

# THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

An Organ of Fundamental Democracy

Policy: **FREE LAND, FREE TRADE, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION**

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## Taxes on Labor or the Collection of Land Rent — Which ?

### Christmas Gifts

The adoption of the Henry George doctrines will remove the burden of taxation from the poor and collect revenue from its natural source—the rent of land. Every one will then contribute to the cost of government in exact ratio to the benefit received from government expenditure. No person can escape payment of their just dues under these proposals, but they will enjoy services for any contribution made. The payments will be based on the unimproved value of the land held by the payers. This will be their only payment. They will be released from the taxes they now pay on nearly everything they eat or wear from the cradle to the grave. The crushing weight of taxation is one of the main causes of the people's poverty. The present taxes, tariffs, licences, taxes on personal property, and on houses, factories, and tools of production, are chiefly taxes on consumption, and the people must consume or die. The tax on factories and machinery adds to the price of manufactured goods. Import duties add to the price of foreign commodities and domestic goods of a like kind. Why should the clothing, the food, and the general necessities of life be taxed when such taxation is altogether unnecessary?

people, it is merely taking revenue from its natural source. It does not press heavier on parents than on bachelors. It does not discriminate against the poor. It hinders no work. It fines no one for industry, economy and accumulation.

On the other hand the collection of land rent will encourage labor. It will remove all the discouragements which indirect taxes impose upon labor, and it will open new opportunities to labor. Land is labor's great and only necessity. Without land labor is impossible, with land labor can employ itself. Tools can be made. Capital can be saved. Collecting land rent for public purposes will give labor easier access to land. It will do this, not by diminishing or destroying land values, but by making those who hold valuable land unprofitably more ready to make it available to legitimate producers.

A change in the incidence of raising revenue along these lines will have other advantages. It will mean a great saving to the people. They now have to pay not only the taxes but a profit on them. Indirect taxes are shifted on to the consumer; but in their passage they grow. The State receives a part, and only a small part, of what a protective tariff costs the people. Not only do the people pay the taxes imposed upon them, but they are also compelled to pay rent for occupation of land to the land monopolists. Under the proposed change land rent will all be paid to the Public Treasury, and that will be the only payment. The cost of collecting it will be much less than the cost of collecting the present taxes. The people will extricate profits out of the middle men.

Our present taxes are chiefly taxes on consumption. The consumers pay the import duties, plus a double profit on them; they also pay the taxes on houses, machinery, merchandise and capital. Most of our taxes are indirect, and are transferred from one to another until paid by the one who uses the goods. A tax on consumption is a tax on the necessities of the people. Our wants are taxed, and we contribute on that basis to revenue, instead of in proportion to benefits received. Such a mode of collecting revenue is manifestly unjust.

Taxes on consumption press heavily on parents. With no greater income than others, their wants, their consumption, is far greater. They have many mouths to feed, many bodies to clothe and house, many minds to educate. Political economy gives them no more wages or interest or rent. But the State in taxing consumption exacts more from them. The father who rears a good family of children has done society a service and ought to be rewarded rather than fined.

Taxes on consumption are unduly severe on working men. It takes as many yards of cloth to make him a suit as it does the millionaire, and he wears out his clothes faster. He eats more than the rich man. But on every commodity, the richest and poorest are taxed alike.

Our present taxes are taxes on labor. They discourage industry. They do this in several ways. They are taxes on consumption. As the cost of things consumed increases, the demand for them, that is the demand for labor, diminishes. Because the State adds to the price of the things consumed, the opportunities of labor are curtailed. But the tax on consumption also increases the cost of production, for consumption is necessary to production. The increased cost of things produced limits the market for them, and thus again diminishes the demand for labor. All taxes on wealth are really taxes on labor. If a workman economizes and accumulates capital, taxation fines him for his economy; if he builds a house, the tax assessor punishes him for his industry; if he imports a cargo of valuable goods, he is fined for his enterprise; in fact, every form of industry is penalised under our present taxation methods. Some one has said that he who makes two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is a benefactor of the race. The tax assessor does not think so, but makes him pay for his temerity. It cannot be denied that our present methods of collecting revenue discourage industry and frugality.

The collection of land rent for public purposes is free from these objections. It does not and cannot add to the price of the things consumed. It does not make production more expensive. It does not rest on the needs of the

And, last, it will do this in several ways. It will reduce the contribution of each citizen to the lowest point consistent with the efficient administration of government. Now there are large interests which successfully oppose any reduction of taxes. Protected industries bitterly fight tariff revision, however necessary it may be. The importer who makes a profit on the duties he pays is not urgent for the abolition of the duties on which he makes a profit. The internal revenue, by increasing the amount of capital necessary to engage in business, diminishes competition; therefore privileged interests oppose any reduction of the taxes levied. Under the changed system no one will be interested in keeping up taxes.

