

# THE PEOPLES' ADVOCATE

An Organ of Fundamental Democracy



**FOR LAND, FREE TRADE, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION**

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## LAND MONOPOLY PREVENTS PRODUCTION

The mere deprivation of their just interest in ground rent is not the worst effect upon the laboring classes of making ground rent private property. The ease with which big incomes are seen to be derived without labor from community growth through mere ownership of ground rent, stimulates investment in land, not for occupancy, not for use, but for ground rent profit, which will surely come when community growth brings the land into greater demand. That is to say, private ground rent generates speculation in ground rent possibilities of the future.

Ill-fortune in these speculations doubtless causes individual loss. As in any other lottery "capital prizes" are few, and even "approximation prizes" are not many nor rich in comparison with the chances. But individual disappointments in speculation do not modify the destructive effect upon labor. The rush for a chance at the prizes gives an abnormal value to land where it is likely to be needed, and at the very points towards which industry and enterprise turn they are headed off by exorbitant prices for locations. If they then turn in other directions they soon meet similar obstacles there. And so on, until a vast army of unemployed men, and business absolutely stagnant, announces the presence of "hard times."

Continual brisk business is impossible with ground rent speculation so universal and stubborn that land for industrial purposes is kept above its real value for industrial uses. What may be often seen in almost any part of the country when improvement falls off or is retarded away from a locality, is that the prices for land than the advantages of locality would warrant at the time, is suggestive of what takes place through all the complex ramifications of industry in consequence of higher prices for land in general than the profits of business in general can afford.

This speculation forces men to sell their labor for less than its worth, as the only way to secure opportunities for utilizing their powers at all in civilized places. Here is economic slavery in more than theoretic principle.

Given appropriate land, and free labor will speedily reproduce all other material things; deprive labor of that, and men beg leave to do what chattel slaves are driven to do—work for a bare subsistence. It is by depriving labor of land through ground rent speculation, that labor is forced into the position of economic slavery which the Duke of Marlborough described when, upon advising his English friends to invest in American lands, he wrote: "Here you have an Anglo-Saxon race of nearly seventy millions of people, who work like beavers developing your property and adding to its value, if you own real estate investments."

It is not necessary in the civilized state that all land should be monopolized in order to produce economic slavery. In our stage of civilization labor is so sub-divided that the individual is much like a cog in the industrial machine, and if the land accessible to bodies of labor be monopolized he becomes almost helpless. His only relief is to go long distances and live an isolated and primitive life, and rather than do this he underbids for work where social life is possible. This under-bidding lowers wages. And private ownership of ground rents generates the speculation which forces the under-bidding. The remedy for such a state of affairs is to remove all taxes from industry and collect ground rent for public purposes. Henry George, in a logical and eloquent passage, states the position as follows: "To shift the burden of taxation from production and exchange to the value or rent of land would not merely be to give new stimulus to the production of wealth; it would be to open new opportunities. For under this system no one would care to hold land unless to use it, and land now withheld from use

would everywhere be thrown open to improvement.

"The selling price of land would fall; and speculation would receive its death blow; land monopolization would no longer pay. Millions and millions of acres from which settlers are now shut out by high prices would be abandoned by their present owners or sold to settlers upon nominal terms. And this not merely on the frontiers, but within what are now considered well settled districts. . . .

"And it must be remembered this would apply, not merely to agricultural land, but to all land. Mineral land would be thrown open to use, just as agricultural land; and in the heart of a city no one could afford to keep land from its most profitable use, or on the outskirts to demand more for it than the use to which it could at the time be put would warrant. Everywhere that land had attained a value, taxation, instead of operating as now, as a fine upon improvement, would operate to force improvement. Whoever planted an orchard, or sowed a field, or built a house, or erected a manufactory, no matter how costly, would have no more to pay in taxes than if he kept so much land idle. The monopolist of agricultural land would be taxed as much as though his land were covered with houses and barns, with crops, and with stock. The owner of a vacant city lot would have to pay as much for the privilege of keeping other people off of it until he wanted to use it, as his neighbour who has a fine house upon his lot. It would cost as much to keep a row of tumble-down shanties upon valuable land as though it were covered with a grand hotel or a pile of great warehouses filled with costly goods. . . .

"Consider the effect of such a change upon the labor market. Competition would no longer be one-sided, as now. Instead of laborers competing against each other for employment, and in their competition cutting down wages to the point of bare subsistence, employers would everywhere be competing for laborers, and wages would rise to the fair earnings of labor. For into the labor market would have entered the greatest of all competitors for the employment of labor, a competitor whose demand cannot be satisfied until want is satisfied—the demand of labor itself. The employers of labor would not merely have to bid against other employers, all feeling the stimulus of greater trade and increased profits, but against the ability of laborers to become their own employers upon the natural opportunities freely opened to them by the tax which prevented monopolization.

