

\$45,000 a month from his sub-tenants. The School Board gets over \$7,000,000 as ground rent from the Lincoln lot in 20 years, 1943-1963, when more rent under a new lease will be possible. The rent jumped from \$3,750 in 1908 to \$29,900 in 1943.

The two sites are placed in contrast. Both show the enormous increase in the rent of land that has accompanied the city's growth and development. The whole of that rent, each year and year by year, is of community creation. In the first example the rent is privately appropriated. It illustrates the overall state of affairs under the prevailing system which permits that private appropriation. The second example is, of course, an isolated case of land-rent that the city has been able to retain and use for the common good; but, isolated as it is, it speaks volumes for the conditions that would have obtained if from the very commencement measures

had been taken to ensure that the rent of *all* sites throughout the city found its way into the public treasury where in fact it rightly belongs; and no taxes levied on buildings or business or trade or industry need have existed. However, there is no need to go back on the past. The rent of land arises concurrently from day to day and from year to year with the continuous production of wealth so that whatever misappropriation took place yesterday or last year need not concern us. What we must do is to prevent such misappropriation in the future. Each day begins a new day for us to set our house in order and see that wealth produced *from then on* is justly distributed. The rent of land will go to the community as its proper and natural revenue and labour and capital will be quit of fiscal burdens which so wrongly and with such evil economic effect now bear upon them. The taxation of land values will see to that.

J. R. M.

BROADCAST IN ESPERANTO FROM RADIO ROME

Mr. F. R. Jones, Liverpool, provided the text of the radio speech in Esperanto which was broadcast from Rome on March 18. Following is the English translation.

During the last weeks of 1950 about 6,000 Esperantists throughout the world received a well printed copy of a four-page Esperanto leaflet. It is a translation from the English language of a Declaration proclaimed by the Seventh International Conference for the Advancement of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade.

The ideas presented in that Declaration are strikingly simple. It demands the abolition of all taxes on everything that is the product of human labour. It asserts the principle of full equal liberty for all in the field of production. It maintains the rights of individual human beings against the rule of the State. It proposes that State revenue should come from one central source, the rent of land, which one ought to collect for the community by the taxation of land values, apart from improvements.

These ideas first appeared in the work *Progress and Poverty* by Henry George, an American who was once called the Prophet of San Francisco. He was born September 2, 1839, in Philadelphia, in which town his father was a clerk at the Custom house. When he was fourteen years old, he left school to work as an office-boy. Two years later he shipped before the mast in a sailing ship bound for Australia. On his return to Philadelphia, he was apprenticed as a compositor. Afterwards he again went to sea as a sailor.

In 1858 he travelled to California, and from there on to British Columbia, prospecting for gold by the Frazer River. Having no success, he returned to San Francisco. There he married, and there his children were born.

For some years he and his family went through a difficult time, hardly able to make ends meet. Often they almost starved. Nevertheless he studied hard to improve himself. In 1866 he was promoted from a compositor to a reporter on the staff of the *San Francisco Times*. Soon he was writing editorial articles, and six months later was made managing editor. At the same time he began writing articles for other papers.

A visit to New York revealed to him the misery existing in great cities side by side with riches and luxury. The contrast appalled him. The realisation of the extent of

terrible poverty would not let him rest. He thought hard to discover the cause.

Finally, in 1870, the solution of the problem came to him. Before the summer of 1871 he published the results of his enquiry in a 48-page booklet, *Our Land and Land Policy*. More than a thousand copies were sold.

In 1871 Henry George, with the help of W. M. Hinton, founded the one-cent San Francisco paper, *Evening Post*. It at once prospered. In order to purchase larger printing machinery the founders had to borrow money from a wealthy man. For four years everything went very well. Then the wealthy man suddenly demanded repayment of the loan, or alternatively the transfer of the paper to him. He asked George to remain as editor, provided that he would stop attacking the Pacific railway monopoly and instead support it. George refused, and, penniless, had to resign.

After a short time he managed to obtain a minor State appointment. This provided him with only a small salary, but it left him plenty of time for regular writing. Between August, 1877, and March, 1879, he composed his masterpiece, *Progress and Poverty*. Publishers at first would not accept it. He therefore himself put it into type and sold it. It attracted much attention. A publisher in New York agreed to print the book, and an English edition followed. In four years hundreds of thousands of copies were sold in the two countries. It has been translated into practically every important language.

Progress and Poverty is unique in being the sole work which at the same time combines the most perfect art with the most careful and precise scientific reasoning. Every word is chosen with complete correctness, the sentences are beautifully phrased, many chapters inspire the highest emotions. It examines the whole of political economy from the beginning. It treats fully all arguments about the question whether there ever have existed in the world too many human beings. Explaining the dynamics of the social order, it reveals the easy way by which, without State over-regimentation, humanity can speedily come to a state of life wholly just and felicitous for all. Every counter argument is logically refuted and every counter proposal shown useless or unnecessary. In several chapters Henry George in wonderful detail

describes the functioning of that harmonious society of the future. Finally, rising to the highest level, the work treats with noble seriousness the fundamental aims of human life.

