

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

An Organ of Fundamental Democracy

Policy: FREE LAND, FREE TRADE, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Vol. II, No. 167

Registered at the G.P.O. Adelaide, for
transmission by Post as a Newspaper

ADELAIDE: AUGUST 21, 1935

Post free, 2/- per year, in advance

MARKETING CONTROL

Orderly marketing is much in the air at the present time. Mr. E. J. Craigie dealt with the subject in his speech on the Address in Reply on August 14. Copies of this speech are being reprinted from Hansard, and will be available for distribution at an early date. Our readers are probably aware that since Major Elliot assumed control of agriculture in Great Britain he has made a name for himself by his interference with industry. One example is just to hand. We quote from the July issue of "The Free Trader."

"A woman has been fined £100, with the option of three months' imprisonment, by the Potato Marketing Board for the crime of selling potatoes without a licence. Hands are held up in horror when we read of somewhat similar happenings in Soviet Russia, but this is free England. The prices of potatoes have increased by leaps and bounds during the past few weeks, and of course some of this rise is due to the May frosts, but not all. There is no abatement of the regulations whereby potatoes from overseas are excluded from our use by quotas; and it remains a crime to sell three popular kinds if they will pass through a 1½ inch riddle, or any other kinds if they can pass a 2 in. riddle. And anyone who last year grew an acre of crop is punished if he is so unwise as to try to grow two acres this year. The Potato Marketing Board disclaims all responsibility for dear potatoes, but it is responsible for the regulations which prevent any reduction in price."

Control of marketing has proved a failure wherever it has been tried, yet we have legislators in Australia who believe it to be the salvation of industry. It cannot be too strongly stressed that all governmental control and regulation is detrimental to industry, and that the best results are to be obtained under conditions of freedom.

PLEAS FOR TRADE LIBERATION.

In the July issue of "The Free Trader" there is a selection from numerous recent pronouncements in criticism of trade restrictions. These are important public utterances, and they indicate that many realise that until there is a removal of the restrictions from trade there is no hope of world rehabilitation. We reprint these fine statements for the information of our readers.

"Some people are convinced that we can neglect the rest of the world and conduct all our trade on an inter-Imperial basis. That conviction is completely at variance with the realities of the situation. The whole structure of our mercantile organisation, our financial supremacy, much of our coal production, our unrivalled shipping services, many of our great manufacturing industries and their ancillary supplies are supported upon the basis of world trade. Is it surprising that there are 30,000,000 unemployed people in a world which remains blind to the fact that in the long run exports can only be paid for in goods and services?"

Mr. THOMAS J. KENNEDY, President of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. June 20, 1935.

"The position in regard to trade restrictions has become more difficult (during 1934-1935). . . Each time I have spoken to you about economic nationalism and the policy of self-sufficiency it has been in the hope that it would be the last time I should have to mention the matter. I feel I must almost apologise for harping on the subject again, but the world is not getting out of the morass—it is getting farther into it. What chance is there of nations with large and growing populations, confined to territories which in some cases are already too small to support them, seriously considering disarmament while their activities are being restricted more and more by quotas and barriers that are now being raised up against them?"

Mr. J. O. M. CLARK, Chairman of Messrs. J. & P. Coats, Ltd. June 13, 1935.

"The Council calls upon the Government, in consultation with other nations, to use more freely their buying power and the right of entry to their markets in order to convince the world, and particularly the creditor nations, that one of the most potent contributions to the restoration of trade and employment, the maintenance of currencies and the preservation of peace will be a general recognition of the fundamental principle of international trade—namely, that goods and services should be permitted to adjust international indebtedness."

Resolution by the Executive Council of the British Chamber of Commerce. "Times" Report, May 2, 1935.

"The international situation still remains perplexing and harassing, hampered as we are by high tariffs, quotas and currency restrictions, all of which militate against anything like a smooth and freely moving trade. . . India and China have raised heavy tariffs against us. In India this has been done with the definite object of protecting their own industries as well as for revenue purposes. We need a large overseas trade to find employment for our people, and as it increases so will unemployment here decrease."

Sir EDWARD RHODES, Chairman of Messrs. Rylands & Sons, Ltd. April 30, 1935.

"The innumerable obstacles which stand in the way of foreign trade to-day are symptomatic of the wasting disease which attacked world trade a few years ago. Yet any long-sighted person must realise that the nations of the world cannot become self-sufficient, or even nearly self-sufficient, without involving their people in untold want and misery."

LORD TRENT, Chairman of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce. May 1, 1935.

"I deplore the fact that there have been arrangements made for the issue of the world's goods, which are now being hoarded in warehouses. When we think of the complicated machinery needed for it, we realise how cumbersome and expensive such methods must be in comparison with the free commercial exchange of commodities that prevailed a few years ago. In speaking of such matters we are apt to express too strong resentment against the measures taken by other countries. Their actions may be mistaken, but we cannot boast unquestionable wisdom ourselves."

