

## NEWS FROM OVERSEAS

The busy activities of Mr. Pavlos Giannelias, a Vice-President of our International Union, include much correspondence, contributions to the Press and approaches to important personalities. An effective arrow for his bow is the progress of the Henry George principle and policy in Denmark, well sharpened with the success achieved at the recent General Election. Thus he teaches the virtues of the Land Value policy and the *necessary* exemption of the "work of man's hands" from taxation—what Denmark has so far done in that regard, the benefit it has gained and its example to other countries. His articles in periodicals like the French *Journée du Batiment* (of the building trade) and the *Journée Vivicole* (of the wine growers) and the Swiss *Journal de Genève*, wherein he also reviews books bearing on land and taxation questions, unfailingly teach the right lesson. To President René Pleven of France he sent a copy of the statement he circulated to the French executive committee of the European Movement and enclosed the French translation of the International Union's Swanwick Resolutions. The Buenos Aires University Faculty of Architecture has named the 8th November to celebrate annually the progress of urban development. As that date is also the anniversary of the famous Declaration at Køge in 1902 of the Danish smallholders in favour of Land Value Taxation, Mr. Giannelias has chosen to link the one with the other by an article specially contributed to *Patros*, the periodical of the Greek community in the Argentine. May the University take notice.

## FRANCE

We have received the October-December quarterly issue of *Terre et Liberté*, organ of the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. This now appears as a printed journal of much distinction and the editor, M. Daudé-Bancel, is to be congratulated on the informing matter it contains. Contributors include J. Novicov, L. Laurat, M. Gracques, Max Toubeua, L. Perruce and Mr. Dan Björner, who gives an account of the recent General Election in Denmark. There are reprints from the writings of the Belgian social philosopher and outstanding Free Trader, the late Henri Lambert, and Charles Gide; and a large part of the report of Henry George's address at the Paris Conference in 1889 is given. (We ourselves have this in pamphlet form under the title *The Real Meaning of Free Trade*—2d.) The text of the Danish smallholders' 1902 resolution is given. Leaders by the Editor and book reviews make up an excellent number. Annual minimum subscription to *Terre et Liberté* is 80 francs, which should be sent to Andre Fevrier, Rue de l'Association, Mesnil Esnard, Seine-Inf.

## SWEDEN

Johan Hansson, leading Henry Georgeist in Sweden and proprietor of the large publishing house Natur och Kultur in Stockholm, is also a Vice-President of our International Union. He publishes the high-class monthly magazine *Samtid och Framtid* (The Present and the Future) which is devoted to the cultivation of high ideals in politics and economics and as a literary production is of the standard of the *Fortnightly* and the *Nineteenth Century and After*. It has eminent contributors; for example, Prof. Wilhelm Röpke, who in the September number writes on "Full Employment—a Deceptive Solution," and Bertrand Russell on "The Mistake of Communism." In this September number the

full Swedish text is given of the Declaration of Principle and Policy adopted by the International Conference at Swanwick, August, 1949, and thus the translations of that document now number fifteen. It is gratifying that it appears under such good auspices in Sweden and we shall hope to see it published in pamphlet form like some of the other translations. *Samtid och Framtid* also tells of the formation and prospects of the Justice League in Sweden "Rättsförbundet" whose aim is to follow the example of Retsforbundet in Denmark, based on precisely the same principles and policy.

We are indebted to Mr. Johan Hansson for two other publications, namely his own new booklet on True Liberalism and the latest production of his publishing house—a masterly treatise on Turgot by the author Gunnar Löwegren. This is a book of such merit and originality that it ought to be published both in England and America, the last part consisting of two important essays by Turgot himself. Mr. Löwegren has been well qualified for his task as he has lived for many years in France and is a specialist on French life and literature of the 18th century. This book is being translated into Danish by Mr. Arge Krapper.

## DENMARK

The Parliamentary Central Office of the Danish Justice League (Retsforbundet) express satisfaction with the account in our previous issue of the Danish General Election. They write that they frequently receive, from other countries, enquiries about the League's programme and its activities, but they have no literature in any language but Danish. They therefore asked for no fewer than 500 copies of LAND & LIBERTY. A special pamphlet has been made for them from the relevant pages of LAND & LIBERTY so that they can inform the rest of the English speaking world about their principles, their political and economic policy and the gratifying success they are achieving.

