

# THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

# PROGRESS

An Australian Journal to Advocate the Rights of the People in the Land

POLICY: 1. APPROPRIATION OF LAND VALUES OR GROUND RENT AS PUBLIC REVENUE.  
2. THE ABOLITION OF TAXES NOW IMPOSED UPON LABOR AND LABOR PRODUCTS.  
3. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL ELECTIONS.

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A. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc., Editor.

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## CURRENT COMMENTS

### CUTS IN IMPORT DUTY

It is gratifying to record the announcement of cuts of import duties on 800 items. The reductions are not large, being down to 7½ per cent. on items previously charged 12½ per cent. Nevertheless they are on materials used in production of other goods and will tend to lower prices. For most of the items British goods were already duty-free so that the reductions do tend to make for more effective competition.

Another important development has been the reduction in primage on petrol which has been followed immediately by a reduction of 2d. per gallon in the retail price of petrol.

These moves are a beginning in the direction of putting value back in to the pound. We commend the Government for its action and urge it to go much further in the removal of barriers to trade.

### EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET

Treaties to set up the European Common Market were signed for Foreign Ministers of France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, and the West German Chancellor on March 25. The treaties will need to be ratified by their parliaments. They will also require the approval of the members of GATT since they involve a new system of trade preferences.

Unrestricted trade within the boundary of the Common Market is the major purpose underlying the scheme. This is to be brought about gradually over a period of from 12 to 17 years.

While the removal of internal tariffs is taking place there will be built up a tariff wall against imports to the bloc from the rest of the world. Presumably the level will be somewhere between the lowest and highest duties now imposed by these various States.

It could, therefore, mean that for some at least the benefits of internal free trade will be cancelled by the increases in prices due to tariffs against outside trade.

Based on "L. & L.," April.

## MELBOURNE UNDERGROUND RAILWAY

According to press reports the Minister for Transport has indicated that city property owners may be asked to contribute one-third of the cost of constructing this proposed railway.

We are not too enthusiastic about this proposal. We have not yet seen any clear statement of the advantages to be gained from this project other than the obvious one of increased trade and enhanced land values to a few well-known business firms whose premises adjoin the exits of this proposed railway.

If there are benefits warranting expenditure of public money we should be told about them.

In any case it is inadequate that city property owners pay only one-third of the cost. The whole cost should be met by a rate upon city land values if the project is to be undertaken. This would ensure that the community share adequately in the enhanced land values attending its outlay in public works.

## CHURCH FINANCES

In view of the recent interest in various denominations concerning methods of finance, including those of the Wells organisation, the following passage from "Christianity and the Social Crisis" by Walter Rauschenbusch, who was professor of Church history in Rochester Theological Seminary, is of interest:

"Several denominations in New York City are forging ahead of others, not simply by superior spiritual efficiency but because they have long had an endowment in city land and are able to feed their religious work with the "unearned increment" created by the community. In general our land system works against the great majority of Churches which have to live from hand to mouth. It has long seemed to me that the land tax system of Henry George would create almost ideal conditions for the early Church. A Church would then pay an annual rental or tax on the site occupied, just as if it occupied land under a perpetual lease. It would not have to raise a large sum for the initial purchase of land, but could devote its available capital to the Church edifice, and hope to pay its annual land tax from its current income, just as it now pays interest on the Church debt."

## WEST AUSTRALIAN FAIR TRADE

Meeting in Perth the W.A. Housewives' Association decided to request the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Hoar) to abolish all "food boards" on the ground that these are unfair to the purchaser.—"Age," 4/5/57.

The retiring president of the Association (Mrs. Irene James) said that the "boards" were (1) creating a monopoly; (2) raising the cost of living; (3) not representing the consumers. "We housewives are bearing an unfair burden and it is time the Government realised this," said Mrs. James.

### Strong Approval

Henry George League is strong advocate of "freedom for trade" and abolition of all kinds of monopolies and restrictions on consumers. Housewives are consumers and suffer most trying to make ends meet.

These "boards" never did help the consumer, but were set up because the primary producers were being robbed by tariff taxes, sales taxes, payroll tax, etc., and getting restless. We trust primary producers will look into the real cause of their troubles and kick out the taxes on production.

## CLARENCE MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The results of the Clarence Municipal election conducted upon the issue of Site-Value versus Annual Value Rating were a complete vindication of those councillors who had pressed for adoption of S.V.R.