Mr. W. H. SUDARDS, President of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce. February 12.

"Our difficulties are increasing through the growing disposition of Governments all over the world to attempt to control or regulate trade. That tendency shows no sign of abatement. On the contrary, there is every sign of its extension. During the year there have been increased difficulties to all branches of our trading in the form of increased and varying tariffs, quotas, currency restrictions, and the complete shutting out of imports from certain countries by methods of barter. Until these devices acting in restraint of the free international exchange of goods are removed we cannot look for any real or lasting improvement."

Mr. C. J. SEED, President of the Seed, Oil, Cake and General Produce Association. January 23, 1935.

"At present the policy of tariff walls holds the field, with every country curtailing its consumption of the good things of this world; in fact, living unto itself. Under such conditions it is not possible for the recovery in world trade, to which we are all looking forward, to make much progress."

Mr. COLIN CAMPBELL, Chairman of Alexanders Discount Co., Ltd. January 23, 1935.

"Free Trade is the only thing that can save the world. The ideal for which we all ought to be working is that of a free intercourse of trade. We must talk and work for the time when trade will be free."

Mr. EDWARD PRIESTLEY, at the annual dinner of the Bradford and Halifax Wool Association. January 11, 1935.

"We are much concerned at the growing interference by Parliament with trade and industry. Schemes of planning central control are unsatisfactory because they substitute rigidity for elasticity, interfere with the course of supply and demand, check initiative and encourage inefficiency."

Mr. F. ATKINSON, at a meeting of the Council of the National Chamber of Trade. February 21, 1935.

"Under modern conditions, far from the creditor countries being willing to receive imports of foreign goods if they are sufficiently cheap, they take, on the contrary, special actions to exclude by means of tariffs and quotas goods which are offered at low price."

Sir STEPHEN DEMETRIADO, President of the London Chamber of Commerce. May 22, 1935.

"Tariffs and quotas have hit both shipping and shipbuilding, and I am afraid that the longer we have them to face the worse will become the condition of both industries. What made us was the fundamental principle of free imports. That has been changed. Consequently we are going back to the level of the Protectionist countries. It will only be a matter of time before we are in the same position as they are in. There is a better feeling in commercial circles, but it in no way affects our overseas trade. It is due to repairing and replacing our railways, the building of battleships, and home work. But that won't last."

Mr. T. T. ANDERSON, South Shields ship broker. January 28, 1935.

"The disturbance caused in international trade by monetary fluctuations and by tariff restrictions which are usually their consequence, is a heavy burden on economic life."

"The introduction of international trade into international life and the stability in transactions, is slowly gaining recognition. Unfortunately it has inspired, up to the present, only platonic yearnings and not effective deeds, as the Governments which could take the initiative in this respect consider, rightly or wrongly, that circumstances do not allow their doing so."

Annual Report of Suez Canal Co. 1935.

"As I see it, everything that the Government is doing at the present time—I say it deliberately—is really prejudicial to shipping. You have some industries which are bolstered up by tariffs, and they are able in consequence to prey on the consumers, not pray for them. Let me hasten to add that they will have to do the latter soon. Others are bolstered up by substantial subsidies, so that you can get an industry—if it can be called an industry—like the beet industry which is able solely as a consequence of these subsidies to pay a substantial premium."

W. L. HICHENS, Chairman of Messrs. Cammell Laird & Co. June 19, 1935.

"Unemployment in the marble trade stands at the highest figure known in the history of the trade, and since tariffs were introduced many marble firms have gone out of business—six or more in London alone. One hears of some trades receiving help through the costly medium of subsidies; but the marble trade is being slowly wiped out, mainly as a result of taxes."

Mr. W. BURTON, Governing Director of Messrs. H. W. Wilkins & Sons, June 20, 1935.

"The imposition of tariffs has been a boomerang, which has closed markets tighter and tighter. It has lost us a good deal of goodwill that we had in foreign countries, and has made it more difficult to export British goods. . . Mr. Runciman, instead of devoting most of his time to increasing tariffs and arranging trade quotas and agreements, should have devoted much of it to a subject on which he has been dumb—namely, telling our people that our prosperity depends upon our ability to sell our manufactures in exchange for primary products which we must import."

Mr. WILFRID HILL, Managing Director of the County Chemical Co. April 11, 1935.

All literary communications should be addressed to
"The Editor."

ADELAIDE: AUGUST 21, 1985

Parliament opened for the dispatch of business on August 1. The Governor's speech foreshadowed the legislation likely to be introduced, and may be regarded as being as barren as it was possible for it to be. There is nothing of a practical nature suggested as a means of placing industry on a profitable basis. Dealing with the taxation question it is asserted that uniform legislation will be enacted in regard to Federal and State taxation. This refers more particularly to the income tax. Very many complaints have been made in regard to the complicated nature of the form, and to the difference in the exemptions. An effort is now being made to bring these into line. The best way of dealing with the question is to do away with the income tax as a means of levying revenue, and take the rent of land for public purposes. Of course, that would be too practicable a proposal for any party Government to put into operation, so there will be merely a tinkering with the existing system.

