvement of buildings in towns; (c) the solution of the unemployment question by attracting labour back to the land; and (d) would tend to relieve and equalize the burden of rates."

*Co-operative Party Annual Conference, Nottingham, 1933*

"That this Annual Conference of the Co-operative Party records its belief that under a system of private ownership of land it cannot establish a Co-operative Commonwealth and give effect to the policy of the National Committee as laid down in the Section 'Problems of the Future,' and pledges itself to support the policy of the taxation and rating of land values which would break down land monopoly, also provide an effective means for the cure of unemployment, and hasten the establishment of the Co-operative Commonwealth."

*Scottish Organizations Affiliated to the Co-operative Party, 1943*

At the Annual Conference of the Committee of Scottish organizations affiliated to the Co-operative Party held in Glasgow, February 7, 1943 (*Co-operative News* report) a resolution was adopted on the Uthwatt Committee's proposals which went on to say that the Conference rejected the proposals of the Committee for the acquisition of land and the proposed levy on site values and urged the Government to introduce legislation to require all holders of land to pay a tax on the full economic rent of the land, whether used or not.

### A "Co-operative News" Editorial, 1939

The London County Council's Site Value Rating Bill was commended in a *Co-operative News* editorial article, January 21: "The facts in favour of a site value tax are overwhelming. Housing and social development have been held up all over the country, or are carried out at prohibitive cost. The battle that will rage over London's Bill will be a national battle. The principle involved is people or profiteers. In such a struggle the Co-operative movement has never been neutral and its sympathies are behind the Bill."

## Henry George's Progress and Poverty NEW CONDENSED EDITION

The Hogarth Press. 7s. 6d.

Mr. F. H. Brookes, Derby, writes: "I noticed yesterday that the new *Progress and Poverty* is already in the Derby Town Library and has been out on loan twice. The Derby Technical College is to put a copy into its library."

Mr. Alan R. Hopkins, Middlesbrough, writes: "I have not as yet bought a copy of the new edition although I intend doing so. I have persuaded Middlesbrough Public Libraries to purchase a copy. I have read it but I prefer the full edition because Henry George had a natural style and I am afraid you have missed it out. But because you have shortened the book by a half you could attract more readers."

Mr. R. H. H. Jones has presented a copy to the Dartford Public Library. Mr. E. I. Miller has persuaded the St. Marylebone Public Library to purchase a copy.

In *The Friend*, the Quaker weekly journal, January 19, there is this note: "Frank Welch, of Uxbridge Meeting, has written to commend to Friends a new and condensed edition of Henry George's celebrated book, *Progress and Poverty* (Hogarth Press, 7s. 6d.), which was first published in 1879."

The new condensed edition is selling well in the United States. In a letter dated December 30, Miss Francis Soreiro of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, New York, writes that the first shipment received had been exhausted and that a number of orders were in hand awaiting a further delivery. "Los Angeles wants 20 copies for a class they will commence on January 11, but I am unable to supply at the moment. In case some other extension (of the Henry George School of Social Science) will want to start classes in future, we should have more on hand than we had ordered earlier."

Mr. Victor S. Wasicki, Overland, Missouri, writes: I would like to congratulate those responsible for the new condensed edition of *Progress and Poverty* published by the Hogarth Press.

The elimination of controversial material such as the chapter on Cause of Interest, part of George's argument versus unions and the bringing closer together of the sections dealing with the definition of capital should all aid in promoting land value taxation in a more effective manner.

### J. W. FOLEY

By the death of J. W. Foley, announced in the previous issue of *LAND & LIBERTY*, the Henry George movement on the Merseyside has sustained a severe loss. He was aged 76. A pupil years ago of the late Edward McHugh, he continued the work of tutoring economic classes and as a speaker in the open field of propaganda he was constantly active, and to the end he was the oracle to whom none appealed in vain, bringing his profound knowledge to the solving of all social problems. Modest and kindly, all his friends had for him a deep affection. His wide interests were mentioned in a long obituary that appeared in the *Crosby Herald*. He received musical training under Eugene Goossens and was a member of a number of church choirs. He was well-known as a lecturer on local history and another of his interests was ships and the sea, in his younger days having owned a yacht and taking part in a midnight race to the Isle of Man. Learned in Latin and Greek, he was able to converse on practically any subject, his wide reading of history, mathematics, navigation, geography, English literature and medicine made him a welcome guest in any company. Requiem Mass at SS. Peter and Paul's was conducted by the Rev. B. Foley, his son, and a very large company of mourners were present among whom, representing the Henry George movement were Mr. McManus, Mr. E. Stephens and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Paton. We join in conveying to the bereaved relatives our sincere sympathy.

### Back Numbers of "Land & Liberty"

The publishers will appreciate the return of any unwanted copies which readers may have. Particularly welcome will be copies of the January, 1954, issue.