Ward	Candidate	System Adopted	Votes
CAMBRIDGE	D. E. PARRISH	U.C.V.	950
	J. F. GUERIN	U.C.V.	852
	P. J. WRIGHT	U.C.V.	115
BELLEVIVE	E. T. GROVES	U.C.V.	985
	ELTHAM (Mrs. K.)	A.A.V.	490
LINDISFARNE	F. S. NEWMAN	U.C.V.	1434
	H. SCOTT	A.A.V.	798
SANDFORD	W. COETZE	U.C.V.	267
	D. H. CUTHBERTSON	A.A.V.	583
Totals for Site-Value Candidates			4653
Totals for Annual-Value Candidates			1871

The election of site-value candidates in three of the four wards gives a majority of 7 to 5 favoring that basis. There are still a couple of hurdles before the change is made.

First is the writ issued by Mrs. Eltham seeking to restrain the council from proceeding with the change. The grounds and result are not yet known to us.

Second is the poll to be taken upon a proposal to disband the elected council and replace it with a Commission. This poll is to be taken on June 1. As site-value candidates stressed that the move for a Commission was to forestall adoption of S.V.R. it can reasonably be expected that the proposal will be defeated at the poll.

Congratulations to the Tasmanian councillors and citizens for their energetic and most successful campaign. We understand that the publicity through the press has sparked off interest in at least one other municipality near Hobart and that formation of a Tasmanian Rating Reform League is being discussed.

A pamphlet modelled on the "Question and Answer" one prepared by the General Council for Rating Reform was effectively used in the campaign.

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN CONFLICT

The Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture issues a monthly journal entitled "Over-sea Trading." Its purpose is to disseminate information, mainly in regard to developing our exports, the emphasis being on manufactured and processed goods.

A recent issue lists 21 Trade Commissioners in various parts of the world and intimates that "The Australian Government is now offering to men of outstanding ability the opportunity to join the service which promotes the sale of this country's products on world markets." Another list sets out "Exporters wanted for these goods," and enumerates countries, firms and specified goods.

The object is a laudable one but why is it necessary for the Government to embark on the highly specialised business of selling our products overseas. If our goods are of sufficiently high standard and the prices are competitive, then the producers surely are competent to market them. Commonsense suggests that if our manufacturers with their developed knowledge of marketing have little success, how can a Government department with its ponderous and very costly methods hope to succeed.

But the irony of the situation lies in the fact that another Government department is doing its best to neutralise the efforts of the one just mentioned. Our exporters build up credits overseas but when the exporters in other countries desire to use them (in exporting to Australia) they are met by our high tariff wall and, as if that was not enough, the Government imposes import quotas. The object is, of course, to restrict imports. The inevitable effect is to greatly increase prices in Australia to the detriment of the would-be exporters.

We are frequently reminded of the vast potential markets in our relatively near neighbours — China, India and the intermediate lands. Now what prospect is there that Australia will ever share in those undoubted possibilities. No competitor for any prize would think of burdening himself with unnecessary handicaps but here we have the spectacle of one Government department defeating the well-meant efforts of another when it seeks to expand our export trade. With inflated "home costs" how can we? The obvious method is to reduce or abolish the burdensome tariff taxes.

The equally obvious outcome would be a greatly lowered cost of production thus permitting us to enter "foreign markets" and so build up a big export business in other lines to supplement our wool and wheat exports. Do Mr. Menzies and his ministers approve both of these contradictory activities of his Government?

—W.A.C.

**Whittlesea.**—Two miles from town, on main Wallan Road, 44 acres of the C. W. Andrews estate in Whittlesea valley sold for £7040, or £160 acre which is district's record price.—"Argus," 24/2/56.

[Ed. Note.—Canberra rulers inflate the paper balloon currency by Treasury Bills followed by O'Malley notes a-plenty. Hence purchasers bid up the price for this secure asset, grazing land, and vendor departs with the profits of inflation. Land holders benefit by "creation of credit" and approve such "development."]

## EXEMPTING BUILDINGS FROM LOCAL TAXES

### EFFECTS IN CAMBERWELL COMPARED WITH HAWTHORN AND MALVERN

For those connected with the building construction industries Greater Melbourne municipalities provide an object lesson on the extent to which different taxation policies affect their interests.

Some of these municipalities for many years have exempted buildings and based their local taxation only on the value of building sites. Others have based their local taxes upon the value of the building-plus-site. Under this basis most of the tax falls on the building and only token amounts on sites.

Comparison between councils following these opposite policies shows that where buildings are exempted property owners have taken advantage of this to build, modernize or re-build on a greater scale than those still taxing buildings.

Long-term building investigations already publicised by the Land Values Research Group showed that the building construction level per acre in the councils exempting buildings has been approximately double that in their counterparts taxing buildings.