Reference is made to the Special Grant of £1,400,000 obtained from the Federal Government last year, and to the fact that a claim for £2,000,000 has been lodged for the ensuing year. This grant is for the purpose of compensating us for disabilities we suffer as a result of Federation. One would think that the best demand we could make would be to ask for the removal of the disabilities, and then we should not need the grant.

For many years there has been an agitation for the abolition of the surcharge imposed on water. This amounted to 25 per cent. We are informed in the Governor's speech that it is proposed to abolish the surcharge, and to rebate 20 per cent. The only difficulty in obtaining from this change is they will be allowed rebate water on all their payment, whereas, under the surcharge such rebate was not allowed. The whole system of water rating needs to be reviewed. Instead of the State being divided into a number of districts, the water supplies should be treated as a national scheme. The rate should be on the basis of unimproved value, similar to the system in Queensland and in some parts of New South Wales. That is the only correct basis for rating.

It is again proposed to continue the surcharge of 25 per cent. on succession duties. This is a particularly obnoxious method of collecting revenue, as it is a tax imposed upon widows and orphans. For many years members have stated they did not intend giving this surcharge further support, and it will be interesting to note their present attitude when the Bill again comes before the House.

It is proposed to prevent private individuals securing a profit from selling land in cemeteries in the future, and power to deal with this question will be vested in a trust. Big money has been made by private individuals who bought land at a low price, and sold it at fabulous prices for graves. It is to be regretted the Government did not make an effort to stop all speculation in land, and not confine its effort to cemeteries only.

There is a vague reference in the speech to a proposed reduction in the members of Parliament. This is a reform long overdue. No intimation is given as to the real intention of the Government in this matter, but if the press forecast be true, only six members in the House of Assembly will lose their seats. If this is correct such reduction will not satisfy the general public. If Dame Rumor be correct there will not be any principle underlying the reduction of members. It is stated that some two member districts will be reduced to one member, and some three member districts to two representatives. The word "gerrymander" was used frequently during the debate, and history shows that any Government that altered districts to suit their own party have invariably been placed in opposition at the following election. We support a reduction of members of Parliament, not only for the House

There is also a much needed and long overdue reform, namely, electoral reform. The Premier made a promise some time ago that he would appoint a committee for the purpose of going fully into the question. That committee should be appointed forthwith, and it should take evidence on all voting systems, give them serious consideration, and report to the Government as the best method.

The speech also intimated that a Bill would be introduced for the purpose of marketing dairy produce. The dairy interests have been very consistent in their demand for this class of legislation, but up to the present have not succeeded in getting what they want. They may be able to get a sufficient following this time to secure a majority in the Assembly, but may find the Council a harder nut to crack.

Apart from pious platitudes regarding the better times and the return of prosperity, the speech was very disappointing. There was no intimation that the taxation burden was to be removed. No real relief was foreshadowed for the man on the land. Although there has been a big demand for quarterly payment of motor taxes, that simple request has not been granted. We believe the motor tax should be abolished, but most members would be thankful for the small mercy in the form of the quarterly payment.

The debate on the Address in Reply has been noted for its post mortem examination of speeches made by members in previous sessions. Most speakers have been seeking privileges for their own class, and do not seem to be concerned with the principles of justice. It would be amusing, if it were not so tragic, to find members complaining about the taxation burden on one breath, and then the next moment asking for special favors which would involve heavier expenditure and additional taxation. Most members appear to overlook the fact that we are doing something for our citizens.

A new Minister of Finance has proposed loans for the purpose of increasing production, and the advocates of increased taxation upon producers who are breaking under the present strain. Justice, not dolos and charity, is what the people desire, and until they get it society cannot be placed upon a sound basis.

We acknowledge receipt of a copy of "Poverty and Plenty, the True National Dividend" by Mr. W. R. Lester, M.A. This deals with the "pros and cons of social credit." Our readers will remember Mr. Lester as the writer of many instructive pamphlets dealing with Henry George principles. In this new pamphlet he deals with the Social Credit doctrine, examines the A plus B theorem, explains what is really purchasing power, shows the fallacy of the Just Price idea, and makes it very clear that under the elusive thing termed "National Dividend" the industrious and the idle would share alike. He shows very effectively that the land rent is the only true national dividend.

Mr. Lester concludes a masterly exposition of the subject with the statement:—"We have dealt at length with Social Credit policy not because it is to be accepted as a serious contribution to the solution of economic troubles—it is melancholy to think that such fantastic arguments need refutation—but because it absorbs the energies of many earnest reformers to the exclusion of those fundamental ends for which we should all be working. Thousands who see the evils of the present social order and are genuinely anxious to find a way out have been led astray by plausible though fallacious generalisations. Our aim has been to direct their attention and activities to the real problems that face humanity."

