

NEWS OF THE MOVEMENT

THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES, LTD., 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1. A. W. Madsen, Secretary; F. C. R. Douglas, Assistant Secretary; W. R. Lester, Hon. Treasurer. (Telephone: Abbey 6665; Telegrams: "Eulav, Parl, London.")

Expelled by enemy action from our former premises we are now settled and equipped in our new offices, a self-contained building, at 4 Great Smith Street, in the heart of Westminster. Of the many kind and encouraging messages of sympathy in the misfortune that befell us one was especially expressive. It said: "I am sorry you have been unhorsed at Knighttrider Street; remount and gallop ahead." We have so far overcome the interruption and the disturbance that we are at any rate in the saddle again and with feet in the stirrups, if the further use of metaphor may be permitted. All the agencies are well accommodated: the United Committee, the International Union, the Henry George Foundation, *Land & Liberty* itself, and the English League. To our printers we express our gratitude for giving us temporary house-room while the new premises were being made ready.

Not only were our offices destroyed but also all they contained. Some precautions had been taken even against ordinary fire risks in preserving elsewhere vital documents and copies of lists of names and addresses; and about half of the stock of saleable books and pamphlets had been dispersed to various parts of the country. But the loss of valuable office records and manuscripts is grievous, some things being irreplaceable. In the 1,000 volume reference library there was, for example, a collection of the translations of Henry George's works into many languages, more complete than is to be found, we believe, in any part of the world. Retrieved from the ruin were the contents of the safe which had withstood the strain or it was more air-tight than that of a neighbour who, alas, found nothing but ash in his more strongly-built one.

Readers will excuse that in the circumstances it was difficult to make headway with the June issue of the Journal and that we have to give them on this occasion the double number covering the months of June and July.

There is little more to be said about the catastrophe save that happily no one came by hurt and save also that of course heavy expense has had to be incurred in connection with the move. The job is now to prosecute the campaign for the better day when social justice shall triumph over any thought of the conditions that make beasts of human beings, the one to the other whether across or within national boundaries. That we mean to do with undiminished vigour and in unshaken confidence that by persevering in the education of public opinion the barriers opposed to social progress by ignorance and apathy will ultimately be levelled.

While we make a most earnest appeal to our readers to help each other in this great endeavour, and to help us to co-operate all we can, there is one immediate request that bears upon our present handicap. We lost all filed copies of *Land & Liberty*. There is constant application for this or that issue because of some article it contains. Any reader therefore who can spare the issues especially of recent months (any earlier issues will also be acceptable) will do a real service by letting us have them.

The other matter is the reference library. How may such an essential equipment be restored? There are those who have libraries containing the standard classics on political economy, social philosophy, economic history, the land question, reference books and treatises and, generally speaking, the literary tools which are familiar to the student who knows the journalist's needs and occasions. We do not say send now what you may be able to spare, for indeed we are hardly ready yet to receive much, but books of the kind could be "named" for our use and benefit and a list might be sent so that we know where such books are available and we can in due time take advantage of offers kindly made. Already we are deeply indebted to one friend for her presentation of the "Memorial Edition" of the complete works of Henry George, an edition which is extremely scarce and replacing the set that we lost. A timely gift, and the nature of it an augury of good fortune. Other friends have presented their sets of bound volumes of *Land & Liberty* back to the first number, knowing the service which that mine of information is to us.

On another page is advertised our new publication (price 2s. 6d. and 2s. 9d. by post) entitled *Why the German Republic Fell*, with sub-title "And Other Studies of the Causes and Consequences of Economic Inequality." We regret that we could not have it out by the promised date but the delay has been unavoidable. Here it is now and we hope for it a wide circulation with the assistance that readers can give. As it consists wholly of matter that has already appeared in *Land & Liberty* it does in large measure make up for the loss of back numbers and there is a compensating coincidence in its appearance at this time. A specially prepared folder will advertise it, which we ask readers to apply for so that they can enclose copies in their personal correspondence.