The results of these different policies can be seen readily by comparing the extent of modernisation of shopping centres in municipalities following these

two policies. Shopping centres are compact, of limited extent and therefore easily studied. Moreover, differences in degree of modernization between them reflect the increased volume and quality of trade linked with residential development.

There are three easily recognised stages of development in shopping centres that permit classification as modern, semi-modern and obsolete respectively. "Modern" are shops with cantilever type verandahs and metal-framed windows. "Semi-modernized" are those with metal-framed windows and pillar-supported verandahs (or no verandahs). "Obsolete" are those with wooden or stone-framed windows and pillar-supported verandahs (or no verandahs). There are other refinements of modernization such as offset windows, terrazo fronts, neon roof lighting but the above simple classifications are sufficient to show great differences.

Surveys have been made in the major shopping centres of the municipalities of Camberwell, Hawthorn and Malvern at the end of December, 1955, using the above classification. Camberwell has exempted buildings and improvements from local taxes since 1922; Hawthorn and Malvern have taxed them over this period. The surveys cover the Burke and Glenferrie Road shopping centres which were all well established at 1922, hence the results show mainly the extent of re-development since then.

East side of Burke Road is in Camberwell and West side in Hawthorn, this being a boundary road between the two.

The Camberwell Junction shopping centre is covered by the first two groups above combined. The Camberwell part where buildings and improvements are exempt from local taxes has 85 per cent. of its shops modernized while the Hawthorn part where buildings are taxed has only 64 per cent. in the modernized class.

The difference is substantial but does not show the full effect of the local taxation policy because competition has ensured that when Camberwell traders modernized Hawthorn traders on the opposite side of the road had to improve their premises to higher standard if they wanted to retain business.

The full stimulation due to exemption from taxes is seen in comparing Camberwell with the Glenferrie and Malvern centres. The latter have only 35 and 44 per cent. of their shops in the 'modern' class compared to Camberwell 85 per cent. On the other hand Glenferrie and Malvern have 21 and 20 per cent. respectively in the 'obsolete' class compared to Camberwell only 6 per cent.

The view that taxation of buildings and improvements is responsible for the high degree of obsolescence in Hawthorn and Malvern and the taxation of sites in lieu of buildings responsible for the high degree of modernization in Camberwell is confirmed by the later experience of Malvern.

#### Modernization of Shopping Centres Compared

##### NUMBER OF SHOPS

Semi-

STREET	Modern	Modern	Obsolete	Total
<b>CAMBERWELL JUNCTION CENTRE</b>				
<b>(a) Camberwell Part</b> (Buildings Exempt)				
Burke Road (E. Side) ... ..	81	13	5	99
Riversdale Road ... ..	35	1	—	36
Camberwell Road ... ..	39	3	6	48
Cookson Street ... ..	9	—	—	9
Totals	164 (85%)	17 (9%)	11 (6%)	192 (100%)
<b>(b) Hawthorn Part</b> (Buildings Taxed)				
Burke Road (W. Side) ... ..	55	33	2	90
Riversdale Road ... ..	14	5	4	23
Camberwell Road ... ..	30	4	6	40
Totals	99 (64%)	42 (28%)	12 (8%)	153 (100%)
<b>GLENFERRIE CENTRE</b> (Buildings Taxed)				
Glenferrie Road ... ..	95	78	23	196
Burwood Road ... ..	18	63	46	127
Totals	113 (35%)	141 (44%)	69 (21%)	323 (100%)
<b>MALVERN CENTRE</b> (Buildings Taxed)				
Glenferrie Road ... ..	119	74	29	222
High Street ... ..	45	58	43	146
Station Street ... ..	9	16	1	26
Claremont Street ... ..	2	10	13	25
Wattletree Road ... ..	16	—	—	16
Totals	191 (44%)	158 (36%)	83 (20%)	435 (100%)

### Malvern Since Exempting Buildings

As a result of a poll of ratepayers in August, 1955, Malvern decided to tax site-values and exempt building-values. A further field check in May, 1957, shows that although only 17 months since the change there has been a great transformation in the appearance of the Glenferrie Road section. In the section between Wattle-tree Road and Edsall Street there were 15 pillar-supported verandah type shops. These have now been replaced with cantilever types. The whole of this section comprising 21 shops has had continuous duralium roofing with neon lighting installed and is ultra modern.

In the section of six shops between Station Street and Evandale Road the pillar type verandahs have been replaced with cantilever type and duralium roofing. Elsewhere in Glenferrie Road ten other shops have had similar treatment making a total of 31. In this period of a little over a year the number of fully modernized shops in Glenferrie Road has thus been increased by 25 per cent. In addition at least four others have had new fronts put in without altering their previous classification.