The price of the pamphlet is one shilling. We can strongly recommend it to any reader anxious to see the fallacies of the Douglas Social Credit clearly exposed. The pamphlet can be obtained from Henry George Foundation of Great Britain, 94 Petty France, London, S.W., England.

There is a great deal of dissatisfaction in regard to the distribution of the Handship Grant. According to the wording of the Federal Act only those farmers who are in "adverse financial circumstances" are allowed to participate. There appears to be a different interpretation of the Act in various States, hence the trouble. In this State, many farmers who suffered great loss as a result of climatic conditions and the grasshopper pest are not sharing in the grant. All farmers have to produce a statement of assets and liabilities, and these figures are taken into account. A farmer may show a surplus of assets over liabilities on paper, but if he attempted to realize it would be a difficult task. Moreover, notwithstanding the fact that a farmer has a good farm and plant, and may be free of immediate liabilities, the fact that his recent crop was a total or partial failure has placed him in financial difficulties. If a grant is to be given, all farmers who suffered losses should be considered. A further point is that in this State a farmer must have secured less than three bushels to the acre, or less than the average for the hundred over a period of years before his claim is granted.

A different procedure was followed in Victoria. A claimant for special relief there was required to state the number of acres sown to wheat for grain in 1934 and the estimated normal yield from that area. This estimate is checked by the Local Inspector of Land Settlement. The actual yield in bushels is deducted from this total, the difference representing his loss in yield in bushels. Each grower shares pro rata in respect of his loss, with other growers who have suffered losses, in the sum of £192,000 provided by the Commonwealth Government for distribution in Victoria. It will thus be seen that under this method all who suffered loss participated in the distribution.

When a grant of this kind is to be distributed as compensation for losses that Federal Government should, in its Act, make it quite clear as to who should participate. It should not be left to State Governments to have different procedures, which inevitably lead to ~~unequal~~ ^{unequal} dissatisfaction. The Farmers' Assistance Bill claims to have distributed the grant in conformity with the Federal Act, and the South Australian Government should have given the matter more serious consideration, and made it quite clear that all farmers who had suffered loss should participate in the grant. However, it must not be overlooked that the grant is merely a stop-gap measure, and something more is needed to place the farming industry on a profitable basis. The only practical policy is a lowering of the cost of production by the removal of the burden now placed upon the industry.

The monthly meeting of the above league was held at George Parade on Tuesday, July 22. The president, (Mr. A. S. Bayly) in the chair. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. There was a very interesting budget of correspondence read and received. The secretary's report dealt with his visit to Morgan, Keith, and the two meetings addressed at the University. Reference was also made to the work accomplished in regard to the sugar protest, and the work it was proposed to do in arousing public attention to the social conditions in the sugar industry. Resolutions and accounts passed for payment. Two new members were admitted to the league. Information relating to the forthcoming Commemoration social was given. Mr. Bayly reported on the work done at the recent Proportional Representation Group meetings that he had attended with Mr. T. E. Craig as league delegates. The question of resuming meetings at the Botanical Park was referred to the secretary for consideration. Matters of general interest were discussed.

Next League Meeting, Tuesday, August 27, at 8 p.m.

KIMBA BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Branch was held on July 26. A good attendance was recorded. The secretary (Mr. J. P. Moore) presented a very satisfactory balance sheet, which showed a gratifying local Branch bank balance after expenses were paid and full amount of league subscriptions had been forwarded to the head office in Ontario. Mr. J. P. Moore also reported that the Branch had adopted a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring officers, to which Mr. W. H. Hutchens suitably responded. The election of officers for the coming year resulted in Mrs. E. Ellis becoming president, while Mr. J. P. Moore was re-elected as secretary. Visiting members elected are Mesdames J. Harvey and J. Swann, and Messrs. J. Swann and O. Carter. The Branch will hold its Annual Commemorative Social on August 30, in the Kimba Hall.

A JOURNAL OF PROGRESSIVE POLITICS
Monthly. 2/- a year posted.
"PROGRESS,"
Henry George Club, 18 George Parade, Melbourne.

Bulk Handling of Wheat

The question of bulk handling of wheat has been freely debated during the Address-in-Reply to the Governor's Speech, and the matter is viewed from different angles. The Labor representatives are concerned with the displacement of labor on the wharves, and oppose it mainly on that account. Another section question whether the money needed for the installation of a bulk handling plant should be spent on such a project, whilst others point out the great advantage to the wheat grower in the increased return from that system of handling.

Various schemes have been suggested, and the Public Works Committee have investigated the subject in a number of States where bulk handling is in operation. In their report they suggest that the scheme should be tried at Wallaroo before it is generally installed.

