

to come into operation about the close of the fourteenth century ; and that it has proceeded gradually and steadily on its course until it has at length reached a point which is not to be considered without the most serious reflections. It is also a matter of history that complaints against vagrancy and idleness, and the difficulty of providing for the poor, began for the first

time to be heard in this country about the commencement of the fifteenth century ; and that these burdens and complaints have, from that period down to the present time, regularly kept pace with the progress of the system of consolidating farms, and abstracting his crofts, curtilages and common rights from the English cottager.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UNITED STATES

The Campaign in Michigan

Very important among the resolutions adopted at the Henry George Congress in Toronto this year was the approval of the plan for a "national programme of action," selecting one State for concentrated activity. The plan had been discussed at the Detroit Congress in 1937 and a Committee with Mr A. Laurence Smith as chairman was charged with the duty of working it out. Mr Smith reported that the Tax Relief Association Inc. had since been organized and it was decided to concentrate activities in the State of Michigan, which was selected because (1) it presents both a manufacturing and an agricultural problem, (2) its problems affect similar interests in other States, (3) the population is not concentrated in a small area, (4) its total population is not so large that it cannot be reached at a reasonable expense.

The appointed officers of the Tax Relief Association are : A. Laurence Smith, Detroit, President ; G. M. Tucker, New York, Vice-President ; Warren S. Blauvelt, Secretary, Troy, N.Y. ; Otto Cullman, Chicago, Treasurer ; a board of directors, nine members from various States ; with Lt-Col V. A. Rule, Executive Secretary, 180 West Washington Street, Chicago. This is the National Organization, and for the work now being undertaken in Michigan itself, the *Tax Relief Association of Michigan* has its office at 2460 East Grand Boulevard, Detroit.

The plan is to go direct to the public through simple newspaper advertisements, pamphlets, radio, speakers, etc., for a period of about three years, in the belief that at the end of that time an informed electorate will support and carry a Constitutional Amendment whereby taxes on improvements, on personal property and on articles of consumption can be abolished and taxation concentrated on the value of land.

The educational campaign, with regard to newspaper publicity, is brilliantly described in an artistically produced book giving the texts of the advertisements with their remarkably telling cuts and illustrations, and an effective story every time to explain the present methods of taxation, with often caustic or humorous observations on their absurdity as well as their injustice. With such advertisements, so well pointing the moral that land values are the source from which revenues ought to come, very much should be achieved—given of course that the funds for the purpose are made available. We heartily wish Mr A. Laurence Smith and his associates such success in their endeavours that eventually public opinion will insist upon the necessary constitutional amendment, while the effect of the educational work done will spread also far beyond the boundaries of Michigan.

A Free Copy of "Land & Liberty" is an invitation to become a Subscriber. Monthly, 2d. By Post, 2s. 6d. a Year.

TASMANIA

The Government recently passed a Bill authorising a private Company to construct a traffic bridge across the Derwent River estuary between Hobart and Lindisfarne, a suburb on the eastern shore. Total cost will be about £400,000 and the Company is to have sole right to vehicular passenger traffic across the Bridge and within a certain radius beyond, also the right to charge tolls on all traffic across the bridge. This for 30 years. During this period the Government is to pay the Company about £9,000 per annum towards the purchase of the bridge (this out of public taxation), the Government to take over the 30 years' old bridge for a total of £270,000, while the Company expects to make about £17,000 per annum profits to distribute to its shareholders besides paying interest and sinking fund in the 30 years on £300,000 borrowed from a local Insurance Company.

The Company also secured for about £19,000 an area of valuable building land of about 600 acres in the choicest position that will be served by the bridge. As a land speculation, they expect to realize about half a million from future home makers and others who will wish to live in the locality when made accessible by the bridge. The locality itself is naturally attractive, but lacks a water supply. This will be provided by the Government, at the general taxpayers' expense, and the benefit of it presented free gratis to the Company. The bridge has been started about three months ago and the Hobart side approach is partly built.

Public meetings of protest have been held, and the Government urged to take over the building of the bridge itself through the Public Works Department, and defray the interest and sinking fund of the cost by collecting the increased land values, not only of the 600 acres, but of all areas served by the bridge. The Premier, the Hon A. G. Ogilvie, K.C., who personally dominates his Cabinet, has evaded all representations made to him on the subject by saying that the people are going to get the bridge for nothing, as a private Company will build it and give it to the Government when they have cleared their own costs.

FRANCE

The latest issue of the quarterly *Terre et Liberté* (July-September) is full of excellent material, and some acknowledgments are due as well as a tribute to our late colleague, Dr A. Nicolaevsky, whose death we were sorry to report last month. Pride of place is given to an article entitled Marxism and Georgeism, which is in fact the whole of Chapter iv (Landlord and Capitalist) of Mr Fredk. Verinder's book *Land and Freedom*.* It is translated by Dr Nicolaevsky, who also translated the

* Price 2s. 6d., published by the Hogarth Press, and obtainable from the Henry George Foundation, 34 Knightrider Street, E.C.4.

article on Land Rent and Capitalism taken from *Progress*, Melbourne, which took as its text the statement of Mr Ickes concerning the economic power of the sixty richest families in the U.S.A. Other articles include: The Future of Georgeism in Spain, by Juan Moreno Molina; the Mathematical Theory of the Price of Land, by Leon Walras; The Bressy Report and Land Values in London, translated from *Land & Liberty* by H. Blaquièrre, who also translated our pages (June issue) reporting the sale of half of Cardiff by the Bute family. And there is other interesting matter.

