

Co-ownership would disappear, although large scale operations would almost certainly be organised on a voluntary Co-ownership basis.

Thirdly, all current taxation on the wages and products of labour would be abolished. What this would mean to the masses can be well imagined.

What else, I would ask, would a progressive people wish to do through their executives other than to abolish 90 per cent of the burdensome legislation and administration that now oppresses us?

Whilst I think that the living generations tend to think that their society is in advance of all those that went before, and that we tend greatly to underrate the achievements of Henry George's generation, it is not correct to say that "the over-all impact of industry upon economics" is far greater to-day than in his time. Industry makes no bearing upon economics whatever. It is all the other way. Economics or political economy is concerned only with the natural laws which govern the wealth producing and exchanging activities of men, both large scale and small, at all times and in all places.

As wealth production becomes easier and easier and its instruments vaster and vaster, the immutable law works devastating effects when the fundamental law of human progress "association in equality" is flouted by the provisions of men. The modern builders of the Tower of Babel work fast and furiously and achieve great results, but they cannot build up to heaven and be equal with God, defy His laws, alter them, make fundamental laws of their own. The future is cloudy and obscure, but one thing is certain. The natural law will be vindicated even if all mankind perish in the process. If men wish to avoid that destruction, let them act reasonably and honestly and begin with the fundamental reality of land tenure. The natural law is wondrous kind when it is obeyed. It is terrifying when it is broken.

Yours faithfully,

London, S.W.11.

W. E. Fox.

No Faith in the Old Parties

We have received a letter from Mr. C. S. Lees, 19 Kedleston Avenue, Manchester, 14, referring to the formation of a political party called the Justice Party of Great Britain, with himself as honorary secretary. In his letter Mr. Lees writes:

The major aims of the Party will be the following:

- (1) The abolition of all direct and indirect taxes.
- (2) The collection by the State of the annual site value of all land.
- (3) The reduction to a minimum of all governmental activities.
- (4) The institution of a national referendum for all major problems on which the party has no definite policy.

There should be nothing startling to your readers in any of these proposals, except the fourth—so may I make a brief exposition of the idea behind this last. The Justice Party believes that it is wrong for any government to introduce any piece of major legislation unless (a) that legislation has previously been proclaimed as a major aim of the party; (b) the people have been given a chance to vote on that particular issue.

As an illustration—quite recently peace-time conscription was introduced by the Labour Government. Conscription in peace-time had never been proclaimed as part of Labour policy—the people were not consulted—and yet this piece of slave legislation was introduced. The Justice Party believes that in a case like this a country-wide poll should be taken so that the people have a real opportunity of democratic decision.

The Justice Party which, recently initiated in Manchester, came into existence because of the conviction of its members that there is no guarantee that any of the existing parties will ever introduce the reforms proposed by Henry George.

To Educate the German People

The Editor, LAND & LIBERTY.

Sir,

I left Germany in 1925 because of my opposition to the growth of the illiberal doctrines which paved the way for Hitler. My family and I have always been for human beings—not for nationalities, as such, but for the good trends in each nation. Now it is my desire to do what I can from this distance to sow the seeds of true liberalism in the country of my birth. Already I have sent copies of "Why the German Republic Fell" and of the German translation of the International Union's Declaration of "Principle and Policy" to a number of my friends and ex-colleagues in the teaching profession in Germany and I desire further suitable literature, including the translation of "Progress and Poverty" to send.

I had hoped that when the war ended the task of re-educating the people of Germany and other European countries in the principles of democracy and individual liberty would be seriously undertaken. Only in this way will the statist concept of society be defeated in the minds of ordinary people, and the re-emergence of totalitarian creeds be prevented. The Georgeists, Free Traders and other libertarian organisations must take up the challenge and opportunity which others have neglected, and must find and train people able to grasp the truths of economic freedom and willing to spread knowledge of justice among their countrymen.

Yours sincerely,

SAN FRANCISCO, 14.

(Mrs.) MARIA QUECKBOENNER.

An invitation to "Dumpers"

The *Liberal News*, April 11th, printed this letter from Mr. Stephen Martin: In any debate on Free Trade someone raises the old bogey of the "dumping" of cheap foreign produce. Today we have the complete answer. Living a hand-to-mouth existence, it is obviously absurd to refuse the food, goods and raw materials whatever their origin or cheapness. Many without houses would welcome a few shiploads of "dumped" building materials, furniture and domestic necessities, and we could all do with more meat, tea, butter and sugar.

What is the cause of the so-called "gap" in our trade balances, which, year in and year out, we are beseeched to close by austerity and harder work? Is it not the high cost of imports occasioned largely by Government control of commerce?

Japan and Germany now have "dumped" imports to offer which would certainly reduce the level of import prices and possibly close "the gap".

Liberals and the Single Tax

The following letter by Mr. Stephen Martin, member of the Executive, Home Counties Liberal Federation, was published in the *Manchester Guardian*, June 2: Please allow me to correct a statement made by Mr. Elliott Dodds at the recent Liberal Party Assembly. He said that "though the Liberal Party stood for taxing site values of land it had never accepted the view that that tax should be the only kind in the country."

He and others at the assembly should have known that this was not true. At the 1948 Blackpool Assembly an amendment calling for "the enactment of legislation to levy taxes and rates on the annual site value of land, and the progressive reduction of these burdens on buildings, improvements, production, and the rewards of labour" was carried with only three dissentients.

Therefore, the Liberal Party has accepted the "single tax" principle, although the leaders have done their best since 1948 to keep it dark.

Agricultural Legislation and Farm Prices

The first sentence of the second paragraph of MR. E. J. BEVAN'S letter published in our last issue should read: "Land prices are high because about eighty-five per cent of the present intending purchasers of land are not interested in farming as an economic proposition."