In Western Australia a Royal Commission has been enquiring into the question and presented its report on August 3. It recommends that Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd., be allowed to carry out its proposal for a State-wide scheme of handling wheat in bulk. Three schemes were considered, viz., an all-concrete one which would cost £1,787,244 to install; a composite at a cost of £1,428,985, and a scheme recommended by the Commission at a cost of £735,465.

The report shows that "four bodies were interested in the experimental scheme tried in the West, namely Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. and Westralian Wheat Farmers Ltd., but the real capital of Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. had been supplied by the trustees of the Wheat Pool of Western Australia and Westralian Ltd. The Bulk Handling Co. has seven-year leases of sites at 53 of the most important country railway sidings in the Fremantle zone, and at these sites the company had expended up to October 31, 1934, the sum of £116,462 upon bins and equipment. It is pointed out in the Report that the granting of these leases precludes the economic possibility of anyone else competing with Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. in the bulk handling of wheat at those sidings."

The transport of the bulk wheat during the 1933-34 season was performed by equal to 200 four-wheeled trucks, specially altered for the carriage of bulk wheat, the cost of such alterations being borne by Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. and by 965 ordinary open vehicles, which, at the cost of the company referred to, were fitted with canvas sides and lined with hessian or bagging to make them wheat proof and permit of their being loaded to the full carrying capacity. Practically no additional capital expenditure was incurred in the carriage of bulk wheat with the exception of that referred to above in connection with the conversion and improvisation of trucks. The loss claimed by the Commissioner of Railways in the haulage of wheat in bulk as compared with bagged wheat for the 1933-34 season was £17,330, after taking into account £11,187 additional revenue derived from the extra toll of 9d. per ton or 1d. per bushel for the wheat carried in bulk."

The Report indicates that the monetary saving to the farmers during the 1933-34 wheat season was approximately 2½d. per bushel. On the quantity of wheat handled in bulk, 11,095,210 bushels, this represented a saving to the farmer of £115,575. It will be realised that if a system was installed capable of handling all the wheat crop in bulk, that the monetary gain to the farmers on this basis would be in the region of £300,000 a year.

Another important factor in regard to bulk handling which should be stressed is that the conveyance of the title, by means of warehouse receipts, to wheat stored under the bulk handling system, gives the farmer the average of a freer market, and the disposition of the whole or portion of wheat to whom he pleases, thereby not losing control of it as he did under the bag handling system. Farmers in this State were seriously inconvenienced and suffered financial loss by reason of wheat being stored with a firm that became insolvent, and the fact that bulk handling removes this danger is a point worthy of special consideration.

The scheme as partially installed in Western Australia was worked at a profit last year, the amount of the surplus, after deductions for interest on debentures, depreciation on country and port buildings and plant, and allowance for other items, being £20,676.

The following table of charges will be of interest to our farmer readers.

CHARGES	
PENCE PER BUSHEL ON TOTAL RECEIPTS.	
Toll	0.022
Wheat Handling and Office Expenses	1.115
Storage	0.312
1 per cent. Shrinkage	0.118
Railway Truck Fittings	0.124
Shipping	0.222

Total Charges, 2.412d.

The report indicates that a majority of the farmers who gave evidence approved of the toll levied, their objective being the ownership and control of the system as soon as was reasonably possible. "The Commission was of opinion that it would have been better if a lower amount had been charged as toll, thus giving the farmers the benefit of an actual cash saving when they urgently needed it to meet pressing liabilities." Also "the Commission was of opinion that the maximum profit secured to Westralian farmers under the ten-yearly contract should be reviewed."

Dealing with the employment of labor phase of the scheme the Commission found that two-thirds less men were required than under the bag handling method, and there would be further reduction in men with the erection of proper and more efficient terminal elevators. Whilst everyone will regret the displacement of labor in this regard, it is not right that farmers should be expected to retain the bag handling system if the proposed change means an addition of £300,000 a year to their returns. The spending of this additional money will increase their purchasing power, bringing with it an increased demand for goods, and the experience of the past has been that men displaced in one industry find employment in another. Judging by the experience of Western Australia the installation of bulk handling of wheat would prove advantageous to farmers, and in turn would benefit the State, therefore is worthy of serious consideration in South Australia.

The Case Against The Sugar Embargo

The above pamphlet, which is all the facts relating to the sugar industry, examines the arguments which have been put forth in the literature issued by the sugar interests, and gives facts relating to the huge watering of stock by the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. It contains a wealth of information for all who wish to assist in preventing the extension of the agreement. The pamphlet can be obtained from the office of the Henry George League, George Parade, 11 Carrington Street, Adelaide. Price, 3d. per copy, postage 1d. extra. We can supply quantities at the following prices:

One dozen copies, 2/6 post free.
100 copies, 15/- post free.

We are anxious to secure a wide circulation for this pamphlet, and ask our readers to assist in the work of distributing them. These pamphlets are issued—not for profit—but for propaganda, and it is desired that they get into as many hands as possible. Every reader can help in this work by sending for copies. There is no time for delay. DO IT NOW.