High Street was previously a 'dead' business section with rather poor type old shops. It has also shown a marked improvement. One new ultra modern shop has been built here, three pillar-types replaced by cantilever, four old type fronts replaced by modern, many others painted or otherwise improved in appearance, and extensions and improvements made to unsightly industrial properties.

The stimulation to improvement is seen in the value of building permits which increased from the previous level of £1,012, 800 to £1,913,336 for the year ended 31/12/56, this being the first complete year since the change to exempt buildings and tax sites.

### "CREEPING INFLATION"

Cecil Belfrage's book "The Frightened Giant" is an exposure of the average American fear of communism. The Statue of Liberty literally trembles on its mighty pedestal, but as is usual in such instances, this "fear complex" causes the whole nation to become blind to the real enemy within — uncurbed and private appropriation of Ground Values.

Every measure taken to maintain prosperity is subject to the "Creeping Inflation" of Land Values, both here and in U.S.A. and in fact everywhere else.

Must we relate the continued blindness of mankind regarding economic truth to the Biblical saying that "Man shall earn his bread by the sweat of his brow?"

Man by his manifold labour creates wealth and progress accompanied by never-ending nearness to poverty. This nearness to poverty is the spur to more labour which in itself is good for the individual, man and woman, despite the popular illusion that a life of empty luxury pictured by literature and film is the ideal condition of man.

False ideals and false fears are the real opiate of the people. Never was the introduction of the Single Tax more necessary than now. The Georgians have 12 Herculean tasks to perform with meagre means. Herewith my mite to help.

—L. W. GRAHAM.

### NEW LEGISLATION ADOPTED DENMARK

From "Land & Liberty," April, 1957, we learn of the passage of two Acts, one dealing with national and the other with local taxation, the effect of which is to prevent any increased taxation falling on buildings and improvements.

One of these Acts limits the amount of the buildings tax, payable to the State, to the amount chargeable on any property in the fiscal year 1956-57. In consequence, all new buildings and improvements become tax free, as also every increase in the value of buildings and improvements as may be shown to have arisen in the general re-valuation that has been recently completed.

The other Act makes similar provisions with regard to local taxation in Copenhagen, Frederiksberg and the provincial boroughs, though not in the counties and rural parishes.

On the other hand, in the counties and parishes, the amount of building value that is deducted before any rate can fall on buildings or improvements has been considerably augmented.

With these now increased allowances and exemptions county taxation rests almost entirely on the value of land alone.

(This is gratifying news indeed. But bearing in mind the general understanding and acceptance of our principles in Denmark on a wider scale than here we wonder at the apparent timidity in their Acts about completely exempting buildings. In Australia when local areas change to site-value rating they completely exempt all building value and with nothing but beneficial effect. Our scale of rating too is heavier than in Denmark).

### JAMAICA

The Land Valuation Bill which, as reported in February issue of "Land & Liberty," was approved by the House of Representatives on November 29, has since been passed by the Upper House (the Legislative Council) and is now law. The *Daily Gleaner*, Kingston, in its issue of December 17, reported extensively the Third Reading debate in the Council.

The Hon. Egerton Richardson, the Financial Secretary, in charge of the measure, explained that its object was to effect a complete valuation of the land on a new basis, the latest valuation of the Island having taken place in 1937: Two values would be ascertained: the unimproved value, i.e., the value of land apart from buildings and improvements, and the capital value of the land including buildings and improvements. The Bill was not a taxation measure; it would merely vary or make possible of variation, the basis on which the taxes may be levied in the future.

It was the first of a series of measures by which the Government intended to implement a policy of varying the incidence of taxation on land and it would be followed at a respectable distance by other measures which might or might not make substantial amendments in the Property Tax Law and the Parish Rating Law. There would be for some considerable time throughout the Island two bases of valuation on which land taxation might be levied, and it was only when

the new valuation had been completed for a particular district that it would be possible to supersede the old valuation and therefore introduce the new taxation.

There would be ample opportunity for discussing the various questions which arose when the next Bill in the series reached the Council, that was the Bill that dealt with either property tax or the parish rates. He added that it was the policy of the Government, with a view to encouraging the development and full utilisation of land, that all land taxes should be based on unimproved value. As a disciple of Henry George he unhesitatingly commended the Bill.

In the course of the debate, wholehearted support was given by the Hon. Robert Kirkwood, definite opposition was shown by the Hon. Douglas Judah, some questions were put by the Hon. Douglas Fletcher and the Hon. Brian Charles O'Brien Nation, and after reply was made by the Financial Secretary, the Bill received its third reading and was passed.

