

## NOTES AND NEWS

From "The Estate Market" column of the *Times*, 12th June, 1930: "Properties in Paddington are rising in value. The holder of a lease on an estate towards Edgware Road, at a ground rent of £12 a year, recently approached the ground landlords for renewal, as the term has only five years to run. The negotiations broke off when it became clear that the new actual cost would be approximately £275 a year under the suggested terms."

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A further note in the same column runs: "The Grand Junction Company's accounts show over £37,000 in rents receivable from their Paddington holdings. According to the Chairman's statement at the company's general meeting, 'the increased income to accrue from our renewals so far should be approximately £6,500 per annum as from Midsummer this year, and, as far as we can foresee, as from Midsummer, 1932, an additional £8,500.'"

The precautionary phrase, "as far as we can see," makes the very necessary allowance for a possible fall in rents due to land value taxation.

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In a letter to the *Railway Review*, A. Munsie writes:—

"Export and import trade may be desirable in order to make social life more varied, but so far as employment is concerned, both are unnecessary. Let us develop the varied and rich, natural resources of Britain, and unemployment will quickly disappear. I would ask all who are interested in finding a solution to the seemingly baffling problem of unemployment to read *Social Problems, Protection or Free Trade and Progress and Poverty*, by Henry George, all-in cost 3s. 10d., and advertised by you as 'Books to Read.'"

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G. McE. (Fitzwilliam, Yorks): I received the new edition of *Progress and Poverty* safely, and I think it is one of the best books a working man can read. How you manage to sell it so cheaply I don't know, but I only wish every miner could procure one because, if we miners don't know what poverty means, I don't know who does.

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The *Daily Telegraph* reports (6th August) that Messrs Watkin and Watkin (Reigate and East Grinstead) have just completed negotiations for the sale of twenty-two acres on the outskirts of Reigate to the Reigate Corporation under their housing scheme, the purchase price of the land being £10,000. This is equivalent to £454 per acre.

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## THE TARIFF CURSE OF EUROPE

From an article appearing in *John Bull*, by the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., entitled "A Great Big Idea":—

They have only to look around (the nations of Europe) to see the fair regions they inhabit starved and impoverished by the greatest of all wars, disturbed by hatreds and jealousies which the conflict has only aggravated, and hampered and burdened at every point by fetters and barriers they have themselves created and must spend a large part of their income to maintain.

The demand of the masses in all countries is for higher economic well-being. Science and organization stand ready to supply it.

Why is the contrast between American and European conditions so cruel and their comparative rates of material progress so unequal?

We observe that Europe is overlaid with a tangled growth and network of tariff barriers designed to restrict trade and production to particular areas.

This network is the product of modern times. It has markedly increased since the Great War.

In fact, every improvement which science has given to European communications has been tripped up and rendered largely nugatory by this new and immense apparatus. Nothing like it is to be seen in the United States.

There the free interchange of goods and services over the widest possible area, or over very wide areas, is a dominating factor in the rapid accretion of material wealth.

But this idea of European unity, so novel to untutored ears, is no more, in fact, than a reversion to the old foundation of Europe. Why should it appear startling to its inhabitants?

Why should Europe fear unity? As well might a man fear his own body.

The organization of Europe to-day is at once more onerous and less economically efficient than it was before the war. More than 7,000 miles have been added to her Customs barriers.

Every new frontier has increased the cost in time and money of the transport of goods.

The whole zone of Middle Europe, from the Baltic to the Aegean, is split into small States vaunting their independence, glorying in their new-found liberty, acutely self-conscious and exalting their particularisms.

They must wall themselves in. They must have armies to defend the ramparts. They must have revenues to pay the armies. They must have foundries and factories to equip them.

They must have national industries to make themselves self-contained and self-supporting.

They must revive old, half-forgotten national languages just to show how different they are from the fellows across the frontier. No more discipline of great Empires; each for himself and a curse for the rest. What a time of jubilee!

Obviously, the landholders have little title to the values of land that are created by others. Such values, which are alone built up by the enterprise and necessities of the people, should return to the people. This can be done by taxation of those values.—HARRY EDWARDS, prospective Liberal candidate, North Camberwell, in the "*South London Press*," 2nd May.

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A correspondent writes: "The one thing that encourages me these days is the fact that the working men who opposed me years ago are now willing to admit that we have the solution of their problems."