

value, with taxation payable out of that by the receiver of the rent, is in the neighbourhood of £85,000,000 under the present conditions.

By the same token and under the same assumption as to the land value including the taxation now taken out of rent, the annual land value of the whole of Great Britain would produce an assessment of £855,000,000. It may be objected that we are building all this upon the data obtained from one place, and that a city—that the comparison hardly serves and that you cannot stretch a land value per head in a city to estimate the land value of a whole country. To that it may be replied that in those countries where land value assessments are made in both town and country (Queensland, New South Wales, New Zealand, Denmark, etc.) the records show that in the country districts the land value *per head* is *higher* outside the towns than within them. The New Zealand figure outside the towns of the selling value of land apart from improvements is £307. If that may be taken for comparison and the making of estimates, we could proceed with a new calculation and derive an *inclusive annual land value* for Great Britain greatly exceeding £855,000,000.

THE "SUFFICIENCY" OF LAND VALUES

We put these interesting if debatable considerations before those who sometimes ask whether the land value of the country is sufficient to meet existing taxation. It is quite an academic question altering in no way the justice of the contention that no taxation should be levied on the earnings of labour or on industry and its processes before the land value that belongs to all has been wholly absorbed for the benefit of the community. When a valuation has been made, we will know what the land value is. What we know now is that a vast fund is going constantly and increasingly into private pockets that does not belong there.

As to the abstract question about the "sufficiency" of land values, there is the other side of the argument in the assertion and conviction of the land value taxer that land value taxation will reduce the value and the rent of land. This it will do by bringing so much land now unused into use that the margin of production will rise and with it the general level of wages. But of economic rent there will still be plenty and enough to serve the State and the municipality, especially as the need for considerable public expenditures will disappear from the expenditure side of modern budgets, namely, all that has to be provided to-day for the mitigation of poverty conditions, for public assistance, and for direct and indirect subsidies in aid of low wages. Not only will there be such a multiplication of opportunities for a livelihood and a consequently enhanced production of wealth that unemployment and the cost of it will vanish, but also the rent of land that is now artificially increased will fall and the difference will pass into wages. Working people will be dependent upon themselves, not needing to be the recipients of the State and municipal philanthropy which to-day forms such a large part of the expense accounts of the Treasury and the local authorities.

When the question is asked whether land value is a sufficient source of public revenue, this latter consideration, *for what purpose do you now use public revenue*, has a very important bearing on the answer, and the discussion can be taken up at the point whether the result of abolishing the land monopoly and of abolishing taxation on industry will raise wages and eliminate involuntary unemployment. That question is easily resolved and with statistics and estimates we do not need to bother further.

A. W. M.

BERNARD SHAW ON FREEDOM

In his broadcast address on Freedom delivered on 18th June Mr George Bernard Shaw said:—

"If you allow any person, or class of persons, to get the upper hand, they will shift all that part of their slavery that can be shifted on to your shoulders and you will find yourselves working from eight to 14 hours a day when, if you had only yourselves and your family to look after, you could do it quite comfortably in half the time or less.

"The object of honest government is to prevent your being imposed upon in that way.

"The object of most actual Governments is exactly the opposite. They enforce your slavery and call it freedom. . . .

"Nature is kind to her slaves, while the slavery of man to man is the very opposite. It is hateful to the body and to the spirit.

"When we grumble we are told our miseries are our own doing. We are reminded that the rich are taxed one-quarter, a third or ever a half of their income.

"But the poor are never reminded that they have to pay as much in rent, and in addition to having worked twice as long as they would have if they were free.

"As society is constituted at present, there is another far more intimate compulsion on you—that of your landlord and your employer.

"Your landlord may refuse to let you live on an estate if you go to chapel instead of to church, or if you vote for anybody who is his enemy, or if you practise osteopathy."

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Growth and Distribution of Population. By Dr S. Vere Pearson, M.A. George Allen & Unwin, 12s. 6d. net.—This is a book which we most cordially recommend to all our readers for its remarkable scope and the information it gives. It is a "land question" book of outstanding importance, with the subject of land values in relation to population brilliantly expounded. It explains in the course of so much instructive description, and to a new public, the principles and policy of Henry George. We hope to review it extensively in an early issue. Meanwhile we repeat our advice—read this book; it should find its place in every public and local reading library.

Public and Private Property. By John Z. White. The Greenville Press, The Beaver Press, Greenville, Pa., \$2.—A critical inquiry as to the cause of concentration of wealth and corruption of Government. Mr White's place and influence in the Henry George movement in America entitle him to speak with special authority, and this book from his pen deserves a wide circulation. A fuller notice and review will follow in an early issue.

The total amount of subsidy paid by the Government to the Milk Marketing Board to date amounts to £973,868, and with £137,499 paid to the Government of Northern Ireland a grand total of £1,111,367 has so far been paid under the Milk Marketing Act, 1934.—(*Manchester Guardian*, 24th May.)

The Department of Health recently stated that in England and Wales the number of persons in receipt of Poor-Law relief in April, 1931, was 1,022,000. In April, 1935, the number was 1,333,000. In Scotland the number of persons in receipt of Poor-Law relief in 1931 was 188,000, and in 1935 the number was 362,000.—Mr W. LEONARD, M.P., at the Co-operative Congress, Cardiff, 10th to 12th June.