On the contrary all the people will be interested in lowering them. The holders of valuable land will support the Government, and what they pay to it they cannot collect from their fellow-citizens. They will wish to pay as little as possible. They will earnestly enquire into the expenditure of their money. They will demand and will secure economy in governmental expenditure.

Government will be simplified. A large part of its energies is now employed in collecting revenue. The temptations to fraud and deceit in our present system of taxation are so great that armies of spies have to be employed. Under the land value system there will be no temptation to fraud and no possibility of deceit. Land cannot be concealed or carried away. The valuation of land is easier than watching ports to see that no dutiable articles slip through, than the inquisition into private affairs to find out how much money or stock each one has. The expense of collecting the revenue will be considerably reduced.

Taking land rent for public purposes will improve political morality. Taxes are systematically evaded by concealment, that is, by fraud. This evasion is corrupting. The merchant is constantly tempted to undervalue his imports. Business men are likewise tempted to undervalue their capital. If they do not they are at a disadvantage in the competition of trade.

A direct payment is more favorable to public spirit. A tax that is unnoticed does not waken as much enquiry or create as much interest in government affairs as a direct payment to the revenue collector. Such a payment cannot

Christmas is the season of the year when gifts are sent to friends. What better present can be sent than library editions of the works of Henry George? We have a new shipment of these fine editions to hand, and shall be pleased to send copies to any person desiring to assist in the spread of the doctrine by this means. These books will enable the reader to get a grasp of sound economic principles, and will provide them with knowledge which will show the solution of the many problems which at present beset mankind. Apart from their value as economic treatises, they are splendid specimens of English literature. Copies can be obtained at prices ranging from 2/9 post free, to 4/9, according to the book selected. If you prefer it, send along the cash for as much as you desire to spend on these presents, and we will make the best selection for the money sent.

Another way of helping the cause at this festive season is to pay the annual subscription of 2/- and have a copy of "The People's Advocate" sent post free for one year to some friend you think will be interested in reading it. Note the address, Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide.

### A Parable

Said Christ our Lord, "I will go and see how the men, My brethren, believe in Me." He passed not again through the gate of birth, but made Himself known to the children of earth.

Then said the chief priests, and rulers and kings, "Behold, now, the Giver of all good things; Go to, let us welcome with pomp and state Him Who, in might and greatness."

On the carpets of gold the ground they spread, wherever the Son of Man should tread, and in palace-chambers lofty and rare, They lodged Him, and served Him with kingly fare.

Great organs surged through arches dim Their jubilant floods in praise of Him; And in church, and palace, and judgment hall, He saw His own image high over all.

But still, whenever His steps they led, The Lord in sorrow bent down His head, And from under the heavy foundation-stones The Son of Mary heard bitter groans.

And in church, and palace, and judgment hall, He marked great fissures that rent the wall, And opened wider and yet more wide As the living foundation heaved and sighed.

"Have ye founded your thrones and altars, then, On the bodies and souls of living men? And think ye that building shall endure, Which shelters the noble and crushes the poor?"

"With gates of silver and bars of gold Ye have fenced My sheep from their Father's fold; I have heard the drooping of their tears In Heaven these eighteen hundred years."

"O Lord and Master, not ours the guilt, We built but as our fathers built, Behold Thine images, how they stand, Sovereign and sole, through all our land."

"Our task is hard—with sword and flame To hold Thine earth for ever the same, And with sharp crooks of steel to keep, Still as Thou ledest them Thy sheep."

Then Christ sought out an artisan, A low-browed, stunted, haggard man, And a motherless girl, whose fingers thin Pushed from her faintly want and sin.

These He set in the midst of them, And as they drew back their garment-hem, For fear of defilement, "Lo, here," said He, "The images ye have made of Me!"

—James Russell Lowell.

in any way hinder production. The landholder cannot annihilate his land and destroy its value. All taxes do tend to hinder production, to make the supply of human wants more difficult, and to create poverty. But the taking of land rent for public purposes is in thorough harmony with the purposes of creation. It is the fund that automatically comes into being with the growth of population; land values rising with each increase in population, and falling with any decrease in the population. It is sufficient to meet the cost of all NECESSARY government. Its advantages are indisputable. What valid objection can be lodged against it?

## Henry George Society Ltd.

NOTICE is hereby given that interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum on all shares was declared payable on December 16th, 1937.

E. J. CRAIGIE, Secretary.

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### "The People's Advocate"

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## PEACE AND GOODWILL ON EARTH

The Christmas season is with us again, but there is little evidence of that peace and goodwill which is usually associated with this festive season. We have the grim tragedy of the war in China and the internal trouble in Spain. People are being killed and wounded in these two countries, and property is being destroyed. It is the old, old tale of special privileged interests placing their unjust demands before the present unfortunate state of affairs, and conditions could be so different if only those in authority would legislate in accord with economic law. Instead of so doing they pass measures which restrict trade, which permit a few to hold and monopolise the natural resources which are the common birthright of all mankind. The result is that an unnatural competition is set up for raw materials and for markets, ill feeling is engendered, and finally we have war.