"With natural opportunities thus free to labor, with capital and improvements free from tax, and exchange released from restrictions, the spectacle of willing men unable to turn their labor into the things they are suffering for would become impossible; the recurring paroxysms which paralyze industry would cease; every wheel of production would be set in motion; demand would keep pace with supply, and supply with demand; trade would increase in every direction, and wealth augment on every hand."

### THE UNITED COMMITTEE FOR THE TAXATION OF LAND VALUES LTD. LONDON

"Land & Liberty," in its January issue, reports that during the year 1935 the literature sold from the office of the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, publications of the Henry George Foundation, has been as follows:

8,690 of the books by Henry George;  
2,370 books by other authors

(making 11,060 books in all).  
6,580 Henry George addresses (penny pamphlets),  
20,950 pamphlets by other authors

(making 27,530 pamphlets in all).

In addition, and for the general propaganda, the committee has issued 316,700 leaflets of various titles.

The circulation of such an immense quantity of matter relating to the principles of Henry George should have a great educational value, and we congratulate the committee on the fine work it is doing.

### Patrick Edward Dove On the Land Question

Landlords are Natural Enemies of God and Man.

It is the law of God, as declared in the constitution of the terrestrial world, and the law of Christianity, as declared in the written Scriptures, that the industrious man should be rich and that the man who labors not should be poor. The whole economy of Britain is a direct infringement of this great law of property—of this great and fundamental principle which God established for the economical government of the world, when he made the earth to yield its riches in return for human labor. The richest men in England are those who do NOT labor, and who never did labor. And their wealth is secured in such a manner that it descends from generation to generation, and goes on constantly increasing without any exertion on their part. Were they to sleep for a hundred years, they would wake only to encumber the industry of the country, to retard its progress, to prevent the amendment of its institutions, and to maintain a party warfare against its real prosperity. As a class, they are antagonistic to industry, enemies to freedom and to progress, barriers to the civilization of the world, living on the fruits of other men's labors, yet hating and despising the toil which alone endows them with wealth.

#### Logic of the Single Tax.

To whom, then OUGHT the rents of the soil to be equitably allocated? I do not hesitate to say, "To the Nation." For the service of the nation, taxes must be derived from some quarter or other; and if the taxes had always been derived from the rents of the soil, there would be no other source of revenue. But any customs House, any Excise, or any of those restrictive measures that repress industry, while they eminently contribute to separate nation from nation, and to prevent the commercial intercourse that ultimately would have abolished war. National Property there must be SOMEWHERE, and assuredly it is more JUST to take that property from the natural value of the soil than from the individual fruits of labor. From one of the other it IS and MUST be taken; and if there would be injustice in taking it from the impersonal rent of the soil, there is certainly more injustice in taking it from the profits of individual exertion.

#### Glimpse of the Promised Land.

This is the true, and the only true, theory of a NATION—that the soil belongs to it in perpetuity, and never can be alienated from it; and that he who will give the greatest rent for the soil becomes its cultivator, and pays the rent to the nation for the benefit of the whole community. Then, but not till then, will labor reap its natural reward—the reward appointed by Providence in the divine constitution of the terrestrial economy. Then will the welfare of one be the welfare of all; then will men be banded together by a true citizenship; and then will the first great step be taken towards that mighty Brotherhood which springs from our common parentage, and which is at once the promise and the prophecy of the Christian faith—

"And man to man the world ower  
Shall brothers be an' that."

### Social Evening

Invitations have been issued by the executive committee of the Henry George League to members and friends to be present at a Social Evening at the Rechabite Chambers (first floor), Victoria Square, on Wednesday April 22, from 8 to 11. The programme will include vocal and instrumental music, elocutionary items, dancing and games. The secretary will give a brief address on the aims, objects, and work of the league. Refreshments will be served. Ladies are asked to kindly bring baskets. Members are asked to reserve this night and bring along as many friends as possible.

## "The People's Advocate"

ADELAIDE: MARCH 21, 1936

### UNEMPLOYMENT And the Land Question

#### Unemployment Made by Man.

Let us clear our minds. Unemployment is no part of the natural order, as many assume it to be. On the contrary, it is an affliction brought on by human injustice. Let this be realised and it at once becomes clear why it is hard to get the chance of working. Nature in her bounty provides a workshop—the natural resources of this earth—within which there is room for all and to spare. So many are the opportunities within this workshop that, were it open to all, lack of work would be unthinkable. If, therefore, jobs are hard to get, it is at bottom because entry to the workshop is denied to all but a favored few, whom we allow to open or close the doors as self-interest or fancy takes them. The scarcity of opportunity which results from this legalised lock-out we regard, in our blindness, as a dispensation of Providence, and forthwith embark on endless "relief schemes" in the hope that we shall thus ease the lot of those locked out. UNEMPLOYMENT IS MADE BY LAW. THE CURE IS TO REPEAL THE LAWS THAT MAKE IT. We must steadily refuse to give ear to those false guides who tell us there is no sure remedy.

It cannot be maintained that unemployment is due to over-population. How is that possible so long as millions of acres of valuable land lie idle or half used? It will be time to talk of over-population as the cause of unemployment if, after land of every kind is thrown open to those who want to use it, we still find that opportunities to work for a living are scarce.

