

# THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE

An Organ of Fundamental Democracy

Policy: FREE LAND, FREE TRADE, and PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

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## What This Paper Demands For the Worker

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This paper demands for the worker the right to—

1. Work without having to pay for a place to work. (Land is a place to work.)
2. Work without having to join a Union or pay dues.
3. Work without asking for work.
4. Work for himself if he wishes.
5. Enter any profession, business, occupation without the formality of taking out a licence for the purpose—except it be to handle poisons or high explosives, etc. However, those who would enter the practice of medicine, or law, or dentistry, etc., or serve as pilots should be required to show their competence, each according to the standards of his own school. In no case should society or the state undertake to fix these requirements and in all cases the license should be issued without cost.
6. Work as little, or as long as he pleases, and to put whatever prices he pleases upon his services, and to lay off, or quit the job any time he pleases—subject only to the ordinary penalty of the courts in cases arising upon contract, or upon allegation of damages.
7. The full product of his labor.
8. Hold his product free of taxes.
9. Use his savings in his business, and to conduct his business without joining any association, and free of dictation by any one, organized or unorganized, private or official.

10. Interest on his capital, whether this interest be the calf of his cow, the fruit of his orchard, or the returns from his factory, shop, store, mine, or any other venture.

11. Hire whom he pleases on any terms he pleases, and to fire any employee at any time—subject only to the ordinary penalty of the courts provided in civil cases arising upon breach of contract (with the individual).

12. Freedom from the compulsion of collective bargaining, for this is a practice that is as unnecessary in economics as it is in mathematics or chemistry. It is a resort to force and should be classified in law as a conspiracy—an attack upon the peace and safety of the public. This for the reason that natural law supplies all the protection either Labor or Capital needs.

13. Refuse to arbitrate disputes over questions of ages, hours, or details of management and to tell any one, organized or unorganized, private or official, that there is not a thing to arbitrate—that his business is his business and his only.

14. Sell for any price and upon any terms he pleases.

15. Refuse to show his books to any one, private or public—except it be by court order based upon an alleged proprietary right.

16. Accumulate as much as he can, and to give it, or bequeath it to whomsoever he pleases, free of income, inheritance and gift taxes.

All this is possible under the plan advocated by this paper; for, when the rent is collected instead of taxes, men are limited to wages and interest, and hence are unable to obtain wealth at the expense of others. As no one would get more than his own, no one would get less than his own.

Justice would be automatically assured.

We have seen that the expropriation of the mass of the people from the soil forms the basis of the capitalist mode of production. The essence of a free policy on the contrary, consists in this: That the bulk of the soil is still public property, and every settler on it, therefore, can turn part of it into his private property and individual means of production without hindering the later settlers in the same production.—Karl Marx.

## A Story About Windlords

It is related that a certain Eastern potentate fell into the impecunious condition common to many of his predecessors, and set his wits to work to devise a remedy. A farmer of impost, who had often aided him in his dilemma, came to his rescue. He offered him sixty thousand toman for all the winds that should ever blow over Cashmere. The monarch at first affected to be staggered by the proposition. He was unable to find anything in precedents to warrant it, but although a believer in the doctrine that whatever is, is right, he was forced to admit that a monarch may introduce useful innovations.

Of course it was assumed that he was the supreme owner and disposer of all things in his dominions, not only for his own brief, erratic span of life, but for all time, and so he came to the conclusion that as everything in the world had been sold which could be sold, there was no good reason why the winds, unstable though they might be, should be exempt if a purchaser could be found.

After a proper amount of preliminary haggling, a sale was made, and the transaction legalised by all that signatures, seals and parchments could do for it.

Before the public had fairly got over laughing at the absurdity of this novel bargain, the owner of the wind issued a proclamation forbidding all persons in Cashmere from using his wind to turn their wind-mills, winnow their corn, propel their vessels, or employ it in any manner until they had first entered into agreements with him and obtained leases for the various localities covenanting to pay certain amounts for the privilege.

Then the laughing turned to lamentation. The monarch met the torrent of petitions and complaints by affecting to deplore the circumstances. He could not foresee, of course, all that had occurred, but his sacred word was involved.

Rulers of that type are usually very particular about their sacred word. Driven to desperation, the inhabitants contributed the amount that had been paid for the wind, and tendered it to the sovereign, so that this unheard of transaction could be cancelled.

The matter was not to be so easily arranged. The owner of the winds of Cashmere would not think of such a thing. He had acquired a vested right in them. Since it had become purchasable, the wind had greatly risen—in price at least. Wind stocks were on the upward market. The owner insisted that his title was good.

