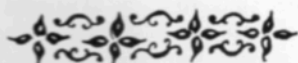


married. The king set aside 1,500,000 acres as public lands to support the operations of government, and 30,000 acres were vested in the common people, but few claimed any share as they had no understanding of the value of private property or any interest in it.

Nearly a million acres were kept as crown lands and when the monarchy terminated, what remained of this land was merged with the public lands. There are still about 2,000,000 acres in the public domain.

"Land reform was launched in Ha-

waii by a generation no longer willing to tolerate a landed oligarchy," said the RSF Executive Secretary, "and circumstances were ripe for the effort. Between 1950 and 1960 the urban population increased 33 per cent and land prices went sky-high. In all the 50 states, Hawaii ranks lowest in the number of families owning their own homes. The demand for one-family houses is so great that existing structures in Oahu command a resale price 60 per cent higher than the average in the other 49 states."



CONFERENCE ECHOES

Vic Blundell, editor of *Land & Liberty*, writes from London: "In retrospect the conference seems even better than it did at the time. We have much to remember for the future. I could go through it again and again and still find many notes to make, many questions to ask and many points to raise."

From Toronto Jim Ramsay reports: "I got about 35 hours of tapes taken at the conference and the little bit that I have already played for the executives of the Alumni certainly impressed them."

Phil Wallace from Jamaica: "What a conference! I enjoyed it immensely, and meeting delegates from various countries was most stimulating. I was greatly encouraged in my lonely fight here for those truths which alone can save our world from chaos. I now know I'm only one of a vast army of workers, and have been reassured and strengthened, and given a new lease on life."



Opposing parties in England have been moving toward recognition of the fact that in crowded Britain, too, the day of the landowner "in his traditional sense" is over. The Labor party would nationalize "undeveloped land." Others would abolish the concept of freehold and substitute the British system of leasehold. Even the Henry George single tax has been mentioned, according to a recent article in *The Atlantic Monthly*.

Capital gains, says the report, cannot much longer go untaxed. For a long time Labor campaigned against removal of the surtax on earned incomes above £2000 and below £5000. This brought quite small earners into the upper tax brackets. But this seems only to "accelerate the 'brain drain' to America and Australia." The Labor prejudice against large incomes is therefore disappearing "provided the incomes are earned."



Elmer Russell Greenlee dug up "The Perfect Squelch" from a 1959 issue of the *Saturday Evening Post*, in one of his recent *Bluebird Letters*. A "Mr. Finch" objected when the school board asked him to sell a strip of land for \$10,000, complaining that it was worth at least \$75,000. At a noisy meeting a councilman said, "I am in favor of giving Mr. Finch the \$75,000 he asks for the right of way." Then over the protests, he added, "and of reassessing the rest of his property on the same basis."