Obituary

It is with sincere regret we record the death of Mr. P. Nickson, late of Thevenard, West Coast. For many years our late co-worker rendered valuable service to the movement, and was a tower of strength among the water-side workers. He was ever ready to do all in his power to help forward the movement for the betterment of mankind. We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Nickson and family.

The Henry George movement has lost a fine worker in the person of Mr. Percy Meggy, who has been associated with the New South Wales section for a great number of years. Mr. Meggy passed away on July 12. He had considerable experience of press work overseas, and also in Australia. He also acted as official secretary to two Royal Commissions. For many years he has contributed articles to the press, and these showed a clear grasp of the principles of Henry George. He never missed an opportunity of showing that justice could only be established by taking the rent of land for public purposes and abolishing taxation. The late Mr. Meggy was 82, and leaves a wife, three daughters and a son. We tender our sincere sympathy to them in the hour of their sad bereavement.

THE SUGAR AGREEMENT

The past month has been a busy one in regard to propaganda in connection with the proposed extension of the sugar agreement. A circular letter has been sent to every District Council and Corporation in South Australia, 198 in all, soliciting support for the protest. It is pleasing to state that a big number of favorable replies have been received. A lengthy letter was also sent to 58 country newspapers, and the majority published the letter in full. The special matter that appeared in last month's "People's Advocate" has been printed in the form of a 40-page pamphlet, and the President of the Australian Sugar Consumers' Association, Hon. F. Hagelthorn, has written a Foreword for it. This pamphlet is being circulated in all the States of the Commonwealth, and is attracting a great deal of attention to the embargo. The letter against the agreement was also sent to the Broken Hill papers, and to "The West Australian," at Perth, and "The Primary Producer" in Western Australia. As a result of the press propaganda four controversies are being conducted with the secretary in South and Western Australia. The Brisbane "Telegraph" during the past week came out with a leading article—"Enemies of the Sugar Industry," in which Mr. E. J. Craigie is attacked because of the printed matter sent to local government bodies. A reply has been sent.

Active opposition to the agreement is also being waged in the other States, and a strong effort will be made to prevent the continuance of this monstrous injustice for a further term of five years from August 31, 1936. Our readers can help in this fight by writing letters to the South Australian Senators and to the House of Representatives members for their district, asking them to vote against the agreement. We need all the assistance we can get, and trust that a big number of letters will be sent from individuals, and also from societies who are opposed to the sugar embargo. It is probable this matter will be considered by the Federal Parliament about the 24th September, so it is imperative that action be taken without delay.

Address Addressed

On July 22 Mr. E. J. Craigie addressed a meeting of the University Political Club at the University Building, North Terrace, Adelaide. Mr. Amos occupied the chair. The subject of the address was "The Teachings of Henry George." Keen interest was shown, and a number of questions asked at the conclusion. Copies of "The People's Advocate" were distributed to all present.

At the request of the Keith Literary Society Mr. Craigie went to that district and spoke on "The Economic and Financial Position of Australia." Mr. A. I. Densley presided over an interested audience, and numerous questions were put by members of the society. Rev. Cooper moved, and Councillor L. H. Densley seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker. A fair quantity of literature was sold at the conclusion of the meeting, and free copies of "The People's Advocate" distributed.

Prior to the meeting Mr. Craigie was taken around the district by Councillor Densley and Mr. J. G. Moseley, jun., and saw the great improvement in the land that had been trodden for grazing purposes. Mr. R. P. Simpson is entitled to sincere thanks for arranging such a successful gathering, and the Messrs. Densley for hospitality extended during the stay.

On Friday, August 16, Mr. Craigie, in company with Mr. W. Francis, went to Saddleworth at the invitation of the local P.R. Group. Mr. F. Coleman occupied the chair. Mr. Craigie dealt with the evils of the present electoral system, and single electorates, and explained the principles of proportional representation. A mock election was held, Mr. W. Francis supervising the counting of the votes, and explaining how the transfers were made. The audience were keenly interested, and carried votes of thanks to both speakers.

"The Standard"

An Australian Journal to advocate the rights of the people in the land, abolish taxes upon trade and industry, and tax land values.

Subscription, 2/- per annum, post free.

A. G. HUIE, Editor and Manager.
4th Floor, Daking House, Rawson Place, Sydney.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION GROUP.

One of the most inspiring annual meetings yet held was that which inaugurated the sixth year of the P.R. Group of South Australia. It was well attended, many apologies being received, and new members welcomed. Most gratifying is the continued allegiance of all organisations in the group to proportional representation.

The president's report of work at home and abroad for the year was, on the motion of Mrs. J. R. Bowering, and seconded by the Rev. C. H. Neild, enthusiastically received. All officers were re-elected, with the addition of Mr. E. A. Anstey as a vice-president, whom the group welcomed as one having been associated with the first committee formed in South Australia by Catherine Helen Spence.

