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Land&Liberty annual

the printed compendium of the year's best writing

Land&Liberty **communiqué**

the quarterly newsletter of the Henry George Foundation

## diary

March 16, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh conference **Planning for Scotland's Success** Peter Gibb joins the closing panel debate

April 27, Sheraton Grand Hotel, Edinburgh **The New Land Reform Agenda: How Can Fiscal Change Change Scotland?** See enclosed pamphlet.

February 24, Cavendish Centre, London **Encouraging Affordable Housing: Key Policy Issues** See enclosed pamphlet.

4 May, Reformers bookshop, Edinburgh **Book Launch of *The Lie of the Land*** by Duncan Pickard. Public reception with the author and Fred Harrison from the publisher

May 27-30, 2004, Madrid, Spain  
**International Union Conference**  
The IU is now taking registrations.  
See <http://www.interunion.org.uk>

July 6, 2004, London  
**Financing Transport Infrastructure through Land Values: Making it Happen**  
Chair: Dave Wetzel

July 21-25, 2004, Albuquerque, USA  
**The 24th North American Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations**  
Info: <http://www.progress.org/cgo/>

Autumn 2004, Edinburgh  
**Henry George Foundation Conference**  
This year's HGF conference, in association with Holyrood Communications

## 100 years ago Time doesn't always change things much

The recent extension of London's Jubilee tube line made land values in the area skyrocket. This piece from the February 1904 edition of *Land Values* - **Land&Liberty** in one of its earlier guises - shows it's not exactly news

London is to have a new twopenny tube, and thus the *Glasgow Evening News*, 16/1/04: "But the landlords of North London know all about the new 'tube', and may be relied upon to increase the rents. Before there was a Twopenny Tube to Shepherd's Bush, houses there and at Bedford Park, which artistic areas lie a little further west, had reasonable rents. They are not high yet, but the landlords took care that what the residents saved through travelling to town by 'tube' for twopenny, instead or by 'bus for sixpence, was added to the rent. This was 'cute' but surely scarcely fair, for the landlords, of course, did not contribute one penny towards the cost of the 'tube'."

If the landlords did not contribute one penny towards the cost of the tube the question is: why should they have the financial advan-

tage? It may be all the same or even better, for the householder who uses the tube, but why should the landlords who contribute nothing to the making of an improvement reap any special benefits? It is not because they are 'cute' that the landlords thrive in this way on the labour of others. There are any number of 'cute' men using the tube daily. No; the landlords may be the most stupid men in London. They will scoop in the higher rents all the same, simply because the tube passes through, or alongside, their land. The 'residents' could not prevent this advance in rent, not even by an Act of Parliament. All that can be done is, by taxing land values, to take the financial benefit of such improvement for public purposes, and to correspondingly relieve the 'residents' of the growing burden of the rates. **L&L**

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FOUNDATION

**Land&Liberty** has chronicled world events for over 100 years. It has offered a unique perspective with its reports, analysis and comment on the core issues of political economy. And that uniqueness remains. **Land&Liberty** aims to explore how our common wealth should be used - and to demonstrate that this is the key to building the bridge of sustainability between private life, the public sector and our resources - between the individual, the community and the environment. **Land&Liberty** - putting people at the heart of economics.

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