In addition to the wars now being fought, most of the nations are feverishly making preparations for war. Large sums are being spent on armaments of all kinds, and when such preparations take place an excuse is usually found for using the munitions which have been produced. The unfortunate aspect of the question is that many workers regard such expenditure as a heaven-sent blessing. It provides them with employment, and in our lop-sided state of society any work will enable one people to secure sustenance for themselves and their families is welcomed. They either do not know or are indifferent to the fact that such employment does not add any real wealth to the national pool; and that as soon as a halt is called in the making of munitions there must inevitably be a period of depression. Meanwhile capital and labor have been diverted from the making of useful things, and have been concentrated on the manufacture of materials which can only be used for the destruction of life and property. And although temporary work is obtained, it is at the cost of suffering in the future. There will be an addition to the National Debt, the interest bill will be increased, and the taxation burden will fall on the wealth producers.

We have frequently directed attention to the fact that the workers have nothing to gain and everything to lose by wars and preparation for war. Even if the country which is alleged to be theirs wins, they get no benefits. They still work for a mere existence. The workers' lot in time of war is to do the fighting, and, if alive at the conclusion, to also do the paying. Meanwhile a number of patriotic (?) citizens get a great deal of publicity, may be some honour is conferred upon them, and they grow rich by their war investments and the abnormal profits made upon the war material. One would imagine after the dreadful experiences of the past that the workers would see the futility of a war policy and demand a change. Apparently the economic conditions blind them to the evils of the system. They want work, and do not stop to consider the nature of it so long as their financial position is temporarily improved. Until there is an abundance of peace time jobs available there appears little hope of a change in the mental outlook of the masses in regard to war.

It is pleasing, however, to note the gleam of hope in the present darkness. That great man, Mr. Cordell Hull, of the United States, is again to the fore urging the removal of trade barriers as the one sure means to permanent peace. It is anticipated that a trade agreement will be arranged between Great Britain and the United States, and this will be the forerunner of agreements with other nations. We sincerely hope it will be so. Ever since the last war the nations of the world have attempted to carry out a policy of economic nationalism.

Each nation wished to sell commodities, but no one wanted to buy. They endeavoured to become self-contained by erecting tariff walls for the purpose of keeping out the goods from other countries. The effect has been a general lowering of the standard of living for all, accompanied by the development of illwill and hatred towards each other.

It cannot be too strongly stressed there can be no one way traffic so far as trade is concerned. Nations must buy as well as sell, as it is only by receiving imports that they can get payment for the exports which leave the country. The true economy is for each nation to engage in the production of those articles which give the greatest return for a minimum of effort, and then to trade their surplus with workers in other parts of the world who have a natural advantage so far as the production of other articles is concerned. A commonsense policy of this nature will enable the people of every country to enjoy the natural advantages which exist in every part of the world, and would have the effect of providing for an increased standard of living for all. This is what Mr. Hull is striving for, and it is to be hoped that his sound proposition will meet that ready response it is entitled to.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the principles which underlie the system of Free Trade, as applied to tariffs of import and export duties, do not end there. They pass beyond the limits of mere commerce, and are found to govern the international relationship of each country with all the rest. It is something more than an accident which has turned the attention of all mankind to international questions of every description in the same age that established freedom of commerce in the most enlightened nations. Richard Cobden said "Trade is the great peace-maker." He was more than a Manchester merchant, struggling for manufacturing interests against monopolists. He was more than a man of one idea, who set his mind on sweeping away prohibitory and protective duties. He was, in short, a Statesman, and the spirit of his statesmanship was that of freedom in the relations of the communities, on the same grounds and for the same objects as in the case of the individual frequenters of markets. Free trade is a free common-law-free communion in the rights of bread for his life, nature, with no other view except those of a larger society finds it unethically necessary to impose, these were the screedlines which in his later years, Richard Cobden never ceased to expound, both by action and by word.

We need men of the Cobden type in our public life today—men who are not afraid to utter protests against measures which they deem unjust, even though to do so is unpopular. The mass of mankind are sound at heart, and only need a lead to show them the absurdity of the present policy of restriction. The Australian public arose to the occasion in connection with the recent referendum dealing with the amendment to the Federal Constitution, and made it unmistakably clear they would not stand for any restrictions of their liberty. What was done then can be done on the larger international scale, if only the right appeal is made. The Christmas season provides a favorable opportunity for stressing the need of educational work along the lines of freedom. It is only along the lines of freedom that peace and goodwill among nations can be established, and we trust that action will be taken without further delay so that all may enjoy a BRIGHT AND MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## Georgian Literature

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Social Problems (Library edition), 4/-, postage 4d.  
Protection or Free Trade (Library edition), 4/-, postage 4d.  
The Land Question (Library edition), 4/-, postage 5d.  
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Social Justice and the Jew (L. P. Jacobs), 6d, postage 1d.  
Significant Paragraphs from Henry George, 1/6, postage 2d.

