

## INTERNATIONAL UNION NOTES AND NEWS

### Continued Progress in New Zealand

Five further victories for the Rating of Land Values in New Zealand are announced. They are the results of successful polls of ratepayers respectively in Waitemata County, Ashburton Borough, and the towns of Tirau, Otatau and Nightcaps. The details are:

Waitemata County, polling on April 2. For R.L.V. 5,349; against 2,420. Population of County 31,500; area 600 sq. miles.

Ashburton Borough, polling on May 22. For R.L.V. 673; against 529. Population of Borough 8,580.

Tirau, October 10. For R.L.V. 66; against 19. Population 647.

Otatau, November 11. For R.L.V. 100, against 62. Population 740.

Nightcaps, February 13. For R.L.V. 42, against 30. Population 610.

The progressive adoption of the Rating of Land Values, under the permissive legislation that makes it possible, is referred to in the heartening report from the tenth Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Taxation of Land Values League held on March 31, 1954. Most striking was the victory in the City of Dunedin on October 10, the date of the municipal elections when also two counties (Coromandel and Taieri) and two boroughs (Kaiapoi and Waihi) were captured. Moreover, on the same date, an attempt made in Nelson City to revert to the rating of improvements was defeated. Land Value Rating was vindicated by 1,499 votes to 1,238. But Dunedin was the greatest single victory ever won in New Zealand, the League having played a direct and effectual part in this result. Among the co-workers of the League in these campaigns, which always call for individual initiative and much diligence, specially named are Messrs. R. H. Greville and N. Soutar in Waitemata; Mr. F. J. Russell in Nelson City and Mr. N. E. Kirk who sponsored the poll in Kaiapoi and has since been elected Mayor of that Borough.

The following table shows the present position.

LV means rating on land values, exempting buildings and improvements. CV means rating on capital value of land plus improvements, and AV means rating on the annual rental value of land plus improvements.

Total	LV	CV	AV
124 Counties	65	59	—
13 Cities	11	—	2
131 Boroughs	102	14	15
20 Towns	9	7	4
<b>288</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>21</b>

Thus it appears that near 65 per cent of all the local authorities levy their rates on the value of land apart from improvements. The League argues that the case has been abundantly established for making the system mandatory in every area.

The League reports monthly meetings held in the Women's University Club Rooms. Among papers recently read were: "Income Tax in New Zealand," by H. Esmond Greig; "Land Valuation," by E. R. Sceats of the Valuation Department; "Local Government in N.Z.," by Dr. R. O'Regan; "Trade Unionism," by H. E. Combs, M.P.; and "Conservation of Soil Fertility," by H. V. Horlor.

Another important function of the League is the pro-

motion of economic study classes. These are conducted by Miss Betty Noble under auspices of the N.Z. Henry George School of Social Science of which Mr. R. D. Keall is hon. secretary. A sign of progress is the recent large (repeat) order received at 4 Great Smith Street, London, for copies of the new condensed edition of *Progress and Poverty*.

Officers of the League for the ensuing year were elected as follows: Chairman: Dr. R. O'Regan; Vice-Chairman: R. A. Gosse; Treasurer: J. F. D. Patterson; Secretary: F. Adams; Committee: Miss B. Noble, D. Whittle, R. D. Keall and P. Ryan; Hon. Auditor: R. C. Morpeth.

We join with our New Zealand colleagues and co-workers in paying tribute to the memory of Mr. E. N. Morris, for many years a member of the League whose death has been a severe loss to their ranks.

### Heartening News from France

On May 30 the members of the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade held their annual meeting in Paris. They met in happy mood to congratulate their veteran President and Editor, M. Daudé-Bancel, on his continuing work, also the Hon. Secretary, M. Max Toubeau, and the Hon. Treasurer, M. André Février, on the reports they gave on the events of the past year. New strength had come to the League by the recruitment of younger people able and willing to share the tasks of the older generation. The circulation of the journal was steadily increasing. When it was re-started in printed form in 1947 it was a bare 150 copies and now they were printing 4,250 copies of each issue of which nearly 500 copies went to subscribers abroad in no fewer than

## NINTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

St. Andrews, August, 1955

The Ninth International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade will be held in St. Andrews, Scotland, in the week August 15 to 20, 1955.

