

## NORTHERN AREAS CONVENTION FREE TRADE AND LAND VALUE TAXATION

MANCHESTER, 26th NOVEMBER, 1938

THE FOLLOWING resolutions are to be moved at the Northern Areas Convention to be held (two sessions, beginning 2.30 p.m.) on Saturday, the 26th November, in the Houldsworth Hall, 90 Deansgate, Manchester :—

1. Believing that Tariffs, Import Duties, Quota Systems and other trade restrictions are economically unsound and unjust are among the main causes of international disputes, this Convention demands that the Government shall call a World Conference to consider the Van Zeeland Report and the removal of all barriers to international trade and commerce.
2. Believing that the value of land is created by the presence and enterprise of the community, and that the present system of levying rates is unjust and uneconomic, this Convention supports the Bill for the Rating of Site Values, to be introduced by the London County Council, and demands that the Government shall give powers to all Local Authorities to levy rates on Land Values and remove rates from houses and other improvements.
3. This Convention declares that Unemployment, Low Wages and Trade Depression are results of Land Monopoly and the Taxation System based on it; that the Taxation of all the Land on its selling value, whether used or unused, would open up new opportunities for employment and production in town and country, and also provide public revenues without penalizing industry. This Convention, therefore, calls upon the Government to value all the land (as was pro-

vided for in the 1931 Budget), as a step towards the public appropriation of the publicly-created land values and the restoration of the people's rights to the land.

This will be a Conference representing political, co-operative, industrial, pacifist and other organizations in the Northern Areas of England and Wales, which are invited to send up to six delegates each, delegate's fee being 1s., or for six delegates from any one society 5s. 6d. Visitors' tickets 1s. each.

Mr D. R. Grenfell, M.P., will preside and the announced speakers are Mr Andrew MacLaren, M.P., Mr. H. G. McGhee, M.P., Mr. R. R. Stokes, M.P., Alderman G. F. Titt, ex-Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor William Johnston, Chairman of the Manchester City Council Finance Committee, and Mr Charles Royle, J.P., prospective Labour candidate for West Salford.

The Convention is organized by the Land Values Group of the Parliamentary Labour Party in conjunction with the Manchester Land Values League. Copies of the programme, with delegate forms and visitors' tickets, are obtainable from the organizing secretary, Mr A. H. Weller, J.P., 98 Sandy Lane, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

## HUNGER THE CAUSE OF WAR: REMOVE IT

Rt Hon George Lansbury, M.P., at Ipswich

A CROWDED audience filled the Public Hall, Ipswich, on 4th October, the meeting being organized by the local branch of the Henry George Fellowship.

Mr George Lansbury, M.P., recently returned from a visit to the Balkans said (extract from *East Anglian Daily Times* report) :

"There is going to be no peace in the world until the problem of the hungry men and women has been solved. I am one of those who are tremendously thankful that we escaped war last week. I do not belittle the sacrifice that has been made, but in comparison with what would have followed had there been a war, it would have been a drop in the ocean.

"The cause of war is hunger. There would have been no trouble in Sudetenland had not that part of the world been worse hit than any other by unemployment. The same problem is in Poland. In each of the Balkan States you will find people struggling against the economic conditions that are man-made, and which by war can be remedied. I want everyone, irrespective of political creed, to face up to the fact that there can be no peace in the world until the nations gather round a table and discuss how we can use the resources of the world instead of destroying the world."

"I have seen the ruler of every country in Europe, save Turkey and Greece. I have stood face to face with them, and they all agree with what I have just said. We in England must use this period of peace we now have, be it a week, month or years, by taking the lead in calling the nations of the world together in conference. Just as we have asked the people of Czechoslovakia to make sacrifices for peace, then we in Great Britain must say we will renounce Imperialism, and we will enter this conference prepared to put into the common pool all we have of the world's resources, so that all nations may share.

"There's no other way under the sun by which we can be saved from poverty, destitution, and conflict at home or abroad. It is the one way of salvation for all mankind."

Mr Leon Maclaren, who also spoke, dwelt on the cause and effect of war.

Mr R. R. Stokes, M.P., who presided, said that a memorandum had been sent to all Members of the House of Commons, asking them to attend a conference at which the question of peace would be discussed. It was hoped they would be able to frame some proposals which, in the interests of all, could be put up to the Government.

The half-yearly meeting of the Bookham Ratepayers' Association referred to on page 169 was held on 30th September in the Old Bookham Hall, Great Bookham. Mr L. G. Rose presided.

The *Caterham Weekly Press*, the *Dorking Advertiser* and the *Surrey Advertiser* published extensive reports of Mr Douglas's address.

On the motion of Mr C. V. Brayne, Leatherhead U.D.C., the meeting adopted a resolution expressing the opinion that the present incidence of rates, assessed as they were mainly on the value of buildings and other improvements to land, was inequitable and desiring the law to be amended to enable rates to be levied on the value of land apart from improvements. The Association further urged that rates should gradually be transferred over a period of years from the present basis to the proposed new basis, and that legal provision should be made to enable that to be done.

The *Land Union Journal* for October contained a comprehensive and accurate statement of the proposals adopted by the London County Council as a basis for its Bill for rating site values, amplified at some points by quotations from Mr Douglas's *Land Value Rating*. It also printed a letter issued to the Press by Mr Charles Latham, the Chairman of the Finance Committee of the L.C.C., explaining the proposals. It is stated that a sub-committee of the Land Union has been appointed to consider the whole question.