Send postal note or stamps to Henry George League, George Parade, Adelaide.

## STATE PARLIAMENT PROLOGUES

On December 2 the sixth session of the Five Years Parliament came to an end. When the House meets again there will be a reduced number of members, due to an alteration in the Constitution. It is anticipated that many of the present members have served their last term. The session just ended has been a strenuous one, no less than 70 Bills were dealt with, many of them in the small hours of the morning, many of the measures being of great importance. A Bill that created a lot of discussion was the Anzac Highway Agreement. This ratifies an agreement between three local government bodies and the Highways Commissioner for the construction of the Anzac Highway at a cost of \$125,000, and apportioning the cost between the various parties. That hardy annual, the Highways Act Amendment, provides for continuing the payment of motor taxation into general revenue.

The Broken Hill Proprietary Company's Indenture Bill provided that the Company should have a lease of the iron ore deposits at Iron Knob, and in the vicinity, for a term of 50 years, subject to a right of renewal for a term of 21 years, the Company to pay 5d. per ton royalty until 1939, when 6d. per ton must be paid. In return for this concession the company agreed to erect a blast furnace at Whyalla for the production of pig iron, and it is anticipated that at a later period steel mills will be established. A Select Committee examined the proposition and called witnesses, and there was a diversity of opinion as to the merits of the agreement. Although many members voiced an objection to the agreement, only three voted against it. At the present output the Company is extracting iron ore to the value of approximately £2,000,000 per annum, and the State gets in royalty about £25,000. This does not appear to be a just recompense for the privilege enjoyed. It is difficult to assess the value of the iron ore in 50 years, or 71 years time, and for this reason it would have been better if the agreement was for the term provided in the Mining Act, namely 21 years. The position could then be reviewed, and it might be in the interest of the State to seek a larger royalty as compensation for the service rendered to the Company. Furthermore, it is stated that other companies may be in competition with the B.H. Company in the manufacture of pig iron, and the taxpayers' rights to these valuable natural resources should have been more securely safeguarded.

Following a promise made some time ago the Premier introduced a Bill to make a Five Years Parliament permanent. The Bill met with considerable opposition, both inside and outside the House. The five years term is for the Assembly and ten years is the term for the Legislative Council. Claims were made that better legislation is passed during a long term, as members have more time to study the various problems needing attention. As a matter of fact this claim is not a correct one. At the end of this session Bills were placed upon the notice paper in the dying hours, and there was the usual rush to secure legislation by exhaustion. In many cases members were not given the information that should have been supplied, consequently were not in a position to deal effectively with measures. Notwithstanding the force of public opinion against the longer term of Parliament, we have seen the dictatorship of the Cabinet securing the passage of the Bill. Members must have had considerable pressure applied to make some vote on this measure as they did. No doubt the electors will have something to say in regard to this matter when candidates come before them seeking support at the forthcoming election.

Another resolution that came in for a great deal of criticism was that relating to the establishment of a Finance Corporation for the purpose of giving assistance to secondary industries that are languishing, or have not the necessary finance to expand as they desire. A company is to be formed with a capital of £1,000 in £1 shares. Debentures are to be issued, named A and B debentures. The A debentures will be taken up by private enterprise, and will carry 5 per cent. interest. It is anticipated that £10,000 will be raised in this manner. The Government is expected to take £20,000 of the B debentures, at a lower rate of interest, but the actual rate has not yet been determined. This money is to be loaned to secondary industries that are in



need of assistance, and it may be that some of the loans will not be repaid. Under this scheme the State is to be in the position of a second mortgagee, and loan the taxpayers' money at a low rate of interest, with the certainty that some of it will never be returned. The State is expected to take a risk that will not be accepted by banks or by private enterprise, and it virtually means a subsidy to inefficiency and bad management. It is to be regretted that many members who spoke in opposition to this proposal did not vote against it. Secondary industries produce under the shelter of the tariff wall, and it is manifestly unjust that this further privilege should be conferred upon them.

A Bill that will be of interest to the residents of Eyre Peninsula is the one providing for the use of the Port Lincoln Freezing Works as a local abattoirs. This will be a valuable side line to the freezing works, and should ensure a pure meat supply for the district.

