

A DREAM — By Harold Sudell

I DREAMED THAT I stood with an angel beside the throne of the Eternal One and in the hands of the angel was The Book.

And I looked out from the throne and saw in the darkness of the night a bark, tempest driven over a waste of waters. And, while I look, land looms up ahead, and the bark, helpless in the storm, is driven on the strand where the surges break over her. And one, strong and a skilled swimmer, springs into the combing waves, and, after a fierce struggle, reaches the shore where he lies breathless and exhausted. But his comrades cling to the wreck.

As the night wears on the storm abates and with the morning's dawn the angry seas grow still. And the light shows the land to be an island, fertile and beautiful; its trees fruit-laden. Then on planks hastily lashed together the shipwrecked men paddle ashore, where, hungry and thirsty, they haste to pluck of the refreshing fruit. But ere they even touch a voice is heard bidding them desist, and he who swam ashore appears and claims the island with all its fruits as his by right of his

first-coming. But the angry sailors gather round him and say "Why thou camest here but yester-night—do these few hours make thee owner of this island and shall we, because of it, pay thee tribute?" And when he the more insists on his claim they beat him and cast him out from among them.

And I looked again and saw a soul floating in an infinite ocean of space driven onward by the winds of circumstance. Afar off shines a planet like a vast island, surrounded by seas of space, and towards it the soul is wafted. And the planet is the Earth and the soul lands in a country which is in the west. And I see that the soul has the form of a little child.

But no sooner does it touch the earth than a man approaches and demands of the child why it trespasses on his land. And the child answers "This land seemeth unused: how then claimeth thou it as thine?" And the man replies "Two centuries ago my ancestors came here and there were none to dispute their claim to all the land as far as thine eye can see:

it was theirs and therefore it is now mine."

And the child makes answer "Thou camest here as I come and I, like thee, must needs live on land: I see not how what thou tellest me maketh the land thine." And the man replies—"Such is the law." And the child says "Take me unto the law-givers."

And they go unto the judges and the judges declare that it is even as the man hath said. "For," say they, "it is written: 'Thou shalt not steal.' Because this man's forefathers came here and claimed the land as theirs it is now his, and to give it unto thee would be to rob him of his property and to break the sacred command." And the child says, "Without land I cannot live." And the judges reply—"He will allow thee to use the land and for the use of it thou shalt pay him tribute all thy days. For it has been his and his forefathers' lo! these many years."

And as I turned away I saw that the angel had open The Book and this it was that was written therein:

"For a thousand years in My sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night."

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

Land in Post-War Reconstruction is the title of a new 8-page 8vo. leaflet which is available for general distribution, price 1d. per copy; quantities at 8d. per doz. or 5s. per 100 post free. It consists of reprints of the *Land & Liberty* articles on the proposals of the Uthwatt and Scott Committees and has a brief statement on land value taxation in practice in other countries. The article *Liberalism versus Liberty* has also been printed in leaflet form (2 page 8vo.) and is priced at 1d. per copy; quantities at 6d. per doz. or 3s. per 100 post free.

The *Memorandum of the Land Values Group* on the Uthwatt Committee's Report, which is printed on another page, has now been reprinted by the United Committee in f'cap. 2 page size for general distribution, price 1d. per copy; quantities at 6d. per doz. or 3s. per 100 post free. The first edition had already been issued by the Group to all the Members of Parliament and of the L.C.C. and to several hundred newspapers.

These new publications are now being used in a considerable postal campaign in interested quarters and to addresses that are appropriate in each case. Educational work is necessary to point out the reactionary nature of faulty proposals made and to explain the real remedy that will at the same time overcome land monopoly and speculation, promote the best use of land in the interests of all working people, and secure the value of the land as public revenue. The documents on "planning" are being circulated to the offices of all the larger local authorities. Part of this campaign has been to circulate to the Press the resolution adopted by the English League which, as will be noted in these pages, has been adopted by several other Leagues.