St. Andrews itself is a place of great fame for its historical associations and its many attractions. It is situated on the sea coast of the County Fife, about 50 miles from Edinburgh.

The Conference is fortunate in having the United Colleges Hall of the University placed at its disposal and the members will be in residence at one or more of the well-appointed Students' Residence Halls.

The terms for board and lodging, including all meals, will vary from 19s. to 23s. (approx. \$3) per head per day, depending on the situation and equipment of the rooms.

It is necessary that reservations be made in advance and it is therefore urgently requested that word should be sent to us at the earliest possible date intimating if not the definite decision then at least the prospect or the hope of attending the Conference.

We give this exhortation to our readers, wherever they may be, and they are spread over the world:

**CHOOSE SCOTLAND FOR YOUR 1955 SUMMER HOLIDAYS — ST. ANDREWS YOUR CENTRE**

Conference membership entails membership of our International Union (minimum membership fee 10s. or \$2 U.S.A. and Canada) and payment of the special Conference Fee of £1 or \$4 towards meeting the general expenses of preparatory arrangements, and of printings and publications, etc.; but the Conference Fee need not be contributed until the Conference meets.

30 countries; in Paris they had 732 readers; in France and French dominions, 2,232. Increasing support to the ideas of the League was being given by the French co-operative movement largely due to the influence of M. Daudé-Bancel, formerly a general secretary of the Federation of the Co-operatives. He still attends their congresses, and significant indeed was the resolution unanimously adopted at the May Congress in Brest which denounced the wickedness of price-raising indirect and direct taxes, and protested against the exemption from contribution to the revenue on the part of those who appropriate to themselves the economic rent of land. Worthy of note were also the meetings of the League for the Rights of Man in Rouen and of the Syndicate of Landed Proprietors, in Paris, addressed by Daudé-Bancel, and there was the quite extensive work done by him by his articles contributed to many periodicals. Tribute was also paid to the very helpful activities of MM. J. Simonet, Paul Lambert and Pavlos Gianellias, the last named always vigorous with his pen, and when he visits Paris "never missing the opportunity to betake himself to the Ministry of Finance to supplement the dossier of information he can supply about the operation of Land Value Taxation in Denmark and elsewhere." The importance of the journal *Terre et Liberté*, as an "infinitely precious vehicle of our ideas" is emphasized by M. Toubeau and how to extend its circulation should be the concern of all members. Of each issue a large number is distributed by way of propaganda to special circles, and they will be concentrating this year on the mayors and chief officers of the *departements* and local-governing districts, who ought to be made aware of the reforms which have been carried in certain foreign countries and of which the journal is always showing how beneficial they are: the suppression of taxes that hit at the work of man's hands, at buildings, at commodities, and replacing those taxes by a tax on the value of land, obliging the proprietors of "building land" to stop withholding it in the anticipation of cashing an increased price; also the proprietors of uncultivated waste land, so that they will put it to use or part with it to those who are seeking the opportunity to exert their labour.

At the general meeting, a special welcome was extended to Herr Heinrich Richard, of Bonn, former City Architect of Danzig and author of the treatise *Die wirtschaftlichen Grundlagen des Städtebaus* (The Economic Bases of Urban Development) which pleads for the Taxation of Land Values in substitution for existing repressive and penalizing taxes on industry, whose complete abolition he insists is a matter of primary consideration. In response, Mr. Richard said he rejoiced to be among those who were engaged in the campaign for the most ancient of rights, the Rights of Man. He paid tribute to the memory of those great Frenchmen—Quesnay, Gournay, Condorcet, Mirabeau, Turgot. It was a misfortune for humanity that so many did not realize the importance of the struggle to give to all men their share of the good Earth which God had given to and destined for all His creatures without regard to the artificial frontiers that are set up between them.