Mr. Arge Krapper recently made a trip in the Mediterranean and visited several ports in Spain. His extraordinarily interesting travel-story was told in the Danish weekly *Vejen Frem*. Unfortunately, as he now realises, he had not acquainted us with his intentions so that he missed calling on friends in the Georgeist movement to whom he could have had introductions. LAND & LIBERTY has so many contacts in so many countries that readers who are about to go on a journey could well let us know in advance so that we can possibly give them the pleasure of meeting associates and the latter also much happiness. In that way, for example, the tours of the late Vere Pearson made in Italy, Greece and Hungary and in Jamaica, Cuba and up the whole east coast of the United States were greatly enriched.

## RECEPTION TO MR. CHURCHILL

Copenhagen held high festival in its overwhelming reception of Mr. Churchill, greeting him as liberator of the Danish people. Among the tributes paid to him in the press there was one that gave us peculiar delight. On the day of his arrival, October 9, the daily newspaper *Nationaltidende* (National Times) devoted its special feature, "Monday's Debate," to the homage of Dr. Viggo Starcke, parliamentary leader of the Justice Party. The whole occupied four columns of the leading article page and a considerable part was reprinted in the evening paper *Information* with Starcke's and Churchill's

portraits. It was a magnificently well-timed expression of gratitude to Mr. Churchill for what he had done to expose the evils of land speculation. Reference was made to his collected addresses in the book *Liberalism and the Social Problem*. Extensive passages were quoted from his famous speeches on land value taxation in Edinburgh, 1909, and elsewhere; an exposition which at the same time provided the Danish public with much valuable instruction. Emphasis was laid on Mr. Churchill's historic declaration in Derby, January, 1910, that land reform and free trade stood together; they stood together with Henry George, with Richard Cobden, 'and they stood together in the Liberal policy to-day.' Dr. Starcke hailed him as an adherent of the "Just State." There should be a place in Mr. Churchill's Copenhagen scrap-book for this new distinction, in compliment also to Dr. Starcke for his vigilance and in acknowledgment of the final gesture: "we, in Denmark, are all in debt to Winston Churchill, not least we of the Justice League."

#### SPAIN

In our May issue we noticed the article on the Henry George social philosophy contributed by a friend in Barcelona, to *Obra Mercedaria*, journal of the "Comunidad de Padres Mercedarios, de la Capital de Cataluña, Orden Catolica de Rancio Abolengo y Brillante Historia." It was the January-March issue. It was passed on to Mr. J. Rupert Mason who gave it to one of the members attending the Annual Conference of the Henry George School recently held in St. Louis. The latter was so impressed that he wished to have the succeeding articles in that review, because they would certainly interest and influence Catholic clergymen and other theologians. Since then, an equally convincing article has appeared in the April-June number of *Obra Mercedaria* and is entitled "A Social Economic Orientation," a classic treatment of the moral laws governing the production and distribution of wealth, the more welcome because of the reception it thus receives. He commends his readers to make contact and gain more information from the International Union at our address in London. In the last issue of *Obra Mercedaria*, under the title "Pas y Prosperidad" was published a brief report of the Seventh International Conference, followed by the text of the Declaration of Principle and Policy.

In a recent letter our friend speaks highly of the series of articles written by Mr. Baldomero Argente, of Madrid, in the important Barcelona daily newspaper *La Vanguardia* on Social, Political and Economic Themes. He gives a list of 44 of those articles extending from September 10, 1946, to February 26, 1950. The contents are briefly described and judging by them we could see a very valuable publication if all could be gathered in book form.

Another of our Spanish correspondents ever active with his pen in public prints is Mr. E. Lemos Ortega, of Sevilla. The important Madrid weekly periodical, *Nueva Economia Nacional* (New National Economy) gives hospitality to his contributions in its "Open Letters" section, latest being in the August 3 issue on the relation between taxation and poverty.