One gratifying feature was that the Income Tax (Rates) Bill provides for a reduction of 3d. in the £ on income from personal exertion. Although the reduction is a small one, it is in the right direction, and we trust that the time is not far distant when this unjust method of collecting revenue is abolished. Another welcome measure is the abolition of amusement duty on amounts not exceeding 1/-. Exemptions are also provided in regard to functions arranged for charitable or institute purposes. In future no amusement duty will be levied on functions arranged for such purposes. Many other measures of a minor nature were passed, but space is not available to deal with them all.

Bills providing for a change in the management of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery were allowed to lapse, as were three other measures.

About ten Bills were defeated, the most important of which was that relating to the Metropolitan Milk Supply. Power was granted under this measure to set up a board of three men who were to have full control of the milk industry. They could fix prices for the producer, the vendor and the consumer. They had power to cancel licences or to refuse them, to indicate the quantity of milk a person might sell, the place where he should sell it, and the time when it should be delivered. Moreover, the Bill contained a vesting clause which provided that as soon as a milk producer had delivered milk to the board he lost his property rights in it, and they became vested in the board. The board could sell the milk where it liked, when it liked, and at what price it liked, and pay the producer at its own sweet will. Naturally the Bill met with considerable opposition. The Housewives' Association put up a great fight against it, and many milk vendors and producers who feared the loss of their livelihood petitioned Parliament against the Bill. Notwithstanding the strong opposition manifested, the Bill passed the House of Assembly after a 22½ hours session, many members putting up a long and weary fight against it. There was more logging in connection with this measure than has been witnessed in connection with any other Bill that has been before the House. The galleries were thronged with an interested audience during the course of the debate, many sitting right through the night and into the middle of the next day, when the vote was taken.

When the Bill went to the Legislative Council the debate was transferred to that Chamber. There was a keen debate, and when the vote was taken the Bill was defeated by 10 votes to 7. The Council, therefore proved that it had a better understanding of true liberal principles than did a majority of members in the House of Assembly. The Council is to be congratulated on its wise decision.

The surprising feature about the debate was to note that many members who declared for freedom during the recent Referendum debate, abandoned those principles and stood for monopoly.

To give some idea of the work associated with the Parliament just ended, members have been called upon to deal with no less than 340 measures during its six sessions. In addition to making themselves conversant with these Bills, members have to deal with district matters and answer a large budget of correspondence. This latter phase of the work will need attention until next March or April, when the elections will be held. The electors will then have the opportunity of deciding whether they are satisfied with their representatives or whether they desire a change. In addition to the party candidates it is certain that a record

## Catherine Helen Spence

We have before us a copy of "Catherine Helen Spence—A Study and Appreciation"—by Jeanne F. Young. This work contains a record of the "beliefs, aspirations and achievements" of one who was known as "The Grand Old Woman of Australia." Although Miss Spence is best known in connection with her splendid work for just representation, her work covered a much wider field. She gave devoted attention to such subjects as politics, literature, religion, philanthropy, sociology and education. The book is divided into twenty chapters, each containing interesting and instructive matter. She had a charming personality, and the chapter which deals with this phase is very interesting. Miss Spence was interested in literary work, and was the author of many books that were highly commended by critics and much appreciated by a large body of general readers.

It was at a very early age that Miss Spence was interested in electoral reform. It is stated that when in her seventh year she asked the question: "Mama, what is the Reform Bill, of which I hear you and papa talking?" she received the reply: "My dear, it is a bill which we hope will tend to make the world a better place for the poor to live in. Papa and I think that the world will never be so good that it cannot be made much better." Miss Spence first came to consider electoral reform through reading an article by John Stuart Mill, which gave support to Thomas Hare in his new idea of Proportional Representation. From that time she made the question the main work of her life. The chapter on "Political Inspiration" deals in a masterly manner with the various phases of Miss Spence's work for electoral justice, tells of the meetings addressed, the notable personages met in various parts of the world during her travels, and the places where Proportional Representation had been practically applied during her life. With a view to securing publicity for the principles of Effective Voting—as P.R. was then known—Miss Spence created a sensation by nominating for the Federal Convention in 1897. There was a rumor that the Returning Officer might not accept her nomination, but this extreme step was not taken. Although not elected, Miss Spence secured her object, which was to advertise Effective Voting. Many well known public men of that period gave support to the cause of electoral reform, but Miss Spence did not have the satisfaction of seeing the reform adopted.

