

## INTERNATIONAL UNION NOTES AND NEWS

### Fourth Esperanto Broadcast

Succeeding the three broadcasts already given from Esperanto-Fako in Rome, the fourth is being given on Wednesday, November 28, mid-European time 18.30 to 18.50; British time 5.30 to 5.50 p.m.; short wave lengths 25.40 m. (11,810 kc/s) and 29.92 m. (9,575 kc/s). The text is provided by Mr. F. R. Jones, of Liverpool, and on this occasion he deals with "Henry George's Reform in Practice." The previous talks in the series dealt with Henry George's life, his social philosophy, his simple reform and its effects. In the talk on November 28 (the text of which we will later publish in English), the legislation is described which has established land value taxation or prepared the way for it in Denmark, New Zealand, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Transvaal, Cape Province, Orange Free State, Natal, Rhodesia, Kenya, Canada and Pennsylvania. Postcards have been sent to some hundred of our Esperanto correspondents in a number of countries, to be sure to listen in.

Esperanto-Fako is itself keenly interested in these talks and in the dissemination of George's teachings. It is largely at their instigation that so much has been accomplished; they themselves requested the series following the many commendations they received after the first broadcast. On the occasion of the third talk, finding the submitted material insufficient to fill the allotted twenty minutes, of their own volition they read a number of paragraphs from the Esperanto translation of the Swanwick Conference Declaration of the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

### Victoria Successes

*Progress* (Melbourne) in its August issue gives further information on the three successes establishing or confirming the system of Land Value Rating which we reported in our previous issue. The results of the ratepayers' polls, held on August 25, were:

	Land Value Rating	
	For	Against
Heidelberg City .....	14,211	7,382
Ringwood Borough .....	1,905	1,396
Kew City .....	6,027	5,348

The vote in Kew City was the response to an agitation by opponents who had demanded a poll aimed at abandoning the Land Value Rating system which has been in operation there since 1947. It was adopted then by vote, giving a majority of 206. Now it is confirmed by a majority of 679.

Heidelberg City and Ringwood Borough were adoption polls. The success at Heidelberg is the greatest single victory for Land Value Rating that has taken place in the State of Victoria and is a tribute to the sustained effort of the numerically small but most enthusiastic members of the Heidelberg Ratepayers' Defence League who have fought this campaign steadily since their defeat at the poll four years ago. Then they had lost by 17 votes in 12,235.

In the Greater Melbourne area there are 30 cities and one borough (Ringwood) and of these 31 bodies, 16 now levy their municipal rates on the value of the land alone, exempting buildings and improvements. They cover altogether 104,400 acres of the 160,000 acres of the total metropolitan area. They comprise: Box Hill, Brunswick,

Camberwell, Caulfield, Chelsea, Coburg, Essendon, Heidelberg, Kew, Moorabbin, Mordialloc, Northcote, Oakleigh, Preston, Ringwood and Sandringham. The other 15 Melbourne municipalities, including Melbourne City, continue to levy their rates on the old basis of the annual value of land and buildings taken together.

Outside the metropolitan area, the land-value system obtains in Newton & Chilwell City, Hamilton City, Echuca Borough, Portland Town, and in the Shires of Dandelong, Frankston & Hastings, Rosedale and Yea.

### India

In the train of India's newly won political independence comes an awakening to the urgent need to establish economic freedom by levelling tariff barriers and other impediments to trade and by throwing open the land on equal terms to India's land-starved millions.

In Bombay the Libertarian Socialist Institute endorse and have adopted as their own the Declaration of Principle and Policy adopted by the International Union at its seventh international conference held at Swanwick in 1949. The declaration is printed in full, and with the Union's resolution on individual and common rights in land, in the current issue of *The Libertarian*, the Institute's quarterly journal devoted to libertarian philosophy and the social sciences. The principal aims and objects of the Institute are introduced in these words: "We offer no blue prints of future society, no handed-down programme, no ready-made philosophy. We do not ask you to follow us. We ask you to stop depending on others for leadership and to think for yourselves." Members of a society which speaks with the authentic voice of freedom may be expected to subject the philosophy and practical proposals of this Union to a most searching analysis. Such men can be relied upon to advance the work of this Union loyally and tirelessly once they are convinced intellectually of the justice and practicability of our principles and policy.

In Madras, Mr. K. L. Kannappa Mudaliar, an importer and retailer of books dealing with philosophy and the social sciences, has established a branch of the Henry George School of Social Science. Trading under the name "Progress and Poverty," a non-profit-making subsidiary specially formed to spread knowledge of George's teachings, he has inserted advertisements of George's works in a number of national newspapers. Copies have been sent to the press for review and to men prominent in Indian politics and cultural life. Already this has resulted in the sale of all the books sent to India by us, and more have been ordered. Purchasers are asked to correspond with the Henry George School in London or New York, but later it is intended to establish classes and postal tuition courses in India.

### Spain

It is pleasing to receive from correspondents in Spain the evidence of much useful and informing publicity on the economics and social philosophy of Henry George. One of them writes enclosing copies of the daily paper the *Andalucia Mail* with articles by a new writer using the pen-name Martin Bachiller. These articles treat of Society and Social Classes, the Individual and Human Values, the State and Economics, and Capital and Labour, and under each of these titles the principles of economic

freedom are made clear. This new writer, our correspondent explains, is a recent convert to Georgeism and has come from the Socialist camp.

