

## THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE TRADE

11, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1

In view of the next International Conference to Promote Land Value Taxation and Free Trade, to be held in Edinburgh at the end of July or in the beginning of August, 1929, we renew our earnest invitation to readers of *Land & Liberty* to join the Union, under whose auspices the Conference will be held. We shall be pleased to send membership forms to those who can help in recruiting new adherents.

The condition of membership is approval and acceptance of the objects of the Union, which are: "The promotion of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade as taught by Henry George and the holding of International Conferences." Anyone may enrol on that understanding and is invited to support the Union by such contribution, large or small, as he or she may feel disposed to give; but a contribution is not obligatory and our invitation is cordially addressed in this sense to the many friends in the movement who feel they are subscribing all they can at the moment to their local league or organization.

Besides the personal membership and personal association we here urge upon all, the question of affiliation should be borne in mind. We ask that it be brought before fellow members of national or local leagues and societies that exist to promote our policy. All that is necessary is a formal but simple resolution (adopted in executive committee or at a general meeting) expressing agreement with the objects of the Union and signifying the intention to affiliate. Such resolution, with whatever affiliation fee may be voted, will be gladly put on record.

The National Council for the Prevention of War is holding a National Peace Congress in Manchester on 3rd and 4th December. Mr E. M. Ginders, President of the Manchester Land Values League, and Councillor Arthur H. Weller, J.P., have delegate's tickets representing the International Union. Arrangements have been made for an effective distribution of our "Geneva Memorandum" to all members present and our delegates will doubtless have something to say on the question of land value taxation and free trade as the true road to international peace.

The Geneva Memorandum on the "Interdependence of the Economic Causes of War and of Industrial Depression," when first issued was translated into French, German, Danish, Norwegian, Dutch, Spanish and Hungarian. One of our friends to whom it has specially appealed is Mr Charles G. Baldwin of Baltimore, who on his recent stay in Europe was a frequent visitor at our offices. At his instance a translation has been made into Russian and stencils have been produced from which all the copies desired can be run off. Mr Baldwin's valuable contribution to our work is much appreciated and we shall take occasion to make good use of the Russian version. Copies are, of course, available to any one making request.

The eloquent address our President, Hon Charles O'Connor Hennessy, delivered at the Henry George Memorial Congress, New York, 13th September, has been issued by the Union in separate pamphlet form. Our readers will be glad to see the text in this month's *Land & Liberty*. The address is in itself an exhortation to join and support the Union and is being well used in that way in conjunction with the new reprint of our Geneva Memorandum, now published (price 2d. or 12s. per 100) as a pamphlet under the title "The Economic Causes of War and of Industrial Depression."

We have been pleased to hear from Mr Max Marfels of Berlin, the son of Mr Carl Marfels who was mentioned in our notes of last month. In his letter Mr Max Marfels writes: "I am with you in drawing a sharp distinction between the post-war effects, frightful as they have been, and the abiding social ills that are due in our opinion to

the one-sided laws respecting the land. The observer who has grasped the land question as Henry George has explained it knows of course that the social problem has been aggravated by the admitted effects of war and still further intensified by the excessive burden of taxation; but the results of land speculation and of the rise in rents are day by day so clear and obvious to him, that the short-sighted view of our whole economic position on the part of parliaments and the business community in general cannot but make him unspeakably sad. I wish to say, therefore, that the knowledge I have gained from your letter and from your pamphlets of what is being done to spread the teachings of Henry George has deeply impressed me."

Our co-worker in Vienna and member of the Committee of the Union, Mr Pavlos Giannelia, is the Vice-President of the League of Austrian Land Reformers. The President is Mr Siegfried Sitte, the son of the well-known Camillo Sitte, the founder of the Town Planning movement. The Austrian League is determined to keep on the sound lines of land value taxation as taught by Henry George. Last year Mr Sitte, by invitation, addressed the "Free German Academy of Town Planning," where, with great success, he explained our principle and policy to an audience composed of elements that had not been too friendly so far. In recent correspondence Mr Giannelia has reported the work of the Austrian League, mentioning also the activities of Mr Serebrenik (the author of *The Economic Problem in Agriculture*—an exposition of land value taxation) and Messrs Bartak, Schneider and Knab. These friends, with Mr Sitte and Mr Giannelia himself, were present and spoke to good purpose at the 1926 Housing and Town Planning Conference, held in Vienna.

In an article on Agricultural Depression in France, the *Times*, 18th November, after remarking that the first main cause of the depression is reduced prices, says: "The second of the farmers' troubles is taxation. Its application to agriculture nowadays is admittedly unjust. It is based on a register of land values which is incorrect and out of date. So long as the rate of taxation was comparatively light, nobody troubled very much about the matter; but the successive increases of the last year or two have aggravated the injustice and made it in some cases intolerable."

"The register of land values" in France, besides being incorrect and out of date, is anything but a valuation of land apart from improvements. French peasants could learn a lesson from the wisdom of the Danish peasants, especially the class of small peasants who in their associations of 80,000 members or more stand steadfastly for land value taxation and free trade, and have done much to get a beginning made with the land value policy in their country.