#### BRITISH WEST INDIES

How the International Union serves its members is shown in a charming letter from a correspondent who was on his way from Venezuela to British Guiana. He had to break his journey in Trinidad (from where he wrote) and on arrival there he was told by the Immigration Officer that as he had no British visa he could not

have permission to land. But among his papers he showed the Officer his membership card of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, thereupon his Swiss Passport was at once stamped. He was told everything was in order and he could enter the country. Be sure to arm yourself similarly with the membership card of the International Union!

#### AUSTRALIA

*Progress* of Melbourne, organ of the Victoria Henry George League, 18 George Parade, Melbourne, now incorporates the *People's Advocate* of Adelaide, which lately went out of publication following the closing of the Adelaide offices of the South Australian League. In Adelaide there had not been found, very unfortunately, the requisite secretarial services, on the retirement of Mr. E. J. Craigie, nor the means to maintain those head offices; but the Kimba branch of the South Australian League continues its good activity. Mr. E. J. Craigie, who on grounds of health found it necessary to give up his editorial and secretarial duties, after more than 25 years of unsparing devotion, nevertheless uses his leisure for much advisory and effective work. The great victory for Site-Value Rating in West Torrens, South Australia, recorded at the poll on July 1 and reported in our September issue, was largely if not wholly due to his efforts; and the story is fully told by him in the July issue of *Progress*. The same issue of that journal has other informing articles. There is striking testimony to the benefit of Site-Value Rating in the town of Echuca, Victoria, as proved by the considerable building progress since the system was adopted in 1947. The figures of the "before and after" speak for themselves. By contrast there is shown the virtual bankruptcy of Phillip Island Shire operating under the old and bad system of rating improvements. It remains to notice the instructive article on Indian Irrigation Works and how they were financed. *Progress* may be had from the address as above; the annual postal subscription is 2s.

The General Council for Rating Reform in Victoria, advocating the rating of site-values instead of improvements, comprises delegates from a large number of bodies throughout the State, including Progress Associations, Ratepayers' Defence Leagues, Rating Reform Leagues, Building Trades Associations, Architects' Research Groups and Branch Labour Parties. Its work is largely taken up with supplying information in areas where there is an interest, publishing explanatory leaflets and providing petition forms for promoting polls in favour of site-value rating where the system is not yet in force. The address is Box 955 G, Melbourne. The Secretary is Mr. A. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., A.M.I.E.(Austr.), who has done and is doing distinguished work in this field as director of the Land-Values Research Group. Most notable and illuminating are his illustrated reports on the Social Effects of Municipal Rating, as the results of studies conducted in Footscray and other towns in Victoria. For the more general reader we commend his pamphlet (price 6d. from our offices) entitled *Public Charges upon Land Values*, describing the effects of local government systems upon the social and economic development of the Australian States.

In a recent letter Mr. Hutchinson had to report an unfortunate set-back. The rule is broken that no place, after instituting the rating of land values, has reverted to the old system of rating on the annual value of land and buildings taken together. Northcote, one of the Melbourne metropolitan boroughs, adopted land value

rating in 1945. A reversion poll was organised by opponents a short time ago and they won by the narrow margin of 6,815 for reversion against 6,687 for retaining the land-values system. But aspects of this poll were as follows: The majority of votes against land-value rating cast by holders of vacant lands largely exceeded the 128 difference between the totals as above (6,815 and 6,687) so that the majority of the resident land users were for retention but were outweighed by the vacants.

### SPREADING THE WORD

The Church Assembly, Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, consists of the House of Bishops—43; the House of Clergy—344; the House of Laity—343; total membership 730, the names and addresses being given in the published list of members. To all of them the Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart, Vicar of Manuden in Essex, has addressed an appropriate letter enclosing and commending the International Union's Resolution on Individual and Common Rights in Land, which was adopted at the Swanwick Conference in August, 1949, and has been separately printed with signatures of the Conference President and Secretary. Mr. Stewart has rendered a timely service deserving emulation, and is gratified to have had a number of important acknowledgments opening discussion on the Human Rights ethics, which is only too agreeable. We shall be happy to hear from any friends who (at no great cost to themselves) can follow his example with a distribution of the Swanwick Conference Human Rights Declarations to members of other religious denominations, lists being provided to us for addressing and mailing. A more ambitious and greatly inviting approach to the churches is offered through the circulation of the late Fredk. Verinder's classic, *My Neighbour's Landmark*, his "Short Studies in Bible Land Laws," of which the Land & Liberty Press, Ltd., has newly published a Memorial Edition. Those to whom such a project appeals and are willing to make special contribution covering the cost, should enter into arrangements with ourselves about the posting of the books, together with such accompanying message as the donor would like to send to the recipients.