*Terre et Liberté* is published quarterly. We heartily commend it to those of our readers who command the French language. The annual subscription for overseas is the very moderate sum of 80 francs, but we suggest that at least five shillings should be sent (and more indeed by

way of financial support) either to the treasurer, M. André Février, Rue de l'Association, Mesnil-Esnard, Seine-Inférieure, or to Mrs. S. M. Willott, 35 Honeysgreen Lane, West Derby, Liverpool, 12, who (in Great Britain) acts as agent for the journal.

## HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

### Autumn Term Programme

The Autumn term of economic classes opens during the week commencing September 20. In the London area, classes will be held at Westminster, Croydon, Ilford, Hornsey, Bromley, Enfield and Welling.

A new School prospectus and a new advertising pamphlet are being widely circulated to recruit students, copies of this material together with full details of the Autumn term in London and the provinces may be had by applying to the School at 4 Great Smith Street.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS

The United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd. (proprietors of LAND & LIBERTY, postal subscription 10s. or \$2 from U.S.A. and Canada), the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, and the Leagues listed below are maintained by the voluntary support of those who believe in and would seek to advance the principle and policy which the Committee, the Union and the Leagues advocate: Land Value Taxation and Free Trade in its fulness, with removal of the tax burden on industry and abolition of all monopolies and special privileges that interfere with the production of wealth and prevent its just distribution. Cheques, etc., may be made payable to R. W. Frost (United Committee), Ashley Mitchell (International Union) or to W. E. Fox (The Land-Value Taxation League), 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1.

#### Transatlantic Readers

Friends in the U.S.A. and Canada can contribute through the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 48-50, East 69th Street, New York, in which case they should name LAND & LIBERTY and make cheques, etc., payable to the Foundation.

### ADDRESSES

At 4, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. Telephone: Abbey 6665; *United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, Ltd.*, Richard William Frost (Hon. Treasurer); A. W. Madsen (Secretary); *International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade*, Ashley Mitchell (Hon. Treasurer); *The Land-Value Taxation League*, S. Martin (Hon. Secretary); *Henry George School of Social Science*, V. H. Blundell (Director of Studies), with Branches at Birmingham, Blackburn, Liverpool, Manchester, Portsmouth, various London suburbs, and Glasgow.

*Branches of the Land-Value Taxation League:* *Derbyshire*, G. Musson (Hon. Secretary), 29, Denby Lane, Codnor. *Manchester*, Mrs. D. J. J. Owen (Hon. Secretary), 12, Hillside Rd., Offerton, Stockport. *Merseyside*, Miss K. Hand (Hon. Secretary), 14, Bentley Road, Liverpool, 8. *Portsmouth*, H. R. Lee (Hon. Secretary), 13, Lawrence Road, Southsea. *Yorkshire and Northern*, Howard Binns (Hon. Secretary), 3, Westfield Road, Riddlesden, Keighley. *Midland*, Dirom Young (Hon. Secretary *pro tem*), 15, Boulbee Road, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield.

*Scottish League for Land Value Taxation*, R. J. Rennie (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), 220, Mill Street, Rutherglen, Glasgow. *Edinburgh League*. At a general meeting of its members on March 12, the Edinburgh League was by resolution merged in the Scottish League. *Welsh League*, Dr. Fredk. Jones (Hon. Secretary), 53 Amesbury Road, Penylan, Cardiff. *Crosby Henry George Fellowship*, C. C. Paton (Hon. Secretary), 11, Tudor Road, Liverpool, 23.

Office of the President of the International Union:  
Mr. J. Rupert Mason, 1920 Lake Street, San Francisco, 21.