It is important to note that the barrier thus raised against labor and capital is not confined to the locking up of this or that particular bit of land. It extends much further, because the locking up of SOME land creates land famine or scarcity, and so raises the price of ALL land, thus heightening the barrier against employment THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

#### Taxation of Land Values Opens Nature's Workshop.

Taxation of land values will put an end to all this, for under that system taxation is so imposed as to throw open the doors of Nature's workshop instead of closing them. Under it, owners of land are not excused from taxation on valuable land because they keep it lying idle, nor are they called upon to pay one penny more when they build on or make other proper use of it. Under this system taxation is levied on the value of the bare land WHETHER USED OR NOT USED, so that to hold up for the rise becomes an unprofitable instead of a profitable proposition, as it very often is now. And since improvements are exempted from taxation, full use of land is further encouraged. Under the liberating pressure of this system, productive employment would grow till it reached its natural limit—the complete satisfaction of every human want. Taxation of land values, by liberating the sources of production leads to the fullest possible employment.

This land value policy means using land to its fullest capacity. No more idle builders and idle building sites; idle miners and undeveloped minerals; idle laborers and idle fields. Under such conditions of freedom nothing could stop wages (purchasing power) from rising, and nothing could bring down the higher wage level so long as opportunities for productive work remain open. Not only would there be greater production from which the higher wages would come, but the present one-sided competition for jobs made artificially scarce by land monopoly would give place to competition among employers for workers.

#### More Jobs Than Men!

Under the practical remedy we advocate, the bolts which now bar Nature's workshop would be withdrawn, and the unlimited opportunities for useful work of every kind which exist within, would become available ON EQUAL TERMS FOR THE USE OF ALL MEN. Instead of more men than jobs, the order of the day would be more jobs than men, and the impious superstition that opportunities for employment are scarce by decree of Providence would cease to dominate our minds.

W. R. Lester, M.A.

## Evils of Single Electorates

The elections in West Australia and New Zealand have demonstrated the evil of the single electorate system, and proved conclusively it does not provide for representation of the people. Take half a dozen districts in the West Australian elections in February, and note how the will of the electors has been defeated. In the Canning district 3,903 electors showed by their first preference votes that they did not want Cross as their representative, yet he was elected by 3,299 votes. In East Perth, the Independent (T. J. Hughes) secured 1,919 first preference votes as against 2,748 polled for his opponents, yet he was elected. In Maylands district 3,996 electors showed by their first preference votes they did not wish to have Shearn in Parliament, yet he secured the seat with only 1,630 first preferences to his credit. In North Perth, Smith, with 1,359 votes in his favor and 3,202 cast against him, was elected. The same happened in Subiaco, where Cardell-Oliver was elected with only 1,441 first preferences, when 4,590 desired other representatives. In Albany 1,260 votes were cast for Hill, who secured the seat, whereas 2,065 votes were cast against him. This is the effect in districts where there were more than two candidates, and in these members could only gain the absolute majority requisite for their election by a system which forced electors to indicate a preference for candidates they had no wish to support. In the other districts where two candidates only contested, it will be noted that in some cases approximately 45 per cent. of the electors were disfranchised.

It has been rumored the S.A. Government intends introducing single electorates in this State, but the experience of its working in other parts should show how unjust is such a system. Parliament should be a true reflex of the will of the people, expressed under free conditions. Single electorates stifle free opinion, and forces preferences for candidates whose election is not desired by a great number of electors. Electoral reform is long overdue in this State, and when it is introduced it should be on the proportional basis.

## The New Zealand Elections

In the February issue of "The Standard," Mr. P. J. O'Regan, our valued co-worker in New Zealand, gives some interesting details regarding the result of the voting at the recent elections in New Zealand. He shows that out of a total of 852,555 votes cast, the Labor Party secured less than one-half, 392,317; but that nevertheless the Labor Party has fifty-three members in a House of 80. He states there are 35 minority members, of which 22 are Labor members, and says the result illustrates the reason why the Labor Party at the Easter conference of 1934 deleted Proportional Representation from its platform, where it had remained for about 25 years.

The poll was good, a shade over 90.5 per cent. of the enrolled electors voting. Looking at the results, indicates that an average of 7,402 votes was necessary to elect a Labor member. The number required to elect an opponent was 17,045. It will thus be seen that Labor Party votes were more than twice as effective in securing representation as other votes. On a Proportional Representation basis the Labor Party would have 38 seats instead of 53, the Nationalists 27 instead of 19, and the Democrats 7 instead of none.

Here are a few of the cases of minority wins: Mr. Eudean (Nationalist) won with 5,758 votes while other candidates polled 8,867 votes; Mr. A. Moncur (Labor) was elected with 4,894 votes while his opponents secured 6,450 votes. Mr. J. Hodgins (Labor) succeeded with 4,730 votes while the other candidates had 8,995 between them. Mr. H. S. S. Kyle (Nationalist) was returned with 5,123 votes while the other men in the field had 6,792. And Mr. W. M. Denham was elected with 4,241 votes and his opponents polled among them 9,198 votes.