He did not claim it by his right of discovery of the commercial value of the wind, or that he had been the first to pre-empt this privilege, but he had fairly bought it from the representative of the Government, and declared that his title was begirt, and founded on all that was sacred in law on the theory of eminent domain and supreme authority. It would be altogether unfair to ask him to surrender this valuable privilege for anything less than what it might bring him in case he should be allowed to keep it.

The proposition of the people was merely a bald scheme of robbery. It was subversive of all property rights; was socialistic, agrarian, and revolutionary; and to force him to accept of a price so inadequate would strike a fatal blow at the best interests of society, and undermine the whole fabric on which the rights of property rested.

This reasoning was, of course, entirely conclusive to the monarch, who was undoubtedly the confederate of the farmer of impost; but as human endurance can only be stretched to certain limits, it was agreed between them that a fair price for the winds, at that date, would be ten times what was originally paid for them.

This amount was finally raised by a long-suffering people, who merely exacted a promise from the commercial monarch that he would never sell the wind again, but permit it in God's providence to blow over them free and unrestricted as of yore.

How absurd this tale appears! But when

## Tasmanian State Elections

The election of representatives for the Tasmanian House of Assembly was held on Saturday, February 20. The result of the voting indicated a big swing over in public opinion to the Labor Party. A considerable amount of interest was manifested in the voting, and it is anticipated that at least 92 per cent. of the electors exercised their franchise. The system of voting in Tasmania is that known as Proportional Representation, and it has again demonstrated that it accurately represents the wishes of the electors.

An analysis of the voting in the respective districts gives the following results.

Name of District.	Votes cast for Labor.	Votes cast for Nationalists.	Votes cast for Independents.
Bass .. ..	15,105	8,204	611
Darwin .. ..	14,179	10,577	124
Denison .. ..	14,241	8,498	1,624
Franklin .. ..	15,111	10,678	—
Wilmot .. ..	12,627	9,542	623
Totals	71,263	47,204	2,956

Name of District.	Quota.	Labour members elected.	Nationalist members elected.
Bass .. ..	3,418	4	2
Darwin .. ..	3,527	3	3
Denison .. ..	3,468	4	2
Franklin .. ..	3,663	4	2
Wilmot .. ..	3,527	3	3
	18	12	

When the above figures are considered it will be seen that 71,263 electors who cast their first preferences for Labor candidates secured 13 seats with an average of 3,959 votes per seat. The Nationalist electors who polled 47,204 first preference votes secured 12 seats with an average of 3,933 votes per seat. It will also be noted that in the quotas of votes needed in each district to secure the election of a candidate there was little variation. Douglas Credit member elected last election, Mr. G. S. Carruthers, polled only 1,007 first preference votes in the District of Denison, hence was defeated.

The result of this Tasmanian election again demonstrates the superiority of Proportional Representation over all other electoral systems in making Parliament a true reflex of the people as expressed in the electorates. The parties have secured just representation according to their numerical strength, and the election was fought without that party bitterness so much in evidence in other States.

This election has also shown that pre-selection ballots are unnecessary. In Tasmania those who have an urge to offer their services to the parties merely receive the endorsement of the party and make their appeal direct to the electors who are able to clearly indicate their preferences. This system of voting has been in practical operation in Tasmania for more than a quarter of a century, has proved an unqualified success, meets with the approval of all parties, and should be adopted by all the States and by the Commonwealth for future elections.

Consider from the point of view an observer of Nature, a landless man—a being fitted in all his parts and powers for the use of land, compelled by all his needs to the use of land, and yet denied all right to land. Is it not as unnatural as a bird without air, or a fish without water?—Henry George.

But how is it that you allow these chiefs—landlords, don't you call them?—to taboo the soil, and prevent you all from even walking on it? Don't you see that if you choose to combine in a body, and insist upon the recognition of your natural rights—if you determined to make the landlords give up their taboo, and cease from injustice, they'd have to yield to you? And then you could exercise your natural right of going where you pleased, and cultivate the land in common for the public benefit, instead of leaving it as now, to be cultivated anyhow, or turned into waste, for the benefit of the taboos?—Grant Allen.

we have done laughing at these foolish people of Cashmere, let us remember that land is at least as necessary to life and labor, and is quite as much the free gift of Nature, as are the winds of heaven.

## Eyre Electoral Division

Nominations are invited from members of the Henry George League who are willing to offer their services at the State election in 1938 for the Eyre Electoral District. Nominations must be lodged not later than April 24, 1937, with the undersigned.

(Mrs.) A. ELLIS,  
President Henry George League, Kimba.

## "The People's Advocate"

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## The Federal Referendum

The vote cast on March 6 was an indication to the Federal Government that the majority of electors are opposed to further powers being granted to the Commonwealth. On both the questions submitted a huge NO majority was polled. So far as the aviation question is concerned it is stated there was no need for an alteration of the Constitution to give the Federal Government any additional power it might require. A conference of the State Premiers could agree as to the power to be transferred, and each State could then pass the necessary legislation to pass on the power required.