A series of other books followed. In turn appeared *The Land Question, Social Problems, Protection or Free Trade, The Condition of Labour* and *The Perplexed Philosopher*. After George's death his son published his *Science of Political Economy*. Now the works of George, translated into many languages, can be found in the libraries and book-shops of almost every town in the world.

In 1881 Henry George removed to New York. He worked hard to spread the teachings of *Progress and Poverty*. He spoke throughout the United States, and afterwards travelled to England, Scotland, Ireland and Australia. Everywhere great audiences listened to his stirring speeches.

In 1886 he became the Labour candidate for the post of mayor of New York City. He received just short of sufficient votes. In 1897, although ill, he again stood as a candidate, against the advice of his doctor. The effort was too much for him. In the morning of October 29, 1897, he suddenly died.

The interment was private from the home at Fort Hamilton. On November 1 he was buried in a plot on Ocean Hill in Greenwood. From an early hour the day before, Sunday, the body lay in state in the Grand Central Palace, New York. "Never for statesman or soldier," said one of the newspapers, "was there so remarkable a demonstration of popular feeling. At least one hundred thousand persons passed before his bier, and another hundred thousand were prevented from doing so only by the impossibility of getting near it.

Unconsciously they vindicated over his dead body the truth of the great idea to which his life was devoted, the brotherhood of man."

Professor John Dewey, the President of Columbia University, one of the most important philosophers in the United States, wrote about Henry George:—

"It would require less than the fingers of the two hands to enumerate those who, from Plato down, rank with Henry George among the world's social philosophers. No man, no graduate of a higher educational institution, has a right to regard himself as an educated man in social thought unless he has some first-hand acquaintance with the theoretical contribution of this great American thinker."

In different countries throughout the world the remedy of Henry George—Land-Value Taxation—has begun to be applied. Wellington, Sydney, Brisbane—the respective capitals of New Zealand, New South Wales and Queensland—collect the city revenue by this means. Many other towns—for example, Copenhagen in Denmark, Durban in South Africa, Edmonton in Alberta, Canada—collect by this means part of their revenue. Everywhere where the remedy of Henry George has been applied, beneficial results have followed for the people and general production has been stimulated.

The movement of Henry George is constantly growing throughout the world. The centre is now in England, where the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade has its headquarters at 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. From that address one can obtain information and acquire free copies of the Declaration in Esperanto and five other languages. Soon that organisation will publish a handsome book in Esperanto about Henry George, named *A Tribute to a Noble Genius*.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Denmark

Membership of the Danish Upper House is appointed by the indirect method of electoral colleges, that is to say by "electors" who for this purpose are themselves chosen under the general popular franchise. Periodically a portion of the House falls to be thus re-elected. The last occasion was in April, 1947, when such election took place for the parts of the country including Copenhagen, the Island of Funen, and North Jutland. This year, on April 10, a similar election for part of the Upper House takes place covering the Island of Zealand (but excluding Copenhagen) and Lolland-Falster, the Island of Bornholm and the southern part of Jutland. This is preceded on April 3 by the election of the "electoral colleges." The Justice Party is putting up many candidates as "electors" for this purpose. Among them we are pleased to notice the name of Mrs. Caroline Björner who is standing in the Gentofte district where she resides. Mrs. Caroline Björner's pre-occupation with public affairs is now considerable. She has been a member of the local Assessment Committee and was recently made a member of the Gentofte Town Council, filling the place of the late Gunnar A. Nielsen.

In the elections for the Upper House there is good hope that the Justice Party will register further proof of popular support. On the previous occasion the Party secured 28 "electors" as compared with five on the occasion before that, but a better test of the progress of the Party is got from the municipal elections over

the whole country that took place in March, 1950, when the Party had 183,800 votes and secured 50 seats in the boroughs, including six in Copenhagen, besides some 80 seats in the rural parishes. Later, in August, 1950, there came the general election for the Lower House of Parliament when the Justice Party had 168,499 votes and secured 12 seats as compared with the six that it had in 1947 and the three that it had in 1945.

The 1952 International Conference

Preparations are now in hand for the holding of the 8th International Conference to promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade. It will be held during the first week of August, 1952, in the town of Odense at the well-equipped "People's High School" which belongs to the "Housemen," the smallholders in the Island of Funen. Members of the Conference will be in residence in the building and for those who come from beyond Denmark the charge per day inclusive of board and lodging will be 12s. 6d. (English) or \$2 (American or Canadian) subject, however, to any change that may intervene in the exchange of the Danish Crown. Special terms for sharing large dormitories are 8s. 6d. per day. Mrs. Björner is generously handling at the Danish end all the work of organising, in close co-operation with the office of the International Union in London, whose own purpose is to do everything possible to gain the attendance of as many as possible from countries all over the world. Therefore we begin now with this advertisement of the