Miss Spence was interested in the land question, and in an article which appeared in "The Cornhill Magazine" in 1865, she wrote: "In your England an agricultural laborer, working from the earliest days, when he was worth six pence a week to frighten crows, till he is worn out at sixty, earns in all his life about £900, or at the most £1,000. This is the money worth of his life's work. There are proprietors and millionaires who have as much as that for every day of their lives, without doing anything in the world for it, or, at the least, without needing to do anything. No doubt, under such a system, England has grown up a very great country. Science, and art, and invention, and literature have all been encouraged. But the question arises, should it not have been a greater and happier country if there had not been such an enormous disparity of conditions?" Some years later Miss Spence took Professor Pearson to task in the "Melbourne Review" for suggesting a graduated land tax as the policy for breaking up big estates. She said: "Squatters had not need to buy land nor even to pay rent to the Government for it; the land had not value until settlement gave it. The squatter bought it on easy terms and bought it only when it had value to be desired by agriculturists, or by selectors who posed as agriculturists. When he bought it he generally complained of the price the selectors compelled him to pay, but it was then secure; and with the growth of

number of Independent candidates will be in the field. In many cases these men will be merely a reflex of the party they have deserted, and will not have any definite alternative policy to offer. Such men really do harm to the Independent cause. However, on polling day the electors will decide the issue, as far as it is possible with an unjust electoral system. They should consider principles, not parties or individuals, and if they do this they should then secure just legislation that will place production on a profitable basis and secure to the wealth producers the full results of their labor."

population and the railroads and other improvements these enforced purchasers even in 1877 had built up big estates in single hands in every State in Australia." At that time Miss Spence was of the opinion that the breaking up of big landed estates could be achieved by a change in the incidence of succession duties, but at a later date she had clearer and sounder views on the matter. In her autobiography, published in 1910, she claims a very early association with the introduction of land values taxation in Australia. "I saw a single copy of Henry George's 'Progress and Poverty' on Robertson's shelves, and bought it, and it was I, who after reading this book, opened in the three most important Australian colonies the question of the taxation of land values. An article I wrote went into the 'Register,' and Mr. Liston, of Kapunda, read it and spoke of it at a farmers' meeting. I then had a commission from the 'Sydney Morning Herald' to write on any important subject, and I wrote on this. It appeared like a previous article on Howell's 'Conflict of Capital and Labour,' as an unsigned article. . . . I sent to the new periodical (the 'Victorian'), published in Melbourne, a fuller treatment of the book than had been given to the newspapers, under the title of 'A Californian Political Economist.' This fell into the hands of Henry George himself, in a reading room in San Francisco, and he wrote an acknowledgment of it to me. In South Australia, the first tax on unimproved land values was imposed. It was small—only a half penny in the pound, but without any exemption, and its imposition was encouraged by the fact that we had had bad seasons and a falling revenue. The income tax in England was originally a war tax, and they say that if there is not a war the United States will never be able to impose an income tax. The separate States have not the power to impose such a tax."

The book is filled with interesting statements regarding the life and work of this pioneer of democracy, and should be read by all reformers. After her death she received posthumous recognition. A very fine portrait of Miss Spence was painted for the Art Gallery, and the Catherine Helen Spence Scholarship was founded, the original £2,000 for its foundation being granted by the Victorian Government.

The writing of the book has been a labor of love on the part of Mrs. Young, who was associated with Miss Spence in her work for electoral reform, and who is still fighting for the rights of the people; and the work has been well done. The book is well printed, and bound in cloth, with gilt lettering. The price is 10/6 net, postage 3d. extra. We shall be pleased to post copies to any reader desiring the book, which should be on every democrat's bookshelf. We heartily congratulate Mrs. Young on the success which has attended her efforts in producing such a readable and instructive work.

## BROTHERHOOD

I seen a feller in town one day,  
An' he was a furriner, bent and gray,  
An' I sez, I to myself, sez I,  
I wonders just how I would feel if I  
Was the other feller a journeyin' by.  
Fer I knew that he hadn't a thing to say  
Regardin' his place of nativity,  
Or on this or the other side of the sea,  
Or a coming into the world at all.  
An' I felt like giving the feller a call,  
An' sayin' to him that if I could be he  
It might perhaps be an improvement on me.

I seen a feller a working his trade,  
An' his skin was as black as the ace o' spades.  
An' I sez, sez I to myself, sez I,  
He is in the world a journeyin' by,  
An' he speaks of himself jest as I does, as I,  
An' I knew that his coloy was made as 'twas made,  
An' he hadn't no choice as to color of skin,  
Or of birth place or race or the hue of his kin,  
Or a comin' into the world at all.  
An' I felt like givin' the feller a call,  
An' a sayin' 'Hello! an' a cheer word or two,  
To help him along on the journey through.

I seen a feller of darkish tan,  
An' he was a regular Muslem man,  
An' I sez, sez I to myself, sez I,  
If I was that feller and he was I  
Td be carryin' his religion by.  
Fer I knew that a feller learns jus as he can,  
An' he hadn't no choice of persuasion to be  
Instilled into him at his mother's knee,  
Or a comin' into the world at all.  
An' I felt like givin' the feller a call,  
An' a sayin' to him, I likes this song—  
We are brothers all as we journey along.

**Henry George League Meeting**  
Owing to the Christmas holidays the monthly meeting of the League will not be held during December month. The next meeting will be the last Tuesday in January, 1938.

