

### France

Mr. David K. Mills, an English student at present at the University in Paris, attended, on behalf of the International Union and LAND & LIBERTY, the Annual General Meeting of the French League held in Paris, January 27. Following is his report: The raison d'être of this meeting was primarily a technical one, it being necessary for legal and banking purposes that the French Georgeist movement should form itself into an "association déclarée." Much time was therefore spent discussing the constitution of what it was agreed upon to call "La Ligue pour la Réforme Fiscale et le Libre-Echange." In the election of officers, M. Daudé-Bancel was elected President and M. Toubeau, General Secretary, whilst M. Février was elected Treasurer; M. Simonet, who had occupied the post in recent years, not wishing to stand for office again. Two Honorary Presidents were elected; they were M. Charles Gide and M. Sam Meyer, one of the founders of the Georgeist movement in France, who was killed by the Nazis during the war.

In his general report M. Daudé-Bancel commented upon recent progress. He said that the movement was poor but honest. The circulation of "Terre et Liberté" was only 3,000 of which only about half went to subscribers. He commented on the way in which rising prices were affecting the cost of production of the journal, and condemned in no uncertain terms the increase of indirect taxation in France, which, already at the level of 66 per cent. of the budget, hits hardest at the poorest consumers.

M. Daudé-Bancel continued by saying that Georgeism was quite unknown by the public at large. There had, however, been a fair number of references to the movement in the press, not infrequently misrepresenting the policy and aims of the League. He felt that there would be misrepresentation for years to come, and said that great patience was needed. Most common were accusations of Communism and suspicion that the policy of land value taxation was against the interests of the small farmers—this despite the fact that recent editions of "Terre et Liberté" have all carried the text of the 1902 Köge resolution of the Danish small-holders! M. Daudé-Bancel said it was important to stress that a tax on the undeveloped value of the land was a replacement for all existing taxes which penalise production and initiative and bear on the consumer.

There had been no progress at all in what M. Daudé-Bancel described as "French capitalist circles." Not a single Chamber of Commerce or bank, for example, was even prepared to subscribe to "Terre et Liberté" when invited to do so. The speaker here mentioned the importance of underlining the moral basis of Georgeism in this connection. There had been some small success, however, amongst consumers' co-operatives and it was hoped to continue the good work. M. Daudé-Bancel spoke caustically of the complete failure of all French political parties to get to the root of economic problems and see the importance of the land question, but said that the League had no intention whatsoever of forming a new political party or entering into what he described as the "bagarre electorale," or, as we would say, political dog-fights.