We have frequently given examples of the unrepresentative nature of single electorates, which gives representation to the minority and leaves the majority without representation in a great number of districts. There is only one just system of voting which can make Parliament a true reflex of the will of the people, and that is Proportional Representation. This is the method that should be adopted in any constitutional change made in South Australia.

## ANNOUNCEMENT: International Conference

London, September, 1936

We are able to make the preliminary announcement that the International Union has decided to convene

The Fifth International Conference  
to Promote Land Value Taxation  
and Free Trade

which will be held from 1st to 4th September this year, 1936, in London.

At its meeting in September last the executive of the Union had given general approval to the idea of holding the Conference in London this summer, but an important detail was that of the financial resources to bear the necessary expenses of preparation. The Finance Committee to whom the matter was referred have been placed in the fortunate position of surmounting this initial obstacle, and this by a special donation received "for Conference purposes" by a prominent and generous supporter of the Union. The question remained—shall the Conference be organized for this year or next? and the unanimous decision was in favor of 1936.

A determining factor in the choice of date for the Conference was the holding of the Annual Henry George Commemoration at the same time, for which of course the most appropriate day is 2nd September.

Membership of the Conference is open to all who accept and approve the objects of the International Union—to stimulate in all countries a public opinion favorable to permanent peace and prosperity for all peoples through the progressive removal of the basic causes of poverty and war as these are demonstrated in the writings of Henry George. The Conference membership fee will be ten shillings, and members of the Union are invited to help in ensuring the success of the Conference with any special donations they feel free to give.

The Executive of the Union will hold a special meeting on 4th March to consider and plan the details of Conference arrangements.

Notice of intention to take personal part in the Conference should be sent to our offices, 94 Petty France, London, S.W.1. For those who are unable to attend to come to London, the roll will be open for honorary subscribing members, and we urge every absent sympathizer to associate himself or herself with the Conference in that way.

## HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly meeting of the above league was held at George Parade on Tuesday, February 25. The president (Mr. A. S. Bayly) in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed. There was an interesting budget of correspondence from all parts of the world, testifying the strength of the movement. The secretary's report dealt with the proposed West Coast meetings, the correspondence with the Douglas Credit Association, the coming International Conference in September, 1936, and letters to the press. Monthly financial statement read and adopted, and accounts passed for payment. A suggestion by a correspondent that members be appointed for the purpose of making an appeal for a fighting fund for the next State elections was held over until next meeting for consideration. The question of holding a social evening was dealt with, and it was resolved that the Reckabite Hall, Victoria Square, be engaged for April 22, and that a committee be appointed to arrange details. The following were appointed as a committee, with power to add: Mesdames Chappeil, Penny and Craige, Messrs. A. S. Bayly, Chappeil, Stone, Hudson, Ellis, and T. E. Craige. Matters of general interest were discussed. The secretary dealt with the Wheat and Wheat Products Bill which is to be introduced during the next session of Parliament. Mr. Ellis related his experiences with clergymen in his effort to get them to realise the need for effort in regard to sound economic principles. Mr. F. P. Dymallyk gave an account of his visit to the other States.

Next Meeting, Tuesday, March 31, at 8 p.m.

## Georgian Literature

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George Parade, 11 Carrington Street, Adelaide



# PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION GROUP.

## West Coast Tour

### Opening of 1936 Session

The first meeting of the Proportional Representation Group for 1936, held at the A.N.A. Buildings, Flinders Street, Adelaide, on Thursday, February 6, introduced two interesting speakers in Messrs. W. S. Hanson (Mayor of Norwood) and C. H. Goode, an ex-Commissioner of Crown Lands for the State, who were rival Independent candidates at the recent bye-election for Central District, No. 2, for the Legislative Council.

The subject chosen was, "Should the Referendum be an essential feature of Democratic Government for all controversial questions?" The president of the group (Mrs. Jeanne F. Young) was in the chair, and in introducing the speakers said that all independent thinkers would applaud the courage and independence of the two speakers who had contested the recent bye-election. Party politics today were strangling freedom of thought and expression among the people, and every encouragement should be given to those who dared to take an independent course in political thought.

Mr. C. H. Goode opened the discussion by taking the affirmative on the question. He quoted the experience of countries using the referendum to prove its value. He felt that it should be applied on such occasions for instance where the two Houses were unable to arrive at a satisfactory decision on any important question. He was entirely opposed to the referendum taking the place of parliamentary decisions and responsibility for such, and maintained that were Proportional Representation in force under which all sections of thought would be adequately represented, and also under which the majority would govern, it would not be necessary to call upon the referendum. Today, it was called for because the people felt that Parliament was really not under present systems of voting able to play in the life of the people the important part it was expected to do.