## WEST AUSTRALIAN NOTES

### LAND VALUE RATING CAMPAIGN IN NEDLANDS

In November, 1956, one of our members, Mr. W. E. Standring, was elected a Councillor in the Nedlands Municipal district. Since then, he has been trying to convert the other Councillors to accept the Land Value Rating. The Mayor and his personal friends are strenuously opposed to our proposals.

### THE GOVERNMENT LAND TAX AMENDMENT ACT

In the Lower House, the Local Government Bill has been passed. We are apprehensive that the Upper House will reject the Bill. Therefore we have decided to do what is in our power to influence a favourable decision. Circulars have been forwarded to politicians in an endeavour to break down opposition.

### PERTH CITY COUNCIL

One of our members, Mr. S. G. Hart, collected particulars and prepared a Rating Analysis and Questionnaire addressed to the Town Clerk. In January last, the schedule on Rating Analysis was circularised to all members of Parliament, while the questionnaire was retained until answered by the Town Clerk of Perth. No reply has yet been received.

### RAILWAYS

In order to draw attention to the Land Value taxation principle, and in view of the threatened closure of over 800 miles of country railways, we sent out 80 circulars with pamphlets "Our Railways Do Pay" to all members of both houses.

## A GOOD IDEA

A Toowoomba friend has sent us a press cutting of a fine letter which he based on a "Progress" article.

May we suggest that there is no reason why our material should not be sent to YOUR local paper for reprinting in similar manner.

With the personal touch of a local resident added to it, Georgist comment is usually welcomed by the Press. We hope our Toowoomba reader will see his idea copied in many places. It is good work.

## FORUM ON IMPORT CUTS

A public forum on import restrictions was held at the Henry George League rooms at 18 George Parade, on Friday, 10th May.

The discussion was introduced by Mr. Max Collens, a Flinders Lane importer, who gave many first-hand illustrations of how arbitrary restrictions were imposed by bureaucrats with no knowledge of the commercial field for which they were devising regulations. Not only do importers suffer serious and unfair harm, but also the public is afflicted with inflated prices and unnecessary delays in delivery of goods. Often the restrictions are merely a cloak behind which a manufacturer establishes himself in a uneconomical industry; sometimes the shielded manufacturer, for whose benefit overseas contacts with importers have been disrupted, abandons his project. The alarming nature of the transfer of power to bureaucrats from whose decisions there is no court of appeal was stressed.

Interesting contributions were then made by Messrs. Young and Rourke, officials of the Waterside Workers' Federation. They emphasised the serious decline in employment on the waterfront owing to the restrictions, and the consequent hardship to workers' families. Early in May a stop-work meeting was held on the Sydney waterfront to protest at the effects of the restrictions. The position in Melbourne is so bad that men who passed their medical examination in October, have not yet been admitted to employment. Messrs. Young and Rourke stated that it was the policy of their federation that there should be two-way, free trade with any country Australians might wish to transact business with.

Among members of the audience who contributed to the discussion were Mr. A. R. Hutchinson, who quoted Commonwealth Year Book data to show that Australia had survived with an excess of imports over exports in previous years, especially before World War II; and Mr. W. Tindall, who pointed out that import restrictions do precisely what an enemy seeks to accomplish in a war-time blockade, viz., prevent goods entering a country.

During the discussion reference was made to the myth of London balances, to the fact that imports and exports tend to equal each other over a long period, and to the fact that Year Book statistics show that employment levels rise and fall with volume of imports.

The next forum will be held on Friday, June 14, at 8 p.m., and will be on the subject of world peace and means to attain it. Speakers will be: Rev. Robert Green, Vice-President of the Victorian Pacifist Movement; and Mr. G. A. Forster, B.Sc.

Readers are urged to publicise the forum and do their utmost to attend. Previous forums have been most stimulating.

\* \* \*

Very True.—The world's great thinkers have often been amateurs; for high thinking is the outcome of fine and independent living, and for that a professional chair offers no special opportunities.—Havelock Ellis.

[Ed's Note.—No better illustration is afforded than that provided by political economy.]

## SITE VALUE RATING ACTIVITY

### WARRAGUL SHIRE

Warragul Shire Council convened a public meeting on 16th April, to discuss site-value rating. The attendance was not as large as expected but widely representative. The Shire President (Cr. Mac Steward) chaired the meeting.

Before introducing the guest speaker (Mr. A. R. Hutchinson, B.Sc.), Cr. E. H. Baker, President of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke citing the views of an ex-councillor who had gone to Nunawading, seen the transformation effected there by site-value rating and urged them to adopt it in Warragul.

