

than half the land. There are 153 people who own, on the average, over 3,000 acres. On the other hand, 80,000 peasants have less than one quarter of an acre each on which they make their livings."

Mr EDMUND HARVEY (Combined English Universities): "When the great Act of Emancipation was passed, to which the Colonial Secretary last month made allusion, some £20,000,000 was paid to the slave owners in compensation for the loss of their property, but no payment was made to the slaves. Nothing was done for the ex-slaves, who were left dependent for a living upon the good will of their former owners. A great number of the reformers who pressed for the emancipation were bitterly disappointed with the Act because it compensated the slave owners but did nothing for the slaves, and because it enacted a period of seven years' apprenticeship, which was virtually a prolongation for that period of slavery. The economic position of the ex-slaves was never put right. The result is that in our West Indian Colonies the vast mass of the population is landless. In the particular case of St. Kitts, where the whole of the labouring population is without any kind of landed property. There is a very limited number of land owners, and the labourers have their holdings at the good will of the owners of the big estates and are entirely dependent upon them for their work and their right to have their homes."

Mr DAVID ADAMS (Consett): "The question of land tenure is one of fundamental importance, to which the Stockdale Report certainly does not give the weight that should attach to it. There is no question of any further serious redistribution of land to be made available to the majority of the people in order to grow a substantial part of their foodstuffs. Otherwise, as at present, after a period of three or four months when the work on the plantations practically comes to an end there will be a restoration and continuance of the poverty that prevails."

In July 1938 we quoted from the 1897 Royal Commission which observed that: "The settlement of the labourers on the land has not as a rule been viewed with favour in the past by persons interested in the sugar estates. What suited them best was a large supply of labourers entirely dependent upon being able to find work on estates and consequently subject to their control and willing to work for low rates of wages."

The Sugar Commission, after quoting this observation of their predecessors thirty-three years previously say: "It is manifest that where the economy of a community depends practically entirely, as that of Barbadoes, St Kitts and Antigua still does, upon a single industry carried on by the employment of wage labourers on estates, the public policy of the class most influential in guiding the government must almost inevitably incline to this economic view. If they encouraged action which, in their belief, must tend to diminish their labour supply they would be cutting away the branch upon which they sit." The facts could hardly be more brutally presented.

## LAND PRICES SOARING

THE *Daily Express*, 17th May, observes that "agricultural land values rise rapidly as the demand by big moneyed people for first-class farms outstrips the supply. More and more business men, chairmen and directors of city companies, are seeking to invest in farm land and consider any price worth paying in return for the security and the soundness of the investment."

Evidence of the keen demand is plain at every auction. Recently the Bucks Agricultural Committee offered a 225-acre holding it had cultivated as a war-time measure. Bidding started at £5,000 and rose quickly to £10,500 when the farm was sold. In Worcestershire an average of £169 per acre was given for 36½ acres at Lineholt; in Devonshire where a few years ago farming was regarded as cheap, holdings of about 120 acres are worth between £7,000 and £8,000.

The *Glasgow Herald* has reported that the 102-acre farm of Craigash, near Milngavie, in Stirlingshire, was offered for sale at the upset price of £5,000. The sale attracted a large company, the bidding was brisk and the farm fetched £10,600.

More examples of the high prices of house property are reported in the *Scotsman* of 29th April and 6th May, the prices often exceeding "the wildest dreams of the sellers" when the "upset price" is compared with that actually obtained. The following are some Edinburgh instances:

A bungalow at 17 Frogston Road West, assessed rent £54, feu duty £8 3s. 2d., upset price £1,700, sold for £2,320. Equal to more than 50 years' purchase of the rental less feu duty.

A first-floor flat at 52 Arden Street, assessed rent £40, feu duty £4 2s., upset price £950, sold for £1,110. Equal to 31 years' purchase.

A semi-detached villa at 23 Ravelston Dykes, assessed rent £57, feu duty £6 10s., upset price £1,650, sold for £1,830. Equal to 36 years' purchase.

A ground-floor flat at 3 Campbell Avenue, assessed rent £50, feu duty £4 10s. 9d., upset price £1,450, sold for £1,730. Equal to 37 years' purchase.

A first-floor flat at 5 Learmouth Terrace, assessed rent £60, feu duty £7 4s., upset price £1,850, sold for £1,960. Equal to 39 years' purchase.

The *Scotsman* of 24th June reports the sale of the bungalow at 29 Cumlodden Avenue, Ravelston Dykes; assessed rent £60, feu duty £8, upset price £2,500, sold for £2,720. Equal to 52 years' purchase.

Only a few years ago, we are informed, dwellings like that at Campbell Avenue were to be bought for £900 to £1,000. Not only is the scarcity of housing responsible for the rising prices, but "money is seeking security in fixed property."