It will be seen that Dr Nicolaevsky was actively interested to the last moment. From his friend, M. G. Ordovsky, we have received a brief biographical sketch. Dr Nicolaevsky was born in Russia in 1864, his father Russian and his mother English. In 1890 he graduated as Doctor of Medicine from the Military Academy of Medicine. He was medical officer on the battleship "Sebastopol," and was Chief of the Medical Hospital at Port Arthur during the siege of that town. During the war of 1914 he was Chief of the Health Service in Reval, and later was ship's doctor in the Russian merchant fleet in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Later again he was doctor and interpreter in the Russian refugee camp at Tel-el-Kebir, and in 1921 he reached France, which became his adopted country. During the last twenty years of his life he devoted most of his spare time to reading the literature devoted to the philosophy of Henry George and studying the practical application of its principles, and often had articles in French newspapers and reviews.

Annual subscription to *Terre et Liberté* (to places outside France) is 40 francs; editorial and publishing address: 29 Boul Bourdon, Paris IV. It is the journal also of the Belgian Land Values Movement, and may be obtained from 7 Av. Wolvendal, Brussels.

JOHN B. SHARPE

IN THE death of Mr John B. Sharpe, which we reported last month, the movement lost one of the pioneers whose first contact with it dates back to the 'eighties. In one of his letters to us (in 1934) he gave an interesting personal reminiscence and picture of Henry George himself. It was in response to an inquiry relating to Arthur James Moxham, the business partner of Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, who together were among the most intimate of George's friends and supporters. Mr Sharpe wrote: "Your mention of Moxham calls to mind the first time I met Henry George; it was shortly after the flood in Johnstown in 1889. At that time Johnson and Moxham had their steel mills at Moxham, a suburb of Johnstown. Noticing that Henry George was to speak there, I telegraphed Moxham to reserve a seat, and on arrival from Pittsburgh in Johnstown, I found the city still strewn with the wreck and debris of the great disaster and there was not a building in the city that would accommodate an audience of any size that could be occupied with safety. At the Johnson steel works they had a building with a large floor space where they laid out their plans and diagrams of street railway systems. The level of the floor was maintained with great accuracy and care. It was said the men worked there in slippers. It was in this building that George spoke, and open to the public. George was in fine form. He spoke with great clearness and effect. I was much impressed with the readiness with which he grasped questions and objections from the audience. He would seize them on the bound, state them with much added force and clearness and persuasiveness, and then turn upon them his penetrating analysis and

devastating logic, expose the fallacy of the idea completely and with one parting thrust toss it from him dissipated into thin air."

Mr Sharpe was born in Virginia in 1858, and through his father's mother traced his ancestry to Captain John Buky, who settled near Van Meter's Fort where he died leaving his widow, four daughters and two sons. The third of these daughters married Jacob Rolland, they being Mr Sharpe's great-grand-parents. The second daughter married Major John McCulloch, brother of the more celebrated Sam McCulloch, known in early Indian warfare, who was shot and killed from ambush by Indians on 30th July, 1782. The sister of the McCulloch brothers married the proprietor of Fort Henry, the fort from which Col Croesep, the military commander, set out on a punitive expedition against the Indians further up the Ohio during which was exterminated a camp of peaceful Indians which included Logan, the celebrated chief of the Mingoes. It was to this tragic incident that Logan referred in his brief but memorable speech before Lord Dunmore, the Governor of Virginia, which for dignity and nobility of utterance is perhaps the most signal example of Indian eloquence recorded.

On his mother's side Mr Sharpe was descended from Dr Edward Smith of Brooke County, West Virginia. Dr Smith was a prominent physician in that region and from 1850 to 1860 was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates at Richmond. He was opposed to slavery, and when the Civil War broke out he cast his fortunes with the North, assisted in the new State of West Virginia, became a member of the Constitutional Convention and the State Legislature. He was known for his philanthropy, generosity and friendliness to the poor. His father had settled in that locality in 1796.

Mr Sharpe was for years a reader of this Journal and was quite emphatic in stating his impressions of the progress and prospects of the movement in Great Britain. His interest became more and more active since 1922, as his frequent correspondence showed, and he kept himself informed on the general situation as a constant reader of the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Spectator*. His letters expressed his scholarly mind and his acute and correct powers of observation, interpreting current affairs in the light of the democratic principles that he had imbued from the Henry George philosophy. His brochure, the *New Political Economy*, which is one of the clearest expositions of the Taxation of Land Values that we know, has gone through many editions. It was originally an address delivered to the Young Men's Civic Club in Pittsburgh. John Paul and he were the closest of friends, although their conversations during a period of eleven years, 1922 to 1933, were only by the written word. The writer had the pleasure of meeting this man of wonderful personality during his visit to the United States in 1935, and was able to convey to him the greetings of his friends on this side.

A. W. M.

THE YOUTH FEDERATION of the Danish Justice Party will be happy to hear from any English-speaking adherents of Henry George, with a view to putting them in touch with their members who wish to be in personal contact by correspondence. It is an opportunity for friendly interchange on matters of mutual interest as well as for improving knowledge of each other's language. Write to Mr Svend E. Hansen, Vangedevej 2, Gentofte, Denmark, who will supply to enquirers names and addresses of Danish friends wishing to correspond in this way.