The address gave much information on the principles and effects of site-value rating and was followed by questions. The President commented that he was glad to see that the subject had been treated as a matter of principle and not simply an appeal to people to judge it according to how it affects their pocket.

Both "Waragul Guardian" and "Warragul Gazette," of 23rd April, reported proceedings very fully, their reports occupying 62 and 52 column-inches of type respectively.

There has been interest in this subject for a long time in Warragul. The unknown poet whose poem on rating reform we printed in last issue has followed up with another good one.

Action to secure a poll next year is expected unless the council itself moves for the change before the end of June.

### KEILOR SHIRE

Action has now been taken here to organise a Keilor Rating Reform League in preparation for the poll to be taken next August. The credit for initiating the petition here goes to the members of the Labor Party. However, it was considered advisable that the General Council for Rating Reform convene the meeting to form the organisation to secure co-operation of all sections in pressing this reform.

Cr. J. H. Morris, J.P., chaired the meeting which was attended by about 60 ratepayers. Speakers were: Cr. A. Skewes (Keilor), Cr. E. J. Angel (Broadmeadows), Mr. A. R. Hutchinson. Officers appointed were: Cr. A. Skewes (President), Cr. E. C. Deutscher (Honorary Secretary), Cr. H. J. Lake (Vice-President), and a widely representative committee of seven members. More than 50 persons signed as members ready to assist in the campaign.

A public meeting has since been held at Niddrie (attendance about 70), speakers being Cr. A. W. Skewes, Mr. L. J. Hutchinson, and Mr. Harcourt Bell. A further public meeting is to be held on 31st May, at St. Albans and others to follow.

### MAFFRA SHIRE

Action is in hand here by the Maffra Ratepayers' Association to collect the necessary signatures to a petition for a poll of ratepayers to be taken next year.

### TRARALGON SHIRE

The valuation is proceeding in preparation for the poll next August. The poem on "Rating Reform" in our last issue has been printed by "Traralgon Journal." A very encouraging feature here is that members of both rival branches of the Labor Party have publicly stated their support for change to site-value rating.

### WODONGA SHIRE

We have not much news of action here except that the valuation is well advanced and it is expected the poll will be taken next August. A bill to authorise the postponement from last year is now before Parliament.

### MOE BOROUGH

The petition for a rating poll in Moe was organised in the last week in January by members of the Labor Party with co-operation of others as far as possible.

Afterwards the General Council for Rating Reform convened a public meeting on 1st April, for the formation of a Moe Rating Reform League representative of all sections of the community to press the campaign.

Mr. L. W. Brown chaired the meeting while Cr. J. H. Morris and Mr. A. R. Hutchinson explained the principles and operation of site-value rating and answered questions.

Those present willing to act upon the committee were invited to write their names and addresses in a members' register, and officers were appointed from the meeting.

The proceedings were extensively reported by the "Latrobe Valley Advocate," of 5/4/57, occupying 80 column-inches of space.

Later reports are that it now appears certain there will be no poll this year since a valuer has not yet been appointed and it seems impossible that a valuation could now be completed in time. Local press discussions point to postponement although the council itself has made no public statement on the matter.

### LABOR PARTY PRESSES S.V.R.

One of the most encouraging recent developments has been the wider understanding and keen advocacy evident among members of the Labor Party on site-value rating. This has, of course, been Labor Party policy for many years but few seemed to have a really strong grip of the principles and supporting arguments to make them really effective advocates.

Effective drive and leadership on this subject by Labor Party members has been shown recently in Keilor, Broadmeadows, Ferntree Gully, Traralgon, Moe. Earlier campaigns in which the Labor Party initiated action or were very active advocates were Hamilton, Moorabbin, Benalla, Malvern, Brunswick, Box Hill and Kew.

It is encouraging, too, to see that this increasing drive for reform is not confined to only one of the rival Labor Party organisations.

## UPWEY A.L.P. PRESENTS CASE

"Mountain District Free Press" of 21/2/57 fully reports an excellent case for site-value rating presented by the Upwey A.L.P. Debating team at a public meeting in Lysterfield. Its three speakers were Messrs. R. Wanklyn, Bushell and J. Bennett.

The full report occupies 52 column-inches and is too long to refer to extensively. It concentrated particularly upon suitability of site-value rating for farmers.

Quite an extent of original research had evidently gone into the case. Results of some of this given by Mr. Bennett are worthy of wider attention.