"Our country for sale" is a thought prompted by a glance at the advertisements in *The Times* from day to day of the estates that are in the market, many of them comprising farms and holdings, and the homes of ordinary mortals. Thus, in Scotland in Ross-shire the estate of Rosehaugh is offered, 8,000 acres including 41 farms, many feus and site rents and valuable salmon fishing; 50,000 acres of "glorious scenery" in Inverness-shire, an

"agricultural investment and sportsman's paradise," with numerous well-equipped tenanted farms and crofts, and properties and feus in two delightful villages; 2,600 acres in Argyllshire with three farms, several houses and cottages "together with valuable sporting over the whole estate and several miles of fishing" in river and loch, and a private pier and anchorage rights; in the county of Angus two estates, one of 823 and the other of 600 acres. And, taken together, in four issues of *The Times* between 13th and 25th May, the sales of eight estates in the counties of Cardigan, Huntingdon, Lincoln, Stafford, Surrey, Sussex, Worcester and York would cause no less than 7,475 acres to pass from one private hand to another.

## THE TRANSVAAL

OUR COLLEAGUE Mr Mather Smith strikes an encouraging note in his report on activities in the Transvaal:

"*The Free People*, our campaign organ, started publication in both official languages (English and Afrikaans) in July, 1937. For the first three years it was published monthly at 1d., but since the war started, owing to paper shortage and to the fact that many of our subscribers had joined the Army, we have had to turn it into a quarterly and raised the price to 3d. We now have subscribers in all parts of the Union and the paper is distributed, free of cost, by us to the Camps in the Union and up North; we have also subscribers in England, the United States, Argentine Republic, the Gold Coast, Canada, Barbadoes, Australia, New Zealand and Rhodesia, and, before the war, in Holland, the Argentine Republic, Roumania and Denmark, in which country the teachings of Henry George, and their application, had gone further than anywhere else on earth. Articles and extracts from articles from *The Free People* have been reproduced in papers in England, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. That the teachings of Henry George, as they might best be applied in South Africa, are spreading throughout the country, may be seen in the many letters on the land question which now appear in many of the English and Afrikaans papers published in the Union. Information Officers in the Army, having seen copies of our paper, have invited Mr F. A. W. Lucas to address meetings at various camps within reach of Johannesburg, and he has now spoken at twelve in the Transvaal. He also addressed meetings of soldiers at five camps in the O.F.S. Most of these meetings were well attended and led to interesting discussions. Subscribers are increasing steadily in number, but, as most of the issue in Afrikaans and a considerable part of the English edition are given away free, mostly to the Army, the paper would not pay its way were it not for the public-spirited generosity of the growing number who give more, several a lot more, than the bare subscription. Most of our subscribers in the Army are officers and non-commissioned officers. It is, however, the rank and file who will suffer most from the bad economic conditions which, unless they are averted in the way we, and we only, show how they may be averted, will follow this war as they followed all other wars. Unless these men and women arouse them-

selves and try and do a bit of thinking and follow it up by right action, they will have only themselves to blame if they find themselves out of work and in poverty when the war is over."

*The Free People* published quarterly, subscription 1s 6d per annum, may be sent to Mather Smith, Box 4680, Johannesburg.

## CANADA

MR HERBERT T. OWENS, Ottawa, sends the following interesting extract from the 1838 Durham Report, Vol A, Appendix B, pages 5 and 6. It cites the report of Charles Buller, Commissioner:—

"The Crown Reserves were the result of a plan of the Executive Council, suggested, it is said, by the President of the Council, a refugee loyalist from the United States, who seeing that the disputes which had terminated in the independence of the thirteen provinces, arose ostensibly out of questions of revenue, imagined that all such disputes might be avoided in the Canadas, by creating an independent source of revenue sufficient to provide for the expenses of the government without

any necessity for having recourse to the imposition of taxes. For this purpose he proposed that a reserve should be made for the Crown equal to that for the clergy; and it was imagined that as the settlement of the country advanced, this reserve would yield a large annual revenue, and obviate all questions of taxation, by rendering the government independent of the people. . . .

"The crown and clergy reserves were not merely allowed to lie waste, but they were carefully disposed in such a manner as to separate most completely the actual settlers, and thus to obstruct in the greatest possible degree the progress of settlement."

In his covering letter Mr Owens writes: "It was in browsing through the famous Durham Report of 1838 that I came across this suggestion of raising public revenue which had in it the germ of the right idea. I have not yet been able to identify to my own satisfaction who the proponent might be. It would seem to be the Chief Justice of either Upper or Lower Canada named William Smith whom the description fits accurately, but I haven't located yet any document of his in which the proposal is contained.

The sorrow is that his suggestion was not taken more seriously, for if it had there would have been fewer sordid pages in Canadian history."

Mr Owens is doyen of the staff employed by the United Kingdom Air Liaison Mission and as he says "has been able to introduce some of the British personnel to *Land & Liberty* who had come to Canada to discover that there is such a periodical!" Despite gruelling work and long hours he has managed to take study groups through a course of *Social Problems* and the *Science of Political Economy*. Mr Owens wants a copy of the book *Pioneers of Land Reform* (Spence, Ogilvie and Payne); so do we, and several copies. Can any readers of *Land & Liberty* oblige?

## LORD WEDGWOOD

The many friends of Lord Wedgwood earnestly hope for his steady recovery from his recent grave illness so that he may soon be back in his place in the counsels of the Nation. He is now out of hospital and the latest bulletins speak of continuous improvement.