The result of the marketing referendum was very gratifying to all who believe in freedom of trade. The people have shown in an unmistakable manner that they are not prepared to permit any interference with the principle of interstate free trade. The vote was a surprise to many, as all States gave a majority against marketing control. It was thought that Queensland, and perhaps Victoria, would have given a Yes majority. But those States stood firm for interstate freedom. This vote is a splendid testimony to the fine work done by the No committees. The electors of South Australia acquitted themselves well by giving a four to one vote for the No side. The Premier (Hon. B. L. Butler) is entitled to the thanks of the people for the great fight he made on this occasion in the face of great opposition from vested interests. The Henry George League was early in the field with a manifesto in opposition to the so-called "orderly marketing" proposal, and this had an extensive circulation, not only in South Australia, but in every State of the Commonwealth. It contained facts relating to marketing control which were not found in other printed matter issued, and we have been advised that it was considered very valuable in the Eastern States for sending to country newspapers, so that extracts from it could be printed each week. A very extensive correspondence reached the office from all the States, speaking in complimentary terms of the manifesto and asking that additional copies be sent for distribution. The Henry George Leagues throughout the Commonwealth took a keen interest in the campaign, and very materially assisted in bringing about such a splendid result.

## GOOD PERCENTAGE OF NO VOTERS IN FRUIT AREAS

One of the striking features of the vote was the polling in the South Australian dried fruits areas. Although Yes advocates forecast practically a unanimous vote in those districts in favor of control, and prophesied disaster for the industry if the proposal was defeated, in some of the fruit districts forty per cent. of the voters opposed control. It is quite evident that the growers have received but little benefit from control to date. We have previously indicated that fruit growers sell only a very small percentage of their products under protected conditions, while on the other hand they buy 100 per cent. of their requirements in a market where prices are inflated by tariff taxes, hence are in a bad financial position. They can only improve their position by insisting upon a lower cost of production. In our opinion the fruit growers should be thankful that Mr. Fred A. James was successful in the Privy Council appeal, because that decision has freed them from irritating control. No doubt Mr. James must be pleased with the fine vote cast for freedom of trade on March 6.

## REFERENDUM MAKES STRANGE POLITICAL BEDFELLOWS

The outstanding feature in regard to the referendum campaign was the peculiar combination of men on both sides, and the conflicting alternative policies offered. Some were

demanding a No vote because the Government proposal, in their opinion, did not go far enough. Some suggested the bounty and excise as the correct way to give relief to struggling industries. One outstanding feature in the discussion was the attitude of some well-known protectionists to "prevent monopoly and a rise in the cost of living." Apparently these people did not realize that the protectionist policy they supported every day was a fundamental cause of monopoly, and was also responsible for high living costs.

There was a similar mixing of conflicting views on the Yes side, and it was surprising to find well-known Labor leaders supporting a proposal which would inevitably lower the standard of the workers they claimed to represent.

## DRIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL FREE TRADE NEEDED

Now the voting is over and the result is of such a satisfactory nature, there is one aspect of the question that is worthy of serious consideration. The vote indicates that a huge majority of the people realise the benefits to be derived from interstate Free Trade. It is pertinent to ask at this juncture if free trade between the States is a thing to be desired, why is not International Free Trade equally beneficial? Trade is mutually beneficial to both buyer and seller, irrespective as to whether both reside in the same country, or whether one lives in Australia and the other overseas. For this reason it is essential, if the highest standard of living is to be obtained by all, that all barriers and restrictions to trade must be removed. We saw the ill-effects of trade restrictions when an economic policy kept Japan out of the world market, and our wool growers realised the benefit of free competition when Japanese buyers attended the latest sales. Having declared so strongly for interstate free trade, electors should, at the next Federal elections, insist upon the removal of international restrictions as well. Action along that line would have the effect of lowering production costs, thus enabling all industries to function on a profitable basis, and would be a fitting climax to the fine vote cast for freedom on March 6.

## THE HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING

We cannot conclude without reference to one of the main arguments advanced in favor of a Yes vote. It was freely asserted by all speakers that a Yes vote was needed to preserve the high standard of living in Australia. Just how an increase in prices could maintain a high standard none of the Yes advocates took the trouble to explain. Those conversant with facts know that this alleged "high standard" is a myth. As a matter of fact tens of thousands of Australians are unable to secure employment, consequently have a very low standard through being forced to accept relief. Many who are employed get what is known as the "Basic Wage"; and as the pound buys about 10/- worth of commodities, the real wage of labor is very low. A high standard of living is not obtained by marketing control. There is only one practical way to secure this desired result, and that is by opening natural opportunities to all on equal terms and leaving to them the full results of their labor. To give effect to this policy it is necessary to collect the rent of the land for public purposes and abolish the taxation now levied to defray the cost of government. If Yes advocates are sincere in their desire to maintain a high standard of living for Australians we give them a cordial invitation to link up with the Henry George League, when they will have plenty of opportunities for supporting the only practical policy which will ensure a high standard of living for all.

