

# LAND & LIBERTY

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## THE INTERNATIONAL UNION AND WORLD PEACE

Among the organisations and groups that are dedicated to the establishment of conditions that will ensure peace among the nations and the prosperity and happiness of the peoples who dwell within them, the International Union for the Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade occupies a distinctive place. Its work is wholly devoted to the education of public opinion as to the economic causes which are responsible for poverty and which lead to the fears, enmities, jealousies and greeds that are provocative of international strife. The Union finds these causes in the laws and institutions which shelter special privilege and deny equal freedom, equal right and equal opportunity of access to the resources placed by nature herself at the disposal of all mankind. Those laws and institutions, creating and intensifying as they do that disparity of wealth and fortune which menaces the very existence of a civilised society, are disastrously accompanied by the action of governments impelled to use their fiscal and financial powers as instruments of hostility, deeming it their function to provide privileged markets for their own nationals to the disadvantage or exclusion of others.

The friendly interchange and intercourse among the peoples, the abundance of the good things of this earth, which under freedom could and would prevail, are at the mercy of the wholly distorted mentality which thinks in terms of a scarcity that must be forcefully rationed, which looks upon trade as economic warfare, each participant resorting to the offensive and defensive weapons of customs tariffs, quota restrictions, preferential regulations, exchange controls, and subsidies to channel trade for their peculiar benefit. Such are the circumstances, resting far more on the ignorance or apathy of the common man than upon the influence or self-seeking of sectional interests, which combine to threaten the world with irretrievable calamity.

Aware that ignorance and apathy are the chief obstacles to be overcome before there can be hope of permanent peace or of a prosperity rightly enjoyed, the International Union has addressed itself to a considerable and most vital task. It is conducted in the conviction that an informed public opinion, strong in perception of the ethical basis of society, can and will influence governments to take a very different

path from the one they travel to-day. It is the work of education, purely and simply, reaching, as far as resources command and facilities permit, over the frontiers of the nations into the minds of the people, finding utterance through their press, their radio and their assemblies, and gaining a hearing in their legislative bodies.

Upon this work the International Union is engaged, as a body of men and women associated together in many lands to help and encourage one another in disseminating an understanding of the principle and policy which it considers to be of paramount importance to the peace of the world and the welfare of its peoples. It is a voluntary association supported wholly by the voluntary contributions of those who acclaim its purpose.

The International Union was formed in 1926. Its aims and the objects, as stated in its Constitution, are: "To stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war, as these causes are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. Specifically, towards the realisation of these objects, the Union favours the raising of public revenues by taxes and rates upon the value of land apart from improvements in order to secure the economic rent for the community and the abolition of taxes, tariffs, or imposts of every sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth."

This educational activity embodies all the means of the written and the spoken word that are available, that is to say, through publications, press publicity, radio broadcasts, correspondence, meetings, conferences, postal campaigns, memoranda to governments and heads of states, and documentary or personal representation to official bodies concerned with relevant social, economic and financial affairs.

The work the International Union is doing and wishes to see vastly expanded is in harmony with and helpful toward those aspirations of peace established, democracy safeguarded and economic well-being assured, which are heart and soul of the cause of Liberty.