

**DENMARK**

News none the less gratifying because it is dated nearly a year ago reaches us relating to Danish colleagues and friends in the *Study Circle*, the journal of the "Ecotechnical School." The first number was published in November, 1941. It has come to us all the way from America, thanks to Mrs Anna George de Mille. In June, 1941, the School held its Summer Conference at the Houseman's High School in Odense. The Journal devotes 16 pages to the sessions that were held and reports the work of the numerous classes that were being conducted and were being planned for the winter. The middle pages make a large advertisement, with cuts, of the text books—*Progress and Poverty*, *Protection or Free Trade* and Lange's *Social Economy*, with the Handbook for Teachers and the Lesson Sheets for students. The journal is illustrated with many photographs where we recognize (as for example sitting in assembly in one of the lecture rooms) J. L. Björner and Mrs Signe Björner, Bue Björner and Mrs Caroline Björner, Jakob E. Lange (whose death in December, 1941, we lately reported) Bent Söndergaard of Esbjerg, Chr. Norlev, Mrs Uffe Grosen,

Viggo Starcke and others. There is a report of an article by F. Folke in the *Roskilde Times* in October, 1941. The outdoor pictures give glimpses of the Odense School buildings and their grounds, lightened by beautiful sunshine. We could wish for more space to do justice to this manifestly successful Conference and the indomitable spirit of our Danish friends who are so ably carrying on their educational work. One notable feature of the Conference, which gets high praise, was the lantern lecture by Chr. Norlev on the subject "Why does Poverty accompany Progress?" which it is hoped to repeat in many parts of the country. Caroline Björner, the organizer of all this wonderful work, and her co-workers—they are building better than they perhaps know.

**"T. L. V."**

A correspondent now with the forces writes: "Did you know that the Army are continually but unknowingly doing some propaganda for us? Every new recruit, when taught to do an about-turn, is told that his feet must successively form the letters 'T. L. V.'—rather good, I think, since we want an about-turn on the existing system of obtaining revenue."

**ESSAY COMPETITION**

**Land and its Rent in Relation to Employment, Trade, Industry and Public Revenues.**

**Prizes Offered**

**One £20 ; Two £15 ; Five £10**

Competitors have a wide choice of subjects and may send in one or more essays. Latest date of entry is 31st March, 1943.

Books recommended for study are : *Progress and Poverty* (1s. 6d.); *Social Problems* (1s. 6d.); *The Condition of Labour* (1s.); *Protection or Free Trade* (abridged 1s.) By Henry George.

The Competition is free and open to all residents in Great Britain and Ireland.

**For full particulars obtain the Essay Prospectus post free from**

**THE HENRY GEORGE FOUNDATION  
4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1**

**WELSH LEAGUE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES:** Eustace A. Davies, Hon Secretary, 27 Park Place, Cardiff (Telephone 1563). Conference Secretary, I. T. Rees, 2 Southey Street, Cardiff.

**FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE IN CARDIFF**

Invitations to a large address list are being issued to a Regional Conference and Social Gathering which will be held in the Reception Room of the Park Hotel, Cardiff, on Saturday, 19th September, beginning at 3 p.m. Afternoon tea will be served in the Whitehall Room of the hotel at 5 p.m., the company being the guests of the League. By this announcement, invitation is also given to the reader to come. It is however particularly requested (in view of catering arrangements) that notice of intention to be present be received by Mr I. T. Rees, 2 Southey Street, Cardiff, not later than by the first post 17th September.

The president of the League, Dr D. G. Taylor, M.A., D.Sc., will preside. The opening speakers will be Mr F. C. R. Douglas, M.A., L.C.C., M.P., and Mr A. W. Madsen, B.Sc. Resolution will be moved in the same terms as the resolutions adopted by the London and Birmingham Conference.

The programme has been planned so that most of the time available may be devoted to questions and discussion, in which it is hoped many members of the Conference will take part.

Conference members will receive the memorandum on "Town Planning and Land Values," submitted to the Uthwatt Committee by the Land Values Group in Parliament and the Leaflet "Rate Land Values" published by the United Committee. A large assortment of books and pamphlets will be on sale at the literature table.

The Executive of the League met on 28th August to confirm the arrangements as above. They were particularly gratified that Mr Rees, who is himself a member of the Executive and is ex-Secretary of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers, has been able to act as Conference Secretary, giving the Executive the advantage of his wide experience in organizational work.