He referred to recent publicity given to rate increases in areas rating site-value and the impression given by opponents of site-value rating that increases are a product of that system, as follows:

### 106 Shires Under N.A.V. Raised Rates

"Examination of every shire in Victoria, not just one or two in the headlines, showed that last year 106 shires had increased their rates under N.A.V. or were already on the maximum allowed by law.

The new maximum had been only recently fixed by law, but already 51 shires were rating on it; 39 had directly increased the rate in the £1 last year; and, in addition, 16 shires had increased their rate indirectly, revaluations doubling and trebling. These 16 had reduced their rate in the £1 by 34 per cent. but had increased their valuations by 211 per cent."

"The experience, everywhere, was that site-rating brought development. And development was what the shire needed. It did not have enough local jobs to keep its young people in the district.

The farmers complained that they would be put out of business by unimproved value rating. This was untrue. What did happen, of course, was that as cities grew, land in the suburbs became too valuable to farm and the farmers subdivided it and were only too willing to pocket the fabulous prices they were able to get for it.

Unimproved value rating was universal in the primary producing states of Queensland since 1890, and N.S.W. since 1915."

"We in the A.L.P. advocate site-rating for the same reason that we belong to the Labor Party. We believe in the doctrine of the greatest good for the greatest number and we believe that site rating will promote the good of the greatest number of people in the shire, directly through the reduction in their rates and indirectly by putting the shire on a better financial footing."

## NEDLANDS MUNICIPALITY (W.A.)

We have received news that Nedlands Municipality (West Aust.) decided upon its own resolution to change to Nett Annual Value rating. There are not facilities to demand polls as in other States and no indication was given at last municipal election of any intention to make such a change which would have made it an issue.

However the decision on system to use in West Australia is an annual one and does not bind for three years as in Victoria. It can therefore be raised as an election issue at next elections.

## MADSEN MEMORIAL APPEAL

Following the account in our May issue of the death of Arthur Madsen, B.Sc., leader of the movement in England, invitations have been received to contribute to a memorial fund to assist his widow and family.

The Henry George League Executive has decided to donate £5/5/- towards the fund. Any members or friends wishing to contribute are invited either to send contributions to the League, to be sent with the above, or direct to "Land and Liberty," 4 Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

## PERSONAL

Mr. E. J. Craigie seemed quite recovered and full of fight when he came over for the May meeting of the Foundation. He had a serious illness at the beginning of the year.

Mr. B. J. Parkinson received a fine write-up recently in the "Herald" as a solicitor who, at 84, retains the drive of a young man. Among his many other interests due prominence was given to his activities as President of the Henry George Foundation of Australia.

Cr. J. H. Morris was interviewed recently in the radio session "50 and Over." As President of the Henry George League he was asked what it stood for and gave a very good short explanation of our principles.

Mr. R. K. Whittle, in Papua, has sent us much very interesting material on the development of New Guinea. Some of this we have already used in our account of the proposed introduction of Local Government in the territory.

Mr. E. F. Halkyard had a serious operation early in the year but seems to have recovered well although he has to watch himself. His work output for the Henry George principles is still great.

## UNSOLICITED TESTIMONY FROM MILDURA

"Sunraysia Daily" (7/1/57) contains an article dealing with the step-up in building construction permits in 1956 in Mildura, and gives credit to the adoption of site-value rating in the following quotation:

"Supporters of the unimproved capital value system of rating claimed before last year's poll that adoption of this system would mean increased home building and a better type of home.

Both contentions seem to have been borne out by results.

Busiest period for home permits was the last three months of the year, when permits for this purpose totalled £82,000.

These months coincided with the adoption by council of U.S.V. rating.

One of the slackest months was September, the month before U.C.V. was adopted, when five home permits were issued for work costing £11,000.

In 1955 September was the busiest month for home permits, when 20 permits were issued for work costing more than £52,000."

### NOTES FROM VARIOUS SOURCES

**Free Trade for Peace:** Her (China's) resources, though large, are not infinite, and she will be forced, like other great industrial powers, to seek raw materials and markets overseas. If the West responds to this need by imposing vexatious and ineffective embargoes, the certain result will be to provoke hostility and ultimately to endanger peace. If we respond by expanding our mutual trade with China, meeting her needs and buying her products, we can expect that the benefits of a prosperous commerce will gradually blunt the acute antagonisms of two different and clashing ideologies.—C. P. Fitzgerald, Professor of Far Eastern History in the Australian National University, Canberra, in "Current Affairs Bulletin," Nov. 12, 1956.

**Productivity Promoted; But Prosperity?:** It is estimated that radioactive isotopes are saving United States' industry 100 million dollars a year. In many ways, they are helping industry make better products more easily and quickly, but also at lower cost.—Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation publication, 1955.

