

exchange control; removal of embargoes and government allocation of "quotas" for imports and exports; cessation of government bulk-buying and selling other than what is required to operate public utilities; abolition of monopolies by repeal of the legislation to which they owe their existence; opposition to the establishment of government boards as distinct from voluntary co-operative marketing; and, as to the franchise, demanding proportional representation for the election of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The addresses on the radio expounding the Party's policy and going into all the points in the manifesto read extraordinarily well in the text as printed in *Progress*. Two of these were by Mr. L. J. Hutchinson from stations 3DH and 3UZ on April 19 and 20; one by Mr. L. F. Bawden from 3DB on April 18; and one by Mr. W. V. Tindall from 3XY on April 19.

Mr. W. H. Pitt writes from Melbourne under date July 9: "You will be delighted to hear that we have formed an active political group to capitalise on the educational work done over so many years by the Henry George League here. Although we are in the formative stage as yet, there is quite an enthusiastic body of young Georgeists prepared actively to assist. No doubt the example of our Danish fellows has inspired us. It is our hope that we shall be successful enough in turn to inspire others. There is no reason why we should not be, for everywhere the insincerity of the 'planners' with their creation of artificial scarcities is coming to light. Also, whenever politicians can be got in private, they are willing to admit the correctness of George's principles. All we have to do is create a visible public opinion—not necessarily a majority—so that some of those politicians can safely advocate our proposals without endangering their personal positions by being thought 'out of step,' etc. Much as Peel did in the Free Trade issue."

We heartily welcome this news from Victoria. We extend our congratulations to our co-workers on their enterprise and the success they have so far attained. They have taken the first step in a campaign, which if vigorously followed up with all the support its deserves, may well develop into a force of real influence in Australian politics.

Jamaica

In the municipal elections held at the end of June the People's National Party scored a considerable victory, winning 84 of the 184 seats, Mr. Bustamente's Labour Party getting 47 and the Independents 53. Mr. Bustamente's party lost control of almost every council it previously held. On five councils every seat was won by the People's National Party. This victory greatly enhances the prospects of giving effect to the legislation for the rating and taxing of properties in the island on the basis of unimproved value, the Bill for which is already in draft. The policy of land value taxation has been a main plank in the platform of the People's National Party which is now in the position to bring its influence upon the Government—we hope with immediate success. The question has been in the forefront of Jamaican politics ever since 1944 when the Report of the Government Commission appointed by the Governor, Sir John Huggins, was emphatically in favour of the abolition of the present system of valuing and taxing real estate and for substituting the valuation and the taxation of the value of land apart from improvements, the revenue therefrom to go to the Parochial Boards.

An Italian Helper

Mr. C. Daglio, of Tortona, in Italy, reports a further extensive distribution of the Union's Declaration not only in Esperanto but also in the English text and in the French, Spanish, German and Italian translations. The names and addresses of his correspondents are given, the list including some 20 different countries. In addition, he has sent the Declaration to many of the delegates present at the International Esperantist Conference in Munich. The Union is indebted to him for this exceptional service, which he is steadily continuing, and another large supply of the document in all the translations has been sent to him for the purpose. Mr. Daglio is himself the author and publisher of an interesting world shorthand adapted to all languages, including Esperanto. Particulars may be had from his British correspondent, Mr. C. Fielding, 61 Phyllis Crescent, Ely, Cardiff.

Land Question in the Transvaal

In the Transvaal they are also troubled about the increase in the cost of living. Mr. Mather Smith, ever busy with his pen, dealt with the subject in his letter recently published in the Johannesburg *Sunday Times*. He wrote:

"I suggest to the South African Trades and Labour Council that, instead of its usual agitation for more pay and a higher cost-of-living allowance, it might tackle the problem of real wages at the other end, and try and reduce the cost of living. An increase in money wages, or cost-of-living allowance, is simply passed on, except by the gold mines, in higher prices—through which all have to suffer.

"Trade union leaders could do far more with their voting power, irrespective of party, but so far they have just kept passing the buck over to the employers or the Government. The same applies to the people generally."

Mr. Mather Smith reminds the *Sunday Times* of its own leading article of not so long ago which was headed "Price of Land and Cost-of-Living." It stated that "the cost of residential plots has risen by anything up to 600 per cent. since 1939. Prices of farm property have also shown a violent upswing . . . Cost of land is a basic factor in cost of living. It is on land that we build our homes and factories, and on the soil we grow our food."

"I cannot see," Mr. Mather Smith continued, "how the price of land can be pegged, or controlled. Land values must keep on increasing in a progressive community. They can no more be 'pegged' than can the growth of a child, and, under present conditions, as values rise, so will prices.

"At start was made, however, to keep down the prices demanded for urban land in the Transvaal through the Site-Values-Rating Ordinance of 1916. There has, unfortunately, been no extension of the principle since then, except in some of the towns in the other Provinces.

"Land owes its value to the presence and useful activities of the people, yet our rural landowners, as landowners, pay nothing towards the expenses of the State.

"'All taxation is robbery,' declared Sir John Simon when a member of the Liberal Government in Britain in 1910, but there can be no robbery in taking, as taxes, what economists call the 'economic rent' of land for public purposes. It is the economic rent of land which gives it its value, and that value is the creation of the community."

Typical is the following advertisement appearing in *The Times*, June 9, of land for sale in Germiston, South Africa: Ideally situated for the industrialist a corner block of 30 acres of ideal flat industrial ground, half-mile from Elansfontein Station, with a large road frontage to two most important thoroughfares—the main road to Johannesburg and to the largest marshalling yards in the Transvaal and Jan Smuts Airport. Opposite Leyland Motors new factory. Light, power and water available. Price £33,000.