Mr E. Verley Merchant had an article in the *Western Mail*, 1st August, criticizing and

rejecting proposals for the nationalization of the land. Mr C. A. Gardner followed with a letter pointing out that for many people it is not the ownership of land that is objectionable but (as the Malvern report puts it) the power to collect economic rent, to evict; and to forbid the use of natural resources. Mr Merchant was invited to deal with those proposals—that is to say with the Taxation of Land Values as the remedy.

**MIDLAND LEAGUE:** John Bush, President; C. C. Coleman, Conference Secretary, 20 Cannon Street, Birmingham, 2.

**BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE**

A successful conference and social gathering, under the auspices of this League was held at the Chamber of Commerce, New Street, on Saturday, 22nd August. Mr John Bush presided and the chief speakers were Mr F. C. R. Douglas, M.P., and Mr Edgar Butler, M.B.E., secretary of the Midland Liberal Federation. Although not all came who had intimated their intention of being present, it was the best attended meeting we have held in this district for a number of years. Among those who wrote sending good wishes were the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Norman Tiptaft, who in his letter wrote: "I hope your discussions will be profitable and your conference successful. Certainly, something has needed doing for a long time to see to it that increased site values due to the activities of the community go to that community and not to any private vested interest."

Rev Leyton Richards and Mr C. E. Clarke of Bewdley among others wrote regretting their inability to be present. After the opening speeches there was an interval for tea, and discussion began after the Chairman had moved a resolution in the following terms, which was carried unanimously:

"That post-war reconstruction necessitates a greater production and fairer distribution of wealth; that the monopoly of land which obstructs production and the tariffs and other restrictions which obstruct exchange must be abolished; that an essential means of securing this is to do away with the taxes which fall upon commodities and labour, and to take for public

revenue the land value which is created by the presence and activities of the whole community, thereby throwing open to labour the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man."

The *Birmingham Gazette* as well as the *Post* and the *Mail* gave useful reports and we quote from them. Mr Douglas said that the pre-war cost of widening London's streets, in order to make them better conform to the requirements of modern traffic was £2,000,000 per mile—an extortionate cost largely due to compensating the owners for land made more valuable by the enterprise of the community. Everything we wanted to do depended in the end, he said, on the utilization of land, and if people were to be happily and profitably employed, it was essential they should have access to the land and its natural resources on just and equitable terms. The policy of the League would throw open to labour and capital land necessary for production, and provide valuable opportunities for employment and greater production of wealth.

Mr Edgar Butler pointed out that post-war reconstruction could not possibly have a fair start unless the rating system was revolutionized, and land values were taxed. The system advocated had already been successfully tried in several Dominions.

The resolution was supported by Councillor George Sawyer, ex-M.P. In the subsequent speaking, Mr W. E. Fox (London), Mr George Musson (Derbyshire), Mr A. W. Madsen (London) and a number from Birmingham took part, including Mrs H. Spencer, Mr Jenkinson and Mr Hall besides others who did not give their names, one of them a young man from New Zealand who made a particularly interesting contribution. Points and questions raised in the discussion were answered by Mr Douglas. In his opening remarks the Chairman paid tribute to the memory of Chapman Wright, whom they had lost last March and who had so well and so long served the League in the Midlands as its secretary. At the conclusion a warm vote of thanks was conveyed to those responsible for organizing the Conference. Besides Birmingham and the places already named the following towns were represented: Bromsgrove, Codnor, Littleover, Malvern, New-castle (Staffs), Oldbury, Smethwick and West Bromwich. After the Conference a number of the members adjourned to the Queen's

Hotel having conversations which added much to the value and importance of the afternoon. Gratifying sales of literature were reported as well as enrolment of new members for the League. The *Birmingham News*, 22nd August, gave leading article space to the Rating of Land Values publishing the greater part of the Leaflet that had been circulated with the Conference Papers.

