

Mr. Lemos Ortega quotes with much relevance the statements of eminent men, including Garafa, of Naples, in 1460, the German W. Von Schroder in 1686, Emile Girardin, of France (1806-1880), who said, "There are only two taxes, the *unique* and the *inique* (the single tax and the unjust tax); also Mirabeau, of France, and Centani, Campomana and Florez Estrada, of Spain.

Most encouraging is that Father Bienvenido Lahoz, the Prior of Barcelona, a thorough-going Georgeist, started off the year 1950 with a multipage section devoted to the philosophy of Georgeism in the magazine of the Order, *Obra Mercedaria*. The articles are entitled "A Social Economic Orientation" and "A Prisoner's Distractions." We are indebted to Mr. Anglada for a copy of this well-produced journal and we can see in the articles much acquaintance with the literature of the Henry George movement. There are references to Dr. Edward McGlynn and his doctrine, to the works of Henry George, Louis F. Post, Max Hirsch, Baldomero Argente, and Senador Gomez; and special mention is also made of the address by Mr. Wilfrid Harrison entitled "Why Liberty?"

These articles lend themselves to translation, for our Spanish colleagues are distinguished by their scholarship. This applies no less to the work of Mr. Santiago Serra, who has sent us a copy of the "Open Letter" he addressed to the Bishop of Barcelona, Dr. Gregorio Modrego, bearing upon the Bishop's pastoral letter "Homes, Bread and Work" recently released in the Spanish daily papers. Mr. Santiago Serra takes as his model Henry George's book *The Condition of Labour*, the historical open letter to Pope Leo XIII. Mr. Serra and his colleagues estimate that if his letter could be translated and published it would serve an excellent purpose in religious circles in many countries outside Spain; but the Spanish original text could also be widely circulated in other Spanish-speaking countries.

From Cuba, vice-president of the International Union Rogelio Casas Cadilla sends us articles by himself that have appeared in *Grafica Moderna* of Havana and in the official bulletin of the Merchants of Colon. These are powerful statements in favour of Free Trade under the caption "No Tariffs, No Passports" and "Single Tax on the value of land"; convincing arguments for the free movement of goods and persons and liberating the land from the injustices of the existing land tenure. Our Spanish friends will be delighted to know of these activities by Mr. Cadilla just as he will be glad to know of theirs; and all these activities provide a remarkably useful avenue through which to spread the message of the International Union's Declaration of Principle and Policy.

## AUSTRIA

The Union of Austrian Land Reformers which had been revived in 1946, elected an Executive which did a good deal of work to get restarted under very unfavourable conditions. On March 11, 1950, a general meeting was held in Vienna and among reports from the Executive were references to the action taken in providing a memorial to the Austrian Georgeist pioneer, Siegfried Sitte, when at the same time there was a Town Planning Exhibition where Camillo Sitte (the father), the pioneer town-planner, was commemorated. Dr. Knab, of Salzburg, had continued to spread a knowledge of Henry George's teachings in the Western zone of Austria and Dr. Kastner had made successful contacts with leaders of the Austrian Democratic Political parties. It was gratifying to all that Mr. Giannelias, travelling from France, had been able to attend. Among those elected to the new Executive were Mr. Schwarzl, Dr. Neumann, Dr. Pscholka and Dr. Kastner. An important change was made in the name of the Organisation which is to be called the Austrian Union for Land Policy.

## CONFERENCE OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

The success of the Week-end School of the Henry George School of Social Science held at Pasture Wood, near Dorking, in Surrey, on May 6 and 7, surpassed all expectations. There were 59 resident members, mostly students and tutors of the Henry George School in London, but there came also adherents of the movement from other parts of the country including Devonshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire. The Schools in the U.S.A. and in Manchester were represented by Miss Margaret E. Bateman and Miss G. Levy. Mr. R. C. Clarke had newly arrived from Hong Kong and Mr. Wilfrid Harrison from America. Sunday brought a number of day visitors, and the Conference room was filled to capacity. Altogether six sessions were held, the comprehensive programme including addresses on "Henry George, his Life and Works," on "Human Rights" and on "Modern Problems of International Trade." There were three sessions devoted respectively to Papers submitted by students of the School, to a Brains Trust and to a Debate on a Resolution (defeated by a large majority) that "The Welfare State is a sign of Progress." The most lasting impression was made by the papers submitted by the students—Miss B. Walden and Messrs. Miller, Hubbard and Stubbings—who dealt ably with the subjects they chose. Opening speakers, members of the brains trust, leaders in the debate and chairmen of sessions included, A. W. Madsen, F. Dupuis, V. H. Blundell, Miss Margaret E. Bateman, V. Saldji, W. E. Fox, P. O'Leary, R. Blundell, L. Stevenson, W. J. Cadman, A. N. Batty, S. Martin, P. Stubbings, Mrs. Joan O'Leary, Mrs. M. Whitehouse, Ashley Mitchell and Austin H. Peake. It would require a long list to include all who took part in the extraordinarily interesting and well maintained discussions which succeeded the opening speeches, and other contributions "from the platform." The value of the Conference as a means of mutual instruction and as an opportunity to forge new links by personal association was convincingly demonstrated. It was admirably organised by the sub-committee of the United Committee appointed to assist in the educational side of the work, these including Mrs. J. O'Leary, Mrs. M. Whitehouse, Miss B. Walden and Mr. P. O'Keeffe, to whom the conference accorded a warm vote of thanks, which did not overlook the assistance given by Mr. Reg Smith, the artist of the handsomely produced programme.

## THE DOLLAR PROBLEM

To the Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.