Mr. Hanson, who followed, opposed the use of the referendum, unless for the important matter of amending the Constitution. He felt that its use would be to free the legislators, not only from their duty of shouldering responsibility for parliamentary legislation, but would render them less careful of the manner in which their duties should be carried out. He also agreed that the adoption of a better system of voting such as that advocated by the group, would make appeals to the people less urgent than today. It would be impossible, he thought, for voters to judge on the merits or demerits of any great question, as they were not trained to undertake such responsibility.

A very interesting discussion followed, led by Mr. A. Chappel and Mrs. E. W. Nicholls, who moved and seconded votes of thanks to both speakers. Other speakers included Messrs. B. Kelton and M. H. McDonough, and Miss M. E. Phillips, B.A., and the president. During the course of the discussion it was stated that far from the people being unable to understand a single question submitted to them, a referendum decision on one particular subject was very much easier than a choice of several candidates at a general election, and in reply to a question whether Democracy was likely ever to be universally established both speakers felt that in time the prospects were in favor of such a form of government becoming world-wide were the people allowed a greater freedom of control from parties and other pressure.

Prior to the addresses some questions relating to Proportional Representation and Pre-Selection, which had been submitted, were replied to by the president, who said Proportional Representation would not interfere with the right of political parties to do as they wished with their members, but they objected strongly to the retention of a system of voting such as present methods, which gave the control of the votes of the people to leaders of parties. The adoption of Proportional Representation and the prevention of its abolition subsequently by either party or Parliament, without the consent of the people by referendum, was the only hope for any real reform.

Reports from the honorary secretary and treasurer were submitted by Mr. M. H. McDonough and Mr. T. E. Craigie respectively, and accounts passed for payment. During the evening the president reported that on that day Miss F. S. Hawkins had reached the 85th anniversary of her birth, and it was, on the

Accompanied by Mrs. Craigie, the League secretary (Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P.) left Adelaide on March 1 for the purpose of addressing a series of meetings on the West Coast. The first place of call in the Flinders District was Iron Knob. During the stay in this town an opportunity was presented for meeting many of the residents, and a very interesting discussion took place in regard to matters affecting the welfare of the community. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. J. Anderson, who did everything possible to make the stay pleasant.

Leaving the next morning for Kimba we were met on the road by Mr. J. P. Moore, who escorted us to his home and entertained us at lunch. A start was then made for Kimba, where an afternoon meeting had been arranged for the purpose of meeting members of the local branch. The president (Mrs. A. Ellis) occupied the chair and extended a hearty welcome. At the request of the members a resume of league activities was given, as well as an outline of the main work in connection with the representation of the district. The proposed constitutional reform measures of the Butler Government, and their possible effect on the district at the next election, received consideration. Many questions were put with a view to securing as much information as possible regarding the political and economic situation. At the conclusion of the general discussion, a motion moved by Mr. E. J. Hackett, seconded by Mr. W. Hutchens, was unanimously carried, expressing appreciation of the excellent work done on behalf of the principles of Henry George. The ladies provided a splendid spread, which enabled further pleasant intercourse with those present.

The public meeting was held at night in the Memorial Hall. The chairman of the District Council (Mr. F. R. Ferry) presided over a good attendance. A review of the work of the recent sessions was given, the financial position of the State was put clearly before the audience, and the present economic position of the world discussed. At the conclusion of the address many questions were submitted with a view to securing further information. A vote of thanks moved by the Rev. Nell Fisher, seconded by Mr. Holt, was carried, both speakers offering congratulations on the clear and straightforward manner in which the questions had been dealt with.

The next meeting was at Pallinga Hall. En route we called on Miss Jacobs and had a hearty welcome. At night there was a good attendance, Mr. A. E. Hutchens being in the chair. A number of questions added to the interest of the meeting. Mr. Cecil Palmer moved, and Mr. Mercer seconded, the vote of thanks, and it was supported by Mr. Arnold Schubert. Mr. and Mrs. A. Hutchens extended hospitality during our stay in this district.

The next morning we left on the eighty miles run to Wudinna, and passing through Cootra and Wadlkee Rocks were pleased to meet Mr. Gray and Mr. Richardson. The road was bad in places owing to the recent heavy rains, and we approached Wudinna through Kyancutta. Mrs. Dubois and Mr. J. Bailey had charge of the arrangements, and there was a good attendance at the meeting. Great interest was manifested and questions submitted. Mr. Harold Pascoe presided, and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. H. P. Cabot and seconded by Mr. W. DuBois. Mr. and Mrs. J. Bailey very kindly looked after our comfort during our stay at Wudinna.

There was no set meeting at Kyancutta owing to a clash with other functions. Opportunity was taken to discuss various matters with the district residents who came to the hall.

On Saturday, March 7, a meeting was held at Yaninee. Mr. T. L. Nottle occupied the chair, and there was a fine representative gathering. A number of questions were asked, and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Carl Boehm and seconded by Mr. Herman Schultz. The arrangements for the meeting were in the capable hands of Mr. W. B. Hirschfeld, and our thanks are accorded Mr. and Mrs. Hirschfeld for hospitality extended during our stay in the district.