On the 11th August Mr E. E. Sheppard was invited to address the meeting of the Malvern F.O.R., and took for his subject the Taxation of Land Values. These meetings are held at "Rainbow," the home of the Rev John Mellor, Congregational Minister. Mr Mellor presided and there were 16 persons present. Mr Sheppard dealt with the Object of the Taxation of Land Values, gave an illustration of the enhanced value of land caused by the activity of the Birmingham City Council in widening the Bristol Road running to the Lickey Hills, and pointed out that the added value is pocketed by the landowners who have done nothing towards securing this value—which being a communal value should go to the community, in this case the inhabitants of Birmingham. A lively discussion followed and it was suggested that the subject should be pursued further at a later date.

**THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES LTD.,**  
4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.  
Hon Treasurer, W. R. Lester; Secretary, A. W. Madsen; Assistant Secretary, F. C. R. Douglas. (Telephone: Abbey 6665.)

Two new publications are advertised in this issue: *Rating and Taxation in the Housing Scene* by Mr Douglas. The Committee attaches so much importance to this publication that a special reprint of 2,000 copies has been ordered. The other publication is *How the English People Became Landless and How to Regain the Land*. The text of "How the English People Became Landless" appeared in our May issue and the new pamphlet responds to the demand for copies to circulate. The opportunity was taken to supplement the story about the enclosures of common lands by stating "How to Regain the Land," through the Taxation of Land Values. These publications are priced respectively 6d. and 2d. per copy (add 1d. for postage in each case) and per dozen are available at 4s. 6d and 1s. 6d. post free.

Copies of the Essay Prospectus are now available. Many readers are assisting in its distribution in interested quarters, a service which is greatly appreciated. The W. E. A. are circulating copies and are advertising the competition in their journal. The National Adult School Union are similarly interested. All Co-operative Societies who have education committees will be notified. Hints as to what help readers can give are contained in the following letter which is typical of others sending useful names and addresses and making suggestions: "I have passed the Prospectus to — who is taking three courses on Town Planning in the local W. E. A. Classes and is also in touch with the Christian Action Group. He is getting the Prospectus posted on the notice board of the County Library and I will do the same in the Borough Library. I will try to have it put on the notice board in our Technical College and anywhere else I think likely to be of use. (Advice is given how to approach various people.) Can you spare me a dozen more copies? I have friends in other areas who might be interested and who will understand it better if I write direct to them. The Community People would be interested especially the agricultural groups. One sometimes sees advertisements from them for suggestions for books for group study and discussion. The *Community Broadsheet* contains news and addresses of a number of Committees." It is interesting

that this letter comes from a new reader who was browsing at the local library and found there one of the copies of *Progress and Poverty* which the Henry George Foundation presented to many public libraries in celebration of the centenary in September, 1939. It is thus, often by accident, that most zealous advocates are made.

The leaflet *Rate Land Values* is available for general distribution. It is an 8vo four-page sheet. Price 3s. 6d. per 100 post free.

On 30th August Mr Madsen presided at the "Land Problems" session of the Two-day Conference held by the West African Students Union, Camden Town.

The sincere sympathy of his co-members and of the members also of the English League (of which he is hon treasurer) go to Mr H. G. Chancellor in the great bereavement he has sustained in the death of his wife on 17th August. Their marriage had attained 57 years all but six weeks.

**MANCHESTER LEAGUE:** Arthur H. Weller, J.P., Secretary, Pychley, Bean Leach Road, Offerton, Stockport.

Fine weather favoured the many friends who enjoyed the hospitality of Mr and Mrs Hobson at Park Hall on 25th July. Dr S. Vere Pearson, the League's President, received a cordial welcome from members and friends. Among others present were Mrs Sumner of Whalley and others from as far away as Rochdale and Littleborough. A hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess brought a most successful and enjoyable garden party to a close.

The Secretary addressed a meeting of the Co-operative Guild at Chapel-en-le-Frith on 30th July on "Co-operate or Fight." An interesting discussion followed and all the copies of "Protection or Free Trade" taken to the meeting were sold.

In an article in the *Bolton Standard*, 31st July, Councillor H. Eastwood deals with the need for correct definitions and urges readers to study political economy. He says that people who have studied *Progress and Poverty* with a view to exposing its fallacies have usually been converted.

A meeting of pupils about to leave the Manchester secondary schools was addressed by the Lord Mayor in the Manchester Town Hall on 21st July. The City Treasurer drew attention to the Wythenshawe housing scheme and to the great advantage of the increase of land values in that area being appropriated by the public authority. When questions were invited, Cecil Lees, one of the pupils, asked the Lord Mayor if there was any objection to the land value increases in the rest of the Manchester area being taken for the public. The Treasurer replied that a scheme was under consideration. Cecil Lees is a keen student of *Progress and Poverty* and loses no opportunity to interest his fellow students and teachers in the Georgian philosophy.