Sir,

The second Report of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation published in February, 1950, contains some interesting facts and observations on the economic position in Europe to-day.

The Report points out that in two years time the European Recovery Programme (Marshall Aid) will be in the middle of its fourth and final year, and goes on to say that the most the participating countries can expect to achieve over the next two years is a reduction in the dollar deficit to \$2,250 million.

The problem then, is to close the gap within a single year. It is stressed that the main contribution to wiping out the dollar deficit must come from a reduction in imports from the dollar area, and an increase in exports to North America. However, the Report holds out no

hope, under present circumstances, of the gap being closed in a single year by these two factors alone.

Everywhere the emphasis is on restriction of imports from the dollar area, which surely can only lead to encouraging the uneconomic production elsewhere of the restricted commodities. This in turn must inevitably lead to forms of protection from American competition to the industries producing these commodities. There is no doubt that making Europe more independent of American goods can only eventually have an adverse effect on American overseas trade.

It is interesting to note that the Report itself draws attention to the numerous restrictions to imports which already exist in the United States, including import licensing regulations, shipping subsidies, compulsory use of synthetic with natural rubber, variations in the rates of the tariffs, but above all the prohibitive rates of the tariffs themselves. Although certain unimportant reductions have been made in the tariffs following the Geneva and Annecy conferences, it is estimated by the U.S. Tariff Commission that a 50 per cent. reduction in American tariffs, as they existed in 1939, would increase American imports, calculated at current prices, by about \$1,500 millions. Obviously then, even such a partial reduction of tariffs would almost entirely solve Europe's dollar problem. Unfortunately, this step remains only a remote possibility, in view of the overwhelming opposition which would certainly be forthcoming from adversely affected interests in the U.S.A.

One can only wonder when the American taxpayers will realise that their continual support of Europe is quite unnecessary. The removal of American import restrictions would not only enable Europe to sell her goods to the U.S.A. to the benefit of the American consumer. The dollars thus earned would increase European purchasing power to such an extent that they would be enabled to purchase the goods which at present are being given to them, or are being left to rot in American warehouses at the expense of American taxpayers.

It is a pity that the Report does not advocate what it undoubtedly indicates. Namely, that the one and only solution to this dollar dilemma is to free trade and currency from all restrictions.

J. W. McCULLOCH.

## OPEN LETTER TO Mr. H. G. MCGHEE

*During the General Election campaign in the Penistone Division of Yorkshire, Mr. Frederick Adams published and circulated the following "Open Letter" to Mr. H. G. McGhee, the (elected) candidate who was standing in the Labour interest.*

Dear Henry George McGhee:

At the 1945 General Election you were returned to Parliament as the member for Penistone and a declaration made on your election address was to the effect that:—

"Land stands in a special category.

It is the parent monopoly of all other monopolies.

It is essential to every human activity.

It cannot be increased in extent.

Its value is entirely the creation of the community."

And—

"We propose to make a complete survey of the land and its value. This value will be available to local authorities as the basis for the rating systems. Rates on land values, whether the land is used or not, will have the two-fold effect of reducing the heavy burden of rates on the homes of the people, and making land

cheap and available for housing, public works and industrial purposes."

Yes, that was a fine statement, though you could have included a national tax upon all land values whether the land be used or not, apart from all improvements. Have the Labour Party put a tax on land values? No, instead, they have retained and increased all the vicious, wicked and unjust taxes that fall heavily upon those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow.

May I ask why the suspension of Mr. Philip Snowden's Budget has not been removed so that a good start could have been made on the lines stated in your election address of July 5th, 1945? Had this been accomplished the cost of living would have come down, the high priced land in town and country would have fallen from monopoly value to true market value, thus increasing opportunities to labour so that no man would work for another, for less than he could get by working for himself.

Your party has stood solid for Customs, Tariffs, as equipment for its planned economy. Its surrender to territorial landlordism is now complete. It is prepared to lay out vast sums of money in its land purchase schemes and the price payable must always be the full monopoly value. This is a denial of the principles and policy of Henry George and can only be termed as Fraudulent Socialism. Your party goes to the hustings boasting that it has successfully carried out its promised domestic legislation. It would be truer to say that the so-called Labour Government has been the most reactionary British Government in the last 100 years.

It has misused the opportunity to sweep away the obstructions that retard true progress and deprive those who labour of the products of their toil. Instead of economic freedom and liberty we had a legislative output which is written in 300 Acts of Parliament, supplemented by 20,000 rules culminating in a throttling network of regulations, placing the commerce of the country at the mercy of bureaucracy.

Successive Labour Budgets have not introduced any measure of land value taxation.

The Town and Country Planning Act has granted £300 million to land speculators; hundreds of millions of public money (taxation) has been pledged for land purchase.

If some get something for nothing, does it not follow some one must do something for little or nothing, and is this why the leaders or misleaders in your party are now urging the labourer to work harder and harder?

Shall we have to call your party in the coming years "The Hard Labour Party"?

Penistone is in the grip of the land monopoly and a State monopoly has put the price of land at £1 per yard per annum, so it is said.

Over 1,000 people were turned on to the streets when the steelworks closed in December, 1930, and the idle valuable sites were exempt from rates and taxes. The price of a small part of this valuable site was said to be over £4,000 when wanted for a swimming pool.

Land values have risen to as much as £1,815 per acre in this little town with a small population, and no contribution paid to the rates.

FREDERICK ADAMS, 135 Green Road, Penistone.

The circulation of the leaflet caused much stir in the constituency. Mr. Adams subsequently sent it by post to every Labour Member in the House of Commons and in the House of Lords. That undertaking received much notice in the local newspapers.