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Frederick Verinder, General Secretary. 4 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1 (Telephone: Abbey 6665.)

On May 7th the General Secretary kept the 57th anniversary of his election, in 1884, as an officer of the League, at its first Annual meeting. Three days later, the building in which the League and the general headquarters of the movement had been housed, was completely destroyed by enemy action, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Nearly a month later the office safe, in which, happily, the list of members was preserved, was recovered from the ruins. But all the records of 58 years' activities, the League's library, which included 51 volumes of bound and indexed pamphlets, were destroyed, among many other grievous losses.

Fortunately the Annual Report of the Executive for the year ended March 31st was in type, and the Auditors' Report had just come into the Secretary's hands. These have now been printed and are being sent to all the members with a letter from the officers of the League, who feel sure that the members and friends of the League will see to it that it is soon enabled to resume its full activities in the new office at Westminster.

A member of the League has supplied the Secretary with the names and army addresses of about 30 men who are serving in the Forces. We would gladly welcome more help of this kind. These men are being told that they are fighting for a better condition of society. It is well that they should be told the "New Order" for Britain and the world depends mainly upon the abolition of Land Monopoly, the main cause of Poverty in the midst of Wealth, and on the abolition of Tariffs, the chief cause of the international friction which leads to war. Hitlerism will never be destroyed unless the evils that gave rise to it are ended.

MANCHESTER LEAGUE: Arthur H. Weller, J.P., Secretary, Pytchley, Bean Leach Road, Offerton, Stockport.

Under the auspices of the Henry George Club four meetings have been held in the Friends' Meeting House, Hillgate, Stockport, and addressed by Mr D. J. J. Owen. Mr J. R. Lightfoot presided over the first meeting on May 5th when the speaker dealt with "Reconstruction and land speculation." At subsequent meetings the subjects were "A planned order or a free order," "The struggle for rating reform," and "The power of land monopoly." Miss Betty Noble, Hon Secretary of the Club, occupied the chair on May 19th, and all the addresses were followed by useful questions and discussion. Copies of *Progress and Poverty* and other books and pamphlets were purchased and good reports appeared each week in the *Stockport Express*.

Similar meetings are being organized in Clitheroe and Wythenshawe.

Mr Owen addressed a well-attended and keenly interested meeting at Clitheroe on 29th May, the success of which was largely due to the skilful and genial work of Mrs F. G. Sumner. Mr Owen had also engagements to address meetings of the Wythenshawe (Manchester) Friends on 16th and 23rd June, and another Clitheroe gathering in July which Mrs Sumner is organizing.

The Macclesfield Rotary Club invited Mr J. R. Lightfoot to address one of their recent meetings, and the members appeared to be much impressed by what they heard of Georgian principles. Mr Lightfoot is indefatigable in his work for the cause and has made good use of the explanatory literature kindly supplied by the United Committee.

GREAT CROSBY HENRY GEORGE FELLOWSHIP: Meets first Sunday each month: Mr C. C. Paton, Hon Secretary, 11 Tudor Road, Liverpool 23.

Mr E. Stephens opened the discussion on, "In the grave state of human affairs is it more expedient politically to demand that the abolition of all taxation save that upon land values be accomplished by one Budget instead of by instalments in successive Budgets." He expressed the view that while the Taxation of Land values by gradual steps was a comparatively easy and reasonable way which came near to being successful in a period believed to be making progress, the rapid decline of civilization and the tendency to dictatorship and the slave state had been so great in Britain that they could only be overcome by publicly insisting at the end of the war that the rent of land belongs to the people and upon the immediate collection of the whole of it, by the abolition of all taxation save that upon land values; that the simplicity, obvious truth and high aim of the proposal would appeal to all who labour as a bold one offering just and immediate relief from the wrong about which men will concern themselves more keenly after the war, and indicate the high social state based on justice that they could attain. Those who participated in the discussion congratulated Mr Stephens on the presentation of his case,