

A small group of our members, including Mr J. D. C. MacDonald, Mr A. Davis and the Secretary were glad to meet Sir Edgar Harper on the 14th July during his short stay in Edinburgh. He has kindly agreed to address a public meeting on Wednesday, 24th October next, in the Society of Arts Hall, 117, George Street, his subject being "The Municipalities and the Rating of Land Values." This meeting will be held just prior to the municipal elections, and we hope that it and other propaganda efforts that we intend to make will have a definite influence on the candidates and on the electors.

Edinburgh and district was well represented at the Anniversary Dinner of the United Committee in London on 24th July by the presence of Mr Charles E. Price (former M.P. for Central Edinburgh) in the Chair, and by the attendance of Sir Henry Ballantyne of Haddington, who journeyed to London specially to join in this celebration. The League sent a telegram to the gathering, offering heartiest congratulations to the United Committee on twenty-one year's work well done, and greetings to the honoured guests.

#### HIGHLAND LEAGUE: I. Mackenzie, Hon. Secretary, The Arcade, Inverness.

The Secretary paid a visit to Dulnan Bridge, Aviemore, and Abernethy on 16th August. "Nethy Bridge," as it is named locally, was the birthplace of the late Senator John Grant, of New South Wales. It is finely situated close to Abernethy Forest, which stretches southwards to the Grampian range of mountains. Two of the deceased's brothers are still living. William, the oldest, is a hale, vigorous man still, although over 80 years of age, and gave the Secretary some interesting stories dealing with the boyhood days of John before he went to Australia 48 years ago. His sound and clear-cut economics proclaimed on various platforms, in the Senate, in season and out of season for many years showed that as a boy he was a thinker and a friend of freedom.

Fort Augustus, Auchterawe, and Glen Morriston were visited on the 2nd August. It appears that the Forestry Commission has acquired more land in the Lochaber district and several arable farms included. An informed correspondent in the *People's Journal* of 18th August writes:—

"The operations of the Forestry Commission in the Highlands, while probably sound in principle, in practice have given rise to much adverse criticism in agricultural circles. Following upon the extensive felling of timber during the war, many of our Highland hills, which in times past were heavily wooded, now present a bleak and inæsthetic appearance, with here and there a withered bole rearing itself from the denuded area, resembling to a great extent the war-scarred regions of France. No right-thinking person could object to the replanting of such tracts, but this is not what the Forestry Commission are doing. On the contrary, they are systematically securing possession of arable land—thus clearing out many of the farms which have been under cultivation for generations."

A vigorous series of meetings recently conducted by Bailie Joseph MacLeod, Inverness, and Mr David E. Keir, M.A., prospective Liberal candidate for North Midlothian, in the course of an extensive campaign in the constituency of Inverness-shire, dealt on many occasions with the Taxation of Land Values. The speakers maintained that this policy was long overdue in this country, that it had been adopted with success in other more progressive countries, and that it was the principal contribution towards a solution of the slum problem. The proposal for taxation of land values, judging from questions and discussion both on the mainland and in the Isle of Skye where it was also propounded, is regarded by a great number of Highlanders and Islanders as being the solution to a very great extent of the land reform problem.

The Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart ("M. J. S." of *Land & Liberty*) has accepted the benefice of Manuden, Essex, as from 5th August, 1928, when he will leave Langley after some years' service. He will be grateful if Georgeist and other friends will note change of address.

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

11 Tothill Street, London, S.W.1

The Committee of the Union held a well-attended meeting at Headquarters' Office in London on Tuesday, 24th July, the chief business being to discuss plans for the forthcoming International Conference in Edinburgh. The President, the Hon. Charles O'Connor Hennessy, was in the Chair, having come specially from New York to take part in the deliberations. The same purpose brought to London on this occasion Mr F. Folke from Denmark, Dr J. J. Pikler from Hungary, and Mr Pavlos Giannelia, representing both Austria and Greece and coming with credentials from the Greek Government. Others present were Messrs Peter Burt, C. E. Crompton, G. Crosoer, I. T. Garrido, E. M. Ginders, L. P. Jacobs, W. R. Lester, E. J. McManus, A. W. Madsen, Ashley Mitchell, C. H. Smithson, Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart and Fredk. Verinder. The absence of Mr John Paul, owing to his illness, was deeply regretted.

