

## INTERNATIONAL UNION NOTES AND NEWS

### Continued Progress in New Zealand

Five further victories for the Rating of Land Values in New Zealand are announced. They are the results of successful polls of ratepayers respectively in Waitemata County, Ashburton Borough, and the towns of Tirau, Otatau and Nightcaps. The details are:

Waitemata County, polling on April 2. For R.L.V. 5,349; against 2,420. Population of County 31,500; area 600 sq. miles.

Ashburton Borough, polling on May 22. For R.L.V. 673; against 529. Population of Borough 8,580.

Tirau, October 10. For R.L.V. 66; against 19. Population 647.

Otatau, November 11. For R.L.V. 100, against 62. Population 740.

Nightcaps, February 13. For R.L.V. 42, against 30. Population 610.

The progressive adoption of the Rating of Land Values, under the permissive legislation that makes it possible, is referred to in the heartening report from the tenth Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Taxation of Land Values League held on March 31, 1954. Most striking was the victory in the City of Dunedin on October 10, the date of the municipal elections when also two counties (Coromandel and Taieri) and two boroughs (Kaiapoi and Waihi) were captured. Moreover, on the same date, an attempt made in Nelson City to revert to the rating of improvements was defeated. Land Value Rating was vindicated by 1,499 votes to 1,238. But Dunedin was the greatest single victory ever won in New Zealand, the League having played a direct and effectual part in this result. Among the co-workers of the League in these campaigns, which always call for individual initiative and much diligence, specially named are Messrs. R. H. Greville and N. Soutar in Waitemata; Mr. F. J. Russell in Nelson City and Mr. N. E. Kirk who sponsored the poll in Kaiapoi and has since been elected Mayor of that Borough.

The following table shows the present position.

LV means rating on land values, exempting buildings and improvements. CV means rating on capital value of land plus improvements, and AV means rating on the annual rental value of land plus improvements.

Total	LV	CV	AV
124 Counties	65	59	—
13 Cities	11	—	2
131 Boroughs	102	14	15
20 Towns	9	7	4
<b>288</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>21</b>

Thus it appears that near 65 per cent of all the local authorities levy their rates on the value of land apart from improvements. The League argues that the case has been abundantly established for making the system mandatory in every area.

The League reports monthly meetings held in the Women's University Club Rooms. Among papers recently read were: "Income Tax in New Zealand," by H. Esmond Greig; "Land Valuation," by E. R. Sceats of the Valuation Department; "Local Government in N.Z.," by Dr. R. O'Regan; "Trade Unionism," by H. E. Combs, M.P.; and "Conservation of Soil Fertility," by H. V. Horlor.

Another important function of the League is the pro-

motion of economic study classes. These are conducted by Miss Betty Noble under auspices of the N.Z. Henry George School of Social Science of which Mr. R. D. Keall is hon. secretary. A sign of progress is the recent large (repeat) order received at 4 Great Smith Street, London, for copies of the new condensed edition of *Progress and Poverty*.

Officers of the League for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Chairman: Dr. R. O'Regan; Vice-Chairman: R. A. Gosse; Treasurer: J. F. D. Patterson; Secretary: F. Adams; Committee: Miss B. Noble, D. Whittle, R. D. Keall and P. Ryan; Hon. Auditor: R. C. Morpeth.

We join with our New Zealand colleagues and co-workers in paying tribute to the memory of Mr. E. N. Morris, for many years a member of the League whose death has been a severe loss to their ranks.

### Heartening News from France

On May 30 the members of the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade held their annual meeting in Paris. They met in happy mood to congratulate their veteran President and Editor, M. Daudé-Bancel, on his continuing work, also the Hon. Secretary, M. Max Toubeau, and the Hon. Treasurer, M. André Février, on the reports they gave on the events of the past year. New strength had come to the League by the recruitment of younger people able and willing to share the tasks of the older generation. The circulation of the journal was steadily increasing. When it was re-started in printed form in 1947 it was a bare 150 copies and now they were printing 4,250 copies of each issue of which nearly 500 copies went to subscribers abroad in no fewer than

## NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

St. Andrews, August, 1955

The Ninth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade will be held in St. Andrews, Scotland, in the week August 15 to 20, 1955.

St. Andrews itself is a place of great fame for its historical associations and its many attractions. It is situated on the sea coast of the County Fife, about 50 miles from Edinburgh.

The Conference is fortunate in having the United Colleges Hall of the University placed at its disposal and the members will be in residence at one or more of the well-appointed Students' Residence Halls.

The terms for board and lodging, including all meals, will vary from 19s. to 23s. (approx. \$3) per head per day, depending on the situation and equipment of the rooms.

It is necessary that reservations be made in advance and it is therefore urgently requested that word should be sent to us at the earliest possible date intimating if not the definite decision then at least the prospect or the hope of attending the Conference.

We give this exhortation to our readers, wherever they may be, and they are spread over the world:

**CHOOSE SCOTLAND FOR YOUR 1955 SUMMER HOLIDAYS — ST. ANDREWS YOUR CENTRE**

Conference membership entails membership of our International Union (minimum membership fee 10s. or \$2 U.S.A. and Canada) and payment of the special Conference Fee of £1 or \$4 towards meeting the general expenses of preparatory arrangements, and of printings and publications, etc.; but the Conference Fee need not be contributed until the Conference meets.