## P.R. Victory in New York

In our December issue we announced the great victory for Proportional Representation secured in New York. Further details are now to hand in the National Municipal Review. It is stated that the Citizens' Union, Men's and Women's City Clubs, League of Women Voters, Merchants' Association, City Affairs Committee, Community Councils, Brooklyn Civic Council, American Labor Party, City Fusion Party, and other groups which co-operated with the two campaign committees in securing this epochal victory, are already embarking on an intensive campaign of education to make sure that New York voters are prepared to take full advantage of their new opportunities when Proportional Representation is used for the first time next fall.

## THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

During the referendum campaign we heard a lot about "orderly marketing" and its alleged benefits. The sugar industry proves one of the best examples of orderly marketing that it is possible to find in any part of the world. The industry has received special consideration at the hands of the Federal and State Governments, and consumers have been scandalously exploited under the sugar agreement. Now the cane growers are meeting trouble. The artificial price obtained under the embargo agreement has been the means of increasing the production of cane sugar, with the result that an increased quantity has to be sold in the overseas markets at a lower price. This reduces the average price for the whole crop, and many growers are complaining, and some have asked that the price of sugar be increased by another half-penny per pound. It is hardly likely that the Lyons Government, faced with a general election at the end of the year, would dare add this further burden to that now borne by a long-suffering public.

The annual conference of the Queensland Cane Growers' Association was held at Brisbane on February 22, when the Labor Premier spoke some home truths. He said: "I have told you in the past, and I tell you again, that there is no point in producing something for which there is no payable market at the present time, and you know from your own experience that this is true. I again urge you to adopt methods of planned production and rationalisation, or, to use a new term, proration of the sugar industry." He went on to say: "World sugar prices remain stubbornly low; world demand for sugar is not as high as it might be, because of the economic inability to buy... You must rationalize your production in accordance with effective demand... I gave you an organisation. You have used it very well, generally speaking. I find now that the people who control the constitution are asking me to act, as it were, as a dictator. You are working out your constitution, your power of self-determination, and you are asking me to do something that it is your job to do. If it is necessary for me to take unto myself these powers that I consider desirable in the sugar industry I will not hesitate to do so, but I am putting it to you to be men and do your own job. You cannot worship God and Mammon. You will either have self-determination in your own industry, or you will come to me, and I will control it, if considered desirable, in the public interest, which may not be the thing you want or desire."

What right has this alleged Labor Premier to talk about "controlling" the sugar industry? It is not the function of government to do this. The industry is entitled to a free field and no favor, and we have no doubt that under free conditions it would function better than it does today. Apparently the growers are divided among themselves, and one section appears anxious to profit at the expense of another. Dealing with this phase, Mr. Smith said: "Do not be foolish enough to be led away by such will o' the wisps, and think you can advantage yourselves at the expense of other sugar growers. It simply cannot be done."

The secretary of the association (Mr. W. H. Doherty), in his report, stated that the 1936 crushing season had created a new record in the production of cane sugar. The total amount of sugar produced in Queensland was 742,290 tons. The estimated consumption for Australia was 355,000 tons. Assuming the exported sugar would realise £7 15/0 per ton, and £24 for home consumption, the average price for No. 1 pool should be approximately £16 18/2. The total amount of excess sugar was bringing the average price down to £15 0/3. Here we get official evidence showing that under "orderly marketing" the home price of sugar is £24 as against £7 15/0 realised for overseas sales. Meanwhile shares in the C.S.R. Co., given away in September, 1934, are quoted at £48 5/0 as this article is being written.

Having given his talk to the cane growers, Mr. Forgan Smith intimated that it was advisable to be early for the International Sugar Conference, and that he would be there "two weeks before anyone else." It has been announced that this good Labor man will go by air to London on behalf of the sugar interests. No wonder a correspondent in the Brisbane "Courier Mail," February 23, writes: "The Premier went to England" last year at the instigation of the sugar people; he is going

## PROTECTION

The policy of protection will never cease from poisoning our political and industrial life until the tariff is completely abolished.

A revenue tariff is only diluted Protection. Protection is a war-breeder! Externally it means commercial war between nation and nation; internally it means industrial war between Capital and Labor.

By ill-considered legislation we have engendered monopolistic trusts, and now we seek to curb their power by disturbing attacks on their existence and methods of business.

