

**DENMARK**

News none the less gratifying because it is dated nearly a year ago reaches us relating to Danish colleagues and friends in the *Study Circle*, the journal of the "Ecotechnical School." The first number was published in November, 1941. It has come to us all the way from America, thanks to Mrs Anna George de Mille. In June, 1941, the School held its Summer Conference at the Houseman's High School in Odense. The Journal devotes 16 pages to the sessions that were held and reports the work of the numerous classes that were being conducted and were being planned for the winter. The middle pages make a large advertisement, with cuts, of the text books—*Progress and Poverty*, *Protection or Free Trade* and Lange's *Social Economy*, with the Handbook for Teachers and the Lesson Sheets for students. The journal is illustrated with many photographs where we recognize (as for example sitting in assembly in one of the lecture rooms) J. L. Björner and Mrs Signe Björner, Bue Björner and Mrs Caroline Björner, Jakob E. Lange (whose death in December, 1941, we lately reported) Bent Söndergaard of Esbjerg, Chr. Norlev, Mrs Uffe Grosen,

Viggo Starcke and others. There is a report of an article by F. Folke in the *Roskilde Times* in October, 1941. The outdoor pictures give glimpses of the Odense School buildings and their grounds, lightened by beautiful sunshine. We could wish for more space to do justice to this manifestly successful Conference and the indomitable spirit of our Danish friends who are so ably carrying on their educational work. One notable feature of the Conference, which gets high praise, was the lantern lecture by Chr. Norlev on the subject "Why does Poverty accompany Progress?" which it is hoped to repeat in many parts of the country. Caroline Björner, the organizer of all this wonderful work, and her co-workers—they are building better than they perhaps know.

**"T.L.V."**

A correspondent now with the forces writes: "Did you know that the Army are continually but unknowingly doing some propaganda for us? Every new recruit, when taught to do an about-turn, is told that his feet must successively form the letters 'T. L. V.'—rather good, I think, since we want an about-turn on the existing system of obtaining revenue."

**ESSAY COMPETITION**

**Land and its Rent in Relation to Employment, Trade, Industry and Public Revenues.**

**Prizes Offered**

**One £20 ; Two £15 ; Five £10**

Competitors have a wide choice of subjects and may send in one or more essays. Latest date of entry is 31st March, 1943.

Books recommended for study are : *Progress and Poverty* (1s. 6d.); *Social Problems* (1s. 6d.); *The Condition of Labour* (1s.); *Protection or Free Trade* (abridged 1s.) By Henry George.

The Competition is free and open to all residents in Great Britain and Ireland.

**For full particulars obtain the Essay Prospectus post free from**

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4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1**

**WELSH LEAGUE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES:** Eustace A. Davies, Hon Secretary, 27 Park Place, Cardiff (Telephone 1563). Conference Secretary, I. T. Rees, 2 Southey Street, Cardiff.

**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE IN CARDIFF**

Invitations to a large address list are being issued to a Regional Conference and Social Gathering which will be held in the Reception Room of the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Saturday, 19th September, beginning at 3 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served in the Whitehall Room of the hotel at 5 p.m., the company being the guests of the League. By this announcement, invitation is also given to the reader to come. It is however particularly requested (in view of catering arrangements) that notice of intention to be present be received by Mr I. T. Rees, 2 Southey Street, Cardiff, not later than by the first post 17th September.

The president of the League, Dr D. G. Taylor, M.A., D.Sc., will preside. The opening speakers will be Mr F. C. R. Douglas, M.A., L.C.C., M.P., and Mr A. W. Madsen, B.Sc. Resolution will be moved in the same terms as the resolutions adopted by the London and Birmingham Conference.

The programme has been planned so that most of the time available may be devoted to questions and discussion, in which it is hoped many members of the Conference will take part.

Conference members will receive the memorandum on "Town Planning and Land Values," submitted to the Uthwatt Committee by the Land Values Group in Parliament and the Leaflet "Rate Land Values" published by the United Committee. A large assortment of books and pamphlets will be on sale at the literature table.