## WISE SAYINGS BY EBERT HUBBARD

Here is the outline of a New Party. The truths it expresses are the oldest known to men. It is called the Commonsense Party.

It is at once political, social, economical, ethical, commercial and religious. Women and children are eligible and vote the same as men. No one is too old, and none too young to join. Your past record will not count against you, unless you are too boastful of it. There are no rites of initiation! no goats to ride—and you can never be put out of the Commonsense Party unless you hand in your resignation to your cosmic self. Here is the basis of the Commonsense Party—Cheerfulness, Courtesy, Kindness, Industry, Health, Patience, Economy.

There are two ways to live—just two—one right way and one wrong. If your life benefits humanity you are on the right track; but if you are a bother, a worry, a menace and a burden to the world you are on the wrong route and will soon be "up against it." Everybody and everything will have it in for you, because you will have it in for yourself. Then when you begin to repine, your bodily health will wane, and inertia and weakness will seize you hand and foot.

Weakness is the only slavery. Freedom is the supreme good—freedom from self-imposed limitation.

It is the law of nature that the world helps every person who is trying to help himself. If you want to be well and strong, work with Nature and not against her, and she will make you well and strong and keep you so, barring collision with a benzine buggy. Nature is on your side, if you prove that you are on hers. We should all be in partnership with Nature. If you are sincerely trying to do your share of the necessary work of the world, Nature will reward you in honors, money and power.

Keep good-natured. Do not look for slights or insults. If you can't get the job you want, then take the one you can get. The only way to get a big place is to show that you are not ashamed to fill a little one.

The world needs more Commonsense Men and Women—just plain everyday folks who belong to the Commonsense Party. The motto of the New Party is this: Do for others as if you were the others.

Commonsense Culturs, when in doubt, mind their own business, and if they do not know what to say, do not say it. When they speak of their neighbors, they mention only the best concerning them, for Commonsense Culturs know that none of us are so very good—certainly not good enough to be out in a glass case.

The Commonsense Man knows that he must get eight hours sleep; that he must not over-eat; that he must give out goodwill if he is to get it back; that he must exercise in the open air every day if he is to keep well; and he realises that if he does not keep well he will be more or less of a nuisance to everybody in his vicinity, and that he will fail utterly in getting his share of Health, Wealth and Happiness.

Commonsense Folks do not borrow trouble—or small sums of money, anticipating payday. They live within their means, pay their debts, accept what comes and are thankful that things are not worse.

You are not to draw close about you the skirts of intolerance, nor look with disdain on those less fortunate; but always, and at all times, be able to place yourself, thru the gift of imagination, in the position of others.

Thus do you evolve sympathy and pity, two sentiments without which a man is indeed but a mental mendicant.

This country is suffering from over-legislation. Our reformers seem to have small faith in natural law. They have an eczema for regulating things. When they realise on their little thousand dollar policies, and they reach another world, they will want to seize the pitchfork and run the place to suit themselves.

What this country really will have to do is to reform its reformers. We live in a marvellous country, and in a marvellous time. Let the age unfold—let the times blossom—let humanity grow and expand. The Dark Ages were a time when by over-government human evolution was absolutely blocked. Let us cease being brakemen, and give conductors and engineers a chance. The country is all right—or will be as soon as we repeal a few silly laws and give God's law of gravitation a chance. Cease setting your brake against the power.

## THE PEOPLES ADVOCATE

### Free Trade Orators

During the time of the Anti-Corn Law movement in Great Britain meetings were held in the Covent Garden Theatre in London, and they were always crowded and enthusiastic. We propose to reproduce for the information of our readers some of the very fine utterances made at these meetings on behalf of freedom of trade. They should serve to inspire the present generation to greater efforts against the unjust tariff policy of Australia. One of the speakers at that time was Daniel O'Connell, and he did not mince his words. At one of his meetings he made a bitter attack upon the landowners who were giving support to the tax on bread. He said:—

"I declare to you the injustice and iniquity of the landed aristocracy overcome me with horror and loathing which I cannot describe! . . . They tax the bread, not for the good of the State, in which you might all equally participate—not for protection against a foreign enemy, or to keep domestic peace—but for the benefit of one particular class. All the rest of the community are taxed, that that tax may not go into the purse of the public, but that it may go into the pockets of private individuals. Why, really, it is too bad that you should be called sensible people and bear this. I, of course, mean you no disrespect, but there is a thickheadness about it that I cannot understand. Duke of Northumberland, you are not my king! I owe you no allegiance—I will pay you no tax! Duke of Richmond—there have been Richmonds flourishing before you, and you are not my king yet, and no tax shall you have! Take them altogether, we owe them no allegiance, and we are bound to stand together one and all, in peaceable conduct, but in determination—in tranquility, but with firmness—resolved that we will not be cheated—that we will not be robbed—that we will not be humbugged. I should like to see one of these great Dukes levying his tax in kind. I should like to behold him going into one of the lanes of our manufacturing towns, to a poor wretched family, where the father after a day's fatigue was affecting to have no appetite, that he might leave a few more mouthfuls of bread for his famishing children, or the wretched mother endeavoring to give nutrition to one babe while another was screaming because it had no food; I should like to see this great Duke, with his stars and garter, walking into such an assembly, and laying hold of the biggest hunch of the loaf, and saying, 'This is my bread tax, and you may eat the rest of it as you like.'"

