

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

LONDON: 1st TO 5th SEPTEMBER, 1936

Enrolments for the Conference are now reaching us by every post. Below is the list as we go to press, including members who intimate that in view of distance or for other reasons they will not be able to attend in person. The countries represented include England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, the United States of America (12 States), Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Norway, Holland, France, Spain, Greece, Austria, Palestine, Iceland.

Official welcome will be given to Members and Delegates by Alderman Ewart G. Culpin, F.R.I.B.A., J.P., the Vice-Chairman of the London County Council. (Lord Snell, the Chairman of the London Council has written regretting his inability to be present as he will be abroad during that period).

Arrangements for the Programme and Time-table, although not yet completed, are well advanced and the outline that follows will indicate the scope and the importance of the discussions. The Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy will open the Conference on 2nd September with his Presidential Address, the two sessions of that day being devoted to the *Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression*. Mr Hennessy is planning to leave New York on 12th August so as to have at least a fortnight in London and take personal part in the final arrangements. Mrs Anna George de Mille who is arriving in London on 1st July, still earlier in advance of the Conference, will be one of the speakers on the Conference evening, 2nd September, given to the Commemoration of the Henry George Anniversary. Mayor McNair of Pittsburgh is expected and his participation with his testimony to what his City has done to institute land value taxation in lieu of taxes on buildings will be particularly welcome. Members will look forward with great interest to the paper on the *Work of the Henry George School of Social Science* to be presented by Mr Lancaster Greene.

Looking at the Programme, some of the notable papers are on *Colonial Land Tenure and Taxation* by the Right Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood M.P.; on *Reactions and Results of Trade Restrictions* by Mr Bue Björner of Denmark; on *State Interference in Industry* by Mr H. Kolthek of Holland; on the *Land Question in Russia*, by M. Daudé Bancel of France; on the *Past and the Present of Geogism in Spain*, by Professor A. Matheu Alonso; on *Denmark's Ten Years' Experience of Land Value Taxation in Practice*, by Mr Abel Brink of the Danish Land Valuation Department, and colleague of Mr K. J. Kristensen, from whom also a paper on the *Valuation of Land in Denmark* is expected; on *Agriculture and Economic Depression* by Capt. A. R. McDougal. But to mention all here would simply be to repeat the Programme as printed below.

Associated with Mrs Anna George de Mille at the Commemoration Anniversary on the birthday of Henry George, in the tributes to be paid, will be Mr Baldomero Argente of Spain and Mr Jakob E. Lange of Denmark, two names that stand out with special prominence in our International movement. This Commemoration will take the form of a Social Gathering, free from the formalities of a set dinner and with only light refreshments provided. And to this session, as to all others (excepting those confined to duly enrolled members of the International Union) the Committee will issue Visitors' Tickets inviting the attendance of all who are interested in the proceedings.

One day has been added to the Programme as already announced. Members are invited to attend at the Hall on Tuesday, 1st September, from 2 o'clock onwards, for registration, reception, and the opportunity to become acquainted with one another before the real work of the Conference begins on the following day. It is a common experience at such Conferences that once the business has started the chance for informal conversations is scarce enough. On the evening of 1st September there will be a business meeting of Members of the International Union to receive usual executive reports and confirm the arrangements made for the rest of the week; and the Union has a further business session on Friday, 4th September.

The dominant note to be struck by the Conference is the establishment of world peace and prosperity through freedom as taught by Henry George. As Mr Hennessy has lately written: "The shadows of another war hang low over the population of Europe. We know the reason why. Until men within national boundaries are set free by access to natural opportunities through the destruction of land monopoly and the reduction of tax burdens, that bear so heavily upon the production of wealth, you will not have peace at home in any land; and until the manifold political obstructions to freedom between the nations that arise out of protective tariffs, quotas, exchange limitations, and other damnable interferences with natural law are done away with, you will not have any peace, either within or between nations. That is trite enough, you will say. It is trite and it is eternally true; but now as never before it needs to be pointed out again to the selfish, the stupid and the ignorant among the leaders of men. And it is our place to point it out."

It is in this sense that the organizers of the Conference have decided to call to their deliberations, by delegates appointed or by other interest they can take, those societies and organizations who in their public activity are concerned to deal with the Economic Causes of War and Industrial Depression, the cause of the one being the cause of the other, so intimately are they interlinked. To make its own case abundantly clear and spread the understanding of its policy as far as a postal campaign (within limits) can achieve this, the Union is sending with these invitations a special print of the Statements it circulated to the World Economic Conferences in Geneva in 1927 and in London in 1933.

We are indebted to those of our co-workers in European and other countries who have provided lists of addresses so that the knowledge of the Conference and its purpose can be extended to that wider boundary too. Interest is also engaged in the two other days of the Conference (3rd and 4th September—morning and afternoon) when there will be open discussion on the subjects *Land Value Taxation in Practice* and on *The State and the Individual*.

The Sessions on *Land Value Taxation in Practice* will be of special interest to local authorities and all bodies concerned with the administration and finance of local government; and for these sessions (alone) invitations are being sent to a large number of local councils in Great Britain (and some abroad), the British local authorities including those that have lately declared by resolution in favour of the land value policy and have helped so much, led in particular by the Cardiff City Council, to advance this municipal agitation.

International Conference

The principal Papers will be circulated beforehand to Members and Delegates in attendance. They will be "taken as read" so that as much time as possible will be allowed for discussion, authors introducing their papers in short speeches.

For each separate session, a Chairman and Deputy Chairman will be appointed, the Chairman having ten minutes for his or her introductory remarks.

The Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, Westminster, where the Conference is being held, will be available from 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 1st September, for the rest of the week. Morning Sessions will begin at 9.45 with adjournment at 12.30; Afternoon Sessions at 2.30 and Evening Sessions at 7.30.

* * *

We appeal to our co-workers everywhere to give their moral and financial support to the Conference, and the appeal is to do this whether or not you can actually attend. The Conference Membership Fee is 10s. and if the subscriber wishes (adding written declaration that he or she adheres to the Objects of the International Union) this Conference Fee includes also Membership Fee of the Union itself. Apart from the Conference Membership Fee, donations of any amount, small or large, toward the expenses of the Conference and for aiding the Union in its general work will be welcome. Remittances may be made payable to Mr Ashley Mitchell, the Hon. Treasurer.

Every name will count in the influence we may hope to have upon public thought and governmental action. Therefore, we again emphasize the help every one can give by associating with the Conference, whether as a member to be present, or as a member who because of distance or for other reasons cannot attend.

The Conference is convened by the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, the objects of which are: "To stimulate in all countries a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war, as these causes are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. Specifically towards the realization of these objects, the Union favours the raising of public revenues by taxes and rates upon the value of land apart from improvements in order to secure the economic rent for the community and the abolition of taxes, tariffs, or imposts of every sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth."

LIGHT ON THE LAND QUESTION. Price 6d. (The Author—"A MAN IN THE STREET"—is a distinguished London journalist.)

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PROGRAMME OF PROCEEDINGS

The following is the outline of the Programme, which is subject to alterations as circumstances may determine:

First Day : Tuesday, 1st September

AFTERNOON

Reception and Registration of Members.

EVENING

General Meeting of the International Union (Members only) to receive reports on the Union's work and to confirm Conference arrangements.

Second Day : Wednesday, 2nd September

THE ECONOMIC CAUSES OF WAR AND INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION

MORNING SESSION

Presidential Address.

Papers Presented : Reactions and Results of Trade Restrictions, by Mr Bue Björner, Denmark; Access to Raw Materials and the Alleged Need for Expansion, by Mr Ole Wang, Norway.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented : Colonial Systems of Land Tenure and Taxation, by the Rt. Hon. Josiah C. Wedgwood, M.P.; Causes of Fear, by Dr S. Vere Pearson, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.; Public Debts and Indirect Taxation, by M. Sam Mayer, France.

EVENING

HENRY GEORGE ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AND REUNION

Addresses by Mrs Anna George de Mille; Mr Baldomero Argente, Spain; and Jakob E. Lange, Denmark.

Third Day : Thursday, 3rd September

LAND VALUE TAXATION IN PRACTICE

MORNING SESSION

Papers Presented : Land Valuation in Denmark, by Mr K. J. Kristensen, Chief of the Land Valuation Department in Denmark; General Summary of the Legislation in Operation in Various Countries, by Mr A. W. Madsen; Digest of Official Replies to Questionnaire as to the Working and Results of the Local Taxation of Land Values, addressed to local authorities in Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada and Pennsylvania, by Mr F. C. R. Douglas.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented : Town Planning and Taxation: Friends or Foes? by Mr Harold S. Buttenheim; Ten Years' Experience of Land Value Taxation (Local and National) in Denmark—1926 to 1936, by Mr Abel Brink, of the Danish Land Valuation Department; the British Municipal Demand for Land Value Rating, by C. A. Gardner, Cardiff; Exemption of Improvements and Land Value Taxation in Pittsburgh, Pa., by the Hon. Wm. McNair, Mayor of Pittsburgh.

EVENING SESSION

THE LAND QUESTION IN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Addresses on : Agriculture and the Economic Depression by Capt. Arthur R. McDougal, Berwickshire; The Violation of Native Land Rights, by the Rev. Mervyn Stewart, Manuden, Essex; The Insufficiency of Remedies Currently Advocated for Raising Wages, by E. J. McManus, Liverpool; an open session with general discussion.

*International Conference***Fourth Day : Friday, 4th September**
THE STATE AND THE INDIVIDUAL

MORNING SESSION

Papers Presented : State Interference in Industry, by Mr H. Kolthek, Member of the Groningen City and County Councils, Holland ; True Free Trade and *Laissez Faire*, by W. R. Lester, M.A. ; Karl Marx and Henry George, by F. McEachran, M.A., B.Litt.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Papers Presented : Problems of Population, by Pastor Chr. Norlev, Secretary of the Christian Social League, Denmark ; Tax Exemption True and False, by Professor H. Gunnison Brown, Professor of Economics, University of Missouri ; The Land Question in Russia, by M. Daudé Bancel, Secretary of the Free Trade League of France.

EVENING SESSION

GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL UNION

Business relating to the Constitution of the Union ; nominations and Election of the Officers for the ensuing period. Adoption of Conference Resolutions. Date and Place of the next Conference. Other Business as may arise.

Fifth Day : Saturday, 5th September

MORNING SESSION

PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS IN
VARIOUS COUNTRIES

Papers Presented : The Past and Present of Georgeism in Spain, by Professor A. Matheu Alonso ; The Reform of Taxation in Spain, by Mr Baldomero Argente ; Discussion introduced on the position in other countries.

AFTERNOON SESSION

HOW TO ADVANCE THE OBJECTS OF
THE CONFERENCE

Paper Presented : The Work of the Henry George School of Social Science, by Mr Lancaster Greene, New York. General discussion on propaganda in the educational and political field ; the work of the Henry George Foundations and national and local organizations ; consideration of methods of publicity ; circulation of literature and periodicals ; platform and press work ; engaging the interest and support of political, economic, social and religious associations.

EVENING

As not all the details of the Conference have been fixed, and some revision or extension of what goes before may be found necessary, the arrangements for this evening will be announced later.

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