The Executive of the League met on 28th August to confirm the arrangements as above. They were particularly gratified that Mr Rees, who is himself a member of the Executive and is ex-Secretary of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, has been able to act as Conference Secretary, giving the Executive the advantage of his wide experience in organizational work.

Mr E. Verley Merchant had an article in the *Western Mail*, 1st August, criticizing and

rejecting proposals for the nationalization of the land. Mr C. A. Gardner followed with a letter pointing out that for many people it is not the ownership of land that is objectionable but (as the Malvern report puts it) the power to collect economic rent, to evict; and to forbid the use of natural resources. Mr Merchant was invited to deal with those proposals—that is to say with the Taxation of Land Values as the remedy.

**MIDLAND LEAGUE:** John Bush, President; C. C. Coleman, Conference Secretary, 20 Cannon Street, Birmingham, 2.

**BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE**

A successful conference and social gathering, under the auspices of this League was held at the Chamber of Commerce, New Street, on Saturday, 22nd August. Mr John Bush presided and the chief speakers were Mr F. C. R. Douglas, M.P., and Mr Edgar Butler, M.B.E., secretary of the Midland Liberal Federation. Although not all came who had intimated their intention of being present, it was the best attended meeting we have held in this district for a number of years. Among those who wrote sending good wishes were the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Norman Tiptaft, who in his letter wrote: "I hope your discussions will be profitable and your conference successful. Certainly, something has needed doing for a long time to see to it that increased site values due to the activities of the community go to that community and not to any private vested interest."

Rev Leyton Richards and Mr C. E. Clarke of Bewdley among others wrote regretting their inability to be present. After the opening speeches there was an interval for tea, and discussion began after the Chairman had moved a resolution in the following terms, which was carried unanimously:

"That post-war reconstruction necessitates a greater production and fairer distribution of wealth; that the monopoly of land which obstructs production and the tariffs and other restrictions which obstruct exchange must be abolished; that an essential means of securing this is to do away with the taxes which fall upon commodities and labour, and to take for public

revenue the land value which is created by the presence and activities of the whole community, thereby throwing open to labour the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man."

The *Birmingham Gazette* as well as the *Post* and the *Mail* gave useful reports and we quote from them. Mr Douglas said that the pre-war cost of widening London's streets, in order to make them better conform to the requirements of modern traffic was £2,000,000 per mile—an extortionate cost largely due to compensating the owners for land made more valuable by the enterprise of the community. Everything we wanted to do depended in the end, he said, on the utilization of land, and if people were to be happily and profitably employed, it was essential they should have access to the land and its natural resources on just and equitable terms. The policy of the League would throw open to labour and capital land necessary for production, and provide valuable opportunities for employment and greater production of wealth.

Mr Edgar Butler pointed out that post-war reconstruction could not possibly have a fair start unless the rating system was revolutionized, and land values were taxed. The system advocated had already been successfully tried in several Dominions.

The resolution was supported by Councillor George Sawyer, ex-M.P. In the subsequent speaking, Mr W. E. Fox (London), Mr George Musson (Derbyshire), Mr A. W. Madsen (London) and a number from Birmingham took part, including Mrs H. Spencer, Mr Jenkinson and Mr Hall besides others who did not give their names, one of them a young man from New Zealand who made a particularly interesting contribution. Points and questions raised in the discussion were answered by Mr Douglas. In his opening remarks the Chairman paid tribute to the memory of Chapman Wright, whom they had lost last March and who had so well and so long served the League in the Midlands as its secretary. At the conclusion a warm vote of thanks was conveyed to those responsible for organizing the Conference. Besides Birmingham and the places already named the following towns were represented: Bromsgrove, Codnor, Littleover, Malvern, New-castle (Staffs), Oldbury, Smethwick and West Bromwich. After the Conference a number of the members adjourned to the Queen's