The balance sheet was presented by the hon. treasurer (Mr. T. E. Craigie), together with a note from the hon. auditor (Mr. C. L. Bice), who commented most favorably on the financial position of the group.

Special thanks were tendered the English P.R. Society for its contribution to the work of the group in supplying copies of its annual report to all members of the State and Federal Parliaments.

Keen appreciation was shown of the cable message received from Lord Grey, and the reply reciprocating cordial greetings by the president was unanimously approved.

After discussion, the following resolution was carried:—"That this meeting reaffirms the support of the group for proportional representation to be applied to both Houses of the Federal Parliament, State Parliament, and municipalities."

The suggestion that an interstate electoral reform conference should be held in Adelaide during the centenary celebrations was enthusiastically supported.

With a view of widening the influence of the movement, and making effective its educational aspects, a council was formed, in which, it is hoped, that the organisations and the branches of the group will take an active part. The council appointed included the president, hon. secretaries, treasurer, and members: Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., Hon. R. S. Hannaford, M.L.C., Mr. E. A. Anstey, Mr. W. Partridge, Rev. H. R. Tuck, Messdames J. R. Bowering, H. R. Freeman, S. Dawson, H. T. Nicholls, Misses L. E. Forster, Dorothy Goode, Blanche Stevens, and A. Tomkinson, J.E., with power to add.

An interesting discussion followed on "Should State Parliaments be abolished?" This was opened by Mr. E. A. Evans, and continued by Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., the Hon. W. Hannaford, M.L.C., and Mr. W. W. Francis, all supporting the retention of State Parliaments. The discussion was adjourned to the next meeting of the group, which will be held on July 25, when both sides of the case will be presented. The discussion for the September meeting will be reserved for the younger members of the group.

Mr. M. H. McDonough was presented with a wallet as a mark of appreciation of his services to the movement as hon. secretary. In making the presentation the president (Mrs. Jeanne F. Young) referred to the unflinching courtesy and willingness of Mr. McDonough, and of his knowledge of the system.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1934-35

Forty years ago, returning from a trip to Europe and America, Catherine Helen Spence founded the first Effective Voting League in Australia, which was the forerunner of the Proportional Representation Group. The members of the original committee included Miss Spence, as president, and Messrs. A. W. (now Mr. Justice) Piper, E. A. Anstey, Mrs. E. W. Nicholls, J.P., and Miss Emily Williams. Miss Spence told a friend after her return that many people had wondered what a little old lady of 69 could do in the great American Republic. But we, who have been privileged to see something of the work, the foundation of which she laid in America and Canada, have reason to feel gratified that the Grand Old Woman of Australia, played so important a part in founding a movement for electoral justice in the Western Republic.

In addition to the many cities which use Proportional Representation in conjunction with the City Manager Plan already in America, the hopes of Proportionalists are now centred on a victory in New York City itself.

The extension of Proportional Representation has been rather in municipal than parliamentary life, but there is no doubt either of

the stability or the increasing influence of the movement in that part of the world.

Canada.

We look forward with anticipation to the advance of electoral reform in the Dominion of Canada, where Mr. Mackenzie King, leader of the Liberal Party, has said that "Proportional Representation will form part of the policy of his party at the next election campaign."

In Great Britain.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Stanley Baldwin) has said that "Democracy is incomplete and lopsided unless it is representative of the whole people." Unfortunately, the British House of Commons still remains lopsided, and incomplete, but thoughtful speeches from leaders of all parties show a tendency to consider that either before or after the next general election, consideration must be given to drastic constitutional changes.

The principal triumph of the year has been the inclusion of Proportional Representation in the new constitution of India, which means (writes Mr. J. H. Humphreys, J.P.) "that all the members of the Provincial Parliament will be using Proportional Representation (the Hare single transferable vote) for the election of representatives to the General Federal Assembly."

In Australia.

Coming to our homeland, it is gratifying that no further attempt to banish Proportional Representation from the island home of Tasmania has been made since 1932, that attempt failing on the question of re-introducing the single electorate.

During the year four deputations have waited upon Federal Ministers. Two, prior to the general Federal elections of September, 1934, were received respectively by the Hon. the Prime Minister in Sydney, the other by the Hon. the Minister for the Interior in Adelaide.

Both Ministers were deeply sympathetic, as both had experienced the actual working of the system, Mr. Lyons in Tasmania, and Mr. Perkins in New South Wales. Since the election, and following upon the suggestion of the need for a change in the Senate system, owing to the grossly misrepresentative character of that Chamber, 36 seats being held by the Opposition, and Adelaide waiting upon the Hon. T. B. (the Hon. T. B. J. Craigie, M.P.) in replying said that he had frequently advocated the application of Proportional Representation to the Senate, and would place the views of the deputation (which he considered had been well presented) before his colleagues.