By the same token we ask for assistance in the dissemination of our general literature to people in any and every walk of life. Provide names and addresses. Suggest what may be sent. Give what seems fitting or can be afforded towards extending this publicity campaign. Join those who take more than one copy of LAND & LIBERTY so that the spare or spares can be used to recruit new readers and increase the circulation. Help us to help you with the services we place at your disposal.

### THE PEASANTS' REVOLT, 1381

We have been pleased to receive from the publishers, Messrs. Hutchinson, review copy of *The Peasants' Revolt, 1381*,\* by Philip Lindsay and Reg. Groves, which describes one of the greatest popular uprisings in medieval history. Most people, other than students of history, have probably only the sketchiest idea of the background to, and the main incidents and leading figures of, this important episode in our past. Keeping to the known facts, and with a minimum of theorising, Mr. Philip Lindsay and Mr. Groves have written a concise, sober and immensely fascinating account of the Revolt, intended

\**The Peasants' Revolt* by Philip Lindsay and Reg. Groves. Hutchinson & Co., Ltd., Stratford Place, London. Price 18s.

not for the scholar but for the intelligent man in the street with a taste for history. Their plan has been first to give a general picture of life in 14th Century England, without which it is impossible to understand the cause and events of the actual uprising. They describe the feudal system with its serfdom and villeinage; but they do not share the view of many historians that the Revolt was merely an accidental outburst of a deluded, ignorant peasantry. The townspeople were as much in it as the serf: burdened, oppressed, suffering from ruthless churchmen, rapacious merchants, and a corrupt Court, the commoner had long awaited and prepared for extensive and radical revolution.

Having set the background and shown the yeast fermenting, the authors then proceed to a vivid account of the insurrection itself and of the part played by such men as Wat Tyler, John Ball and others. The story is both poignant and inspiring; and it is not without pertinence for our times.

### HARMONY

The law is clear and cannot be defied,  
 Except an evil consequence betide.  
 Men are endowed by Nature and by God  
 With equal rights to life. Not at the nod  
 Of others to exist and earn their bread,  
 But indefeasibly this earth to tread  
 In their own sacred right; and furthermore,  
 In quest of peace to go from shore to shore,  
 Free from the ungracious check imposed by some  
 Who, sent by fate or led by chance, had come  
 Before them, gifted with no greater claim  
 Of free access than those who later came.  
 The equal rights of all to life and liberty  
 Applies with like effect and cogency;  
 To equal right of access to the fount  
 Of life itself, the land. Of small account  
 All other gains denied this one great boon.  
 No gain is lasting, no advance immune  
 Against the unavoidable increase  
 Of social rent, whose workings never cease.  
 This social rent, this value of the soil  
 Above the just return to those who toil,  
 Is evidence of our Creator's heed,  
 Foreseeing all his creatures' future need,  
 For social upkeep based on equity,  
 Preserving peace and building amity.  
 Our early forebears lived in anarchy  
 And knew no law, nor knew society;  
 And being in this unpropitious state,  
 There was no social profit to abate  
 The rigours of each solitary knot  
 In compensation for their cheerless lot.  
 The rise of social rent makes manifest  
 The growth and spread of morals, and the rest  
 Of those redeeming qualities which mark  
 The distance journeyed from the pristine dark;  
 Where Justice and refinement most abound,  
 There will the highest social rent be found.  
 A fit provision made for social needs,  
 Exempt from every blemish that exceeds  
 The strictest concepts of integrity,  
 Sole product of the whole community,  
 This is the law, to each belongs the fruit  
 Of his own industry, beyond dispute.  
 And to the State the social rent is paid,  
 The property of all, which all have made.  
 Thus Justice is upheld and Labour freed  
 From all the State's exactions, and the greed  
 Of all the hosts of hungry parasites  
 Who waste the land with raging appetites.

R. A. GOSSE.