The history of the Hungry Forties makes sad reading. It shows the condition of the masses under Protection. What has happened in the past is possible in the future if protectionists are allowed to secure their privileges without protest. It is pitiable to see men protesting to be the representatives of the people standing shoulder to shoulder, irrespective of their party label, and voting for the taxation of the people's necessities. Question the rank and file on this matter, and they speak in opposition to such an infamous policy. Yet because of the curse of party politics they allow themselves to be fleeced for the benefit of a privileged few. Unless they are prepared to give some attention to principles affecting their well-being they cannot hope for relief.

## Bees and Drones

"And so it came to pass that the drones owned all the fields and had wire screens placed over them, with large signs here and there warning the busy bees to keep off the flowers under the penalty of the law.

"In addition the drones hired a lot of fierce hornets with long, sharp stingers and fed them well to see the laws were enforced.

"As a result the busy bees were idle, discontented, ragged and hungry, so they held meetings in the public squares and passed resolutions, and appointed committees to call on the drones and demand that the signs be removed and that they be allowed to build hives on the vacant fields and gather honey from the unused flowers.

"But the drones paid fat bumbles to preach to them and tell them the reason they were poor and unemployed was not on account of the fields being monopolised, but BECAUSE they were too fond of the juice of the hop, grape and malt flowers, and too many bees were born yearly, which caused over-population, and they should have a high tariff to keep

out foreign pauper honey which caused over-production, and they should never forget that there had always been poor, idle, hungry bees ever since anyone could remember, and that the more drones they had the better off they would be for the drones ate lots of honey, which gave them more work gathering honey, and if it wasn't for the drones they would not have anyone to eat their honey and so they would all starve to death for the want of work, and they should always remember that the monopoly of the fields and flowers was the very foundation of society, which was fortified by a pile of statutes and endorsed by the pillars of society from time immemorial.

"After listening to this speech the idle bees thought and thought until their heads ached worse than their stomachs. Then they stopped thinking."

—D. Cavanagh, Baltimore, U.S.A.

## HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly meeting of members of the league was held at George Parade, on Tuesday, November 30. The president (Mr. M. H. McDonough) occupied the chair, but owing to the inclement weather there was only a small attendance. Correspondence of an interesting nature was read and received. The secretary in his report dealt with the important matters that had been before Parliament, and explained the provisions of the Blast Furnace Agreement Bill, which proposed to give a 71 years lease of valuable iron ore deposits to the Broken Hill Proprietary Co. He also outlined the provisions of the Milk Control Bill, and showed the danger associated with such control. Other matters of interest were dealt with. Mr. A. S. Baily (leader of the Study Circle) reported on its work. He said the class had completed its second course, and had adjourned until next year. The class had a good year, and there had been a good average attendance, and at times as many as 20 students were present. The effort of going through the two Manuals had been of great benefit to all class members. The discussion on the interest question had brought out its importance, and any one who appreciated the theory of interest as set out by Henry George had a firmer grip of political economy than one who did not know it. He appreciated the action of the class members in presenting him with a gold mounted fountain pen, but he was prepared to do the work without any thought of reward. He loved the work, and it gave him the opportunity to develop his faculties to the fullest extent, and this was the greatest reward possible. He thanked all members for their attendance, and for the interest they had shown in the work of the class. Mr. A. N. Morgan said that the class had spent a good year, and members were under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Baily for the great interest he had shown. Mr. W. Burton also expressed his appreciation of Mr. Baily as class leader, and he said he had derived great benefit from his instruction. Financial statement read and adopted and accounts passed for payment. The president referred to the very strenuous work of the secretary, and it was resolved that he be granted one month's leave of absence so that he might secure a rest prior to the State election campaign. It was resolved on the motion by Mr. Burton that there be no monthly meeting in December, and that the next meeting be on the last Tuesday in January. Matters of general interest were discussed, and the president in declaring the meeting closed wished members the compliments of the season.

## Henry George Literature

Owing to the generosity of the Henry George Foundation (Australia) we now have a good supply of Henry George's celebrated pamphlets. These have been reprinted in Australia by the Foundation. There are six titles, viz.:

Thy Kingdom Come,  
Thou Shalt Not Steal,  
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Scotland and Scotsmen,  
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