A revenue-tariff means repeated agitation and change incident to the ups-and-downs of party control. Free Trade means a settlement once and for all of this most persistent and most troublesome issue of American politics.

Protection destroys self-reliance, and undermines manhood. It teaches men to lean on the Government.

Protection is legalised "graft." It is an iniquitous scheme by which favored beneficiaries are permitted to pick the pockets of the community while the Government holds the victim down and prevents rescue from the outside.

It is common-place to the student of history that the meanest, the blackest, and the most cruel political and religious crimes have been committed by good people.

—Louis R. Ehrlich

## Flying Machines

From flying-machines to the tariff seems a far cry, and yet Henry George, the great economist, in his book on "Protection or Free Trade," written many years ago, sees this connection. "The directness, the swiftness, and the ease with which birds cleave the air, naturally excites man's desire. His fancy has always given angels wings, and he has ever dreamed of a time when the power of traversing those unobstructed fields might also be his. That this triumph is within the power of human ingenuity who in this age of marvels can doubt? And who would not hail with delight the news that invention had at last brought to realization the dream of ages, and made navigation of the atmosphere as practicable as navigation of the ocean? Yet if the protective theory be true, this mastery of another element would be a misfortune to man. For it would make protection impossible. Every inland town and village, every roof of ground on the whole earth's surface, would at once become a port of an all-embracing ocean, and the only way in which any people could continue to enjoy the blessings of protection would be for them to roof their country in."

## HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The monthly meeting of members of the above league was held at George Parade on Tuesday, February 22. There was a good attendance, and the President (Mr. D. A. Hudson) occupied the chair. Minutes of previous meetings read and confirmed. There was a large budget of correspondence from the other States dealing with the forthcoming referendum proposals, and expressing appreciation of the matter that had been sent from South Australia. The secretary in his report dealt with his recent visit to Port Lincoln, and gave details of the special work that had been done in connection with the proposed amendment of the Federal Constitution. Further details were also given as to the series of meetings to be addressed on the West Coast during March, arrangements for which were well in hand. Mr. W. D. McLean reported on the open-air meetings held in the Park, and referred to the assistance rendered by a new speaker. Both reports adopted. Financial report read and adopted, and accounts passed for payment. One new member was admitted to the league. The president reported that he had with other members visited a meeting dealing with the Youth Movement. He was of the opinion that the methods proposed by this organisation did not get down to fundamentals, therefore, could not be effective in doing anything of tangible value. Matters of general interest were discussed.

### NEXT MEETING, TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 8 P.M.

again at their request. As the sugar industry is a powerful and wealthy organisation, and its interests are being threatened, I think it should foot the bill. . . . In my opinion the sugar industry should pay."

Surely Mr. Smith must be aware that a great number of his constituents pay tribute to the sugar monopoly. It is hard to understand why this so-called representative of Labor, who is supposed to be opposed to monopolies, so consistently pleads the cause for this great vested interest. The people should demand the repeal of this iniquitous sugar agreement at the forthcoming election.

## Essay Competition

The New History Society is offering the sum total of five thousand dollars to the entire population of the globe for the best papers of not more than two thousand words on the subject:

"How Can the People of the World Achieve Universal Disarmament?"

The first world prize is \$1,000, second \$600, and third \$400. In addition to these world prizes there are six continental prizes of two hundred dollars each to be awarded for the best papers respectively from:

Europe Australia and New Zealand  
Asia Mexico, South and Central America  
Africa North America

The competition closes on May 1, 1937; that indicates the last day on which papers may be posted from any part of the world. Papers must not exceed 2,000 words, to be type-written, double-spaced, one side of the paper only being used, with name and address of author appearing on title page and on upper right hand corner of each succeeding page. Each manuscript to be marked: "Prize Competition." A questionnaire is attached to the printed matter dealing with the competition, and these questions must be answered. Manuscripts must be addressed to:

The New History Society—World Competition,  
132 East 65th Street,  
New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

## Disarmament

The people have been startled by the announcement of the proposed heavy armament expenditure in Great Britain. Those politicians and well-meaning people who think that disarmament can be brought about by advocating a gradual decrease of armies and navies are reckoning without their host.

So long as markets are restricted and monopolised by taxes, licences and embargoes on imports and exports, arms and armaments will be needed to acquire and defend these privileges. But once let universal free trade be established, and there will be no closed markets to fight over. What then will be the use of maintaining forts, armies, or navies?

If we can make this truth clear to a sufficient number of people, it will do more to bring about disarmament than all the conferences in the world. Can we enlist you as a worker for free trade, and thus hasten the coming of permanent peace?

## Rent

You may tinker with the tariff and make some simple gains,

You may put on tolls or take 'em off, inducing party pains;

You may monkey with the money, but the lack of it remains,

For the Mother of Monopoly is laughing as she reigns.