The Committee now consists of 74 members from 30 different countries, the latest additions being Mr Otto Cullman and Mr Charles G. Baldwin, representing the United States. The Secretarial Report for the past twelve months summarized the information that has been given month by month in *Land & Liberty* with regard to the activities of the Union and its members, and the general business included the adoption of the Minutes of the Committee meetings held in August last year in Copenhagen, Hamburg and London. The audited financial statement for the year 1927 submitted by the Treasurer, Mr Ashley Mitchell, showed a revenue of £682 13s. 8d. in subscriptions and donations and an expenditure of £786 19s. The year had begun with £126 9s. 7d. in hand and had ended with a cash balance of £22 4s. 3d.

As already announced, the spacious Assembly Hall of the New College, with its well-appointed adjoining halls and rooms, has been engaged for the Fourth International Conference, to be held in Edinburgh next year. The Conference Membership Fee will be £1. The Committee fixed the date for the week 27th July to 2nd August, it being resolved that the Conference will be open to such persons as shall in good faith subscribe in writing to the objects of the International Union as declared at the Copenhagen Conference held July 1926 as follows: The objects of the Union are the promotion of Land Value Taxation and Free Trade as taught by Henry George, and the holding of International Conferences. It was decided to appoint Conference Committees dealing with Programme and Resolutions; with General Arrangements; with Reception at the Conference; and such other local Committee or Committees as may be found necessary; and in addition a Committee to submit to the Conference a constitution for the permanent status of the International Union.

The organization of the Conference requires command over adequate financial resources, and it is hoped that all members and supporters of the Union will do their best from now till the day of meeting. This early and sufficient support is the more necessary in view of the further important decision of the Committee that all Papers submitted to the Conference shall be printed and circulated in advance to the enrolled members. In this way the proceedings will be much facilitated, the authors of the Papers or the parties responsible for them having a limited time to review their main content, and so give ample opportunity for others to join in the discussion.

The Committee on General Arrangements has Bailie Peter Burt, J.P., for its Chairman, and he will call its members together. The Committee on Programme and Resolutions, with Mr Ashley Mitchell as Chairman, has its duties well in hand. Most of the members of the latter Committee are already appointed, and they include

Messrs C. H. Smithson, W. R. Lester, E. J. McManus, C. E. Crompton, and F. C. R. Douglas (England); S. Berthelsen, K. J. Kristensen and Jakob E. Lange (Denmark); L. P. Jacobs (Australia); F. C. Leubuscher, G. E. Evans and Otto Cullman (United States); J. Pikler (Hungary); P. Giannelia (Austria and Greece); A. Albendin (Spain); D. de Clercq (Holland); Sam Meyer (France); Halfdan Hansen (Norway); two or three representatives to be appointed by the German Branch; and the General Secretaries, John Paul, A. W. Madsen, F. Folke and Abel Brink.

The Committee received fraternal greetings from many parts and our correspondents are asked to take this mention as in hearty recognition. A letter was sent by the Committee to the Foreign Ministry in Athens, expressing the pleasure of Mr Giannelia's presence as representative of the Greek Government, and hoping he would be present in the same capacity at Edinburgh next year. Mr Giannelia had with him printed copies of the Greek translation of the Memorandum addressed by the Union to the Economic Conference in Geneva. In this admirable contribution to our work and its extension over the international field Mr Giannelia is to be highly complimented. An explanatory note added to the pamphlet makes a powerful statement of our case, and of its importance to the country of Greece and its people.

On the evening of 24th July a pleasant Social Gathering took place at the St. Ermin's Restaurant. It was an opportunity for informal conversations among those who had attended the meetings (of the United Committee as well as the Union), and on the previous day the Anniversary Dinner of the United Committee. The relation of the land question to hygiene came under discussion, led by Dr Stanislav Ruzicka, Professor of Hygiene at the Bratislava University, who had journeyed specially to London to meet members of the Union on this occasion and explain his point of view. An interesting hour was spent on the topic, and our visitor was heartily thanked for having come so far to introduce it. As was mentioned in our May Notes, Dr Ruzicka translated into Czech Mr Lester's pamphlet, *What is the Single Tax*, and had it published in the *Czecho-Slovak Journal of Hygiene*.

