

DENMARK

We rejoice at the cabled message Mr. Austin Peake, Cambridge, has received from Mr. Folke of Copenhagen: "Long Live England and Liberty." In conveying it to us Mr. Peake underlined the land and Liberty, that being his interpretation of its inner meaning. It will be happiness indeed to be soon in correspondence with all Danish friends, to link up again our efforts with theirs after the interruption of the last five terrible years.

NEW ZEALAND

The *Commerce Journal*, February 10, official organ of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, devoted two pages to a full statement describing the legislation in New Zealand for the Rating of Land Values and recited under nine heads the benefits to city manufacturers which come by the adoption of that system. The statement is not only the official opinion of the Manufacturers' Committee of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce but it has also been endorsed by the Council of the Auckland Manufacturers' Association. It is likely to have influence on the City Council itself, and Auckland ratepayers generally, to abandon the bad practice of taxing buildings and improvements (still operating in Auckland) and come into line with Wellington and the majority of the boroughs in New Zealand where Land Value Rating is in force.

The evidence submitted by the New Zealand League for the Taxation of Land Values to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Local Body Government, reported in our last month's issue, had prominent notice, and with useful quotations, in the *Standard* of March 1., official organ of the New Zealand Labour Party.

A FAMILY RECORD

Over a century ago a Mr. Matthew Fowlds, who was born nine years before the Battle of Waterloo, was elected to a Parochial Board in Fenwick, Scotland. Then, as now, there was a housing shortage, so Mr. Fowlds proposed that improvements should be exempt from rates in order to encourage the building of cottages. This radical idea was promptly pooh-poohed by the other members who were the local landholding squires. This, it will be noted, was nearly 40 years before the publication of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*. Up to the time of his death in 1907, at the age of 101, Mr. Fowlds was a lifelong Free Trader and Liberal supporter in the Gladstonian tradition. He was one of the last of the Scottish weavers on the old-fashioned hand loom, and in his hundredth year wove a pair of blankets for each of his grandchildren. His son, the Hon. Sir George Fowlds, former Minister of Education in New Zealand, was for over 40 years the leading Henry George advocate and Free Trader, up to the time of his

death in 1934. He was able to assist in getting carried in many places in the Dominion the idea of his father of exempting improvements from rates. Sir George's son, Mr. George Matthew Fowlds, was for ten years editor of the *Liberator*, organ of the movement and is now Chairman of the Auckland Branch of the N.Z. League for the Taxation of Land Values. He represents the Dominion on the General Committee of the International Free Trade and Land Values League, London.

The record of the Fowlds' family in the cause of fundamental reform is paralleled by that of the Lloyd Garrisons of Boston, U.S.A. The first Lloyd Garrison is known world wide because of his long and brilliant association with the Anti-Slavery movement of America, being also editor of its organ, the *Liberator*. The second and third generations of the family were prominent in the Free Trade and Henry George movements and with them the Fowlds' family in New Zealand were proud to claim a close personal friendship.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa as it Might Be, a new book by F. A. W. Lucas, K.C., is heartily welcomed. Coming from an author who has rendered most notable service in the propagation of the Henry George philosophy and in the practical field of legislation especially in the Transvaal as well as in his official reports on Native Affairs, it is a text book for public men and social reformers which we hope will have a wide circulation. The book runs to 72 pages divided into four parts: The Aim, The Means, The Application, and the Realisation. It is distributed, price 3s., by the Central News Agency, Ltd., South Africa. Application, for copies should be made to *The Free People*, Box 4680, Johannesburg, the monthly Journal which Mr. Lucas himself so ably conducts.

The Liberal Liberty League (offices at 4, Great Smith Street, S.W.1), acknowledges with sincere appreciation the special donation of £48 which it has received from "Working Keighley Woman."

On May 31, at 97, Corringham Road, Mr. A. W. Madsen addressed the Hampstead Garden Suburb Liberal Association (Women's Section) on "Land and Its Rent," stressing that Land Value Taxation must apply in town and country alike.

A forthright speech explaining and urging the Taxation and Rating of Land Values, was delivered by Mr. Gendall Hawkins, prospective Liberal candidate for Chiselhurst, speaking at Sidcup, on May 6, and reported extensively in the *Sidcup Times*.

At last! A Free Church that preaches the application of the Gospel—the truth in Land. Please help us to help the Land Values Movement. Donations gratefully received. Write to:

Otley Road Chapel,
165, Otley Road, Bradford

NOTES AND NEWS

At the Sixty-second Annual Meeting of the English League for the Taxation of Land Values, held on May 24, at 4, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1, the President, Mr. F. C. R. Douglas, M.P., in the chair, a resolution was unanimously adopted declaring:

That peace and concord between nations can be permanently established only on the basis of the political and economic freedom of all their citizens, and that this involves both freedom to produce wealth and freedom to exchange it for wealth produced by others; that the restoration and expansion of the economic life of all countries after the war depends upon the same conditions, namely, the abolition of all tariffs, taxes, and restrictions which obstruct the production and exchange of wealth and the raising of necessary public revenue by taxation on the value of land disregarding the buildings, improvements, and other works added by man to the land; and that these measures will ensure that those who use land will not be penalised while those who hold land idle will be deterred from so doing, thus fostering the greatest production of wealth and a more equitable distribution of it by taking for common purposes the value which attaches to land by the presence and activity of all.

The printed Annual Report, copies of which may be had on application, made special mention of the fact that Mr. Fredk. Verinder, now in his 87th year, completed on May 7, 61 years' service as Secretary of the League.

In the election of officers and committee for the ensuing year, Mr. C. W. Loveridge, C.B., was appointed Hon. Treasurer, succeeding in that post Henry George Chancellor, to whose memory, as one of the oldest and best beloved members of the League, the Executive, in its Report, paid a notable tribute. The new Treasurer looks forward to sharing the good will his predecessor so deservedly enjoyed, and he appeals to all members and friends, in their own earnestness of purpose, to aid the League all they can with their voluntary contributions.

The Annual Conference of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Council takes place in Aberdeen on June 1 and 2. Capt. A. R. McDougal, Blythe, Lauder, submits a paper on "The Primary Cause of Bad and Inadequate Housing and Suggested Remedies." By arrangement, the Council has circulated with invitation to the Conference, 600 copies each of the pamphlet "Rating and Taxation in the Housing Scene," and the Committee's leaflet, "Local Taxation in Scotland; Enquiries and Reports," one of the latest reprints from *Land & Liberty*. Capt. McDougal's Paper is available in pamphlet form.

Councillor Sydney Needoff, seconded by Councillor O. Heggis, raised debate in the Manchester City Council, on May 2, on a motion which, after amendment made, proposed that the Council declare it to be its opinion that the de-rating provision [of the 1929 De-rating Act in favour of agricultural land and industrial and freight-transport hereditaments] present an unjust and anomalous anachronism, imposing unfair discrimination in favour of sections of the community who do not need this discrimination extended to them whilst creating hardship and a sense of injustice among the remaining sections of the community, particularly the shop-

2s. A PERPLEXED PHILOSOPHER. Ethics of the Land Question and Examination of Herbert Spencer's recantation of his earlier declarations. By Henry George.