Rent! rent! who is it pays the rent?

A dozen days in every month the worker's back is bent;

Figure it in dollar bills or work it by per cent,

But with his dozen days he pays just rent, rent,

rent.

You may "minimum" the wages, you may let the women vote,

You may regulate the railroads with a legal antidote,

You may jail some Rockefeller, or may get a Morgan's goat,

But the Mother of Monopoly is laughing in her throat.

Rent! rent! who is it pays the rent?

A hundred days in every year a business profit's spent;

Figure it in "overhead," or state it by per cent,

But all your hundred days are gone for rent, rent,

rent.

You may institute Foundations, you may educate the dubs,

You may liberalize the Bread Line, and establish Slumy Clubs;

You may ostracize the Demon Rum and eugenize the cubs,

But the Mother of Monopoly is smiling at your snubs.

Rent! rent! who is it pays the rent?

A score of years in life you spend to get one document;

From your cradle to your coffin you must bow to its assent,

And that's your little, old receipt for rent, rent,

rent.

I look across the rented world and idle land I see,

Whose owner doesn't work it, for he's working you and me,

And on the first of every month all tenants bow the knee,

And pay the rent of vacant land, in great or small degree.

The worker's hands are busy and the business back is bent;

The idle lands advance in price and every single cent

Of that advance is paid by us in rent, rent, rent.

—Edmund Vance Cooke.

## WEST COAST TOUR

Following the practice of keeping in touch with the electors in the Flinders district, Mr. E. J. Craigie, M.P., accompanied by Mrs. Craigie, left Adelaide on March 7, and travelled over 800 miles the first day to Kimba. The first meeting was held at Carlsruhe. Mr. Arnold Schubert presided over the gathering. The farmers present were interested in the summary of the main measures dealt with during the last session of parliament and the present financial position of the State and Commonwealth. A number of questions were asked at the close of the meeting; and a vote of thanks moved and seconded by Messrs. W. Nicholas, and A. E. Hutchens. Mr. Arnold Schubert, in a fine speech, exhorted all present to take an interest in Georgan principles. He is a young man who has a great grip of our doctrine, a keen student of economics, and he is sure to make a name for himself in connection with our movement. The settlers in this locality have had a hard struggle, and are badly in need of a water supply. At present many have to cart water from a standpipe twelve miles away, and this is very trying and also unprofitable work. During the stay in the district, hospitality was extended by Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hutchens.

The second meeting was at Kimba, the chairman of the District Council (Mr. F. R. Ferry) being in the chair. A number of questions followed the address, and the vote of thanks was moved by Mr. J. P. Moore, and seconded by Mr. W. Hutchens. After the meeting a number of co-workers adjourned to the home of Mrs. A. Ellis, who kindly provided supper. Matters of general interest to the Henry George movement were discussed, as well as the coming election in 1938. The party dispersed about 1.30 a.m., when we went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutchens, whose guests we were while in the Kimba district.

Cowell was the next place of call. It was steamer night, and the fishermen were busy packing fish in ice for transport to the Melbourne market. The haul must have been satisfactory judging by the quantity of fish on the jetty. Mr. Fred Simmons presided at the meeting, and Mr. J. E. Wakelin moved, and Mr. F. Allen seconded, the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation for the information conveyed in the address and for services rendered to the district. Our good friend and co-worker rendered valued assistance in the arranging of the meeting.

The next meeting was held at Mangalo, and Mr. Arthur Turner occupied the chair. We have a strong following for our principles at Mangalo, and the speech was followed with keen interest. Mr. H. H. Klingberg expressed the thanks of the meeting, and Mr. Mackley seconded the motion. Settlers in this locality had fair crops, and with the higher prices for wheat and wool were able to get on a slightly better basis than formerly. A new school is needed in this district, as the old hall is to be demolished. Mr. E. Steink rendered assistance in regard to arranging the meeting and extended hospitality during our stay.

Rudall Centre was the next place of call. Mr. F. Pearce occupied the chair. Those present followed the speech with interest and asked a number of questions. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. Paul Travers, and seconded by Mr. F. I. Kestel, who also rendered assistance in connection with the arrangements for the meeting.

On Saturday, March 13, the meeting was at Cleve; Messrs. W. L. Brown and L. Stubing being in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Brown presided over the gathering, and a large number of questions were asked. Mr. J. J. Deer moved a vote of thanks, and Mr. A. Spriggs seconded it and expressed appreciation for services rendered to the district. During the week and we were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, who did everything possible to make our stay in the district very pleasant and comfortable.