In Victoria, Mr. Tunnecliffe, leader of the Labor Party in the Victorian Legislative Assembly, had emphasised the need for Proportional Representation, which he thought, was the system that would be universally applied in the future.

In New South Wales, the A.L.P. last year adopted Proportional Representation to be applied to local elections. A petition is also being largely signed in Sydney, asking the City Council to adopt Proportional Representation for aldermanic elections.

In our own State an effort is being made to induce the Government to fulfil its promise to appoint a commission of enquiry into all electoral methods before making any further change by adopting other majority systems. To this end our Parliamentary members have been asked to wait upon the Government to make enquiries.

An Electoral Reform Conference.

Your officers feel that the time is ripe for an Australian-wide electoral reform conference, to be held in Adelaide during the centenary celebrations.

Already tentative suggestions for such a conference have been well received in the other States. It is therefore hoped that the annual meeting will approve of the suggestion.

Abroad.

Abroad, the prospects of return to constitutional government are more promising than at any time during the past few years.

France, alarmed by the Stavinski frauds, immediately appointed an Electoral Commission of Enquiry, whose report has just been received. It recommends the abolition of the small single electorate, and the adoption of large districts coupled with a system of Proportional Representation.

Jugo-Slavia, which slipped into a dictatorship a few years ago, is already retracing its steps; Poland, through failure to find a new dictator equal to the old, has followed suit; while Russia is making strides back towards a

HENRY GEORGE COMMEMORATION

Readers are reminded that the annual social to commemorate the birthday of Henry George will be held at the Caledonian Hall, King William Street South, on Wednesday, September 4th, from 8 to 11 p.m. A very attractive programme of musical and elocutionary items has been arranged by Miss Isabel Penny, L.R.S.M., L.T.C.L. The commemorative address will be in the capable hands of Mr. F. Drymalik. Refreshments will be served. Super tickets may be obtained from the League Rooms, George Parade, off 11 Carrington Street, or at hall door. Price, one shilling.

Donations of refreshments may be left at the Hall on the day of the social any time from 2 p.m. or at the League office.

Ladies assisting in connection with the Refreshment Committee are invited to be present at the League meeting on Tuesday, August 27th. The Refreshment Committee will meet at the Hall at 2 p.m. on the day of the social. A cordial invitation is extended to all who care to assist.

Henry George Society Ltd.

The annual meeting of the above society was held at George Parade on Tuesday, July 30. The chairman of the Board of Management (Mr. A. Chappel) occupied the chair. The secretary presented the annual report and financial statement, which was read and adopted. The old Board of Management was re-elected for the ensuing term.

ANNUAL REPORT.

There has been little change in property values since our last Annual Report. During the year one of the houses has been vacant for a limited period, but at present both are occupied. Some repair work was necessary to maintain the property in good order, and this received attention.

Taxation continues heavy on property, and with reduced rents the returns to shareholders are limited. If Local Government revenue was taken from its correct source—the unimproved value of land—it would be possible to arrange for the erection of a new structure on the site. To do so under existing conditions would mean a heavier payment in rates and taxes, consequently although new buildings are urgently needed, they cannot be seriously considered at the present moment.

For the committee of management,

A. CHAPPEL, Chairman.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Secretary.

Financial Statement for the year ended June 30, 1935.

Receipts.		
Cash on hand, forward	£175 10 10	
Rent Received	89 0 0	
Donations Received	39 0 0	
	£303 10 10	
Expenditure		
Rates and Taxes	£25 18 8	
Miscellaneous	2 15 11	
Repairs	2 8 6	
Postages	1 10 0	
Share Interest	112 18 6	
	£145 7 7	
Cash in Bank	137 11 10	
Cash in P. P. Bank	20 1 7	
Cash in hand	0 9 10	
	£303 10 10	

Audited and found correct, with books, cash and vouchers produced.

(Signed) EDWIN JUKES, A.I.A.S.A.

July 11, 1935.

democratic ideal in allowing its people directly to elect its own assemblies.

Other European States, including the gallant little Republic of Czechoslovakia, still hold firmly to the flag of Democracy, for there the President, like Herr Braund, in Prussia, during the regime of the German Republic, solved the difficult problem of making not only Parliament, but the Government itself, representative of the whole people, by establishing a very successful form of Co-operative Government.

A Note of Hopefulness.

The year therefore closes on a note of hopefulness at home and abroad.

With His Majesty the King, we rejoice that the royal jubilee, just celebrated, found all parts of the British Empire still enjoying the blessing of Democratic Government, and our prayer is that, before its close, some part at least of that far-flung empire may carry still further its belief in the Government of the Whole People by the People, by the extension of the great reform for which we are working, the adoption of the Single Transferable Vote (Proportional Representation) for all elections.

Printed and Published for the Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide, at the Reliance Printery, 46 Wakefield Street, Adelaide.