Motion of Mrs. E. W. Nicholls and Miss A. Tomkinson, supported by others, decided to send a letter of congratulation to Miss Hawkins on her great life work for electoral reform, as well as for the achievement of so great an age, with hope and optimism still upholding her.

The meeting at Minnipa was presided over by Mr. A. P. Rowen, who had worked hard to ensure a successful gathering. Those present listened with great interest to the details regarding the increase of the taxation burden by all political parties, and realised that only by the lifting of the load was it possible to turn the mythical corner that was so much mentioned by party leaders. Mr. J. Crabbe moved, and Mr. Broderick seconded, the vote of thanks, after an interesting discussion.

The arrangements for the Poochera meeting were made by Messrs. J. Shefflan and C. O. Bohlin, and Mr. Bohlin was chairman at the night gathering. Numerous questions were dealt with, and the presence of a Douglas Credit supporter added to the interest. It was after midnight when the discussion closed. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Carbury and seconded by Mr. E. G. Younard, other speakers stating that the manner in which questions had been answered was in marked contrast to the way questions had been shirked at a recent meeting in the town.

Curguna was the next place visited. Messrs. T. H. Lee and R. G. Bennie distributed the dodgers and attended to the arrangements. The chair was taken by Mr. A. B. Quinn, and a number of questions regarding the bounty and the 1916-17 pool were asked. Mr. T. H. Lee moved and Mr. H. J. Bennie seconded the vote of thanks. Supper was provided by the ladies, and a very pleasant night was spent. Hospitality was extended by Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Bennie, and we were sorry to miss Mrs. Bennie, senior, who unfortunately was away at Streaky Bay Hospital. Mrs. Bennie is highly respected in the district, and we trust she will have a speedy return to good health.

Mr. F. Agars occupied the chair at the Wirrulla meeting. Here great interest was also shown and a large number of questions submitted. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Cyril Frick and seconded by Mr. A. Agars.

On Friday, March 13, at the request of the Minister of Education and the residents the official ceremony of opening the Pimbaccha School was performed at 11 a.m. The chairman of the school committee (Mr. C. Campbell) extended a hearty welcome to Mrs. Craigie and myself. After the address an adjournment was made to the inside of the school. The building is finely constructed, and the facilities for teaching are much better than in days gone by. One of the children presented Mrs. Craigie with a beautiful bouquet, and I was the recipient of a buttonhole. The children then rendered part songs and recitations in a most creditable manner, and Miss Golding (the teacher) is to be congratulated on her great success with the children in such a limited period. A vote of thanks was moved by Mr. H. Howard, seconded by Mr. Gib Campbell, and carried with acclamation. An adjournment was then made to the shelter shed, and justice was done to the many good things provided by the ladies. There was a fine representative gathering from various parts of the district, and we were sorry to leave at 3 p.m. for the next engagement. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Bennie extended hospitality while in the district.

After leaving we called on Mr. and Mrs. P. Flaherty, who had kindly invited us to tea, and then left for the night meeting in the Mudamuckla Hall. There was a fine gathering, presided over by that stalwart worker, Mr. James Talbot. Keen interest was shown in the meeting, and there was a large number of questions submitted relating to various phases of State and Federal politics. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. A. Marchant and seconded by Mr. H. Tremaine. After the meeting we went with Mr. J. H. H. Will to his home, where we remained until next day, and were entertained in a most hospitable manner. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Will and Flaherty for the assistance rendered in arranging such a successful meeting and for hospitality extended.

On Saturday afternoon a meeting was held at Ceduna. Our good friend and co-worker Mr. H. W. Lindsay being in the chair. There was a fine representative gathering of farmers and business men, who listened with interest to a review of the economic and financial position of the Commonwealth and State. Questions were answered, and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. F. Edson, and seconded by Mr. M. L. Kelly, L.L.B. At night a meeting was held in the Waterside Workers' Hall at Thevenard, our old friend and co-worker Mr. L. J. H. Masters being in the chair. The effect of a change of policy on Georgian lines upon employment, wages, and the cost of living was explained to those present and questions answered. Mr. H. Lindsay moved

and Mr. Runberg seconded the vote of thanks. During our stay in this district we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. Lindsay, who did everything possible to make our stay pleasant. Our thanks are due to them and to Messrs. Lindsay and R. Talbot for the arrangements in connection with these two meetings.

On Monday, March 16, the next meeting was held at Streelby Bay. Owing to a clash with a local function the attendance was not large. Mr. E. L. Beck occupied the chair. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. J. H. Cotton and seconded by Mr. W. Kemp. Sincere thanks are due to Mr. Beck for the assistance rendered in regard to the meeting.

En route to Collie we called on Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Freeman, and were pleased to renew acquaintance with these good friends of the movement.

Mr. James Dodgson presided over the Collie meeting, and those present expressed their appreciation of the opportunity given for asking questions. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. James Little and seconded by Mr. Arthur Dodgson, both speakers offering congratulations on the good work being done for sound economic principles.