On Monday, March 15, the meeting place was Arno Bay. Mr. E. J. Nosworthy occupied the chair. A great deal of interest was manifested, and questions followed the address. The vote of thanks was moved by Mr. T. Cowley and seconded by Mr. J. Boakes. The next morning a deputation stated a case for a deviation of the road, and asked that the matter be brought under the notice of the Highways Department. During our stay in Arno Bay Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Nosworthy extended hospitality.

Owing to a concert party having the hall at Carrow it was not possible to hold a meeting in that centre. Mr. A. H. Pfitzner arranged a meeting in the Mission Hall at Butler, and this was presided over by Mr. N. Stewart, the vote of thanks being moved by Mr. W. Pfitzner. We were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Pfitzner whilst in Butler.

The meeting at Tumby Bay was organized by our esteemed co-worker, Mr. A. C. Solly. He did his work well, and there was a fine attendance. Those present were satisfied with the matter submitted for their consideration, and the result was that only a few questions were asked. The chair was taken by Mr. Solly, the vote of thanks being moved and seconded by Messrs. Trudgen and McLeod.

On Thursday night Mr. Solly motored me to Ungarra, where Mr. J. K. Schramm had charge of the arrangements for the meeting. We have a strong following in this centre, and keen interest is shown in Henry George principles. The chair was taken by Mr. Wilfred Gordon, one of the promising young men in our movement. Mr. W. Treasure moved the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. Tilbrook. Mr. and Mrs. Solly kindly catered for our needs during the stay in the district, and did everything possible to make the stay pleasant.

(To be continued next issue.)

## NATIONAL INSURANCE

The Federal Government appears to be flirting with the question of National Insurance. A British representative was asked to report on the application of this scheme to Australia, and it is understood that the report has been submitted to the Government. National Insurance has been tried in other countries, and to say the least about it it cannot be regarded as a great success. Germany tried it for a time, and at a later period Great Britain followed that lead. As a solution of the unemployment question it is a ghastly failure, there being more than one and a quarter million people out of employment at the present time. The best that can be said for it is that a person out of work can collect his weekly payment instead of taking a "dole" similar to Australian workers.

Under the National Insurance scheme it is said that the premiums are paid by employer, employee, and Government jointly. A little consideration will show that this alleged "joint" payment is more nominal than real. The worker knows definitely that he contributes the portion paid direct, but overlooks the fact that in reality he pays the whole of the premium. The portion handed over by the employer of labor is an overhead expense of business, and is paid by the consumers of the goods. The third share paid by the Government is taken from wealth producers by taxation. When the thing is seriously considered, it will be found that the workers pay all the premium, and when administration costs are deducted the worker gets back less than he contributes. How can such a scheme prove beneficial to the people?

There is only one practical way of dealing with unemployment, and that is to remove the cause. Federal representatives must be made to see that employment is only a matter of giving labor access to Mother Earth. Everything needed for the satisfaction of human desires can only be produced by labor working on the raw material in the land. In the past, and at present, legislation has made it easy for a person to hold land out of use for speculation, with the result that natural opportunities for employment have been closed to those who have desired them. Further, those who were permitted to toil had taxation imposed upon the results of their labor. This policy must be reversed. Land monopoly must be broken down by the collection of the rent of land for public purposes. The taxation burden now levied upon production must be abolished. Action along these lines will have the effect of bringing the idle land and the idle hands together, thus allowing the unemployment problem to automatically settle itself.

This is the practical way of dealing with the question. National Insurance is a delusion and a snare. It means the creation of another costly department, therefore, it should be strenuously opposed by all who believe in doing "first things first," and who realise that the need of the moment is less interference on the part of the Government, and not more, as would be the case under a National Insurance scheme.

## Meaning of The Short Week

Union men always explain that the short week is demanded as a means of spreading employment and so lightening the relief load.

The President and the New Dealers favor the short week for the same reason.

But this is merely another way of saying that the short week is intended to force Labor to finance its own relief; because when a Union adopts a work week of 40 hours and in this way "makes work" for men who would not get that work, what actually happens is that the men who would otherwise have done that work have been forced to surrender that much employment for the benefit of those who are thus provided with employment.

The short week is a pleasing sales label for a forced donation, by which the workers are forced to finance the relief of their own craft. When a Union votes to approve a short week, it is really voting an assessment upon its employed members for the relief of its unemployed members.

Assessments are unpopular; for that reason these assessments are disguised under a false label, and the victims are told that they are being favored by being given that much more leisure that they may spend with their families or devote to sports or recuperation, culture, etc.

To the extent the shortening of the week is off-set by an increase in the rate of pay, the burden of the short week is shifted to the employer or to the consuming public—depending upon how much of the added cost the employer can add to the price of his wares.

