

"ANTI-MONOPOLISM" IN AUSTRALIA

George Hardy, now on the Executive of the Henry George League in Melbourne, Australia, is seeking to introduce a renewed outlook and activity. A modern "anti-monopolist" approach, he says, is needed rather than the traditional "single tax" approach. He issues an Anti-Monopolist Newsletter which advocates these policies: Eliminate monopoly privileges (Business, Government, Trade Union, etc.). Raise revenues from Monopoly benefits (Land rent, Royalties, Licences, etc.), not from individual efforts (no income tax, payroll tax, etc.).

Mr. Hardy calls this approach "Consistent Liberalism - the third road between capitalism and socialism." He contends that libertarian principles are reconcilable with consistent liberalism. Following are a few highlights from his paper, "Public Property in Free Society":

"Freedom implies equal rights for survival.

A free society exists to promote the optimum satisfaction of its members.

A free society is formed by individuals who join and remain members voluntarily on account of their expectation that their membership enhances their chances to achieve a set of similarly valued objectives, and satisfactions in an optimal manner.

The equal right to exist can only be ensured by providing an equal share in the benefits and disadvantages of survival conditions, i.e., an equal share in "Nature", commonly described as natural resources, which belong to the whole community - the "public".

Free market exchange is not possible without equal survival rights.

Monopoly values are created by the community and they justly belong to the public to ensure equal economic rights."

REPORT FROM SCOTLAND

By RONALD J. RENNIE (Glasgow, Scotland)

The proposal to change the name of the Scottish League for Land Value Taxation was defeated in the postal ballot of the whole membership. (An alternate proposed name was League for Public Revenue from Land Values. James H. MacMurchie had proposed League for Ground Rent for State Revenue.)

It was I who proposed the present title when in 1950 along with Arthur Madsen and a few others the Glasgow and Edinburgh Leagues were amalgamated to form the Scottish League. Arthur Madsen was Secretary of the Edinburgh League before the first World War when he went to London to assist John Paul to establish the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values. I have been Secretary of the Scottish League for more than 25 years.

I first joined the movement in 1921 when I met Arthur Weller in Manchester and he introduced me to Progress and Poverty. He was full-time Secretary of the Manchester League for the Taxation of Land Values, and there were then the English League, and Leagues in Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness. Now there are only two such organisations in Britain, the United Committee in London and the Scottish League. Nearly all our present members are former students of the School of Economic Studies. There can be little doubt that, without the School, the Scottish League would have ceased to exist.