During the rest of the week Mr Hennessy was on duty at the office spending busy days on the affairs of the Union. He visited Liverpool on 30th July, Edinburgh on 31st July and Glasgow on 2nd August, addressing meetings under the auspices of the Taxation of Land Values Leagues at these centres, and all friends gave a glad welcome. He was accompanied by Mr A. W. Madsen, and in Edinburgh was joined by Mr Ashley Mitchell, who also addressed the meeting there. Excellent reports of the speeches and of interviews with Mr Hennessy, giving much publicity to Conference, appeared in the *Liverpool Post*, the *Scotsman*, the *Edinburgh Evening News*, the *Glasgow Herald* and other newspapers.

To his audiences Mr Hennessy said the purpose of the forthcoming Conference was to promote international prosperity and international peace and progress through complete freedom of trade. They maintained that freedom of trade meant more than freedom of exchange over national boundaries, that it meant freedom of production as well, and that could not be accomplished without the destruction of land monopoly, which was the primary cause of unemployment and of restriction upon the productive industries of the country. They were glad to say that the question in which they were interested appeared to be coming into practical political discussion in Great Britain as never before. At the General Election the issues would not only be the maintenance and extension of Free Trade, but the taxation of land values with the incidental freeing of the industrial energies of the country from the various burdens of unfair taxation, local and national, which now bore upon them.

Mr Hennessy sailed for home from Glasgow on 4th August. The only relaxation during a fortnight's arduous work was

a couple of motor trips, one over the county of East Lothian and the other to the Trossachs, Sir Henry Ballantyne and Bailie Peter Burt being the hosts on these occasions.

It has been decided to issue a reprint of the pamphlet entitled *The Copenhagen Conference and the Certain Pathway to World Peace*. This reports briefly the proceedings of the Copenhagen Conference and contains the text of the Presidential Address. It is a pamphlet that has been so much in demand that the first edition was exhausted some time ago. Copies of the new issue will be available during the course of the month.

The Copenhagen Presidential Address has been published recently, under the title *The Road to Peace*, in a neat 8-page booklet, by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York.

The Esperanto translation of our Memorandum addressed to the Geneva Economic Conference will be published in the course of the month. The translator is Mr Oscar Wihl, B.A., LL.B., and the pamphlet, for which we are indebted to Mr Ashley Mitchell, will be published for the Union by Messrs A. Stockwell, Ltd., 29, Ludgate Hill, E.C.4. Esperantists in the land values and free trade movement are invited to co-operate in giving this latest version of the Memorandum the widest possible circulation.

The Rev. Mervyn J. Stewart, one of the most industrious and vigilant of our members, is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He was interested in the International Geographical Congress which met at Cambridge in July. Relying on the official invitation from the last Congress in Cairo in 1925 that Papers were invited on Human Geography, with special reference to the effect of legislation and government on the density and sparsity of rural habitation (including "regimes of property" as one of the influences), Mr Stewart submitted the abstract of an admirable Paper on Georgeist lines. The Paper was rejected without appeal by the Secretariat, the excuse (given as a private opinion) being that the order of reference was too wide.

Members of the Union will be gratified to know that our co-worker in France, M. Sam Meyer, has accepted a position as Secretary-General of the French Free Trade League, of which the late M. Yves Guyot was the leading spirit for many years. M. Guyot never expounded the real free trade as we understand it; in fact he was a declared opponent of the Taxation of Land Values. M. Sam Meyer, however, aims to put the French League upon this higher platform, expounding free trade as Henry George teaches it—the freedom to produce as well as the freedom to exchange.

We have been glad to receive a large bundle of newspaper cuttings from Mr Halfdan Hansen of Bergen. These consist of informing articles written by himself for the local daily newspaper, stating the case for land value taxation in relation to the many problems of the day.

The July quarterly volume of the German Land Reform Year Book (*Jahrbuch der Bodenreform*), edited by A. Damaschke, Berlin, contains a translation of Col. Wedgwood's informing pamphlet, *Local Taxation in the British Empire*. It is translated by Hermann Ritter, Logansport, U.S.A. Our readers acquainted with the German language may obtain this volume of the *Land Reform Year Book* from the publishers, Gustav Fischer, Jena, or from the Land Reform League, 11, Lessingstrasse, Berlin, N.W.23.

You are cordially invited to join the International Union and make membership contribution of any amount, large or small. Additional fee of £1 will enrol you, having subscribed to the objects of the Union or having already joined it, as member of the International Conference, Edinburgh, 27th July to 2nd August, 1929.