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

The new edition of *Progress and Poverty* will be ready in the course of this month and we are ready to take orders now. The book is in stiff paper covers, price 2s 6d net or 2s 9d by post. As stated last month, the trade discounts on the books supplied by the Henry George Foundation have been revised. Requisite information will be given on application or before orders are entered.

Deeply regretted is the loss by death of George Green of Belfast, who has devoted himself with great ardour to the advancement of the Henry George principle and policy. He was a member of the Committee and a generous supporter, with steadfast attachment also to the International Union for the Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, which with Mr Douglas he represented at the Henry George Centenary and International Conference in New York, September, 1939.

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

A joint meeting of the Manchester and Liverpool Leagues has been arranged to take place on 26th June in the Friends' Meeting House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington.

On Councillor S. Needoff's initiative an informal meeting of members of the Manchester City Council took place on June 2nd. Those present—both ladies and gentlemen—were members of various political parties and were met to discuss the advisability of introducing a Council debate on the rating of land values. It was felt that in view of the prospect of an early termination of hostilities such action should be taken at the earliest date possible. Mr. D. J. J. Owen addressed the meeting and the proposal was enthusiastically supported.

In the quarterly *Quaker Commentary* for June appears a lengthy report of Mr A. W. Madsen's address on "Social Security and the Land Question" in the Stockport Friends' Meeting House on April 30th. As the *Quaker Commentary* goes into 1,750 Quaker homes in Lancashire and Cheshire this can be regarded as first-class propaganda.

Readers of these notes who reside in or near

to Manchester are requested to reserve Saturday August 14th for the League's annual Garden Party which Mr and Mrs Hobson have kindly promised to give at Park Hall, Little Hayfield, near Stockport. Particulars gladly forwarded on application.

Our member, Mr J. B. Hain, in Newcastle-on-Tyne, has addressed two meetings locally on "What is Equal Opportunity to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." He found he had to answer many questions. He has asked to see that *Land & Liberty* is placed on the reading tables of the local Public Libraries.

LIVERPOOL LEAGUE: Correspondence Secretary, Miss N. McGovern, 74 Osmaston Road, Prenton, Birkenhead.

Notices have been sent to members of the meeting to be held in The Friends' Meeting House, Buttermarket Street, Warrington, on Saturday, 26th June. It is hoped a good number will attend in order to discuss future united action.

Mr J. W. Foley will speak at the Friends' Institute, Islington, Liverpool, on the 12th July, 7.30 p.m. Subject: "The Economic Basis of Pacifism." League members are invited to attend and to join in questions and discussion.

The Crosby Henry George Fellowship meets now the first Wednesday in each month, 7.30 p.m., at 48, Kingsway, Waterloo. C. C. Paton, Hon. Secretary, 11, Tudor Road, Liverpool 23. Subject for July: "Effects of the Remedy." Members hoping to attend are asked to re-read the four chapters of Book IX of *Progress and Poverty* so that there will be a full discussion.

In preparation is a list of students willing to attend a study circle within their own district. If members have any further names and addresses, please let me have these for listing. Experience has shown that the study-circle method is an effective way of spreading the truth of Henry George and gaining strength for the movement.

CASTLE DOUGLAS HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP: Hon. Secretary (*pro tem.*) Mr E. J. McManus, c/o Leaths Cottage, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire.

The second meeting of the Fellowship was held at 19, King Street on Sunday, the 23rd May at 3 p.m., Mr Wm Bolton presiding. Mr E. J. McManus opened the discussion on "Wages and Prices," defining the terms

Rent, Wages, Value and Price and showing what operated to increase or to reduce prices. At the 27th June meeting, Mr James Cook will open a discussion on "Does the Beveridge scheme offer the people bread or a stone?" after which will be discussed other subjects raised by members without previous notice.

Among letters to the newspapers we note from our press cuttings "J.W.B." (3) in the Yorkshire Observer on "money" and the land question; C. H. Jones in Time and Tide on the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Sydney North Shore Bridge; A. J. Mace in the Clydebank Press on unnecessary housing costs with examples of high priced land; "Justice" in the Flint County Herald on the old Land Tax; G. D. McKellen in the Evening Sentinel on reconstruction and increased land values; C. A. Gardner in the *Western Mail* and the *Cardiff Suburban News*.

## 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.

Welsh League for the Taxation of Land Values: Eustace A. Davies, Hon. Secretary, 27 Park Place, Cardiff. Telephone: 1563. Hon. Organizing Secretary: I. T. Rees, 2 Southey Street, Cardiff. Hon. Treasurer: C. A. Gardner, 217 Allensbank Road, Cardiff. Yorkshire and Northern Land Values League: F. Skirrow, Secretary, 129 Skipton Road, Keighley.

Midland Land Values League; John Bush, President, 20 Cannon Street, Birmingham, 2. Portsmouth League for the Taxation of Land Values; H. R. Lee, Hon. Secretary, 13 Lawrence Road, Southsea.

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

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

Edinburgh Taxation of Land Values League: Hon. Secretary (*pro tem.*) A. Davis, 8 Kirkhill Terrace, Edinburgh, 9. Telephone: 43588.

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