In lines where competition is keen, the employer already has his price down so low that he is unable to absorb the added cost, and the public is forced to absorb it. When that happens, the Union man who has been forced to donate a part of his time suffers an additional penalty in the form of an increased cost of living.—"The Forum," Feb. 4, 1937.

## What's in a Name?

What's in a name? That which we call a rose, By any other name would smell as sweet.

Shakespeare.

The "Single Tax" is not a tax on land.

It is not a tax on anything.

It is not a tax at all.

Then why call it a tax?

For the sake of convenience—a habit; like calling sunlight reflected from the moon "moonlight." The moon has no light. Neither has the land any value, save what is reflected from its environment, by reason of the pressure of population and the expenditure of public and private funds. The return of these socially-created values to the public treasury is no more like paying a tax than the payment of your butcher bill is, or your water bill. But calling it a "single tax" explains the method and avoids the implication of state landlordship.—Horatio.—"The Forum," Feb. 4, 1937.

## GREAT THOUGHTS FROM MASTER MINDS

But if Egyptian civilization had its victims, it had also its favorites . . . There stood . . . that upper class . . . owners of a large portion of the soil, and so possessed of hereditary wealth . . . one which seemed born to enjoy existence and "consume the fruits" of other men's toil and industry.—George Rawlinson.

The evil is expressed in a few words; and, sooner or later, the nation will appreciate it and rectify it. It is "the alienation of the soil from the State, and the consequent taxation of the industry of the country" . . . Gradually and surely has the separation been taking place between the privileged land owner and the unprivileged laborer. And the time will come at last when there shall be but two parties looking each other in the face, and knowing that the destruction of one is an event of necessary occurrence. That event must come. Nor is it in man to stay it or produce it. It will come as the result of the laws that govern nature and that govern man. . . The population must be destroyed or the land must be opened to their cultivation, and not accorded to the landlord. Of the two parties, one must give way. One must sink, to rise no more; one must disappear from the earth. Their continued existence is incompatible. Nature cannot support both. . . It is a mere fallacy to suppose that serfdom has been abolished in England. It has not been abolished, it has only been generalized.—"The Theory of Human Progression," P. E. Dove, pp. 259-60 and 284.

Property in land, like property in slaves, is essentially different from property in things that are the results of labor. Rob a man or people of money, or goods, or cattle, and the robbery is finished there and then. The lapse of time does not, indeed, change wrong into right, but it obliterates the effects of the deed. That is done; it is over; and unless it be very soon righted, it glides into the past, with the men who were parties to it, so swiftly that nothing save omniscience can trace its effects; and in attempting to right it would be in danger of doing fresh wrong. The past is forever beyond us. We can neither punish or recompense the dead. But rob a people of the land on which they must live, and the robbery is continuous. It is a fresh robbery of every succeeding generation—a new robbery every year and every day; it is like the robbery which condemns to slavery the children of the slave. To apply to it the statute of limitations, to acknowledge for it the title of prescription, is not to condone the past; it is to legalize robbery in the present, to justify it in the future.—Henry George.

But, then, how comes it that, notwithstanding man's vast achievements, his wonderful efforts of mechanical ingenuity, and the amazing productions of his skill, his own condition in a social capacity should not have improved in the same ratio as the improvement of his condition with regard to the material world. In Britain, man has to a great extent beaten the material world. He has vanquished it, overpowered it; he can make it serve him; he can use not merely his muscles, but has triumphed over matter; and matter's tendencies and powers are to a great extent subject to his will. And, notwithstanding this, a large portion of the population is reduced to pauperism, to that fearful state of dependence in which man finds himself a blot on the universe of God—a wretch thrown up by the waves of time, without a use, and without an end, homeless in the presence of the firmament, and helpless in the face of the creation. Was it for this that the Almighty made man in His own image, and gave him the earth for an inheritance? Was it for this that He sent His Son into the world to proclaim the divine benevolence, to preach the doctrine of human brotherhood, and to lay the foundation of a kingdom that should endure for ever and ever? We do not believe it; neither do we believe that pauperism comes from God. It is man's doing, and man's doing alone. God has abundantly supplied man with all the requisite means of support; and where he cannot find support, we must look, not to the arrangements of the Almighty, but to the arrangements of men, and to the mode in which they have proportioned out the earth. To charge the poverty of man on God, is to blaspheme the Creator instead of bowing in reverent thankfulness for the profusion of His goodness. He has given enough, abundance, more than sufficient; and if man has not enough, we must look to the mode in which God's gifts have been distributed. There is enough for all, abundantly enough; and all that is requisite is freedom to labor on the soil, and to extract from it the produce that God intended for man's support.

P. E. Dove, "Theory of Human Progression," page 252-3.

All matter relating to the Referendum in this issue has been written by E. J. Craigie, of 8 Grant Avenue, Rose Park.

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