Mrs F. G. Sumner has advertised in the *Clitheroe Advertiser* the courses of study conducted by the Henry George School of Social Science. The notice says: "Be up to date; be well informed; be by reasoning an expert in matters relating to the earning of a living." Intending students can start now by taking a 10-lesson course, either privately or in groups, or a postal course from headquarters if preferred. Tuition is free. Applicants for the postal course will be passed on to the offices of the School at 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1. Mrs Sumner aims to gather a group locally and will steer a class herself. Her Manchester co-workers congratulate her on this good enterprise wishing it the success it deserves.

Mr Albert Brown of Warrington who is president of the local Labour party reports the affiliation of his branch to this League and the result of his recent contacts is that the Altrincham divisional Labour Party has also affiliated. He continues to get new subscribers for *Land & Liberty* and new

readers also for the books and pamphlets not only by direct sales but also by gifts to libraries, as for example *My Neighbour's Landmark* which he has presented to the libraries of the three Friends' Meeting Houses which he attends.

**YORKSHIRE AND NORTHERN LEAGUE:**  
F. Skirrow, Secretary, 129 Skipton Road, Keighley.

Mr C. H. Smithson recently had an interesting discussion with one of the W.E.A. classes he has been attending in Halifax. On one of the evenings the tutor was unable to attend and give his lecture. At the suggestion of the local secretary and by invitation from the class itself, Mr Smithson filled his place and gave an impromptu lecture on "The Correlation of the Law of Wages with the Law of Rent." There followed an invitation to give the same lecture to another W.E.A. class with a possible third lecture to another W.E.A. class in September. One immediate result has been an increased sale of *Progress and Poverty* and there is the prospect of forming one or more "Henry George Study Circles" from amongst those students in the coming winter months. The *Condition of Labour* has also been found a good seller. Mr Smithson has obtained a parcel of the Prospectus of the Prize Essay Competition and is making local distribution of them to secretaries of the W.E.A., Adult Schools, Co-operative Guilds, etc.

The Secretary has had letters in several Yorkshire papers. Amongst his colleagues who have collaborated so ably and has been an incomparable "comrade in arms" over the many years is Mr Wm Thomson of Keighley, now lying very seriously ill. Every member of the League will join in a generous-hearted message expressing their sympathy and their gratitude for his companionship and the magnificent service he has rendered to the cause of human freedom.

In his *Theory of the Land Question*, p. 125, George Raymond Geiger, PH.D., says "the most thorough review of Bible land laws may be found in Frederick Verinder's *My Neighbour's Landmark*."

These are two well-recommended books. Geiger's *Theory of the Land Question* is published by the Macmillan Co. (New York) and is among our recent importations, selling at 4s. 6d. or 5s. by post. *My Neighbour's Landmark* is a publication of the Henry George Foundation, price 1s., by post 1s. 3d.

#### ADDRESSES

The English League for the Taxation of Land Values; Fredk. Verinder, Secretary, 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1: Telephone: Abbey 6665. At same address:

The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade; Ashley Mitchell, Hon Treasurer. The Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, publishing department. The Henry George School of Social Science.

Portsmouth League for the Taxation of Land Values; H. R. Lee, Hon Secretary, 165 Lawrence Road, Southsea.

Liverpool League for the Taxation of Land Values; Acting Hon Secretary, Mrs Alex Maclean, 6 Darley Drive, Liverpool, 12.

Crosby Henry George Fellowship; C. C. Paton, Hon Secretary, 11 Tudor Road, Liverpool, 23.

Derby League for the Taxation of Land Values; George Musson, 29 Denby Lane, Codnor, Derbyshire.

Henry George Freedom League; Wm. Reid, Secretary, 9 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, C.3. (Phone: Douglas 5599)

Edinburgh Taxation of Land Values League; W. N. Alexander, Hon. Secretary, 63 Baronscourt Terrace, Edinburgh, 8. (Phone: 75306)

Highland League for the Taxation of Land Values; Isaac Mackenzie, Hon Secretary, Queensgate Arcade, Inverness.