A call was made at Mr. Hugh Little's farm at Taba, and we enjoyed a long talk with this good worker for our principles.

Elleston was the next place of call, and Messrs. J. G. Agars and Jas. Mullan, senr., worked hard for a successful meeting. Mr. E. Ives occupied the chair, and great interest was manifested by those present. Mr. A. E. Owen moved and Mr. Agars seconded the vote of thanks. Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Agars, of Oaklands Station, extended hospitality and made our stay in the district pleasant.

Leaving the coast road we went through Mount Wedge to Lock on the railway line. Messrs. W. F. Attick and Neil Guderah had charge of the arrangements, and we had a fine meeting, with Mr. Attick in the chair. Many questions were submitted, nearly two hours being occupied in answering them. It was midnight before the meeting terminated. Mr. P. J. Sampson moved the vote of thanks and brought a number of district matters before me for consideration. Mr. Hodge seconded the vote, which was supported by Mr. T. Puckeridge, all expressing their thanks for the information imparted. Our thanks are tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Attick for kindness shown at their home.

The next day we left for Yeelana, and travelled for some 30 miles over what is probably the worse road on the West Coast. It is a combination of heavy sand ridges and limestone formation, which provides a grueling test for a car. At Yeelana Mr. J. Haarsma occupied the chair, and those present followed with interest the account of measures passed by Parliament. The vote of thanks was accorded on the motion by Mr. W. Wemyss, seconded by Mr. Vic. Modra.

The final meeting of the tour was at Cummins on Saturday, March 21. Messrs. Nosworthy Bros. and D. Porter having charge of the arrangements. Unfortunately there was a clash with a local engagement, and the attendance was small. We were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Nosworthy during our stay at Cummins.

Next day we commenced the long trail home, via Port Augusta, calling on our good friend and co-worker, Mr. A. C. Solly, at Tumby Bay, en route. We were pleased to know he was enjoying good health, but sorry to find Mrs. Solly in hospital owing to an accident. We trust she will soon recover.

At each meeting literature was sold, and there was a good demand for "The Life of Henry George," by Henry George, junr. It was pleasing to get into personal contact with so many fine workers for our cause, and to again get first hand information regarding local conditions. Owing to the late hour at which meetings commence in the rural areas it is rarely one gets to bed until the early hours of the morning. However, the tour was appreciated by our many good friends in the Flinders district, and will prove of great benefit to the cause.

The total distance covered during the trip was 1,340 miles. The roads in many places are in a very bad state, and sadly in need of expenditure. City dwellers who complain about the roads provided adjacent to the metropolitan area should make a tour through Eyre Peninsula, and they would realise the disabilities the residents of the West Coast have to suffer. Yet these people have to pay the same heavy motor taxes for these bad roads as those who enjoy the benefit of bitumen. Of course motor users should not be taxed for the upkeep of roads, the money should be obtained from the rental value of land.

In many parts of the Peninsula the crops were affected by heavy rains, rust and takeall, the latter have a serious effect on many crops along the Thevenard railway line. In some centres the wheat was of poor sample, weighing only 55 lbs. to the bushel, whilst in others a splendid quality of wheat was harvested. The yield generally on the Coast was not up to the early promise, but the settlers have had so many reverses in recent years that they now take them in a philosophical manner. They complain, and rightly so, about the present high water rates and taxation charges imposed upon their industry, and realise that profitable production is not possible so long as these burdens remain. Notwithstanding the many hardships endured, there is a wave of optimism prevalent, and the slight increase in the price of primary products is regarded by many as the prelude to higher ones yet to come. It is pathetic to note the change that has taken place in many districts. Many of the pioneers who gave the best part of their lives to clearing and improving their holdings have been compelled to lose everything and leave the land. They are victims of the unsound economic policy supported by past and present Governments. Heavy tariff taxation has been imposed upon all their requirements. Their transport costs are very high, and water rates are on a wrong basis. Irritating regulations add to their troubles, and many are carrying obligations which they will have a difficulty in meeting.

It is to be regretted that a number of legislators have not had personal contact with these settlers, so that they might appreciate the difficulties under which they labor. Various palliative measures have been placed upon the Statute-Book to ease their troubles, but these do not go to the root cause. It is the crushing burden of taxation that is responsible for the present unfortunate position of so many settlers, and until the taxes are lifted from industry and revenue collected from its natural source—the rental value of land—it is not possible to place production on a profitable basis. A greater number of farmers are realising this fact, and it is pleasing to state that many who were in opposition to our principles are now convinced that only by their adoption is it possible to establish just conditions for all. Throughout the district there was indicated a splendid feeling manifested in regard to Georgian principles, and a great effort will be made to secure an additional representative at the next election.

We tender our very sincere thanks to all the good friends throughout this far-flung district who provided hospitality, distributed advertising matter, attended to the hiring of halls, and in many ways assisted to make this tour such a great success.

