

valuable plot of land in the town. The August issue publishes translation of Lord Snowden's speech in the House of Lords on 3rd July.

HOLLAND

Mr H. Kolthek writes us from Gröningen:—

"We have succeeded in maintaining our little weekly *Recht en Vrijheid* (Justice and Freedom), and are getting subscribers to it, slowly but steadily, in all parts of the country. Besides, we took part in the general election of last year and polled with very little propaganda 5,000 votes on our programme: *Take land values by taxation and abolish all other taxes and rates*. I broadcast an election speech which afterwards was published and distributed in leaflet form.

"During last winter we organized many meetings all over the country that were attended by several hundreds of people.

"This year we published a pamphlet of 48 pages in 10,000 copies, of which now about 8,000 are distributed. It is an 'Open Letter' to the Secretary of Social Affairs on the only efficient means of combating unemployment, namely, by taxation of land values. The Secretary has answered our Committee that he has read the pamphlet with great interest and will consider the matter closely. That answer is printed in the little book.

"We sent free copies of the pamphlet to all M.P.s, to all Secretaries of State, to all professors of our academies, to all mayors all over the country, to thousands of lawyers, clergymen and medical men, to 500 daily and weekly papers and various journals, and to hundreds of prominent men and women in social and industrial life.

"This distribution has brought much correspondence with interested persons, which we are publishing now under the head, 'The Knock at the Door.' In this way we have got many subscribers among professors, lawyers, clergymen and others. But the Press kept silent about the pamphlet and all the professors of economics did the same. To the new subscribers we sold hundreds of copies of the pamphlets for further distribution by them. Now we are going to organize our first national Conference in November next, and we hope to have present a representative from your Committee. One of the proposals at the Conference will be the affiliation of our party with the International Union for 'Taxation of Land Values and Free Trade.'

GERMANY

Dr Adolph Damaschke succeeds in maintaining the fortnightly publication of *Bodenreform*, and the quarterly volumes of the *Jahrbuch der Bodenreform* (Land Reform Year Book), both published at 11 Lessingstrasse, Berlin, N.W. 87. The issues of 15th and 19th July give considerable space to the "Betrayal of English Land Reform," in the repeal of the Finance Act of 1931. There is a sketch of the Parliamentary history from the time of the municipal agitation dating back to 1894, succeeded by the 1909 Budget and subsequent developments. Extracts of the recent House of Commons debates are given, and a large part of Lord Snowden's speech in the House of Lords, 3rd July.

The latest part of the *Year Book* (80 pages) is of unusual interest. It gives some account of the International Congress for Land and Social Reform held in Paris in 1889, and quotes from the speeches of Henry George, Wm. Saunders (England), Jan Stoffel (Holland, and translator of *Progress and Poverty*), M. Toubreau (France), F. Lindenberg (Denmark), Michael Flürscheim (Germany), Shaw Maxwell (Scotland), A. de Potter (Belgium), Bruce Walker (Ireland), and others. Among the "reporters" of the Congress was Frederick Verinder.

A number of pages is devoted to a survey of "land reform" in many countries, with good mention of the land value taxation movement in Great Britain, the United States, and British Dominions. The influence of Henry George is recognized, and it is interesting to see the advertisements of George's works on the covers of the volume. This may set at rest the numerous inquiries we have had whether George's books were also proscribed when others were consigned to the flames on the streets of Berlin and other cities last year.

We welcome the new print of Dr Damaschke's pamphlet, *Bible and Land Reform*—an edition of 30,000 copies, bringing the total issue to 110,000. We hope that it may have a wide circulation these days in Germany.

ARGENTINA

M. J. S. writes:—

Tribuna Georgista (Defensa 553, Buenos Aires) for 15th July, 1934, gives due prominence to the action of the Governor of the Province of Santa Fé, Dr Luciani F. Molinas. This worthy statesman is impressed by the poverty of the educational authorities in this Province and the deplorable illiteracy of the masses in consequence. He is satisfied that more taxes on the poor will not be productive and has given permission to the School Authorities to tax land values to the measure of their needs. The League of Taxpaying Property owners has issued menacing protests, to which the Governor has given a reply described as "brave and calm." In view of the unvarying hostility to Georgeism of educationalists as a body (with brilliant exceptions) it will be interesting to see if "the case is changed when their own ox is gored." The splendid work of Rivadavia in 1816-28 is again recalled with the praise it deserves in an issue full of general interest.

SIR GEORGE FOWLDS

In Wellington, New Zealand, on 17th August, Sir George Fowlds passed away at the age of 73. Born in Ayrshire, he migrated to South Africa at the age of 22 and three years later he went to New Zealand, where he settled in Auckland and later became one of its most prominent citizens, actively engaged in public life in the interest of every progressive cause. He had the land values movement particularly at heart and had been devoted to the teachings of Henry George from his first reading of *Progress and Poverty* in 1886. He was Member of the New Zealand Parliament from 1899 to 1911. From 1906 to 1911 he was Minister of Education and Public Health in the Ward Government, an office he resigned as a protest against the refusal or the failure of the Ministry to advance a real radical policy. As the *New Zealand Times* observed: "It may be taken for granted that the Single Tax is at bottom of the severance. . . . He would have remained if the Prime Minister had committed himself to a policy of increasing the taxation of land (values) and with the revenue so raised, reducing railway freights and abolishing all duties on the necessities of life." At the 1911 General Election he was defeated and had not since sat in Parliament.

Sir George last visited Great Britain in 1914, when he addressed meetings in many centres in advocacy of land value taxation and was the guest at dinners given in his honour by the United Committee and the Land Values Group in Parliament. While he always maintained his interest in the land values movement, in his later years he gave himself to educational work, and occupied the responsible position of President of the Auckland University College Council from 1920 to 1933. But frequently he would take the platform for the Henry George teaching. There was the notable address, for example, that he gave to the Conference of Rotary Clubs of New Zealand in February, 1933. Answering the question, What should be Rotary's message to the world, he answered that it should reiterate Clause 11 of its Code of Ethics: "We contend that society best holds together when equal opportunity is accorded all men in the natural resources of this planet." To which he added: "The only complete and rational exposition of the cause and cure of the economic ills of the world was that made by Henry George in *Progress and Poverty*. . . . As long as the private appropriation of rent (which is a communally created product) is allowed to continue, our Western civilization will continue to hover on the brink of a precipice, or, what seems quite possible in the not far distant future, tumble over the brink into chaos and ruin." The high repute in which Sir George was held as one of New Zealand's foremost citizens was evinced in the remarkable tribute paid to him on his retirement in July last from the University College. To his son George and the other relatives we convey our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.