In the magazine *Architectural Design and Construction*, October number, there are special articles on the Uthwatt Report and on the Scott Report contributed respectively by Mr Douglas and by Capt A. R. McDougal. The *Retail Chemist* of October had an article on the Uthwatt Report by Mr Madsen, and the November issue of that journal will have an article by Mr Douglas on the Scott Report.

The correspondence columns of *The Times* were opened for many successive days to

letters evoked by the Archbishop of Canterbury's address at the Albert Hall on 26th September, and generally on the subject of the Church and Social Reform. All the writers kept wide of the land question. To the forty or more who gave their names and addresses, a letter was sent from this office with the text of Dr Temple's full statement on the matter including the reference to the rating of land values; and a copy of the pamphlet *How the English People Became Landless* was enclosed.

Applications for copies of the Essay Prospectus (total of prizes to be awarded is £100) arrive by every post. The competition is organized by the Henry George Foundation. Judging by the number of purchases of the four books recommended, many intend to compete and they are drawn from all parts of the country. Advertisements and notices in the journals of the W.E.A. and the Adult School Union, and in other papers, have proved most helpful, and we are indebted also to the friends who have given us names well worth approaching. The Prospectus is publicly noticed at a number of public libraries including Cardiff, Darlington, Wrexham, Manchester, Stockport, Grimsby, Bingley, Keighley, Stoke Newington and High Wycombe. If special request is made by libraries who do not yet have the books the Foundation will present them. During the past month a number of gifts have been made, influenced by the interest that readers locally have taken in the Competition.

There is a strong case for now sending explanatory literature on Land Value Taxation and its basic social philosophy to members of the Ministry in the Churches. The Archbishop of Canterbury has spoken more than once and has raised matters about which ministers will be glad to know more. Why not approach them? The suggestion has been made to us and it deserves attention. There is any amount to do in the dissemination of useful literature in the right circles. The opportunities are unlimited. Our range of books and pamphlets covers the varied aspects of our question. Such pamphlets (to name only a few) as Mr Douglas's new and most practical statement *Rating and Taxation in the Housing Scene*, the

story told in *How the English People Became Landless*, the conversational piece *Light on the Land Question*, Mr Lester's *Unemployment and the Land*, the disclosures in *Cities Held to Ransom*, the instruction in *The New Political Economy* by John B. Sharpe, and of course (among much else) the Lectures and Addresses by Henry George should be having the widest possible circulation—not at random but always to well-selected recipients. When the four regional conferences, held this year, were being organized, the Committee provided the explanatory literature that went with the invitation circular to thousands of names.

The most effective propaganda that can be done at the present time, not neglecting other important activities, is the postal campaign. For it the office is equipped and upon it all efforts have been concentrated resulting in an extensive and ever growing correspondence with new contacts. But the spreading of the education in this and in other ways is not without cost. It does in fact require much money.

The Hon Treasurer therefore appeals in all earnestness for the most generous financial support that anyone can give who approves the work that is being done and wishes to see it expanded. At the same time, may he use these lines, saving a personal approach, as a word to those friends whose previous support was given at about this time last year, or more than twelve months ago, regarding their donations as renewable or possible of addition?

Cheques, etc., may be made payable to W. R. Lester. When remitting, subscriptions intended for the (independently administered) funds of the International Union or of any of the Leagues can be included and they will be passed on as the donor directs.

2d. HOW THE ENGLISH PEOPLE BECAME LANDLESS. And How to Regain the Land.

2d. UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE LAND. By W. R. Lester, M.A.

2d. THE NEW POLITICAL ECONOMY. By John B. Sharpe.

6d. RATING AND TAXATION IN THE HOUSING SCENE. By F. C. R. Douglas, L.C.C., M.P.

6d. BACK TO THE LAND. The Essay by Dr Thomas Nulty, Bishop of Meath. New Edition published by the Henry George Foundation, Australia.

1s. MY NEIGHBOUR'S LANDMARK. Short studies of Bible land laws. By Fredk. Verinder.