

beginning the student will soon see his way clear, and will learn that a free and normal social order is possible. The people must think, because the people alone can act.

"Our main social threat to-day is totalitarianism, in one form or another. Its chief weapon in this country is taxation, and yet all taxation is destructive and unnecessary. Under the natural social order of freedom, there is sufficient natural revenue for all necessary government, and that revenue is the rent of land. If we take land-rents for our national revenue, and abolish taxes, the consequent freedom of production and exchange will increase our prosperity and raise our moral standard to an amazing degree, and will also abolish war and depression, those destructive elements which if unchecked will soon end our civilisation.

"Social Science means freedom and hope. The School is dedicated to that objective. Everybody is invited to co-operate with us in the spread of knowledge. The School's work is entirely educational, and it takes no part in political activities, although its members are free to do so if they wish.

"The effect of social science in the international sphere will be most marked. By realising that the earth is the heritage of the whole human race, and that obstructions to trade and free travel cause poverty and war, we can raise the banner of the rights of the people in all countries against oppression and restriction and thus promote the harmony and interests of all nations.

"The Australian School of Social Science will be represented by myself and others at the International Conference in Denmark in July, 1952. All listeners can also do their part in promoting enthusiasm for justice, freedom and international co-operation."

## THE HAPPY TAXPAYER

With acknowledgments we reprint here in full and without comment a leading article from the *Manchester Guardian*, December 19:—

A taxpayer and his money are not soon parted in many parts of the Continent. The Italian Finance Minister has lately found a disappointing response to his appeal to the taxpayer's conscience—seasoned though the appeal was with threats and promised rewards. In Hungary, however, they order this matter very efficiently. The Hungarian Vice-Premier, Mr. Rakosi, denounced in a speech broadcast on December 1 a peasant who had wilfully evaded taxation. A week later the peasant in question, Mr. Peter Bessenyei, was brought to the microphone. Mr. Rakosi's criticism, he said, was "a truly great honour." It had struck him like "a healthy slap in the face from his father." He had not heard it himself, but his wife had, and she had been ill with grief and shame ever since. The villagers were laughing at him in the street. He had already paid a part of what he owed and hoped to pay the rest within a fortnight. In future he would, if spared, mend his ways. He asked only that Comrade Rakosi should go on watching over him and praise him if he should one day prove worthy. To this end he now challenged all the farmers in the country to a tax-paying competition. Mr. Bessenyei's expiation defies comment. Perhaps the onlooker had better "hasten to laugh for fear he should have to weep"—that is, if he can laugh.

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## PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

### SITE VALUE RATING REPORT

Mr. Gibson asked the Minister of Housing and Local Government (*H. of C.*, November 20) when he expected to receive the report of the Committee on the Rating of Site Values; and if he would make the report available to the House immediately it was received in view of its importance and interest to Local Authorities. Mr. H. MacMillan: Secretary of State for Scotland and I have just received the Committee's report and are arranging for it to be published.

### THE DEVELOPMENT CHARGE

Asked by Mr. Grimond whether the Government will amend the Town and Country Planning Act so as to abolish the Development Charge in rural areas, Mr. H. MacMillan, Minister of Housing and Local Government, said that he was not yet in a position to make any statements about possible amendments of the Act.—(*H. of C.*, November 12.)

Are we to take it that Mr. Grimond, the Liberal M.P., is satisfied with the operation of the Development Charge in *urban* areas? If so he should have conversations with the President of his Party, Mr. Philip Fothergill, for whose views see page 2 of this issue.

### THE HAND OF BUREAUCRACY

Sir T. Dugdale, Minister of Agriculture, answering questions (*H. of C.*, November 15) said that on October 1, 1951, the number of farmers under supervision for failure to comply with the rules of good husbandry was 1,584. The number actually dispossessed on grounds of bad husbandry for the 12 months ended September 30, 1951, was 68.

In reply to a question put by Sir Waldron Smithers on the same day, the Minister revealed the extent of County Agricultural Executives' bad husbandry. The accounts of the Committees for 1948-49 and 1949-50 disclosed losses on farming operations of £909,913 and £680,322 respectively; for 1950-51 the farming losses were £197,761.

### IDLE LAND

Asked how many acres of land in Huntingdonshire were considered to be unnecessarily prevented from being cultivated owing to the presence of derelict aerodrome and hutted camp foundations and structures, etc., the Minister of Agriculture replied that about 1,200 acres of agricultural land were sterilised in the manner mentioned and that to remove the obstructions would cost far more than would be justified by the gain in food production.

We wonder whether land hungry smallholders would take the same view. This "sterilised" and apparently worthless land should be offered at a nominal rent to all comers to let them try their hand. Pioneers in worse circumstances have not failed.

### STATE FARMING

The Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. J. Stuart (*H. of C.*, November 13), asked by Mr. H. Fraser how much land was farmed by his department of Agriculture, gave the figure of 131,917 acres of land. Asked further how much of that land was *owned* by his department of Agriculture, Mr. Stuart said "The Secretary of State owns 508,057 acres of land under Agricultural powers . . . in addition, the Secretary of State owns 937,787 acres of land under Forestry powers.

### COST OF POINTS-RATIONING

Major Lloyd George stated (*H. of C.*, November 21) that the points rationing scheme would cost the Ministry about £380,000 a year with 1,000 staff and he added that the figures do not include the expenses to the trade which needs to employ many more people when the scheme is in operation. He did not intend to re-introduce points-rationing.

The sequences and consequences of Governmental interference in what is the business of the people are written large in our economic system, e.g., the artificial boosting of the value of the pound leads to a shortage of dollars, shortage of dollars leads to a cut in imports of rationed foods, the cuts lead to unfair distribution of what is available and now it is suggested that this should lead to an expenditure of £380,000 per year for a points rationing scheme!