## Obituary

It is with sincere regret we record the death of Mr. Samuel Oborn, of Whyalla. Mr. Oborn had for a great number of years been a consistent worker for Henry George principles. He rendered splendid service during the last election campaign. He was of a quiet, unassuming character, and highly respected by all who knew him. We tender our sincere sympathy to the family of our departed co-worker.

## Restitution

Enough; the life is ended; God only owns the land, No parchment deed hath virtue, unsigned by His own hand. Out on the bold blasphemers who would eject the Lord, And pauperise His children and trample on His word. Behold this glorious temple, with dome of starry sky, And floor of greensward scented, and trees for pillows high, And songs of birds for music, and bleat of lambs for prayer, And incense of sweet vapors uprising everywhere. Behold the table bounteous, spread over land and sea, The sure reward of labor, to every mortal free. And hark! through Nature's anthem there rises the refrain, "God owns the earth, but giveth it unto the sons of men."

But see within the temple, as in Solomon's of old, The money changers haggle, and souls are bought and sold. And that is called an owner's which can only be the Lord's, And Christ is not remembered, nor His whip of knotted cords. But Christ has not forgotten, and welsh human greed Shall be driven from our heritage, God's bounties shall be freed. And from out our heavy statutes shall be torn the crime-stained leaves, Which have turned the world, God's temple, into a den of thieves.

—J. W. Bengough.

## PROTECTION OBTAINS THE VOTES OF LABOR BY FALSEHOOD AND FRAUD

Protection has secured the almost unanimous vote of Labor. And it has secured it "by false and fraudulent representation." The "arguments" by which the vote of labor has been secured are "false" simply because **THEY ARE NOT TRUE**. A Tariff cannot possibly "protect" labor when **THERE IS NO TARIFF ON LABOR**. But it can plunder it. The tariff is on the **PRODUCTS** of the laborer. These pass at once out of his hands into the hands of his **EMPLOYER**. They belong to HIM and not to his employees. Therefore, whatsoever of increase of price the Tariff effects goes to HIM—and NOT to his employees.

These votes are obtained by "fraud" because it is unthinkable that the big manufacturers and mine owners of this country do not **KNOW** the argument is **FALSE**. They know that **THEY OBTAIN THEIR LABOR IN THE OPEN MARKET**. They know that they themselves have imported the so-called "pauper" laborers of Europe by the tens of thousands and by the millions. For what purpose? To compete **HERE AT HOME** with American laborers. They know that they keep agents in Europe and Asia constantly for **THAT PURPOSE**. They know that they obtain their laborers just as **CHEAPLY** as they can, that they pay only what they **MUST** pay in order to get them—not what they **CAN** pay but what they **MUST**. And they know that wherever they can **REDUCE** wages, without a strike or a public outcry, **THEY ALWAYS DO IT**.

All these things they know. They are part of their own doings. It is not a matter of theory but a matter of fact. Therefore, the claim which they make that a Protective Tariff raises the pay of **LABOR** they know to be false. And **KNOWING** it to be **FALSE**, it is also fraudulent—so far as they are concerned. It is **FRAUD** for any man to advocate that which he knows to be false. Aye, it is more than that. It is treason—**TREASON AGAINST THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE**. The Tariff affects only the goods market. There is no tariff on labor. Therefore, it cannot effect the **LABOR MARKET**. And yet labor is sold only in the **LABOR MARKET**. There is practically **NO** competition in the goods market. The Tariff shields it from competition **FROM WITHOUT**. The Trust protects it from the competition **FROM WITHIN**.

Vast indeed may be the contrast in the condition of those who sell in the **GOODS MARKET**, and those who sell their all—**BODY AND SOUL**—in the **LABOR MARKET**. The heart is wrung with pathos at thought of it. It is often the contrast of the monopolists who live in the palaces the Tariff has built, and the toilers who dwell in the tenements. Throughout all history, when there was light and joy and luxury in the castle there was darkness and gloom and want in the cottage.

Yet laborers have voted, year after year, for a system of things which increases the prices of the products they must **BUY**; but does nothing for the **ONE THING** they have to **SELL**—**THEIR LABOR**. They go on, decade after decade, selling their only product in an **OPEN** market, but buying the products they must consume in a "protected" market; selling under **FREE TRADE**, in competition with the toilers of the world; but buying back even the products of their own labor under a **PROTECTIVE TARIFF**.

The laborers of every country are **DOING THE SAME THING**. Each is seeking protection against the other. The toilers of each nation regard their fellow toilers in other nations as their **FOES**. They are looking **IN THE WRONG DIRECTION** for their foes. They should all join hands in a common cause, because they **HAVE** a common cause. And that common, universal Cause is not Competition, is not "Equality of opportunity," but **MONOPOLY**. **MONOPOLY IS THE ONLY FOE THAT LABOR EVER HAD, OR EVER WILL HAVE**. Protection is in itself a form of Monopoly. Its sole purpose is to foster monopoly.

Lee Francis Lybarger  
(Member of the Philadelphia Bar).

## "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.

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