

has recently been revalued and the results clearly show how advisable the change will be. "The big objection," the paper says, "to the old system of levying rates on the total valuation of the buildings and site of a property is that it acts as a brake on building and does not encourage owners to develop their properties to the fullest extent. It puts a premium on neglect of fixed property, both land and buildings. By taxing heavily the development of building, a town is obviously putting a brake on its own development, for what is a town but a built-up area whose citizens band together to share the costs of the services and public amenities which they need for ordered living? The basis of the taxes they levy on each owner must in all equity be in proportion to the value each derives from his occupation of a part of the area of the town, that value being due not to his own individual effort necessarily, but to the fact of the existence of the town. The value of a site is basically its market price and that depends primarily upon its position or other material features." (Here a number of examples are given of sites near to or distant from the centre or varying in their positional advantages.) . . . "In theory then it is only right and fair that the main burden of taxes should fall on site values."

Mr. Evans pioneered the Rating of Site Values in the Cape Province. East London and Cambridge (two towns now amalgamated) were the first to take action and now the rates there are levied for the larger part on site values with only a modicum on buildings and improvements. Other towns that have similarly adopted the system are Parow, Goodwood, Fish Hoek, Pine Town and Worcester (the latest) and Kimberley has gone farther in levying its rates on site values only with total exemption of buildings. Mr. Evans, retired from business and now about to retire from the East London Council, is giving his whole time to this campaign by visiting one town after another, hopefully with the same excellent results as those attained in King William's Town.

Danish Justice Party's Progress

At the elections for *Landstinget*, the Upper House of Parliament, which were held in two stages on April 3 and April 12, the Justice Party repeated the story of its steady progress. In the poll for the "electors" whose function it is—and by the indirect method of the electoral college—to appoint Members to the House, the vote for the Justice Party was 49,248 as compared with 11,020 eight years ago when the same section of the House was being re-elected. The vote gave the party 133 "electors" whereas it had only 11 on the previous occasion. The votes for all the other parties declined, save for the Communists and the local Slesvig Party who had not stood before. The complete returns were as follows:—

	1943		1951	
	Votes	"Electors"	Votes	"Electors"
Socialists	291,767	830	259,391	814
Radical Liberals ...	71,429	183	57,397	158
Conservatives	148,050	396	115,629	356
Moderate Liberals ...	169,032	488	162,414	556
Justice Party	11,020	13	49,248	133
Communists	—	—	19,229	33
Slesvig Party	—	—	6,813	20

The Justice Party gained one seat in the House, where it is now represented for the first time. The new member is the peasant proprietor Mads Sig Steffensen, the Chairman of the Party.

This success for the Party is the more significant as the franchise for the Upper House is restricted to those aged 35 years or over, the fact being that it is those of younger years who are flocking to its standard. The franchise for the Lower House and for the local authorities is exercised by all of 25 years or over, and if that had been applied in this case, the results would have been more striking.

A further example of the increasing political influence of *Retsforbundet*, the Justice Party, is afforded by its having gained a seat in the Danish delegation to the European Council at Strasbourg. The Parliamentary group has appointed Mr. Povl Skadegaard in that capacity and he has been attending the spring session of the Consultative Assembly. Mr. Skadegaard is on the staff of one of the Government Ministries in Copenhagen.

For Brazil and Portugal

The translation into Portuguese of the Union's Declaration and entitled "Para a Consequência da Paz Permanente e a Prosperidade Geral" has now been published in the same format as the other five translations now in circulation. The text is by Sr. Rubens do Amaral in association with Alva de Lima, both of Sao Paulo; they and Sr. Americo Werneck, Jr., of Rio de Janeiro, have been supplied with quantities for distribution throughout Brazil. As for Portugal, the distribution of the Esperanto translation discovered a friendly correspondent living in Lisbon, and now he has the Portuguese text by which to help make opinion for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in his country. To all Brazilian and Portuguese correspondents we advertise the fact that the Portuguese edition of *Progress and Poverty* (translation by Americo Werneck, Jr.) is on sale, at the equivalent of eight shillings, from the publishers: Grafica Editora Aurora, Rio de Janeiro. If necessary, the book can be procured by order placed with us.

More Esperanto Broadcasts

We were pleased to hear from Radio Rome that the talk in Esperanto on March 18 on "The Prophet of San Francisco" (and of course dealing with Land Value Taxation and Free Trade) proved so satisfactory that a repeat took place on the 23rd of May. Furthermore, Radio Rome wrote: "We send you two approving letters received from Austria (Pavlos Giannelias) and Sweden (A. F. Larsen). The subject is up-to-date, important, and needs an international solution. Because of these considerations, it interests a wide public and consequently we are ready to broadcast additional speeches dealing with the same subject from diverse attractive points of view, and also containing suggestions for the realisation of its practical application." Mr. F. R. Jones, of Liverpool, who provided the first script, has prepared suitable texts for the series of succeeding talks.

Responses to the circulation of the Union's Declaration of Principle and Policy in Esperanto have come from 24 countries, amongst which are Angola, Czechoslovakia, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Poland and Yugoslavia. As from most others, including Austria, Australia, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, New Zealand, the Scandinavian countries, the South American republics, Portugal, Spain, the U.S.A., there have been many expressions of goodwill and requests for further copies of the document. Appropriately to the countries concerned, these Esperantist correspondents have been supplied also with the English,