

science. I also wrote an eight years' plan on the basis of geographical and financial data on my country, intended to awake the interest for the single land value tax and to show in a simple and comprehensive way the practicability of our system. It was written on the basis of a more normal state of things, but I deem it useless to reform the financial figures, since the State budget now with its enhanced nominal figures is, however, less than ever before in its revenue yield. The basis of the land rent of Spain is taken from the booklet, *Economia Política Georgista*, published in 1935. If you are interested I shall be glad to send you a copy of these writings."

### VICTORIA

The latest victory for the Rating of Land Values is that at Echuca, a town on the River Murray, with a population of 4,000. The system was adopted by resolution of the Town Council rendering a poll of ratepayers unnecessary. Another recent victory, already announced, was that in the City of Kew, in the Melbourne metropolitan area. Out of the 28 local authorities in Greater Melbourne, 14 are now levying their rates on land values (excepting for water and sewerage which are administered by an independent Board, and it assesses on annual value of land and buildings). Of the total area of Greater Melbourne (71,187 acres), 54,890 acres are now under the land values system for city rates.

The settled and confirmed sentiment in favour of Land Value Rating, especially where it has been tried, is shown in the following instructive return published in *Progress*, August, 1947. Where opponents have attempted to reverse the system by polls taken for the purpose they have been increasingly defeated:—

Municipality and Poll	Year	In Favour of Land Value Rating	Against Land Value Rating	Margin in Favour
<b>DANDENONG :</b>				
Adoption Poll ... ..	1920	632	167	465
Reversion Poll ... ..	1924	1,808	809	999
<b>BRUNSWICK :</b>				
Adoption Poll ... ..	1922	2,395	2,107	288
Reversion Poll ... ..	1926	4,676	2,644	2,032
Reversion Poll ... ..	1932	4,120	1,794	2,326
<b>SANDRINGHAM :</b>				
Adoption Poll ... ..	1926	2,284	2,098	186
Reversion Poll ... ..	1931	3,069	1,737	1,332
<b>OAKLEIGH :</b>				
Adopted by Council ... ..	1920	No Poll	—	—
Reversion Poll ... ..	1945	1,761	587	1,174

*Progress*, organ of the Victoria Henry George League, is obtainable from 18 George Parade, Melbourne—annual postal subscription, 2s.

### TASMANIA

Mr. F. Halkyard, Melbourne, writes:

"A rating poll was held at Launceston, Tasmania, on December 11th on the question: 'Are you in favour of the basis of valuation for rating purposes being altered from annual value (of land and buildings taken together), as at present, to the unimproved value system?' The result was 3,864 in favour of the change; 2,706 against the change; majority for, 1,158.

"Only 29.87 per cent. of the enrolled residents voted, but the Act requires that at least 50 per cent. must vote if a poll is to be valid. Hence the will of the majority cannot, at present, be made effective. But the Act also allows the Council to make the change by resolution. At the concurrent election of Aldermen, two sitting members, who declared themselves against the

change, were rejected, while the three candidates elected, one retiring and two new men, were all open-minded on the rating question.

"With a clear mandate from the ratepayers, which repeats the decision of a previous poll, it is to be hoped that Launceston City Council will now adopt Land Value Rating by resolution."

### FRANCE AND BELGIUM

*Terre et Liberté—Grond en Vrijheid*, in its second number (16th Year) has informing articles by A. Daudé-Bancel, Pavlos Giannelias and M. Cortvriend. The Bulletin is published in both French and Flemish. Annual subscription of 30 French francs may be sent to Daudé-Bancel, 6 Rue de la Prevotière, Boisguillaume, Seine; or of 10 Belgian francs to Cortvriend, Cederlaan, Wilrijk. Mr. Cortvriend quotes a number of typical examples of increasing land values; for instance: Four hectares of land situated between the Chaussée d'Antin and the Madeleine in Paris were worth 5,700 francs in 1552; 606,000 frs. in 1775; and in 1930 they had a value of more than 80 million francs. Again, in the Rue Neuve of Brussels, after the 1914 war, frontages were worth 2,345 to 4,600 frs. per sq. metre; after the stabilisation, 4,750 to 11,200 frs. Several sales just before the last war seemed to indicate that in the most favourable commercial positions in Brussels and Antwerp, the value of the land was more than 10,000 francs per sq. metre.

This note is also made by E. Wickersheimer: "Think that in Paris, land which was sold in 1850 for 50,000 francs the hectare had a value of 12,000,000 francs per hectare in 1896 and without the merit or the work of any sort on the part of the proprietor. That is what made the fortune of the Rothschilds. . . . I call to mind a law which has been forgotten but not abrogated, the law of 1807, by which the State was to cash half the increased value given to land by public works. If that law were applied, the State would have something toward liquidation of the national debt."

Mr. Ivanoff, Clichy, France, writes interestingly of his own work in the Press, and he is busy on a number of articles as well as translations of English Georgeist pamphlets. In *l'Homme et la Vie*, organ of a Society called "Integration" which appears to have a mission of its own—the Editor, Girardin, very critical of anything else—Ivanoff had an article on "Great Men," naming among them Henry George. But the Editor who evidently had had more propaganda of the sort amused himself in a succeeding issue with a quip entitled "Solutions instead of Patchwork." Among the brave friends, he said, from whom he had received suggestions were those who spoke for Georgeism. "What's it all about? Put broadly, it is to replace all taxation by a tax only on the value of land in town and in country. Mining, agriculture, transport, exchange, building, education, the urban and rural milieux—are all these reforms necessary? Don't pester yourself—The Single Tax!" It seems that the Georgeists make sport of 'Integration.' So much the better, but, returning the compliment, we do say they make us a little sad." The Editor had his fling.

Mr. Cortvriend has successfully placed his article, "What is Georgeism?" in a number of papers. Besides those already named, there were the Normandy *Cité Nouvelle*, the weekly Socialist journal; also the Belgian *Volonté*, the democratic, social, economic and political weekly. A professor in Economics who is at present assisting Minister Spaak, caused publication in the latter instance and put his own postscript to it: "The next word is with the Minister of Finance." Mr. Cortvriend hopes to improve his acquaintance with the Professor.

### GERMANY

Mr. Rudolf Schmidt, of the Bund für Land und Freiheit, Nassauische Str. 54-55, Berlin-Wilmsdorf, acknowledges six parcels of miscellaneous books and pamphlets sent by the United Committee. Some of these he would have proceeded at once to translate and publish, but he regrets the circumstances which make that impossible, because at present the Bund is not yet licensed in Berlin itself, where the procedure—because of the four-Power administration—is more difficult and more protracted than in the Bi-Zone. For that reason the effort to gain official recognition of the Bund as an active agency is