(Is every American 60 dollars a year better off? Most certainly not—thanks to land monopoly and punitive taxation.—Ed.)

**Drastic:** Roofs have been removed from good properties in England so that owners can avoid exorbitant rates.—Land and Liberty, Aug.-Sept., 1956.

**Editor's Note:** Tax a commodity, and you tend to reduce its supply. But trained economists can't (or won't) catch on.

**Walking is Costly:** Footwear manufacturers considered that the 22½ per cent. ad valorem tariff (British preferential) was insufficient, so requested the Tariff Board for a bigger loot from Australian consumers. The Board finally recommended a British preferential tariff on all rubber footwear of 3/6 per pair (plus 12½ per cent. ad valorem on non-British imports) for children's sizes; for other sizes, 5/6 per pair (plus the 12½ per cent. ad valorem on non-British goods, as before). Data from Tariff Board report, year ended June 30, 1956.

**Editor's Note:** Perhaps it might be cheaper to go barefoot and pay a chiropodist.

**Wrong Emphasis:** If we are to achieve the exports which we can achieve, it is essential that, as soon as the present economic fever has been disposed of, taxation of motoring should be reduced, so that the ownership and operation of a car carries no more than its proper burden of costs, and no one who can afford the real costs should be prevented by taxation from owning a car.—B.B.C. broadcast on the motor industry. (The Listener, July, 1956.)

**Editor's Note:** The real point at issue is not the flourishing of the motor industry, but the right of the producer to enjoy the full fruits of his labor, free from arbitrary taxation. Unfortunately, when, as at present, ethics is divorced from economics and individual rights are well-nigh ignored, fundamentals are lost sight of. The consumer should have his purchasing power undiminished by taxation, not merely with motor cars, but with all other commodities, be they chocolates or cheeses, umbrellas or underwear.

#### THE CALL

"Why hesitate? Ye are full-bearded men,  
With God-implanted will, and courage if  
Ye dare but show it. Never yet was will  
But found some way or means to work it out,  
Now e'er did Fortune frown on him who dared.  
Shall we in presence of this grievous wrong,  
In the supremest moment of all time,  
Stand trembling, cowering, when with one bold stroke  
These groaning millions might be ever free?  
And that one stroke so just, so greatly good,  
So level with the happiness of man,  
That all the angels will applaud the deed."

12/3/57, E. R. Taylor).

## Radio Broadcast Session

Conducted weekly by speakers of the Henry  
George "Justice" Party from

RADIO STATIONS 3DB & 3LK

Every Sunday at noon.

LISTEN AND ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO LISTEN

EXTENSION OF BROADCASTS

Evening broadcasts have now commenced from  
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Donations to the Broadcast Fund are  
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**Hosiery Tariffs:** Tariffs on socks and stockings are either a certain sum per dozen pairs, or an ad valorem percentage, whichever yields the higher duty. The ad valorem percentage ranges from 17½ per cent. to 45 per cent., depending on which tariff (British, intermediate, or general) applies, whether the hosiery is for males or females, and on the material (woollen or otherwise). In addition, there is primage ranging from 5 to 10 per cent.—Tariff Board report, May, 1956.

**Brisbane, Q.**—Eagle St., City site of burnt out premises of Eade & May on allotment of 13.72 perch with frontage 45 ft. 7 ins. by 112 ft. depth was bought by Winchcombe, Carson Ltd., for £51,000, showing bare land value per perch of £2,724, or £44,078 per sq. chn.—Age, 13/4/56.

[Ed. Note.—Central city land values absorb large sums of shareholders funds as "opportunity costs" and are non-productive permits to begin business on that location. Lower land values would release funds for production.]

**Canberra Treasury** collects £180 million of compulsory "savings" annually in surplus taxation and adds inflationary pressure when this is spent by the Government instead of by the individuals.

—John Eddy, "Herald" Economist.

[Ed. Note.—But Keynes' theory asserts that taxation of citizens reduces inflation of prices. What does the reader think?]

MEMBERS' EVENING at LEAGUE ROOMS,

TUESDAY, 18th JUNE, 1957

## HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE

18 George Parade. (off 113 Collins Street, Lear Russell Street).  
Melbourne, C.I. Telephone: MF 4635. Office Supervisor, Mrs. Kerford.

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Members' Evening, Tuesday, 18th June, at 8 p.m.

Henry George "Forum," Friday, 14th June, at 8 p.m.

HENRY GEORGE JUSTICE PARTY.

Broadcast Session, 3DB each Sunday, 12 noon.

NOTE CHANGE IN BROADCAST TIME