Among the several periodicals and journals we have received are the Madrid weekly *Nueva Economía Nacional*, September 6, with articles on Capital and Capitalism by Martin Bachiller and on the Solution of the Social Problem by Francisco Alvarez Urbano. In the Catholic journal *Obra Mercedaria*, Barcelona, June quarter, Jose Anglada Prior continues his contributions with a powerful article on the Papal Encyclicals of Leo XIII and Pius XI in relation to the position of Dr. Edward McGlynn, whose "Doctrinal Statement" is being quoted in full. (Incidentally it is gratifying now to have the Spanish of this historic statement—the text of it is given in the Appendix to the edition of George's *Condition of Labour*, published by the Land & Liberty Press, Ltd.) Another writer deals faithfully with the question of what is "The Just Wage?"

In the agricultural journal *Campo*, of Sevilla, August issue, Emilio Lemos Ortega discusses in a two-page article the Origin and Justification of Interest, an economic lesson on the three factors of production and the three channels along which wealth is distributed. The ideas of those who would "suppress interest" are well examined. The article has been reprinted in pamphlet form and it carries an advertisement of George's works, in the translations by Baldomero Argente, and all obtainable from the Beltran Library in Madrid. This encouraging post-bag from Spain contained two other prints which our Spanish co-workers are circulating. One is the article by Lemos Ortega on the Maladjustment in the Distribution of Wealth, lifted from the Madrid periodical the *Financial World* and the other statement on the Future of our Civilisation by Dr. E. W. Culley, of Melbourne (translation by Giannelias) with added exhortation to communicate with the International Union in London and with the Henry George School of Social Science in New York.

### France

The current issue of *Terre et Liberté* quarterly journal of the French League for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade contains within its 24 printed columns a number of highly informative articles, some well-pointed comment on various incidents and statements and encouraging news about the movement in various lands. Besides the Editor, Mr. A. Daudé-Bancel, the contributors include M. Gracques, Max Toubeau, G. Laurens, A. Labriola, Fernard Planche and P. Giannelias. Central articles are those by the Editor on the Agrarian Problem in Russia and by Fernard Planche on Impressions of New Caledonia, the French colony in the Pacific. The population is 56,000 and the island could easily sustain half a million to a million people but that landlordism reigns supreme, enriching the few and impoverishing the many. Among the large estates are 660,000 acres monopolised by 95 proprietors. The article is an extract from one appearing in the newspaper *L'Unique*, of Orleans, copies of which may be had on request.

The press publicity of our French collaborators is shown in the frequent clippings we receive: Max Toubeau in a long biography of Henry George in *La République du Centre*, of Orleans; Daudé-Bancel and P. Giannelias in successive issues of the *Swiss Co-operator*, of Berne; the same in the *Building Journal*, of Paris; and Daudé

Bancel himself in extensive contributions like "Socialist evolution in the last 50 years" in the *Socialist Review*, of Paris, and "Where is China going?" (the land question well discussed) in *Paris-Normandie*, of Rouen.

*Terre et Liberté* is warmly commended to all our readers. It merits their sympathetic support. Minimum annual subscription is 80 francs, payable to André Fevrier, Rue de l'Association, Mesnil-Esnard, Seine Inférieure. Alternatively, send remittance, 2s. 6d. (or more) to 4 Great Smith Street, S.W.1, for us to forward.

### Pennsylvania

To commemorate its 25th anniversary and at the same time to celebrate the legislative success in Pennsylvania which has given 47 cities in the State optional powers to levy local taxes on land values (see L. & L., July, 1951), the Henry George Foundation of America held a "Victory Conference" at the Park Sheraton Hotel, New York, October 5 and 6. The attendance was large and was representative of many of the States. It was right that the Foundation should take credit for the victory in Pennsylvania, since the Act giving the optional powers was largely the result of the well-directed campaign it conducted. It was for other States now to emulate the example and the Conference discussed all ways and means thereto. The two days' Conference comprised six sessions at which addresses were delivered on relevant aspects of the general theme of land values as the first source of public revenues, the moral basis of that principle, its practical application, its social and economic effects. Description of its operation in various countries provided arguments of the most convincing kind. But the main concern of all present was how to take advantage of the optional powers now conferred on those cities in Pennsylvania and what must be done so that the Councils and Aldermen shall act upon them. In that respect the campaign has really only begun, and persuasion will require an intense and sustained effort for long ahead. This the Conference fully appreciated. At the banquet which closed the proceedings a Fund was opened with pledges amounting to \$3,000. Members of the Foundation returned home greatly encouraged to the big task they have undertaken.

It is interesting to know that on the following day the top radio programme "Invitation to Hearing" devoted its half-hour to a look at *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George. The listening audience would be many millions. H. D. Gideouse and Leo Cherne discussed the book and its influence, they agreeing that George and Marx are the opposite poles of their era. Despite a certain digression by the speakers into the "necessity" of taxing earned incomes these days ("conditions are so different now from what they were in 1879") the broadcast, all in all, will win many new friends and stimulate wide reading and study. The broadcast will be printed and copies of it are to reach us.

### Japan

During the recent peace-treaty negotiations in San Francisco, Mr. J. Rupert Mason met several important Japanese personalities and discussed with them the political, economic and sociological bearing of the Henry George policy—free trade and land value taxation—as applied to their country. He was heard with much sympathy and understanding and was glad to learn that